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## **Finding aid of the Gen. David Douty Colton Papers C057959**

Finding aid prepared by Alexandria Brown

Society of California Pioneers

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10/11/2011

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**Title:** Colton, David Douty, Gen.

**Identifier/Call Number:** C057959

**Contributing Institution:** Society of California Pioneers

**Language of Material:** English

**Storage Unit:** 3-18C

**Storage Unit:** C057959

**Physical Description:** 1.0 folder11 items

**Date:** 1878 and undated

**Abstract:** This folder contains ten newspaper obituaries and one undated name card from Mrs. Ellen Colton.

**creator:** Colton, David Douty, Gen., b. 07/17/1831; d. 10/09/1878

**Existence and Location of Originals note**

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

**Scope and Contents note**

This folder contains ten newspaper obituaries and one undated name card from Mrs. Ellen Colton.

**Biographical/Historical note**

Colton was born the son of Isaac W. Colton and Abigail Douty in Monson, ME on July 17, 1831. His family went West when he was 5, and finally ended up in Galesburg, IL. At 17 he began teaching in the neighboring town of Berlin. By 1850 Colton was engaged to Ellen M. White. Their betrothal was contingent upon him finding wealth and success in California, and he moved to Sacramento in July. His mining career was cut short when he nearly died of typhoid fever. He retired to San Francisco and by the winter of 1850 he had sailed to Portland, OR. There he failed at both teaching school and practicing law. In the spring of 1851 he joined a prospecting party at Shasta Butte. He nearly died again, this time at the hands of a Klamath Indian tribe lead by "Chinook Chief". After he successfully fought off the attacks he was elected Sheriff and soon after married Ellen. After a heated battle with the local citizenry over lynching regulations he was promoted to Brigadier-General of Militia. In 1857 he ran an unsuccessful campaign for Democratic State Senator of California, but by 1859 he graduated from law school. He lived in Colton House on one of the hilly sides of California Street.

**Donor**

W. F. Chipwau (?), 07/27/1931

**Preferred Citation note**

Gen. David Douty Colton Papers. The Society of California Pioneers.

**Conditions Governing Use note**

There are no restrictions on access.

**Conditions Governing Access note**

Collection open for research.

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**

Obituaries.

San Francisco (Calif.) - Newspapers

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