Ladies' Silk-Culture Society of California ledger

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Descriptive Summary
Title: Ladies' Silk-Culture Society of California ledger
Dates: 1889-1890
Collection Number: SFH 558
Creator/Collector: Ladies' Silk Culture Society of California
Extent: 1 volume
Repository: San Francisco Public Library. San Francisco History Center
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Abstract: Income and disbursements for a silk culture promotional organization
Language of Material: English
Access
The collection is available for use during San Francisco History Center hours.
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Preferred Citation
Ladies' Silk-Culture Society of California ledger. San Francisco Public Library. San Francisco History Center
Acquisition Information
Purchase
Biography/Administrative History
The Society was organized and incorporated in 1885, formed out of the California Silk Culture Association. The Society would promote silk culture and teach farmers' daughters how to cultivate cocoons and establish filatures (where silk is reeled from silkworm cocoons), with the goal of women supporting a family with a small amount of capital and labor. At its first meeting January 8, 1885, Charles Wolcott Brooks was elected president, and Mrs. Louise Rienzi secretary; board members included George C. Perkins, Theodore H. Hittell, Elise C. Hittell, and Ellen C. Sargent, amongst others. In 1886, a building and mulberry orchard of 6,000 trees was purchased at Piedmont, near Oakland, with 100 women being employed there. California would not make appropriations for sericulture after 1888, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture declined funding in 1891. Warren B. Ewer was elected President of the Board of Directors of the Society in April 1889. The Piedmont orchard proved to be a poor location for raising silkworms, and the property was sold to Ewer's son, Thomas B. Ewer.
Scope and Content of Collection
First volume entry records note about U.S. appropriations, July 1889, and last entry of August 13, 1890 records payment of $16.80 to Miss Lizzie Rollins for cocoons. Entries skip pages within the volume. Entries include payments to Samuel A. Luce, for his work as superintendent at Piedmont station, as well as wages for the Society's secretary, Mrs. Leonidas E. Pratt; payments to individual women for cocoons supplied; payment for labor and materials, horse shoeing, advertising, taxes.
Indexing Terms
Sericulture -- California.
Sericulture -- California -- History -- 19th century.
Women -- California -- History -- 19th century.
Luce, Samuel A., b. 1843
California Silk Culture Association
Ladies' Silk Culture Society of California
Piedmont (Calif.)
Account books