Austin H. Merrill Papers MSS.314

Finding aid prepared by Leilani Silver, Pamela Nett Kruger
Processing of this collection was funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and administered by the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR), Cataloging Hidden Special Collections and Archives program.
California State University, Chico, Special Collections, Meriam Library
400 West First Street
Chico, CA. 95929-0295
(530) 898-6342
SpecialCollections@csuchico.edu
7/7/2010
Title: Austin H. Merrill Papers
Identifier/Call Number: MSS.314
Contributing Institution: California State University, Chico, Special Collections, Meriam Library
Language of Material: English
Physical Description: 1.0 Linear feet 1 Box with 15 Folders
Date (inclusive): 1881-1948
Abstract: The Austin H. Merrill Papers consist of correspondence, reports, diagrams, and photographs (some with accompanying negatives) related to mines and mining in Shasta County, Butte County, Mexico, Alaska, Oregon, and Nevada.
Language of Materials note: English
Alternate Form of Material: No other forms of material.
creator: Merrill, Austin H.

Biographical/Historical note
Austin H. Merrill became a mining engineer and lived in the West, in Nevada, Alaska, and San Francisco, California. He was born March 13, 1893 in Nashville, Tennessee. His father was Austin H. (Heaton) Merrill (1859-1900), a “beloved” elocution professor at Vanderbilt University. His mother was Pearl (Daniel) Merrill (1869-1953), of Harrisonville, Missouri. Austin H. Merrill also had a sister, Elizabeth (Merrill) Everett. He was the grandchild of Henry Clay Daniel and Elizabeth Gillenwaters Brown. Austin H. Merrill married Livinia Shinn (Levine Merrill), and they had three children, Patricia Ann Merrill, born April 5, 1918, in Goldfield, Nevada, Peter Merrill, born Aug. 7, 1928, in San Francisco, California, and Austin Jr.

Access Restrictions
Collection is open for research without restriction.

Usage Restrictions
No restrictions.

Immediate Source of Acquisition note
Eric Ritter, Bureau of Land Management in Redding, California.

Preferred Citation note
Austin H. Merrill Papers, MSS 314, Special Collections, Meriam Library, California State University, Chico.

Related Collections
Tennessee State Library and Archives finding aid for the Merrill, Austin Heaton (1859-1900) Papers.

Scope and Contents note
The Austin H. Merrill Papers consist of correspondence, reports, diagrams, and photographs (some with accompanying negatives) related to mines and mining in Shasta County, Butte County, Mexico, Alaska, Oregon, and Nevada. Contained within the collection is information pertaining to the following mines: Yankee John Mine, Milkmaid Mine, Washington Mine, American Mine, Silver King Mine, Niagara Summit, Riverside Mine (Alaska), Golden Treasure Mine (Mexico), Rainbow Mine (Oregon), and Goldfield (Nevada). Many of the reports include geological surveys and assessments of the mines, which consist of estimates and recommendations for development, operation, and cost. Some of the reports include drawings or diagrams illustrating mining developments and operations, such as the six diagrams depicting the mine shafts of Yankee John Mine. Also included in the collection is an owner’s statement for the Silver King Mine by L. C. Parker, dated March 9, 1915, a handwritten history of the Yankee John Mine by John F. Reese, dated January 3, 1939, Assay Certificates by James A. Leslie, a record of accounts from the Washington Mine October 14, 1937 through February 18, 1938, and mining claims from French Gulch, including Halcyon Gold Quartz Claim, Midway Gold Quartz Mine, Ruby Pearl Quartz Mine, Lone Pine Gold Quartz Mine, and Globe Gold Quartz Mine. The photographs contained within the collection were taken of several different mines, including Yankee John Mine, Milkmaid Mine, Washington Mine, French Gulch, American Mine, French Gulch, Riverside...

Besides Austin H. Merrill there are other names included in some of the correspondence and reports, such as Richard L. Smith, W. L. Clark, W. Y. Humphreys, W. L. Hill, J. H. Scott, John F. Reese, L. T. Pockman, John A. Kruse, Lutellus Smith, W. M. Johnston, and H. A. Houser. Also included are Assay Certificates by James A. Leslie.

Publication Rights

The library can only claim physical ownership of the collection. Users are responsible for satisfying any claimants of literary property.

Arrangement note

The collection is arranged by mine, in this order: Silver Mines, Yankee John Mine, Milkmaid Mine, Washington Mine, French Gulch, Mining Claims (which include Halcyon Gold Quartz Claim, Midway Gold Quartz Mine, Lone Pine Gold Quartz Mine, and Globe Gold Quartz Mine), American Mine, Silver King Mine, Niagara Summit Mining Property, Riverside Mine (Alaska), Golden Treasure Mine (Mexico), Rainbow Mine (Oregon), and Goldfield (Nevada).

