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## Guide to the David W. Cunningham Diary Collection

Special Collections & Archives

University Library

California State University, Northridge

18111 Nordhoff Street

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**Contributing Institution:** Special Collections & Archives

**Title:** David W. Cunningham Diary Collection

**Creator:** Cunningham, David W., 1829-1916

**Identifier/Call Number:** SC.DWC

**Extent:** 0.50 linear feet

**Date (inclusive):** 1883-1900

**Abstract:** David W. Cunningham kept a daily diary from 1883-1900. In them he recorded a variety of details describing daily life. Nine such diaries make up the collection. Entries are brief, taking about half of a page in the pocket diary.

**Language of Material:** English

**Biographical Information:**

David West Cunningham was born in Boston, MA December 24, 1829. After attending Harvard University he worked as a civil engineer. He is known primarily for his work on waterworks and railroads, including the Cochituate Aqueduct, the Manchester and Lawrence Railroad, and the Ogdensburg and Lake Champlain Railroad. He also worked for the Lowell (MA) Waterworks, the Stillwater (MN) Water works, the Tarkio Valley (MO) Railroad, and consulted on the Minneapolis Waterworks.

After leaving the American northeast Mr. Cunningham spent six years in Chile, moved to Texas following the US Civil War, farmed in North Dakota, and finally retired in Los Angeles in 1895. He married three times, his first and second wives predeceasing him. Mr. Cunningham died in his Montrose, California home May 11, 1916.

**Scope and Contents**

David W. Cunningham kept a diary from 1883-1900, nine of which make up the collection. Cunningham moved to Los Angeles in 1895. Earlier diaries are from Kentucky. He records a variety of details, most describing daily life. Entries include the price of train tickets and cigars; he tells of buggy rides from Los Angeles to Hollywood and notes the Christmas Day earthquake of 1899. Entries are brief, taking about half of a page in the pocket diary.

**Conditions Governing Access:**

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**Immediate Source of Acquisition**

Purchased. 1975.

For information about citing items in this collection consult the appropriate style manual, or see the [Citing Archival Materials](#) guide.

**Processing Information:**

April Feldman, 2014

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**

Ephemera

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Box 1, Folder 1	<b>1883</b>
Box 1, Folder 2	<b>1887</b>
Box 1, Folder 3	<b>1888</b>
Box 1, Folder 4	<b>1891</b>
Box 1, Folder 5	<b>1895</b>
Box 1, Folder 6	<b>1897</b>
Box 1, Folder 7	<b>1898</b>
Box 1, Folder 8	<b>1899</b>
Box 1, Folder 9	<b>1900</b>