
The finding aid for the William Heath Davis Letters C057896

J. Davis

Society of California Pioneers

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101 Montgomery Street, Suite 150

Presidio of San Francisco

San Francisco, CA 94129

pkeats@californiapioneers.org

URL: <http://www.californiapioneers.org>

Note

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Language of Material: English

Contributing Institution: Society of California Pioneers

Title: William Heath Davis Letters

creator: Davis, William Heath, 1822-1909

Identifier/Call Number: C057896

Physical Description: 1 folder1 Folder (two letters; one hand written and one typed)

Date (inclusive): 1893-1894

Abstract: This file contains two letters written by William Heath Davis. One of the letters is type-written and the other is hand-written. The first typed letter is dated April 10th, 1893 and is addressed to a Mrs. Anita Cooper Wohler and the other is dated June 27th, 1894 and is addressed to the President of the Society of California Pioneers, C.V.S. Gibbs. In both letters Mr. Davis is asking for a loan to help him with the publishing cost pertaining to his book, titled "60 years in California". Mr Davis arrived in California in August of 1831.

Scope and Contents

This file contains two letters written by William Heath Davis. One of the letters is type-written and the other is hand-written. The first typed letter is dated April 10th, 1893 and is addressed to a Mrs. Anita Cooper Wohler and the other is dated June 27th, 1894 and is addressed to the President of the Society of California Pioneers, C.V.S. Gibbs. In both letters Mr. Davis is asking for a loan, in one letter one thousand dollars, to help him with the publishing cost pertaining to his book, titled "60 years in California". It is not known whether or not the Society of California Pioneers made him the loan of money, but he asked the Society for \$2,000. He notes that since the publication of his first book in 1889, he has been working on this second book, "Sixty years in California".

Biographical / Historical

William Heath Davis (1822-1909) was the son of a Boston ship captain engaged in the Hawaiian trade and a Polynesian mother. He visited California twice on trading voyages before setting up business there in 1838. In 1845 he settled permanently in San Francisco, becoming one of the city's leading merchants. His marriage to Maria de Jesus Estudillo tied him to the Hispanic community in his adopted region. Mr. Davis would go on to write "Seventy-five years in California" in 1929, which was an expansion of "Sixty years in California", a book Davis published in 1889, and the subject of these two letters. It is a history of California as well as the author's memoirs of his life through the mid 1850s with an emphasis on the transformation of Yerba Buena to San Francisco, the Gold Rush, and the imposition of United States power in California.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Source and date of acquisition not known.

Existence and Location of Originals

The Society of California Pioneers, 101 Montgomery St., Suite 150, Presidio of San Francisco, San Francisco CA, 94129

Preferred Citation

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Subjects and Indexing Terms

Society of California Pioneers.

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Pioneers -- California -- History -- 19th century

Davis, William Heath, 1822-1909