Processing Information note

Processing of the Austin H. Merrill Papers was generously funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and administered by the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR). The [ABC repository] was awarded a Cataloging Hidden Special Collections and Archives grant from 2010-2012, “Uncovering California's Environmental Collections,” in collaboration with eight additional special collections and archival repositories throughout the state and the California Digital Library (CDL). Grant objectives included processing of over 33 hidden collections related to the state's environment and environmental history. The collections document an array of important sub-topics such as irrigation, mining, forestry, agriculture, industry, land use, activism, and research. Together they form a multifaceted picture of the natural world and the way it was probed, altered, exploited and protected in California over the twentieth century. Finding aids are made available through the Online Archive of California (OAC).

Subjects and Indexing Terms

Merrill, Austin H.
French Gulch (Calif.)--Gold discoveries
Gold mines and mining -- California -- History.
Gold mines and mining--California--French Gulch
Gold mines and mining--California--Shasta County
Gold mines and mining--Nevada--Esmeralda County--History
Gold ores--Nevada
Goldfield (Nev.)--Gold discoveries
Goldfield (Nev.)--History
Mines and mineral resources--Alaska
Mines and mineral resources--California, Northern--History
Mines and mineral resources--Mexico
Mines and mineral resources--Nevada
Mines and mineral resources--Oregon
Shasta County (Calif.) -- Gold discoveries.

Uncovering California's Environmental Collections Project

Box 1

Papers and Photographs

Folder 1: Silver Mines, Nevada, 1880s
Notes from newspaper articles
Folder 2: Yankee John Mine, 1923-1948
Correspondence, from Richard L. Smith, Pittsburgh to W. L. Clark, Pittsburgh (original + 1 copy), July 9, 1923
Diagrams of mine shafts; scale 1 inch = 40 feet (6 drawings),
Correspondence, from W. Y. Humphreys (prior stockholder) Pittsburg to W. L. Hill, Redding, CA, February 17, 1938
Correspondence, from A. H. Merrill, French Gulch CA to J. H. Scott, San Francisco, CA, March 20, 1939
Report on Yankee John Mine by Austin H. Merrill, with history by previous owners John Reese and W. L. Hill; drawing of mine, October 14, 1948
Correspondence, from A. H. Merrill to L. T. Pockman, San Francisco, CA, December 13, 1939
Handwritten history of the mine by John F. Reese, January 3, 1939
Correspondence, from A. H. Merrill to H. A. Houser, Los Angeles, CA, September 15, 1945
Assay Certificates by James A. Leslie, Redding, July-August 1946
Folder 3: Yankee John Mine
Photographs, 1945
Folder 4: Milkmaid Mine
Photographs, 1938
Folder 5: Washington Mine
Excerpts from “Economic Geology of the French Gulch Quadrangle Shasta and Trinity Counties, California” by John P. Albers, prepared cooperatively by the United States Geological Survey
Correspondence, Laboratory Certificate of Smith, Emery & Company, San Francisco, CA, May 10, 1938
Accounts, October 14, 1937 through February 18, 1938
Folder 6: Washington Mine and Mill, French Gulch
Photographs and negatives, 1939
Folder 7: Washington Mine, French Gulch
Photographs, 1939
Folder 8: Mining Claims
Halcyon Gold Quartz Claim, locator C. C. Fox, Shasta County Recorder, Miscellaneous Records, Book 44, p. 162, July 5, 1921
Midway Gold Quartz Mine, locators W. C. Blagrave and C. C. Fox, Shasta County Recorder, Miscellaneous Records, Volume 41, p. 369, March 6, 1926
Ruby Pearl Quartz Mine, locator William C. Blagrave, Shasta County Recorder, Miscellaneous Records, Volume 41, p. 401, November 2, 1926
Lone Pine Gold Quartz Mine, locators W. C. Blagrave and C. C. Fox, Shasta County Recorder, Miscellaneous Records, Volume 41, p. 402, October 14, 1926
Globe Gold Quartz Mine, locators W. C. Blagrave and C. C. Fox, Shasta County Recorder, Miscellaneous Records, Volume 41, p. 403, October 14, 1926
Folder 9: American Mine, French Gulch, 1941
Photographs
Folder 10: Silver King Mine
Owner's Statement (L. C. Parker) March 9, 1915
Folder 11: Niagara Summit Mining Property
Report by John A. Kruse to Lutellus Smith, Black Tom Mines Company, May 17, 1910
Report by W. M. Johnston, Glendale to Niagara-Summit Mining Company, Chicago, September 9, 1912
Folder 12: Riverside Mine, Hyder, Alaska
Photographs, 1940s
Folder 13: Golden Treasure Mine
Photographs, 1926
Folder 14: Rainbow Mine, Oregon
Photographs
Folder 15: Goldfield, Nevada
Photographs