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## **Finding Aid to the Newmark Family Papers MS.227**

Finding aid prepared by Stefanie Crump, Anna Liza Posas

Autry National Center, Braun Research Library

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2010, 2013

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**Title:** Newmark Family Papers

**Identifier/Call Number:** MS.227

**Contributing Institution:** Autry National Center, Braun Research Library

**Language of Material:** English

**Physical Description:** 25.0 Linear feet

**Date (inclusive):** 1837-2006

**Language:** Primarily in English with some correspondence written in German and French.

**Abstract:** The Newmarks are a pioneer Los Angeles family that have contributed to the promotion and growth of Los Angeles, as well as to the development of Los Angeles' Jewish community. In 1848, Joseph Phillip Newmark became the first of the family to immigrate to the United States. He was soon joined by his brother Harris Newmark. The Newmark Family Papers consists of biographical materials, published items, correspondence, photographic material, and family memorabilia that document the lives of Sarah and Harris Newmark and their descendants from 1837 to 2006. Newmark descendants include the Loeb, Levi, and Nordlinger families.

**creator:** Newmark Family

**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 [room@theautry.org](mailto:room@theautry.org). A folder level inventory is available from library staff.

**Use**

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Series I: Newmark Family Papers, 1837-1917

Series II: Newmark-Loeb Family Papers, circa 1860-1986

Series III: Newmark-Levi Family Papers, 1902-2000

Series IV: Photo Albums, circa 1860-2004 and undated

**Scope and contents**

The Newmark Family Papers consists of biographical materials, published items, correspondence, photographic material, and family memorabilia that document the lives of Sarah and Harris Newmark and their descendants. The Papers also includes the collected diaries and correspondence of Sarah Newmark, Rose Loeb, and Aimee Nordlinger. The biographical materials and published items relate to Los Angeles and California history, development, and civic organizations.

**Family History note**

The end of the Mexican-American War brought great changes to the pueblo known as Los Angeles. Roughly twenty years after California was transferred to the United States, a handful of civically and entrepreneurially minded men began to promote Los Angeles as the next great city, seeking to build a city akin to the likes of San Francisco. They encouraged the growth of large and small businesses, farming and banking. Lands once belonging to a select few were gradually bought, sold and parceled. Industry developed, as did the railway. The Newmark family is firmly rooted in this history, having contributed to the promotion and growth of greater Los Angeles, as well as to the development of Los Angeles' Jewish community.

The Newmarks are a pioneer Los Angeles family with roots in Loebau, West Prussia. Joseph and Harris Neumark (later changed to Newmark by Joseph Phillip) were two of six children born to Philipp and Ester (Conn) Neumark. Philipp Neumark was a merchant, making and selling ink and blacking, and he was often on business trips to Sweden and Denmark where the family maintained friendships and business relationships. Though their father did make his way to the United States in 1838, illness brought him back home.

In 1848, Joseph Phillip Newmark became the first of the family to immigrate to the United States. Landing first in New York, he stayed in the East until the call of the gold rush led him to San Francisco in 1851. In May 1853, he invited his brother Harris (b. 1834) to join him in California. By late August of that year, Harris Newmark landed in New York, eventually reaching Los Angeles two months later. At the time of the 1850 U.S. Census, Los Angeles had a population of 1,610— 8 of these inhabitants were Jewish (6 of whom were natives of Germany). The Newmarks became prosperous in their new home town. Both brothers became successful businessmen. Harris Newmark owned and operated the commissions house, H. Newmark & Company (one of the earliest in Los Angeles). In 1865 he opened H. Newmark & Co., a wholesale grocery

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business. But it was in real estate where he made the bulk of his money. He partnered with Kaspare Cohn to purchase and parcel lands that would become the town of Montebello, and sold 8030 acres of land to E.J. "Lucky" Baldwin (Rancho San Anita). Harris Newmark was co-founder and president of the Los Angeles B'nai B'rith Congregation, was one of the organizers of the Los Angeles Public Library, was an organizer and member of the Board of Directors for the Los Angeles Board of Trade, and was a charter member of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce.

Harris Newmark was married to his cousin Sarah Newmark on 1858 March 24 by her father Joseph P. Newmark—Los Angeles' first lay rabbi. Five of their eleven children survived infancy. Son Maurice Harris, born circa 1859 and died in 1929, married his cousin, Rose Newmark, 1888 July 3. Maurice (M.H.) was a great friend of Charles F. Lummis, found of the Southwest Museum, and sat on the Museum's Board of Trustees.

