Guide to the James A. Clayton Family Papers, circa 1850-1905
Part of the Edith C. Smith Photograph Collection

Guide prepared by Daniel Jarvis
Sourisseau Academy for State and Local History
San Jose State University
One Washington Square
San Jose, CA 95192-0147
Phone: (408) 808-2064
Email: research@sourisseauacademy.org
URL: http://www.sourisseauacademy.org/
©2010 Sourisseau Academy for State and Local History. All rights reserved.
Guide to the James A. Clayton Family Papers, 1850-1905

Sourisseau Academy for State and Local History
San Jose State University

Contact Information:
Sourisseau Academy for State and Local History
San Jose State University
One Washington Square
San Jose, CA 95192-0147

Email: research@sourisseauacademy.org
URL: http://www.sourisseauacademy.org/

Collection processed and guide prepared and encoded by:
Daniel Jarvis

Date Completed:
March 2010

©2010 Sourisseau Academy for State and Local History. All rights reserved.

Descriptive Summary
Title: James A. Clayton Family Papers
Date (inclusive): 1850-1905
Collection Number: ECS03.06
Creator: James A. Clayton Family
Extent: Containers: 2 boxes
Volume: 1.5 cubic feet
Selected online items available
Repository: Sourisseau Academy for State and Local History, San Jose State University
San Jose, California

Abstract: The James A. Clayton Family Papers is a collection of correspondence and photographs that document life in the Clayton family of Santa Clara County during the latter half of the nineteenth century and the beginning of the twentieth century. The family correspondence records aspects of life events and personal dynamics among its members; this is especially the case with James A. Clayton and his wife Anna.

Language of Material: All material is in English.

Access
Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights
Copyright has not been assigned to the Sourisseau Academy. Neither the original photographs nor the digital images held by the Sourisseau Academy may be reproduced, published, or used on the Internet without the expressed, written permission of the Executive Secretary. Permission for publication is given on behalf of the Sourisseau Academy as the owner of the physical items and is not intended to include or imply permission of the copyright holder, which must also be obtained by the researcher. The credit line, “Courtesy of the Edith C. Smith Trust Collection, Sourisseau Academy for State and Local History” must accompany any such use.

Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], James A. Clayton Family Papers, ECS03.08, Edith C. Smith Photograph Collection, Sourisseau Academy for State and Local History, San Jose State University, San Jose, California

Acquisition Information
The James A. Clayton Family Papers were donated to the Sourisseau Academy by the Edith Corinne Smith Trust in 2009. The collection appears to have been part of the Florence Gates Baldwin estate, granddaughter of James and Anna Clayton.

Biographical Note
James A. Clayton was born 20 Oct 1831 in Bugsworth, Derbyshire, England, and died 1896 in Los Angeles, CA. He married Anna Louinia Thomson in March 1869, daughter of Robert Thomson and Amy Brown. She was born June 1843 in Richmond, Indiana, and died 19 Feb 1917 in San Jose, Santa Clara Co., CA.

In 1853, Clayton became permanently identified with Santa Clara where he operated a photography studio. He subsequently moved the studio to San Jose; and in the late 1850s, he relocated his family to San Jose. While in Santa Clara, Clayton and John B. Hewston started the city's first temperance movement. Clayton was also one of the region's first leaders to initiate the establishment of a local YMCA. In 1861, Clayton was elected county clerk on the Republican ticket and was elected again in 1863, while continuing to operate his photograph studio. In 1867, he entered the real estate business in San Jose and remained active in that profession until his death in 1896.

Prior to 1887, most property available for purchase in Santa Clara Valley passed through his hands at least once. Clayton started the first abstract and title business in Santa Clara County, one of the first in the state. He became a promoter and partial owner of the first electric lighting plant in the county and was one of the founders of the First National Bank of San Jose in 1874. He later served as its president for many years. After Clayton had been in the realty business several years, he started to promote the Santa Clara Valley with illustrated literature that was distributed widely in the American Mid-West.

