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## **Guide to the Letter book of the College of California, 1849-1867**

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## Guide to the Letter Book of the College of California, 1849-1867

**Collection number:** 308y.let

University Archives, The Bancroft Library



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Berkeley, California

**Contact Information:**

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### Collection Summary

**Collection Title:** Letter Book of the College of California,

**Date (inclusive):** 1849-1867

**Collection Number:** 308y.let

**Creator:** College of California

**Extent:** 1 box (.4 linear feet)

**Repository:** The Bancroft Library. University Archives.  
Berkeley, California 94720-6000

**Physical Location:** For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Library's online catalog.

**Languages Represented:** English

**Access**

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#### **Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item], Letter book of the College of California, 308y.let, University Archives, The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley.

#### **Related Collections**

Documents of the College of California (308y.d)

Transfer of the College of California to the University of California (308y.tr)

Reports to the Board of Trustees of the College of California (308y.r)

#### **Brief History**

The College of California was chartered in 1855 and operated in Oakland, California until 1869. Initially it functioned as a preparatory academy, under the name of College School, and the first college class of ten freshmen began in 1860. The aspirations of the College led it to search for a larger site as early as 1856, and this search gradually led to the acquisition of land north of Oakland at a site the trustees named Berkeley, after George Berkeley, Bishop of Cloyne.

In 1866, California took advantage of the Morrill Land Grant Act and created the Agricultural, Mining, and Mechanical Arts College. The trustees of the College of California realized the implications for their own institution's lack of financial support and offered all the college's assets if the legislature would create a University of California combining the aims of the Agricultural, Mining and Mechanical Arts College and the more humanities-oriented College of California. An act to found the university was passed by the California legislature and was signed into law on March 23, 1868. The College of California offered no instruction after the 1868/69 academic year.

#### **Scope and Content**

This collection consists of letters addressed primarily to Samuel H. Willey relating to faculty and trustee appointments of the College of California. Included also are some early letters and memoranda concerning the establishment of a college at Benicia, California, and at the end there are specifications of the sale of part of the Oakland, California, property to Isaac Brayton. The collection also contains three letters by Frederick Law Olmsted concerning the college property in Berkeley, California.

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item 1	<b>Rogers, William M. to Larkin, Thomas 06/25/1849 Establishment of university at Benicia</b>
item 2	<b>Lyman, Chester S.; 01/01/1849 Memo re establishment of a college</b>
item 3	<b>Blakeslee, S.V. to Dimick 11/29/1849 Re donation of land in San Jose</b>
item 4	<b>Crockett, I.B. to Billings, Frederick 12/29/1856 Declining trustee position</b>
item 5	<b>Kip, William Ingraham to Willey, Samuel H. 11/17/1856 Acceptance as trustee.</b>
item 6	<b>Crockett, I.B. to Willey, Samuel B. 12/04/1858 Declines trusteeship.</b>
item 7	<b>Coon, Henry P. to Willey, Samuel H. 04/12/1858 Declines trusteeship.</b>
item 8	<b>Willey, Samuel H. 07/21/1858 Memo of election of W.C. Anderson as trustee.</b>
item 9	<b>Willey, Samuel H. to Kip, William I. 11/13/1856 Notice of election as trustee.</b>
item 10	<b>Kip, William I. to Willey, Samuel H. 06/27/1859</b>

