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## **Finding aid of the Henry W. Bigler and Azariah Smith Letters C058494**

Finding aid prepared by Nick Scales

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**Title:** Bigler, Henry W, and Smith, Azariah Letters

**Identifier/Call Number:** C058494

**Contributing Institution:** Society of California Pioneers

**Language of Material:** English

**Physical Description:** 1.0 folder1 folder, 4 letters

**Date (inclusive):** 1887 to 1948

**Abstract:** These letters are related to the research undertaken by John S Hittell under the aegis of the Society of California Pioneers to determine the correct date that gold was found in the tailrace of Sutter's Mill in Coloma by James Marshall. Using diaries and information from Henry Bigler and Azariah Smith, members of the Mormon Battalion that worked for Sutter and Marshall at the Mill at the time gold was discovered, Hittell determines that the date of discovery was Jan 24, 1848. File includes letters from Bigler and Smith.

**creator:** Bigler, Henry William, 1815-1900

**creator:** Smith, Azariah, 1826-1912

**Scope and Contents note**

These letters are related to the research undertaken by John S Hittell under the aegis of the Society of California Pioneers to determine the correct date that gold was found in the tailrace of Sutter's Mill in Coloma by James Marshall. Using diaries and information from Henry Bigler and Azariah Smith, members of the Mormon Battalion that worked for Sutter and Marshall at the Mill at the time gold was discovered, Hittell determines that the date of discovery was Jan 24, 1848. File includes

1. Date of issue stamp and cover for the California Gold Centennial post marked Jan 24, 1948, Coloma CA
2. Letter to Francis Clark from Hiram Graves, secretary of SoCP, regarding Hittell research on date of gold discovery.
3. Letter to SoCP from Henry Bigler acknowledging receipt of SoCP resolution regarding gift of the 1847 - 1848 Diaries. Sept 15, 1887
4. Letter to SoCP from Azariah Smith dated Dec 28, 1887

**Conditions Governing Access note**

Collection open for research

**Existence and Location of Originals note**

The Society of California Pioneers, 300 Fourth St, San Francisco, CA 94107

**Conditions Governing Use note**

There are no restrictions on access

**Preferred Citation note**

Bigler and Smith Letters, The Society of California Pioneers.

**Immediate Source of Acquisition note**

The letters are addressed to the Society of California Pioneers by the correspondents.

**Biographical/Historical note**

These letters are related to the research undertaken by John S Hittell under the aegis of the Society of California Pioneers to determine the correct date that gold was found in the tailrace of Sutter's Mill in Coloma by James Marshall. Using diaries and information from Henry Bigler and Azariah Smith, members of the Mormon Battalion that worked for Sutter and Marshall at the Mill at the time gold was discovered, Hittell determines that the date of discovery was Jan 24, 1848. File includes letters from Bigler and Smith.

**Related Archival Materials note**

The original page from the Bigler Diary (Jan 24, 1848) recording the discovery of gold at Sutter's mill in Coloma by James Marshall is in B001627 / V-76 at C059079

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**

Hittell, John S., 1825-1901, (John Shertzer)

California, Northern - History - 19th century.

Gold mines and mining - California - History - 19th century

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