
David and Elizabeth Belden Papers

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Descriptive Summary

Title: David and Elizabeth Belden Papers

Dates: 1858-1891

Collection Number: 1979-2563

Creator/Collector:

Extent: .25 linear feet

Repository: History San Jose Research Library
San Jose, California 95112

Abstract: Personal papers of Judge David Belden and his wife Elizabeth, including personal and professional correspondence, as well as David Belden's diary, a small number of tax records, and travel ephemera.

Language of Material: English

Access

Papers are available to researchers by appointment with the Curator of Library & Archives.

Publication Rights

Contact the Curator of Library & Archives regarding reproduction and publication

Preferred Citation

David and Elizabeth Belden Papers. History San Jose Research Library

Acquisition Information

The papers were originally donated to the San Jose Historical Museum by an unknown donor.

Biography/Administrative History

David Belden was born in Newton, Fairfield County, Connecticut, on August 14, 1832, and came to California in 1853, where he opened a law practice in Nevada City. He was elected County Judge of Nevada County in 1859, then represented Nevada County in the State Senate for two sessions beginning in 1865. Belden moved to San Jose in 1869 and continued to practice law. He was appointed Judge to the Twentieth Judicial District Court in 1871, followed by an appointment as Judge of the Superior Court of Santa Clara County, where he remained until his death in 1888. Belden married Elizabeth C. Farrell in 1861.

Scope and Content of Collection

The bulk of the papers are letters, both from family members to David and Elizabeth Belden, and correspondence between the married couple. In addition, there is a handful of professional correspondence, as well as tax records, and ephemera from travel to Europe. Of note is David Belden's diary from 1868-1869.