James and Anna Clayton had seven children: Mary E., married to Caroll W. Gates and lived in Los Angeles; Edward W., for many years associated with his father and later with the James A. Clayton Company real estate business; Willis C., also connected with James A. Clayton Company real estate interests and one of the presidents of the First National Bank of San Jose; Ethel, a graduate from the University of the Pacific and associate with her father’s company; Grace Elizabeth, who died in infancy; John J.; and Florence.


Indexing Terms
The following terms may be used to index this collection.

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Clayton, James A. (1831-1896)
Correspondence
James A. Clayton Family
Photograph Albums--California--Santa Clara County (Calif.)--19th Century
Real estate business--California--Santa Clara County (Calif.)--19th Century
Santa Clara County (Calif.)
Tomas, Anna Louinia (1843-1917)

Scope and Content
The James A. Clayton Family Papers is composed of personal letters and photographs from the Clayton family in Santa Clara County during the latter half of the 19th century. The papers are divided into two series: Series I dates from 1850 to 1896 and contains letters and postcards between James A. Clayton, his wife Anna, and their children. Series II contains the Clayton family photograph album, which spans the latter half of the nineteenth century and the dawn of the twentieth century. The majority of these photographs consist of portraits of immediate and extended family members, along with friends and associates.

Arrangement of the James A. Clayton Papers
The papers are arranged into two series:
Series I: Correspondence, 1850-1896
Series II: Photographs, 1850-1905
Series I **Correspondence 1850-1896**

*Physical Description:* 14 folders

*Series I Description:*

Series I contains the correspondence between members of the Clayton family, arranged chronologically by year, if given. James Clayton wrote much of this correspondence to his wife while he was traveling. There are also numerous letters from the Clayton children to their parents, with one group of letters recounting a visit to the Yosemite Valley. Two additional documents worth mentioning, since they are not correspondence, are filed with Series I for the sake of simplicity. The first item is located in the folder one and consists of a court document dated March 26, 1863. In this document Clayton certifies the motion of a defendant to “strike out portions of complaint” in the court case. The second item, located in the folder two, is a basic receipt for the purchase of a piano from a merchant in San Francisco.

| Box 1, Folder 1 | 1850-1869 |
| Box 1, Folder 2 | 1870-1872 |
| Box 1, Folder 3 | 1873-1878 |
| Box 1, Folder 4 | 1881-1882 |
| Box 1, Folder 5 | 1882-1884 |
| Box 1, Folder 6 | 1884-1885 |
| Box 1, Folder 7 | 1885-1887 |
| Box 1, Folder 8 | 1888-1892 |
| Box 1, Folder 9 | 1892 |
| Box 1, Folder 10 | 1893 |
| Box 1, Folder 11 | 1894 |
| Box 1, Folder 12 | 1895-1896 |
| Box 1, Folder 13 | 1896 |
| Box 1, Folder 14 | Undated |

**SERIES II Photographs Circa 1850-1905**

*Physical Description:* 107 photographs

*Series II Description*

Series II contains the Clayton family photograph album, and with the exception of several photographs stored separately, is kept in its original order. Three of the photographs display two of the family residences, their early home on N. Market Street and later home on N. First Street. In one of the photos James A. Clayton is pictured in his garden at their home on N. First Street. Most of the photographs, however, display individual and group portraits of immediate and extended family members.

ecs2003 James A. Clayton ark:/13030/kt009nd9jn
ecs2004 Florence Clayton ark:/13030/kt8z09s20h
ecs2005 James A. Clayton ark:/13030/kt8r29s3z5
ecs2006 Edward William Clayton ark:/13030/kt1p3036wd
ecs2007 Willis Sherman Clayton ark:/13030/kt4j49r92m
ecs2008 Mary Emma Clayton ark:/13030/kt629036kc
ecs2009 Ethel Clayton ark:/13030/kt3f59r9kd
ecs2010 John J. Clayton ark:/13030/kt10036d4
ecs2011 James A. Clayton (2 copies) ark:/13030/kt1199r6r9
ecs2012 Anna S. Clayton (2 copies) ark:/13030/kt4779s04s
ecs2013 Bradley & Jean Clayton ark:/13030/kt0d5nf2wh
ecs2014 Edna Clayton, 1890-1908 ark:/13030/kt1q5037hw
ecs2015 Flora Haskell ark:/13030/kt9g5041fw
ecs2016 Allie Haskell ark:/13030/kt5199s1dd
ecs2017 Elijah Clayton ark:/13030/kt4w10370p
ecs2018 Hannah J. Clayton ark:/13030/kt909n7mx
ecs2019 Unidentified Woman ark:/13030/kt6f59s214
ecs2020 Unidentified Man ark:/13030/kt187034h4
ecs2021 Mrs. John Clayton ark:/13030/kt6m3nf5vm
Series Ii
Photographs Circa 1850-1905