Marco Ross, born circa 1878, was both a businessman and an historian. Marco (M.R.) served as Director and President of the Historical Society of Southern California. Together, Maurice and Marco published the *1850 Census of Los Angeles City and County* in 1929, and edited their father's biography, *Sixty Years in Southern California 1853-1913*.

Harris and Sarah Newmark had three daughters, Ella, Emily, and Estelle. Ella married Carl Seligman. Emily married Jacob Loew. Estelle married Leon Loeb. Jacob Loew and his nephew Herman Levi became the owners of the Capitol Milling Company, which was established 1883. Herman Levi was also the son-in-law of Estelle and Leon Loeb.

The Capitol Milling Company company continued under the Levis and Loews, becoming the oldest family run business in Los Angeles until its sale to Con Agra in 1999.

#### **Processing history**

Finding aid created by Stefanie Crump, 2010. Revised by Anna Liza Posas, 2013. Final processing of collection and publication of finding aid made possible by a grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC).

#### **Preferred citation**

*Newmark Family Papers*, 1837-2006, Braun Research Library Collection, Autry National Center, Los Angeles; MS.227; [folder number] [folder title][date].

#### **Custodial history**

Part of the collection was donated by brothers M.H. (Maurice Harris) and Marco Newmark beginning in 1917 December with subsequent gifts bestowed in 1919, 1922, and 1927. The collection related to *The Linda Levi Collection of the Newmark and Levi Family Memorabilia*, was donated 2007 August 8 by Linda Levi. The collection was maintained by the donor and her brother, John Newmark Levi, Jr. before being received by the Braun Research Library at the Autry.

#### **Related Archival Materials note**

Manuscript collections from the Braun Research Library Collection, Autry National Center:

MS.1 Charles Fletcher Lummis Papers, 1450-1975

MS.207 La Fiesta de Los Angeles Records, 1894-1947

MS.567 Workman Family Collection, 1933-1956

MS.642 Draft of United States Census, City and County of Los Angeles, 1850, 1850-1928

MS.725 Myer J. Newmark Journal, 1852-1853

#### **Subjects and Indexing Terms**

H. Newmark and Company.

Levi Family

Levi, Linda

Loeb Family

Loeb, Rose

Newmark, Harris, 1834-1916

Newmark, John Levi

Newmark, Joseph Phillip

Newmark, Sarah

Nordlinger Family

Nordlinger, Aimee

Account books

Business records

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California -- History -- Sources  
Clippings  
Correspondence  
Diaries  
Jews -- California  
Jews -- California -- Los Angeles  
*Kaspere Cohn: a commemorative tribute to the founder and first president of Union Bank*  
Ledgers  
Los Angeles (Calif.) -- History -- Sources  
*My seventy years in California*  
Photograph albums  
Photographs  
Scrapbooks  
*Sixty years in Southern California, 1853-1913, containing the reminiscences of Harris Newmark*

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**Newmark Family MS.227.1 1837-1917**

- MS.227.1.1: Newmark Family Documents and Memorabilia, 1858-1917
  - MS.227.1.2: Sarah Newmark's Travel Writings, 1887-1916
  - MS.227.1.3: Newmark Financial Records, 1776-1940
  - MS.227.1.4: Newmark Family Histories and Related Documents, 1908-2006 and undated
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**Newmark Family Documents and Memorabilia, MS.227.1.1 1858-1917**

**Scope and contents**

This subseries includes legal documents, scrapbooks, personal items, newspaper clippings, and memorabilia pertaining to the Newmarks' civic activities and Los Angeles history. Of particular note is the collected memorabilia from the first *Fiesta de Los Angeles* in 1894. The week-long event, modeled after New Orleans' Mardi Gras, was sponsored by the Merchant's Association to help improve the city's economy after the 1893 depression. Items also include memorabilia from Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce events and the California Midwinter Exposition of 1894. Also included are commemorative memorabilia and cable car tickets.

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**Sarah Newmark's Travel Writings MS.227.1.2 1887-1916**

**Scope and contents**

This subseries includes scrapbooks and journals that describe the Newmark's travels in Europe and America. One journal provides an account of a trip from Los Angeles to Alaska that documents the cities traveled, modes of transportation, and daily excursions. All other materials document two sojourns to Europe, describing "Grand Tours" in 1887-1888 and 1900. There are two sets of journals that document the 1887-1888 trip. Sarah Newmark created the original journals and bound copies for family in 1890.

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**Financial Ledgers MS.227.1.3 1837-1940**

**Custodial history**

The quarter master's book from 1776 was not created by the Newmarks. At some unknown point in time, it came into possession of the Newmarks.

