Finding Aid to the Powell and Sparkman Family Papers MS.218

Finding aid prepared by Holly Rose Larson
Autry National Center, Braun Research Library
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2012 August 30
Title: Powell and Sparkman Family Papers
Identifier/Call Number: MS.218
Contributing Institution: Autry National Center, Braun Research Library
Language of Material: English
Physical Description: 1.3 Linear feet(2 boxes)
Date (bulk): Bulk, 1808-1919
Date (inclusive): 1808-1962
Abstract: Philip Stedman Sparkman studied and wrote out the vocabulary of the Luiseño people of Southern California, and he corresponded with Charles F. Lummis and Frederick Webb Hodge. This collection includes family, financial, and legal papers of John Sparkman, Philip Stedman, Philip Stedman Sparkman, John Stedman Sparkman, Alice Ann Sparkman Powell, and Rodney W. Powell, spanning mostly from 1808-1919. Photographs in this collection range from 1872-1962.
creator: Powell, Alice Ann Sparkman
creator: Powell, Rodney W.
creator: Sparkman Family
creator: Sparkman, John Stedman
creator: Sparkman, John
creator: Sparkman, Philip Stedman, 1865-1907
creator: Stedman, Philip
Scope and contents
This collection includes family, financial, and legal papers of John Sparkman, Philip Stedman, Philip Stedman Sparkman, John Stedman Sparkman, Alice Ann Sparkman Powell, and Rodney W. Powell, spanning mostly from 1808-1919. Papers include correspondence, family papers, financial records, a ledger, and photographs. Loose photographs and a photo album include photos from 1872-1962. The photo album features mostly Powell family members, with some of Alice Sparkman Powell’s family photos as well. The photo album also includes photographs from R. W. Powell’s military service in Cairo, featuring encampments, landscapes, and Bedouins. The ledger is mostly filled with journal entries from 1880-1901 written by Philip Stedman Sparkman.
Preferred citation
Powell and Sparkman Family Papers, 1808-1962, Braun Research Library Collection, Autry National Center, Los Angeles; MS.218; [folder number] [folder title][date].
Use
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Access
Collection is open for research. Appointments to view materials are required. To make an appointment please visit http://theautry.org/research/research-rules-and-application or contact library staff at rroom@theautry.org.
Biographical note
Philip Steadman Sparkman, 1865-1907
Sparkman was the seventh child in a farming family, born in Herefordshire, England in 1865. He sailed to the United States in 1875 on the immigrant ship SS Idaho. He slowly made his way west, working odd jobs, and opening a series of short-lived stores starting in 1880 in Albuquerque, New Mexico and then in towns along the Santa Fe Trail. He eventually settled in the small town of Rincon, near Valley Center in San Diego County, California where he ran a successful store and prospered as a local businessman. Sparkman had taught himself Spanish while in New Mexico, and upon settling in Rincon, became interested in the local Luiseño Indian culture and language. Sparkman spent years recording all aspects of Luiseño culture, including folklore, religion, and material culture, but his focus was on their language. He published a preliminary sketch of his study of the language in American Anthropologist in 1905. Sparkman was killed at his home on 1907 May 19 at the age of 51. The man suspected of his murder, Francisco Calac, was declared unfit for trial, and spent the next 20 years at the state asylum in San Bernardino, California. Discovered among his papers after his death were a completed, bound and typed manuscript grammar and dictionary of the Luiseño language and a written account of Luiseño culture. Both works were acquired, along with other Sparkman papers, by the University of California and published post-mortem. Sparkman
left no heir behind, so his effects were left to his sister Alice Ann Sparkman Powell, wife of Rodney W. Powell, who served in the British army in Cairo during World War I.


Related Archival Materials
Charles Fletcher Lummis Manuscript Collection, 1879-1928, Braun Research Library Collection, Autry National Center, Los Angeles, MS.1
Frederick Webb Hodge Manuscript Collection, 1884-1956, Braun Research Library Collection, Autry National Center, Los Angeles, MS.7
Philip Stedman Sparkman papers, 1896-1907, Bancroft Library, University of California at Berkley, BANC MSS C-B 1068.

Processing history
Biographical note prepared by Eloise Nelson, Braun Research Library intern, 2011 June 20. Initial processing completed by Braun Research Library staff. Processing and finding aid completed by Holly Rose Larson, NHRPC Processing Archivist, 2012 August 30, made possible through grant funding from the National Historical Publications and Records Commissions (NHRPC).

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Powell, Alice Ann Sparkman
Powell, Rodney W.
Sparkman Family
Sparkman, John Stedman
Sparkman, John
Sparkman, Philip Stedman, 1865-1907
Stedman, Philip
Cairo (Egypt)
Correspondence
Diaries
Financial records
Indian baskets
Ledgers
Luiseño Indians
Luiseño language
Photograph albums
Photographs

Box 2, Folder 2 Philip Stedman Sparkman and J.J. Powel photos 1870-1917
Box 1, Folder 3 Stedman family genealogy
Box 1, Folder 4 Will and Estate of John Sparkman 1873
Box 1, Folder 5 Will of Philip Stedman 1819
Box 1, Folder 6 Document regarding an appointment in Herefordshire
  Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements note
  Document is illegible.

Box 1, Folder 7 Bond for securing interest, from Edward Bruton to Henry Thurston 1857
Box 1, Folder 8 Powell family material 1807-1919
Box 1, Folder 9 Correspondence regarding Little Marcle Rectory 1866
Box 1, Folder 10 Letters from John Stedman Sparkman to James and Alice Powell
  Biographical note
  Alice Ann Sparkman Powell is the sister of Phillip Stedman Sparkman.
  Scope and Contents note
  Philip S. Sparkman is also a correspondent in this group of letters.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1, Folder 11</th>
<th>Correspondence regarding death of Philip Stedman Sparkman</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 12</td>
<td>Correspondence regarding estate of Philip Stedman Sparkman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 13</td>
<td>Philip Stedman Sparkman basket collection list 1908</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 14</td>
<td>Philip Stedman Sparkman ledger journal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Physical Description:** 120.0 pages

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1, Folder 15</th>
<th>Philip Stedman Sparkman journal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 16</td>
<td><em>Firs Farm journals 1905-1910</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Scope and contents**

Published in Gisborne, New Zealand by R.W. Powell.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1, Folder 16</th>
<th>Letter from Rodney W. Powell to his wife Alice 1918</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Scope and contents**

Letter was sent from Cairo, Egypt.