
Finding Aid to the Stephen Bowers Papers MS.532

Finding aid prepared by Anna Liza Posas
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Title: Stephen Bowers Papers

Identifier/Call Number: MS.532

Contributing Institution: Autry National Center, Braun Research Library

Language of Material: English

Physical Description: 1.0 Linear feet(3 boxes)

Date (bulk): Bulk, 1862-1916

Date (inclusive): 1862-1961

Abstract: Stephen Bowers (1832?-1907) was a geologist, archaeologist, journalist and Methodist minister, who maintained an interest in southern California, including area fossils and artifacts. His geological and archaeological work was financed by the Smithsonian Institution and the U.S. Department of the Interior. This collection consists of manuscripts, diaries and field notes, a scrapbook, and published material created by Stephen Bowers. This collection also includes material about Bowers as well as correspondence and newspaper clippings related to DeMoss Bowers, son of Stephen Bowers. The bulk of the material in this collection was created from 1862-1916 and also includes a small amount of material created between 1952-1961.

creator: Bowers, DeMoss

creator: Bowers, Stephen, 1832-1907

creator: Stirling, Matthew Williams, 1896-1975

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.

Preferred citation

Stephen Bowers Papers, 1862-1961, Braun Research Library Collection, Autry National Center, Los Angeles; MS.532; [folder number] [folder title][date].

Biographical note

Stephen Bowers (1832?-1907) was a geologist, archaeologist, journalist and Methodist minister, who maintained an interest in southern California, including area fossils and artifacts. His geological and archaeological work was financed by the Smithsonian Institution and the U.S. Department of the Interior.

He resided in the California cities of Santa Barbara and Ventura from 1894-1906. He was the editor of the *Ventura Observer* newspaper and his archeological interests focused on the Native American tribes of the Santa Barbara region. In 1899 November 17, Bowers was appointed State Mine Examiner by California Governor Henry T. Gage.

Bowers died in Los Angeles, California January of 1907.

Source: Finding aid to Mss.B.B672, Stephen Bowers correspondence, 1860-1915, American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Retrieved from <http://www.amphilsoc.org/mole/view?docId=ead/Mss.B.B672-ead.xml> 2013 September 26.

Related Archival Materials note

Mss.B.B672, Stephen Bowers correspondence, 1860-1915, American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Scope and contents

This collection consists of manuscripts, diaries and field notes, a scrapbook, and published material created by Stephen Bowers. This collection also includes material about Bowers as well as correspondence and newspaper clippings related to DeMoss Bowers, son of Stephen Bowers.

The scrapbook, consisting of printed material created from 1859 to 1865, includes clippings from newspapers and journals, sermons, essays on religious subjects, moral stories, and obituaries.

The bound diaries and field notes of Bowers predominantly include detailed geological information.

Processing history

Processed by Glenna Schroeder, circa 1977-1981. Finding aid completed 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).

Use

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Subjects and Indexing Terms

Hodge, Frederick Webb, 1864-1956

Juana Marie, d. 1853

Cahuilla Indians

California -- Description and travel

Clippings

Coachella Valley (Calif.)

Correspondence

Diaries

Drawings

Essays

Field notes

Geology -- California, Southern

Indians of North America -- California -- Santa Barbara

Photographs

San Nicholas Island (Calif.)

Scrapbooks

United States. Army -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865

Box 1, Folder 1

Biographical information and lecture notices late 1800s to mid 1900s

Scope and Contents note

This folder includes news clipping and notes about Bowers and his career. Also included is a pamphlet listing lectures by Stephen Bowers, a broadside listing quotes from people who endorse his lectures; and a set of his calling cards.

Box 1, Folder 2

M.W. Stirling letter to Frederick Webb Hodge 1952 August 20

Scope and Contents note

In this correspondence, Stirling, Director of the Smithsonian Institution, is responding to an inquiry made by Hodge, Southwest Museum Director. Hodge's requested a listing of Bowers publications held at the Smithsonian. The folder also includes information about the Smithsonian's library holdings and archaeological collections related to Bowers.