**Administrative history note**

Newmark and Company timeline:

1854 associated with Newmark, Kremer and Company

1861 reorganized the firm as Newmark and Kremer

after 1861, organized a as a commission house under the name H. Newmark and Company

1865, doing business as a wholesale grocer under the name H. Newmark and Company

**Scope and contents**

This subseries consists of six ledgers, four of which document financial transactions for businesses owned or jointly operated by Harris Newmark. Two other ledgers are a quarter master's book from 1776 and a ledger generated for an unidentified club or organization, 1934-1940.

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**Newmark Family Histories and Related Documents MS.227.1.4 1908-2006 and undated**

**Scope and contents**

This subseries is comprised of Newmark family trees, a monograph describing Myer J. Newmark and family's voyage from New York to San Francisco in 1853, biographical articles, documents and other items pertaining to members of the Newmark family and Jewish life in Los Angeles.

**Acquisition**

Materials in this subseries are part of *The Linda Levi Collection of Newmark and Levi Family Memorabilia*, acquired 2007.

**Newmark-Loeb Family MS.227.2 circa 1860-1986**

**Scope and contents**

Series includes family genealogies, correspondence, photo albums and scrap books.

**Custodial history**

Many items in this group were collected by Rose Loeb Levi, grandmother of Linda Levi. A majority of the Newmark related materials were collected by Linda Levi and her brother, John Newmark Levi, Jr.

**Newmark-Levi Family MS.227.3 1902-2000**

MS.227.3.1: Levi Family Documents and Memorabilia, 1891-2002

MS.227.3.2: Rose Loeb Correspondence, 1900, 1906

MS.227.3.3: John Newmark Levi, Sr., 1905-1972

MS.227.3.4: Nordlinger Family, 1888, 1909

MS.227.3.5: Linda Levi, 1950-2006

MS.227.3.6: Capitol Milling Company, 1973-2003

**Scope and contents**

Series includes material that document the lives of the Levi family, descendants of Rose Loeb and Herman Levi.

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**Levi Family Documents and Memorabilia MS.227.3.1 1891-2002**

**Scope and contents**

The Levi Family Documents and Memorabilia subseries consist of items belonging to Rose and Herman Levi, as well as two of their children, John Levi, Sr., and Elizabeth Levi Lissner.

Materials consists of legal documents, family histories, and personal items, such as wallets, travel books, and keys belonging to Herman Levi. Scrapbooks collected by Rose Loeb include a book of telegrams with well wishes upon the announcement of Rose and Herman Levi's engagement and marriage. Also included are a 1903 newspaper clippings regarding Rose's brother, an album of postcards compiled after the birth of Rose's daughter Elizabeth, yearbooks for John Levi, Sr. and wife Aimee Nordlinger Levi, and a bound collection of the *Daily Palo Alto* edited by John Levi, Sr.

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**Rose Loeb Correspondence MS.227.3.2 1900, 1906**

**Related Archival Materials note**

Please also see in this collection "Series 4: Photo Albums, 1860s-2004 and undated" for images related to Rose Loeb's Europe trip.

**Arrangement**

Letters are arranged in folders by date.

**Scope and contents**

The majority of the letters in this subseries were written by Rose Loeb during her trip to Europe with her grandparents, Sarah and Harris Newmark, in 1900. Most are addressed to her mother, Estelle Newmark Loeb, with a few being addressed to other family members and to her fiancé, Herman Levi. The last two letters in this group were written shortly after the 1906 San Francisco Earthquake.

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**John Newmark Levi, Sr. MS.227.3.3 1905-1972**

**Administrative history note**

Hillcrest Country Club was Los Angeles' first Jewish country club founded by the Newmark family. John Newmark Levi, Sr. was one of the club's youngest members.

**Scope and contents**

Subseries includes biographical articles, and personal items belonging to John Levi, Sr. The collection also includes a competition trophy from the Hillcrest Country Club.

**Biographical note**

John Levi, Sr. was an executive at Capitol Milling Company - a family owned business begun by his father Herman Levi and great uncle Jacob Loew in 1883.

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**Nordlinger Family MS.227.3.4 1888, 1909**

**Biographical note**

Aimee Nordlinger was the wife of John Newmark Levi, Sr.

**Scope and contents**

Materials in this subseries relate to Aimee Nordlinger and her father, Louis Nordlinger.

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**Linda Newmark Levi MS.227.3.5 1950-2006**

Linda Levi Biographic Materials, 1935-2007 and undated

Linda Levi Correspondence, 1956-1969, 2004

**Biographical note**

Linda Newmark Levi is the great-great granddaughter of Harris and Sarah Newmark.

