Finding aid of the Medical Examiner-Coroner's Office Records

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Finding aid of the Medical Examiner-Coroner's office records

Collection number: 2008-013

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Encoded by:
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Descriptive Summary
Title: Medical Examiner-Coroner's office records
Inclusive Dates: 1891-1963
Collection number: 2008-013
Creator: Medical Examiner-Coroner's Office
Collection Size: 15 cubic feet
Repository: Santa Clara County Archives.
San Jose, CA 95112-2527
Abstract: The Santa Clara County Medical Examiner-Coroner's Office Records consist of coroner inquests and testimonies, coroner's official registers, records of coroner investigations, hospital death records, and lantern slides of human cells and tissue samples taken from the deceased. These records range from 1891 to 1963.
Physical location: For current information on the location of these materials, please consult Archives staff.
Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English
Access
Collection is open for research.
Publication Rights
The Archives can claim physical ownership only for some collections. Users are responsible for securing permission of the copyright holder for publication or quotation.
Preferred Citation
Medical Examiner-Coroner's office records, 2008-013, Santa Clara County Archives.
Acquisition Information
These records were transferred by the Santa Clara County Medical Examiner-Coroner's Office in 2008.
Processing Information
This collection was processed by Trista Raezer working under NHPRC grant NAR07-10047-07, the Santa Clara County Archives Project. For more information about the project, please see the Archives website.
Administrative History
"The elective office of coroner was established in 1850. In 1876, the coroner was made the exofficio public administrator. The coroner's duties include holding inquests over deaths of unknown cause. Under county charter, the coroner was appointed by the county executive. In 1963, the coroner was separated from the public administrator, and each coroner thereafter was required to have a medical degree."
Reference:
Scope and Content of Collection
The Santa Clara County Medical Examiner-Coroner's Office Records consist of coroner inquests and testimonies, coroner's official registers, records of coroner investigations, hospital death records, and lantern slides of cells and tissue samples taken from the deceased.

The inquest records range from 1948 to 1958. These records contain testimony and evidence for investigation of suspicious deaths or suicides.

The coroner’s official registers and records of coroner investigations document investigations into cause of death. These records contain the name of the deceased, birth and death date, place of birth, names of parents, occupation, place of death, and cause of death. The hospital death records record the names of those who died in hospital with no extra information about the deceased.

The lantern slides were most likely used for teaching purposes, and contain photographs of cells and tissue samples relating to pathology. Some of these samples came from deceased Santa Clara County residents, while others were manufactured slides for lectures and teaching purposes. These slides range from the 1930s to the 1950s.

**Arrangement**

These records are arranged into three series: Coroner’s Inquests and Testimony, Coroner’s Record Books, and Lantern Slides.

**Indexing Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

- Coroners and medical examiners
- Death records
- Deaths
- Inquests, Coroner's
- Lantern slides--1920-1940
- Pathology--Slides (Photography)
- Santa Clara County (Calif.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box: 1</th>
<th>Series:</th>
<th><strong>Coroner's Inquests and Testimony, 1943-1963</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Description:</td>
<td>1 box</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Series Scope and Content</td>
<td>This series consists of inquests and testimonies regarding causes of death. These records are arranged in chronological order.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Box/folder: 1/1 | **Coroner's Inquest Tony Stojanovich, 1931** |
| Box/folder: 1/2 | **Inquests, 1943** |
| Box/folder: 1/3 | **Coroner's Inquest of Keenan and Lomelli, 1954** |
| Box/folder: 1/4 | **Coroner's Inquests, 1956** |
| Box/folder: 1/5 | **Coroner's Inquest of Keenan and Vaught, 1956** |
| Box/folder: 1/6 | **Coroner's Inquest of Keenan, Vaught, Vollmer, and Wright, 1956** |
| Box/folder: 1/7 | **Coroner's Inquest of Vollmer and Wright, 1956** |
Coroner's Inquest of Pederson, 1957
Physical Description: 1 folder

Coroner Coroner's Inquests of Okamoto and Pederson, 1957
Physical Description: 1 folder

Coroner's Inquest of White and Morris, 1957
Physical Description: 1 folder

Coroner's Inquest of Jerrel W. Morris, 1957
Physical Description: 1 folder

Coroner's Inquest of Arthur S. White, 1957
Physical Description: 1 folder

Coroner's Inquest of Wanda Rhea and Kenneth Hilty, 1957
Physical Description: 2 folders

Coroner's Inquest of Harold T. Duke, December 28, 1957
Physical Description: 2 folders

Coroner's Inquest of Jaegeling and Amaro, 1958
Physical Description: 1 folder

Coroner's Inquest of Samuel Amaro, 1958
Physical Description: 1 folder

Coroner's Inquest of Pamela Taylor, May 29, 1958
Physical Description: 2 folders

Inquests, 1960
Physical Description: 1 folder

Investigator's Written Reports, 1963
Physical Description: 2 folders

Series II Coroner's Record Books, 1891-1946
Physical Description: 9 boxes

Series Scope and Content
This series consists of fourteen volumes of the Coroner's Official Registers which range from 1891 to 1945, fourteen volumes of the Report of Coroner's Investigations ranging from 1932 to 1946, and two volumes of Hospital Death Records, ranging from 1925 to 1939. These volumes and records are arranged chronologically.
Box: 8  
**Coroner's Inquests, Index, 1851-1958**
Physical Description: 1 volume

Series III  
**Lantern Slides, circa 1930s-1950s**
Physical Description: 11 boxes

Series Scope and Content
This series consists of lantern slides, photographs and negatives. The bulk of the materials are lantern slides. These slides where most likely used for educational purposes and show images of cells and tissue samples. Some images are of cells and tissue samples taken from individuals who died in Santa Clara County, and are thus identified. These slides were most likely created from the 1930s to the 1950s.

Boxes: 1-8  
**Labeled Lantern Slides, circa 1930s-1950s**
Physical Description: 8 boxes

Boxes: 9-10  
**Unlabeled Lantern Slides, circa 1930s-1950s**
Physical Description: 2 boxes

Box: 11  
**Negatives and Photographs, circa 1930s-1950s**
Physical Description: 1 box