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- item 11                    **Resignation as trustee.**  
**Brierly, B.**  
**to Willey, Samuel H. 02/26/1859**
- item 12                    **Resignation as trustee.**  
**Kellogg, Martin**  
**to Willey, Samuel H. 09/07/1859**
- item 13                    **Acceptance as prof.; church matters, Grass Valley.**  
**Macondray, Frederick**  
**to Trustees 04/20/1860**
- item 14                    **Resignation as trustee.**  
**Ely, C. Arthur**  
**to Willey, Samuel H. 03/28/1860**
- item 15                    **Re service to the college.**  
**Cheney, D.B.**  
**to Willey, Samuel H. 03/09/1860**
- item 16                    **Acceptance as trustee.**  
**Sather, Peder**  
**to Willey, Samuel H. 05/07/1860**
- item 17                    **Acceptance as trustee**  
**Stanley, Edward**  
**to Willey, Samuel H. 04/23/1860**
- item 18                    **Acceptance as trustee**  
**Goddard, E.B.**  
**to Trustees 05/10/1860**
- item 19                    **Berkeley prop.; Hillegas contract; water rights**  
**Bushnell, Horace**  
**to Trustees 07/09/1861**
- item 20                    **Declines office.**  
**King, Thomas Starr**  
**to Willey, Samuel H. 05/26/1862**
- item 21                    **Excuses absence from meeting**  
**Anderson, William C.**  
**to Willey, Samuel H. 03/28/1862**
- item 22                    **Willey as vice-pres and financial agent of college**  
**Brewer, William**  
**to Willey, Samuel H. 04/01/1863**
- item 23                    **Accepts professorship of natural science.**  
**Sather, Peder**  
**to Willey, Samuel H. 10/10/1863**
- item 24                    **Resignation as trustee**  
**Anderson, W.C.**  
**to Willey, Samuel H. 06/02/1863**
- item 25                    **Resignation as trustee.**  
**Cheney, D.B.**  
**to Trustees 10/20/1863**
- item 26                    **Resignation as trustee.**  
**Hendrickson, C.R.**  
**to Willey, Samuel H. 10/20/1863**
- item 27                    **Resignation as trustee**  
**Blake, William P.**  
**to Willey, Samuel H. 12/26/1863**
- item 28                    **Acceptance as director of the college.**  
**Billings, Frederick**  
**to Willey, Samuel H. 03/22/1864**
- item 29                    **Re presidency and finances.**  
**McGill, Alexander T.**  
**to Shedd, William 03/05/1864**
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- item 30                    **Re candidates for presidency.**  
**Brewer, William H.**  
**to Trustees 04/22/1864**
- item 31                    **Resignation as professor.**  
**Brewer, William H.**  
**to Willey, Samuel H. 04/22/1864**
- item 32                    **Re his resignation.**  
**Blake, William P.**  
**to Trustees 05/20/1864**
- item 33                    **Rept as director mining & agricultural college.**  
**Swain, Robert B.**  
**to Willey, Samuel H. 06/18/1864**
- item 34                    **Acceptance as trustee.**  
**McLane, Louis**  
**to Willey, Samuel H 06/09/1864**
- item 35                    **Declines trusteeship.**  
**Shedd, William G.T.**  
**to Willey, Samuel H. 03/02/1864**
- item 36                    **Re presidency.**  
**Jackson, C.T.**  
**to Willey, Samuel H. 06/20/1865**
- item 37                    **Asking for revised proof.**  
**Sherman, William**  
**to Willey, Samuel H. 10/19/1864**
- item 38                    **Acceptance as trustee.**  
**Alvord, William**  
**to Willey, Samuel H. 10/19/1864**
- item 39                    **Acceptance as trustee.**  
**Bellows, Henry W.**  
**to Willey, Samuel H. 11/21/1864**
- item 40                    **Re professorship of Schutz.**  
**Olmsted, Frederick L**  
**to Willey, Samuel H. 11/21/1864**
- item 41                    **Re trees for college grounds.**  
**Stiles, Anson G.**  
**to Willey, Samuel H. 10/28/1864**
- item 42                    **Acceptance as trustee.**  
**Hilgard, Julius E.**  
**to President 02/21/1865**
- item 43                    **Coast Survey reports and charts.**  
**Bayles, James**  
**to Willey, Samuel H. 03/11/1865**
- item 44                    **Re death of Rev. L.C. Bayles.**  
**Torrey, John**  
**to Willey, Samuel H. 06/01/1865**
- item 45                    **Absence from commencement.**  
**Olmsted, Frederick L**  
**to Willey, Samuel H. 08/31/1865**
- item 46                    **Re plan of college grounds.**  
**Briggs, Martin C.**  
**to Willey, Samuel H. 07/07/1865**
- item 47                    **Acceptance as trustee.**  
**Olmsted, Frederick L**  
**to Willey, Samuel H. 07/25/1865**
- item 48                    **Re name for college property or town.**  
**Barnes, William Henry**  
**to Willey, Samuel H. 09/05/1865**
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- item 49                   **Thanks for degree.**  
**McLane, Allan**  
**to Willey, Samuel H. 11/21/1865**  
**Pacific Mail Steamship Co donation for library.**
- item 50                   **Stow, J.W.**  
**to Willey, Samuel H. 12/06/1865**  
**Acceptance as trustee.**
- item 51                   **Stebbins, Horatio**  
**to Willey, Samuel H. 12/07/1865**  
**Acceptance as trustee.**
- item 52                   **Billings, Frederick**  
**to Willey, Samuel H. 02/14/1866**  
**Resignation as trustee.**
- item 53                   **Hitchcock, Roswell D.**  
**to Willey, Samuel H. 04/05/1866**  
**Declines college presidency.**
- item 54                   **Cleaveland, H.W.**  
**to Willey, Samuel H. 07/13/1866**  
**Thanks for degree.**
- item 55                   **Sawyer, E.D.**  
**to Willey, Samuel H. 06/13/1866**  
**Thanks for degree.**
- item 56                   **Dwinelle, John W.**  
**to Trustees 07/07/1866**  
**Acceptance as trustee.**
- item 57                   **Bank of California 09/01/1866**  
**Re sale of gold; statement of balance.**
- item 58                   **Stone, A.L.**  
**to Willey, Samuel H. 02/09/1866**  
**Acceptance as trustee**
- item 59                   **Scudder, Henry**  
**to Willey, Samuel H. 02/11/1867**  
**Acceptance as trustee.**
- item 60                   **Willey, Samuel H.**  
**to Lees & Waller 07/03/1867**  
**Instructions re funds.**
- item 61                   **Lees & Waller**  
**to Willey, Samuel H. 08/05/1867**  
**Reply and statement**
- item 62                   **Conness, John**  
**to Willey, Samuel H. 05/20/1867**  
**Thanks for commence invitation; praise for college**
- item 63                   **Wylie, James**  
**to Willey, Samuel H. 06/14/1867**  
**Thanks for degree.**
- item 64                   **Shafter, Oscar L.**  
**to Willey, Samuel H. 07/03/1865**  
**Thanks for degree.**
- item 65                   **Sargent, A.A.**  
**to Willey, Samuel H. 06/19/1865**  
**Thanks for degree.**
- item 66                   **Swezey, S.I.C**  
**to Willey, Samuel H. 06/21/1865**  
**Thanks for degree.**
- item 67                   **Bidwell, John**  
**to Willey, Samuel H 06/20/1865**  
**Thanks for degree.**
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- item 68            **Lake, Delos  
to Willey, Samuel H. 06/19/1865  
Thanks for degree.**
- item 69            **Gates, F.  
to Willey, Samuel H. 06/18/1865  
Thanks for degree.**
- item 70            **Specification re sale of property to I. Brayton.**