Finding Aid of the John A. Sutter Diary (New Helvetia) C058497

Finding aid prepared by Nick Scales
Society of California Pioneers
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Title: Sutter, John A. Diary (New Helvetia)
Identifier/Call Number: C058497
Contributing Institution: Society of California Pioneers
Language of Material: English
Physical Description: 1.0 foldersCord bound volume with 1843 Boston newspaper binding, 56 pages, handwritten both sides
Date (inclusive): 1845 to 1848
Abstract: "A record of events kept by John A. Sutter and his clerks at New Helvetia, California from September 9th 1845 till May 25th 1848". The entries, made by John Bidwell, W.F. Swasey, William N. Loker, and Sutter are concerned with the arrival and departure of persons, supplies, and cargo, as well as significant events on Sutter's holdings. The Diary has been printed by Grabhorn Press in limited edition of 950 copies. The book contains an index of "Persons at the Fort" located references to all names recorded.
creator: Bidwell, John, 1819-1900
creator: Loker, William N.
creator: Sutter, John Augustus, 1803-1880
creator: Swasey, W.F. (William F.), 1823-1896
Conditions Governing Access note
Collection open for research.
Conditions Governing Use note
There are no restrictions on access.
Preferred Citation note
Donor
Gift of John Bidwell, July 5, 1886.
Biographical/Historical note
J. A. Sutter arrived in Yerba Buena on July 1st, 1839, aboard the ship "Clementina" from Sitka, Alaska. He was the first white inhabitant of the Sacramento Valley, where he established Sutter's Fort. During the period of the Diary, the Fort was the initial destination of all overland travellers coming to California, offering food, sustinence, protection, and shelter to pioneers upon completion of the transcontinental passage. Sutter created a self-sufficient settlement at Sacramento based upon his extensive lands and cattle, in addition to the capabilities of the people that came there. James Marshall was in Sutter's employ, when he discovered gold in the mill race of the sawmill that he was building in Coloma for Sutter in January of 1848.
Scope and Contents note
"A record of events kept by John A. Sutter and his clerks at New Helvetia, California from September 9th 1845 till May 25th 1848". The entries, made by John Bidwell, W.F. Swasey, William N. Loker, and Sutter are concerned with the arrival and departure of persons, supplies, and cargo, as well as significant events on Sutter's holdings.
The Diary documents the Fort's involvement with the significant events occurring in California during that time including the increase in overland immigration to California, the Bear Flag Revolt, interaction with John Fremont, United States takeover, and the discovery of gold at Sutter's Mill.
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Existence and Location of Originals note
The Society of California Pioneers, 300 Fourth St, San Francisco, CA 94107.
Related Archival Materials note
The "New Helvetia Diary" has been printed in limited edition (950 Copies) by Grabhorn Press (San Francisco) in 1939. This printing contains an indexed list of "Persons at the Fort."
Subjects and Indexing Terms
Gold Discovery - California
Gold mines and mining -- California -- History.
Overland journeys to the Pacific
Sacramento (Calif.) - History - 19th century.