**Scope and contents**

Materials in this subseries consist of biographical material and correspondence that document Levi's experiences. This includes information about her education, travels, personal relationships, and art career while living in Los Angeles, California and New York, New York.

This subseries also contains an editorial and final published copy of her article, "Linda Levi: Growing up as a Newmark in Los Angeles, 1935-1950" published in *Western States Jewish History*, Spring 2007, volume 39, issue number 3.

Biographical material includes published materials, scrapbooks, and other personal items.

**Related Archival Materials note**

*Linda Levi Artwork and Exhibit Materials*, 1993-2007, Braun Research Library Collection, Autry National Center, Los Angeles; MS.1309.

**Linda Newmark Levi Correspondence Bulk, 1956-1969 1956-2004**

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**Capitol Milling Company MS.227.3.6 1973-2003**

**Biographical note**

Jacob Loeb was married to Emily Newmark. Herman Levi was married to Rose Loeb, daughter of Estelle Newmark and Leon Loeb.

**Administrative History note**

The Capitol Milling Company was established 1883. The mill was owned and operated by Jacob Loew and his nephew Herman Levi. Herman Levi took over the business in 1921 after Jacob Loew's death. The company continued under the Loew and Levi families becoming the oldest family run business in Los Angeles until its sale to Con Agra in 1999. Other family members involved in the business include Herman's son John Newmark Levi, Sr.; John's nephew Doug Levi; and Doug's son, John Levi.

**Scope and contents**

This series includes newspaper articles and ephemera pertaining to the Capitol Milling Company.

**Photo Albums MS.227.4 circa 1860-2004 and undated**

**Scope and contents**

This series comprises of family and travel albums compiled by members of the Newmark, Loeb, and Levi families. Early travel albums include images of Europe, California and Northern Utah at the turn of the 20th Century. One album is comprised of photos taken shortly after the 1906 San Francisco earthquake. The Newmarks traveled extensively through Europe, visiting family and friends in Germany, Switzerland, and France. These travels were documented by Sarah Newmark in 1887, followed by her granddaughter, Rose Loeb in 1900, and by her great-great granddaughter, Linda Levi in 1956.

Albums include:

- A.161: Views of Northern and Southern California Photo Album,, undated
- A.200: Levi Family Album #1, 1860s-2000
- A.201: Estelle Newmark Loeb Family Album #1, 1874-1926
- A.202: Southern California Photo Album, 1890s
- A.203: Rose Loeb Photo Album #1, 1897-1901
- A.204: Loeb-Newmark Family Album #1, 1898-1912
- A.205: Sarah Newmark European Snapshots, 1900
- A.162: Train Vistas to Salt Lake City Photo Album, circa 1900
- A.206: Elizabeth Levi (Lissner) Photo Album, 1902-1905
- A.207: Levi Family Album #2, 1903-1997 and undated
- A.160: Scenes after the San Francisco Earthquake, 1906
- A.163: Views of Oakland California Photo Album, circa 1920
- A.208: Levi Family Album #3, 1927-1969 and undated
- A.209: Wedding Album for John and Judy Ash Levi, 1955
- A.210: Linda Levi Travel Album, 1991-2004

**Access**

Name indexes to some photo albums and group photos as well as more detailed genealogical information related to the individuals photographed are available from library staff.

**Photographs and Prints MS.227.5 late 1800s-early 1900s**

**Scope and contents**

Materials include photographs of La Fiesta de Los Angeles parade, shots of Los Angeles streets and businesses, as well as photograph cards with views of Alaska, the geysers near Calistoga, California, and the Mount Lowe Railway, late 1800s- early 1900s.

**Acquisition**

Photographs, prints, and glass plate negatives donated by Marco and Maurice Newmark, early 1900s.

**Access**

An item-level inventory is available from library staff.

**Published Works MS.227.6 1927-2007**

**Scope and contents**

Items in the series include books collected by the Levi family.

***Kaspere Cohn: a commemorative tribute to the founder and first president of Union Bank. 1964***

**Scope and contents**

Printed for friends on its 50th anniversary by Union Bank Los Angeles, Plantin Press, 1964. Includes a letter to John Levi, Sr. regarding the book.



***My seventy years in California* by J.A. Graves 1927**

**Scope and contents**

Published in Los Angeles, California by the Times-Mirror Press.

***Sixty years in Southern California, 1853-1913, containing the reminiscences of Harris Newmark* by Harris Newmark 1930**

**Scope and contents**

Published in Boston, Massachusetts by the Houghton Mifflin Company.