Finding aid of the Easterby, Capt. Anthony Y., Memoir C058786

Finding aid prepared by Nick Scales
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Oct 12, 2015
Title: Easterby, Capt. Anthony Y., Memoir
Identifier/Call Number: C058786
Contribution Institution: Society of California Pioneers
Language of Material: English
Physical Description: 1.0 folder; Bound journal, 133 pages.
Date: 1818 to 1885
Abstract: Captain Easterby Memoir was dictated by him to family members in Napa during 1885. The memoir is handwritten in ink in a bound lined journal. The handwritten is generally very legible. It covers 133 pages. The narrative is well written with good descriptions and detail on people and events. The memoir begins with Easterby's school years and home life in Surrey, England, then moves to his maritime career, covering voyages across the Atlantic to Canada and the Caribbean; throughout the Mediterranean including Egypt, Turkey, the Black Sea, and Italy; and voyages to South East Asia and China. He was the first Captain of the Screw Vessel Levantina. In 1848 he moved to Chile as a captain for the South Pacific Navigation Company. In August of that year news of the Gold Discovery in California was received from Admiral James Schenck on his way to Washington DC. In November he arrived in San Francisco with a ship full of merchandise from Chile. He provides an outstanding description of early San Francisco and life in the city at that time. The journal includes descriptions of early gold mining in the Southern Sierra in 1849. In 1850, he and his partners developed and extensive storage business in San Francisco using a fleet of ships in the Bay and expanded into trade and other ventures. Descriptions of the fires of the early 1850s. In 1854, they had sold all of their commercial interests in San Francisco and moved to Napa with his new wife.

Creator: Easterby, Anthony Y., Captain, 1818-1893

Biographical/Historical note
Captain Anthony Y. Easterby was born in Surrey, England in 1818. At the age of 14, he set out to sea, visiting the Mediterranean, Chile, and Panama before arriving in California in 1848. While in California, Captain Easterby set up several businesses in San Francisco, Sonoma, Fresno, and Napa City. He married Emily Gray, sister of his business partner Francis Gray, in San Francisco on November 5, 1853. Mr. Easterby was involved in the founding of the Fresno Canal and Irrigation Company in 1871, and was also the President of the Napa Valley Railroad, as well as a member of the Masonic Order, Knights of Templar, and Knights of Malta. He died in Napa, California in June of 1893. Captain Frank Gray was the brother-in-law of Captain Easterby and accompanied him to San Francisco, California in 1847-48. Other members of the Easterby family include John Easterby, Emily Gray Easterby (wife), Mrs. S. T. Easterby, E. G. Easterby, and Jane Easterby. Although no substantial biographical and/or genealogical information could be found, these members are assumed to be related to Captain Easterby and Captain Gray.

Related Archival Materials note

Existence and Location of Originals note
The Society of California Pioneers

Immediate Source of Acquisition note
Donor and date of acquisition unknown

Preferred Citation note
Capt. Anthony Y. Easterby, Memoir, The Society of California Pioneers

Conditions Governing Use note
There are no restrictions on access

Conditions Governing Use note
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Scope and Contents note
Captain Easterby Memoir was dictated by him to family members in Napa during 1885. The memoir is handwritten in ink in a bound lined journal. The handwritten is generally very legible. It covers 133 pages. The narrative is well written with good descriptions and detail on people and events.
The memoir begins with Easterby’s school years and home life in Surrey, England, then moves to his maritime career, covering voyages across the Atlantic to Canada and the Caribbean; throughout the Mediterranean including Egypt, Turkey, the Black Sea and Italy; and voyages to South East Asia and China. He was the 1st Captain of the Screw Vessel Levantine. In 1848 he moved to Chile as a captain for the South Pacific Navigation Company. In August of that year news of the Gold Discovery in California was received from Admiral James Schench on his way to Washington DC. In November he arrived in San Francisco with a ship full of merchandise from Chile. He provides outstanding description of early San Francisco and life in the city at that time. The journal includes descriptions of early gold mining in the Southern Sierra in 1849. In 1850 he and his partners developed and extensive storage business in San Francisco using an fleet of ships in the Bay and expanded into trade and other ventures. Descriptions of the fires of the early 1850. In 1854, they had sold all of their commercial interests in San Francisco and moved to Napa with his new wife.

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Catesby, Ap, Commodore
Downes, Tom, Captain
Forbes, Alexander, 1778-1862
Gray, Frank, Captain
Gray, Frederick T, Dr.
Laffer, Edmund
Leavenworth, Alcalde
Lick, James, 1796-1876
Marryat, Frank S., ( Frank Samuel ), 1826-1855
McAllister, Matthew Hall, 1800-1865
Plume, J. V.
Ross, D. L.
Schench, James F, Admiral
Stout, Captain
Tewibusby
Thomas, J. B., Capt
Vischer, Edmund
California, Northern - History - 19th century.
California, Northern-History-19th century.
California--History--1846-1850
Gold mines and mining -- California -- History.
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Ships.
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Voyages to the Pacific coast