ECS2022 Uncle William Clayton ar/kt13030kt1s2034g
ECS2023 Susan Clayton ar/kt8f59s30q
ECS2024 Three Haskell Brothers. Henry, Daniel, and third unidentified brother ar/kt0q2nf196
ECS2025 Flora, Allie, & Walter Haskell ar/kt13030kt1g5037jd
ECS2026 Aunt Alvana Haskell ar/kt13030kt7x0nf7st
ECS2027 Henry Haskell ar/kt13030kt0v19r7h3
ECS2028 Unidentified Woman ar/kt13030kt609nf67v
ECS2029 Unidentified Man ar/kt13030kt267nf1kp
ECS2030 Grandma Thomson (Amy F.) ar/kt13030kt396nf38z
ECS2031 Cousin Edward Clayton. Son of William ar/kt13030kt809nf97x
ECS2032 Teresa Leigh (Rodgers) ar/kt13030kt41nf3bk
ECS2033 Mary Clayton Embree, daughter of Eli & Hannah ar/kt13030kt1j49r5xp
ECS2034 Elijah Clayton ar/kt13030kt2e09r89c
ECS2035 Hannah Woodward Clayton ar/kt13030kt1b69r8kn
ECS2036 Charles S. Preble ar/kt13030kt7h4nf5bh
ECS2037 Ella Thomson Preble ar/kt13030kt6x0nf5yk
ECS2038 John Clayton ar/kt13030kt1b69r8m5
ECS2039 Unidentified girl ar/kt13030kt0r29r7x5
ECS2040 Ethel Clayton ar/kt13030kt996nf887
ECS2041 J.K. Barney ar/kt13030kt3s2036pk
ECS2042 Unidentified Woman ar/kt13030kt4j49r934
ECS2043 Nettie Clayton Fiewton ar/kt13030kt2k40t35mf
ECS2044 Unidentified Woman ar/kt13030kt496nf31n
ECS2045 Mrs. Johnson ar/kt13030kt5g50371w
ECS2046 Samuel Johnson ar/kt13030kt7n39s52q
ECS2047 Mrs. Jane Cutler ar/kt13030kt31nf324
ECS2048 Antonio Fatjo ar/kt13030kt5199s1x
ECS2049 Unidentified Man ar/kt13030kt1290347p
ECS2050 Edward W., Mary, & Willis Sherman Clayton ar/kt13030kt458036kd
ECS2051 Charles Edward Clayton ar/kt13030kt1z09r8sp
ECS2052 Unidentified woman ar/kt13030kt959s3qw
ECS2053 Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Rea ar/kt13030kt096nf01z
ECS2054 Carrie Rea ar/kt13030kt196nd936
ECS2055 William H. Quinn Sr. ar/kt13030kt8199s3wj
ECS2056 Florence Quinn ar/kt13030kt5d5nf303
ECS2057 William & Emma Bechtel ar/kt13030kt200033f
ECS2058 Joshua R. Bechtel ar/kt13030kt209nf1vh
ECS2059 George Howe Bechtel ar/kt13030kt51t4d5s
ECS2060 Dophia Palmer Stetson ar/kt13030kt31nf33n
ECS2061 Clayton Embree ar/kt13030kt7489n9d3
ECS2062 William Bechtel ar/kt13030kt200033g1
ECS2063 Theophilus Kirk ar/kt13030kt187034jn
ECS2064 Emma Thomson Bechtel & William Bechtel ar/kt13030kt5z09s17g
ECS2065 Christianian Vietzman "Ann" Clayton ar/kt13030kt6r29s386
ECS2066 Samuel Joel Clayton ar/kt13030kt6779s0f2
ECS2067 Johnnie Clayton (Samuel's son) ar/kt13030kt567nf24c
ECS2068 Charles W. Clayton ar/kt13030kt3k40t35rt
ECS2069 Unidentified Woman ar/kt13030kt12903486
