Finding aid of the Berryman Bryant, M.D. Memoirs C058348

Reminiscences of California, 1849-1852

Finding aid prepared by Terry Keats/Patricia Keats
Society of California Pioneers
300 Fourth Street
San Francisco, CA, 94107-1272
(415) 959-1849
pkeats@californiapioneers.org
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Title: Bryant, Berryman, M.D. Memoirs
Identifier/Call Number: C058348
Contributing Institution: Society of California Pioneers
Language of Material: English
Physical Description: 1.0 folder (1 memoir, unpaged; 1 transcript, 15 pages)
Date (inclusive): 1849-1852
Abstract: This memoir includes the handwritten, in ink, (and a typed transcript) of reminiscences titled: "Reminiscences of California, 1849-1852 by Berryman Bryant M.D. He made two trips to California: 1st trip he arrived in San Francisco June 12 - 1849 having gone by sea to Mexico then overland; 2nd trip left Missouri on April 15, 1850, and traveled overland. It also includes at the end of the memoir " notes by his son Calhoun Bryant." Berryman opened the first private hospital in California at Sacramento in June of 1849, and proceeded to start up various other businesses: a hotel in Downieville, provisioner of a mining company, and a sheep rancher in Gilroy Valley. The memoir also includes background of his childhood in South Carolina, Alabama and Mississippi. This second trip back was with 42 men and his young wife - the men having formed a mining company, and Bryant supplies mining tools, etc. He then settled in Downieville and opened a hotel there. He then moved south, stopping in Gilroy Valley, where he and his wife - with a child Perry Mason Bryant, in 1853 raised sheep. The final portion is written by his second Calhoun Bryant, this section giving more details of his father's life: losing his house in San Jose, his membership in the masons and some information about Berryman's wife, Henrietta Frances Reeve and her family. Dr. Bryant is noted dying at the home of Calhoun on March 14, 1898. His wife passed away on January 15, 1903 and both are buried at Gilroy, Santa Clara, California.
creator: Bryant, Berryman, M.D., 1816-1898
creator: Sutter's Fort (Sacramento, Calif.).
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Scope and Contents note
This memoir includes the handwritten, in ink, (and a typed transcript) of reminiscences titled: "Reminiscences of California, 1849-1852 by Berryman Bryant M.D. He made two trips to California: 1st trip he arrived in San Francisco June 12 - 1849 having gone by sea to Mexico then overland; 2nd trip left Missouri on April 15, 1850, and traveled overland. It also includes at the end of the memoir " notes by his son Calhoun Bryant." Berryman opened the first private hospital in California at Sacramento in June of 1849, and proceeded to start up various other businesses: a hotel in Downieville, provisioner of a mining company, and a sheep rancher in Gilroy Valley. The memoir also includes background of his childhood in South Carolina, Alabama and Mississippi. He attended medical school in Memphis, Tennessee, and practiced in Alabama before coming West in 1849. His hospital in Sacramento also employed someone named Warfield, as well as a Dr. Hungerford. Prices of food and supplies for the hospital are noted, as well as diseases encountered. On his first trip he left Alabama, arriving June 12, 1849, by sea via Mexico, and his second trip he left from Missouri by wagon train overland, arriving in San Francisco April 15, 1850. This second trip back was with 42 men and his young wife - the men having formed a mining company, and Bryant supplies mining tools, etc. He then settled in Downieville and opened a hotel there, this section discusses prices for the hotel and its success. He then moved south, stopping in Gilroy Valley, where he - with a child Perry Mason Bryant, bought land from Daniel Rhodes and in 1853 raised sheep. He went from 300 sheep (which he drove from New Mexico) to 36,000, eventually producing a wool crop that brought him $15,000 a year. The final portion is written by his second Calhoun Bryant, this section giving more details of his father's life: losing his house in San Jose, his membership in the masons and some information about Berryman's wife, Henrietta Frances Reeve and her family. There is a short recollection of Henrietta's encounters with Indians on her way to California. Dr. Bryant is noted dying at the home of Calhoun on March 14, 1898. His wife passed away on January 15, 1903 and both are buried at Gilroy, Santa Clara, California.
Bryant, Berryman, M.D. was born in 1816 in Spartanburg County, South Carolina. He arrived in California on June 12, 1849, traveling overland from Camden, Wilcox County, Alabama (Society of California Pioneers records.) His memoir notes the
following: “two trips to California, 1st trip he arrived in San Francisco June 12, - 1849 by sea to Mexico then overland, 2nd
trip left Missouri on April 15- 1850 traveled overland.” He spent time in the gold mines and his reminiscence gives insights
as to mining techniques. Bryant opened the first private hospital in California at Sacramento in June 1849. The memoir
discusses more about his medical practice, farming and his real estate holdings. He was a physician, and lived in San Jose,
California. He married Henrietta Frances Reeve, and had 2 sons, Perry Mason and Calhoun. He died in San Francisco on
March 14, 1898 at the age of 81 years, and Henrietta died on Jan. 15, 1903.

Existence and Location of Originals note
Society of California Pioneers, 101 Montgomery St., Suite 150, Presidio of San Francisco, San Francisco, CA 94129

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Hospitals
Journeys to the Pacific Coast
Voyages to the Pacific coast