Box 1, folders 3a -
3b

Diary and field notes 1862 August 19 -1864 May 2

Scope and Contents note

This diary was written while Bowers was serving as the Chaplain for Union forces in the Civil War, 67th Indiana Infantry. Folder 3b is a typed transcript of this diary from 1862 August 19 to September 28. The transcript also includes annotated footnotes.

Box 1, Folder 3

Inventories of fossils, minerals, and specimens 1874-1877

Scope and Contents note

Inventories were written in a bound diary and includes an itemized list of artifacts mailed to different people. Each inventory includes who the items were sent to and where, as well as the date sent.

Box 1, Folder 4

Geological and mineralogical notes, California Survey 1899 November 20 - 1904 January 5

Box 1, Folder 6	<p>"Glossary of Geological and Other Terms" 1905 January</p> <p>Scope and Contents note</p> <p>This is a handwritten glossary by Bowers, "prepared for his own use," in Los Angeles, California.</p>
Box 1, Folder 8	<p>Copper notes undated</p>
Box 1, Folder 8	<p>Petroleum notes undated</p>
Box 1, Folder 9	<p>"The Conchilla Valley and the Cahuilla Indians" pamphlet 1888</p>
Box 2, Folder 10	<p>"Address on the occasion of the laying of the cornerstone of the Universalist Church building in Santa Paula August 26, 1891" circa 1891</p>
Box 2, Folder 11	<p>"The Recent Origin of Man" 1895 November 1</p>
Box 1, Folder 12	<p>"The Geology of California" undated</p>
Box 2, Folder 13	<p>"Oklahoma Gold Fields" 1904 November 29</p>
Box 1, Folder 14	<p>"Reconnaissance of the Colorado Desert Mining District" 1901</p>
Box 2, Folder 15	<p>"Report on the Red Cloud Claims and Mines" undated</p>
Box 2, Folder 16	<p>John Robinson Trease correspondence to Bowers 1888 February 11</p> <p>Scope and contents</p> <p>Trease is writing Bowers on behalf of the Peabody Academy of Science located in Salem, Massachusetts.</p>
Box 2, Folder 17	<p>"The Cahuilla Indians" circa 1888</p>
Box 2, Folder 18	<p>"The Lone Woman of San Nicholas Island" 1892</p> <p>Scope and contents</p> <p>This is an article clipping from the Ventura Observer. The article, written by Bowers, was published 1892 December 20.</p>
Box 2, Folder 19	<p>"The Santa Barbara Indians," handwritten 1897 June 6</p>
Box 2, Folder 20	<p>"The Santa Barbara Indians," typed with bibliographic notes undated</p>
Box 2, Folder 21	<p>"Aboriginal Man in Santa Barbara County, California" circa 1877</p>
Box 2, Folder 22	<p>Sketches by Stephen Bowers and DeMoss Bowers 1877-1916</p> <p>Scope and contents</p> <p>This is a group of sketches sent to Hector Alliot, Curator of the Southwest Museum, from the son of Stephen Bowers, DeMoss Bowers. This folder also includes a cover letter from DeMoss Bowers to Alliot, dated 1916 June 20. Per DeMoss's letter, the sketches are of pictographs located in Santa Ynez, Ventura, and Riverside, California. They were drawn by either Stephen or DeMoss in 1877, 1889, and 1901.</p>
Box 2, Folder 24	<p>"A large gemstone deposit" undated</p> <p>Ventura County Historical Society newsletter 1960-1961</p> <p>Scope and contents</p> <p>Newsletters include brief references to Bowers.</p>
Box 1, Folder 25	<p>Report on Short Tailed Coast Fox by Spencer F. Baird circa 1859</p> <p>Scope and contents</p> <p>This report on the Short Tailed Coast Fox, scientific name <i>Vulpus (Urocyon) Littoralis</i>, is a handwritten document by Baird, Assistant Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution. Baird notes that this report is to be used in "Part I of Mammals of North America."</p>
Box 2, Folder 26	<p>Dwight Whittings Ranch map undated</p>
Box 2, Folder 27	<p>Image of Stephen Bowers 1906 June 2</p>
Box 2, Folder 28	<p>Articles by DeMoss Bowers 1952 August 21-24</p> <p>Scope and contents</p> <p>Articles are replies to Louise Randall Pierson's editorial pieces related to Southern California Indians.</p>