ECS2070 Unidentified Woman ar/kt13030kt696nf43s
ECS2071 William Howdle, Esq. ar/kt13030kt929040d8
ECS2072 Hannah Clayton Howdle ar/kt13030kt1r29r8pt
ECS2073 Ethel Clayton ar/kt13030kt5m3nf3mg
ECS2074 Cornelia Clayton ar/kt13030kt6p30427n
ECS2075 Hazel Preble & Amy Thomson ar/kt13030kt0z09r5fr
ECS2076 Amy French Brown Thomson ar/kt13030kt6c6038c6
ECS2077 Anne E. Earle ar/kt13030kt338nf1tz
ECS2078 Capitol Building in Washington, D.C. ar/kt13030kt099nd9xb
| **ecs2079**  | Florence Gates  | ark:/13030/kt158034qk |
| **ecs2080**  | Ella Thomson Preble  | ark:/13030/kt200033bj |
| **ecs2081**  | Anna L. Thomson Clayton  | ark:/13030/kt8q2n6fx |
| **ecs2082**  | Flora, Allie, & Walter Haskell  | ark:/13030/kt8g5040s8 |
| **ecs2083**  | Edward, Willis, & Mary Clayton  | ark:/13030/kt6d5n62w |
| **ecs2084**  | Ethel Preble  | ark:/13030/kt067n1j1 |
| **ecs2085**  | Ethel, Dorma, & Hazel Preble  | ark:/13030/kt2v19r6xf |
| **ecs2086**  | Florence Gates Baldwin  | ark:/13030/kt3k4035sb |
| **ecs2087**  | Willis Sherman Clayton & Ernest P. Lion  | ark:/13030/kt7290385f |
| **ecs2088**  | Florence Gates  | ark:/13030/kt696n449 |
| **ecs2089**  | Florence Gates  | ark:/13030/kt638n4tb |
| **ecs2090**  | Unidentified Women  | ark:/13030/kt1s2034hd |
| **ecs2091**  | Anna Florence Clayton  | ark:/13030/kt3d5n2sw |
| **ecs2092**  | John James Clayton  | ark:/13030/kt0j4n8sr |
| **ecs2093**  | Mary Emma Clayton  | ark:/13030/kt7f5n2tb |
| **ecs2094**  | Anna Florence Clayton  | ark:/13030/kt8g5040ts |
| **ecs2095**  | Anna Florence Clayton  | ark:/13030/kt429036oz |
| **ecs2096**  | Jennet Jacks  | ark:/13030/kt738n76s |
| **ecs2097**  | Clara D. Houghton  | ark:/13030/kt0x0n1t8 |
| **ecs2098**  | Allie Haskell  | ark:/13030/kt519n1gf |
| **ecs2099**  | Susannah Minor  | ark:/13030/kt0f5n7kh |
| **ecs2100**  | Ethel Clayton  | ark:/13030/kt4f5n0pc |
| **ecs2101**  | Ethel Clayton  | ark:/13030/kt3f5n9mx |
| **ecs2102**  | Willis Clayton & George Carter  | ark:/13030/kt509s187 |
| **ecs2103**  | Mary, Eddie, & Willie Clayton  | ark:/13030/kt3199s0w |
| **ecs2104**  | Mary & Eddie Clayton  | ark:/13030/kt119n6st |
| **ecs2105**  | Mary E. Clayton  | ark:/13030/kt6p30285 |
| **ecs2106**  | Annie Johnson  | ark:/13030/kt777s0t2 |
| **ecs2107**  | Clayton Residence at 143 North Market Street  | ark:/13030/kt4n39s0v8 |
| **ecs2108**  | Clayton Residence at 471 North First Street  | ark:/13030/kt4489r8vd |
| **ecs2109**  | Clayton Residence at 471 North First Street  | ark:/13030/kt2h4n7zt |