Guide to the Clyde Arbuckle California History Research Collection, 1840-1996

The machine readable finding aid for this collection was created by Diana Kohnke and reviewed by Lauren Miranda Gilbert.
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CR-2010-04-15

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Date Completed:
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Collection Summary
Title: Clyde Arbuckle California History Research Collection
Date (inclusive): 1840-1996
Collection number: CR-2010-04-15
Collector: Arbuckle, Clyde, 1903-1998
Collection Size: 143 boxes, 101 linear feet
Repository: San José Public Library, California Room
San José, CA 95112

Abstract: The Clyde Arbuckle California History Research Collection represents the regional history of San Jose and Santa Clara County, California. This collection contains rare books, scrapbooks, news clippings, photographs, historic newspapers, correspondence, various pamphlets and printed matter, facsimiles of original documents relating to the early history of San Jose, California, and abstracts of title for property in and around San Jose, California. Notable among the documents in this collection are handwritten letters by J. B. Randol, manager of the Quicksilver Mining Company as well as the overland diary of a Milpitas woman named Marion W. Battey. This collection has been minimally processed. The collection contains documents relating to a wide variety of subjects, ranging from the Donner Party to San Jose's Police Department to Santa Clara County Ranchos. There is an alphabetical index for Series I. Subject Files.

Physical location:
California Room's Vault 4

Languages:
Languages represented in the collection: EnglishSpanish

Access
Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights
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Preferred Citation

Acquisition Information
Clyde Arbuckle was the official City Historian for San Jose, CA for over 50 years. Given the relevance of the collection to Santa Clara County history, a recommendation by the San Jose Historic Landmarks Commission was made to the San Jose City Council to purchase it. On May 13, 1998 the Rules Committee agreed to appropriate funds in the 1999-2000 city budget. The collection was acquired by San Jose Public Library in May, 1999.

Processing Information

Biographical History
Clyde Arbuckle was the descendent of one of the earliest Anglo families in Santa Clara County, California. His father was the owner of the Santa Clara Hotel and his half brother was the silent film actor Fatty Arbuckle. Clyde Arbuckle attended he California School of Fine Arts in San Francisco, CA, and shortly after began writing free-lance for the Pony Express magazine. Clyde Arbuckle also was an accomplished road bicycle racer and on April 3, 1921 broke the United States record by biking 60 miles, from Gilroy, CA to San Jose, in two hours and 45 minutes.

In 1929 Arbuckle joined the Masonic Lodge in Santa Clara and became a member of their history committee. He not only wrote a history of the lodge, but contributed and edited the Centennial History of the Masonic Lodges for the State of California in 1950. In 1945 Clyde Arbuckle became the official City Historian for San Jose, CA and in that capacity served as the director of the San Jose Historical Museum. He was City Historian for over 50 years, as well as the secretary of the Historic Landmarks Commission until 1970.

Clyde Arbuckle wrote several books, including Clyde Arbuckle's History of San Jose: The Culmination of a Lifetime of Research, Historic Names of Persons and Places in Santa Clara County (written with Roscoe D. Wyatt), and Santa Clara County Ranchos. In addition to this, Arbuckle wrote articles in various Western history periodicals and also a column in the San Jose Mercury News that ran from 1970 to 1973 called "Nostalgia," which detailed historic people, places, and sites. Arbuckle was a co-founder of The Conference of California Historical Societies. Later in life, Clyde Arbuckle taught history classes and guided tours of the Oregon and California trails.

Clyde Arbuckle died in January 1998 and the collection was subsequently acquired by San Jose Public Library's California Room in 1999.

Bibliography


Scope and Content
The Clyde Arbuckle California History Research Collection primarily represents the regional history of San Jose and Santa Clara County, California. This artificial collection was assembled by Clyde Arbuckle throughout his lifetime. It contains rare books, scrapbooks, news clippings, photographs, historic newspapers, correspondence, various pamphlets and other printed matter, facsimiles of original documents relating to the early history of San Jose, California, and abstracts of title for property in and around San Jose, California. Notable among the documents in this collection are handwritten letters by J.B. Randol, manager of the Quicksilver Mining Company as well as the 1852 overland diary of a Milpitas woman named Marion Battey. The collectoin contains documents relating to a wide variety of specific subjects ranging from the Donner Party to San Jose's Police Department to Santa Clara County ranchos. Additional subjects represented in this collection are materials on viticulture, local women's organizations, railroads, historic maps, surveys, the 1915 San Francisco World Fair, images relating to the San Jose Police Department 1849 through 1983, and a 1924 San Francisco Chamber of Commerce pamphlet.

Arrangement of the Collection
This collection is arranged into 10 series: Series I. Subject Files, 1860-1996; Series II. Correspondence, 1847-1996; Series III. Yearbooks, 1905-1930; Series IV. Miscellaneous Items, 1852-1967; Series V. Ephemera, undated; Series VI. Masonic Materials, 1931-1963; Series VII. Abstract of Titles in Santa Clara county, California, 1871-1925, 1955; Series VIII. Scrapbooks, 1920s-1980s; Series IX. Historic Newspapers and Journals, 1892, 1903, 1906-1936; and Series X. Postcards, undated.

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index similar items in the Library of Congress.

**Subjects**
California--History.
California--History--19th century.
California--History--20th century.
California--History--1850-1950--Sources.
Land title--California--San Jose.
Overland journeys to the Pacific.
San Jose (Calif.)--History.

**Removed or Separated Material**
The following collections have been processed separately: The Pueblo Papers, Clyde Arbuckle Postcard Collection, Historic Photograph Collection, SJPL California Room, Clyde Arbuckle Historic maps, and Townsend Family Papers, 1826-1914.

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**Boxes 1-73**

**Series I. Subject Files, 1860-1990**

- **Physical Description:**
  74 boxes

- **Scope and Content Note**
  This series covers a broad range of subject matter relating to California history. Prior to the writing of this finding aid, these materials were arranged alphabetically by subject and placed in file folders in boxes. There is an inventory of the subject matter available upon request.

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**Boxes 74-83**

**Series II. Correspondence, 1847-1996**

- **Physical Description:**
  10 boxes

- **Scope and Content Note**
  This series is divided into three subseries: Subseries 1. General Correspondence, 1937-1996; Subseries 2. Specific Correspondence, 1914-1993; and Subseries 3. Miscellaneous Correspondence, 1847-1907.

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**Boxes 74-78**

**Subseries 1. General Correspondence, 1837-1996**

- **Physical Description:**
  5 boxes

- **Scope and Content Note**
  This subseries is arranged alphabetically and includes correspondence ranging from Clyde Arbuckle’s experiences as a guide of Adult Education Tours, as well as correspondence in his capacity as City Historian and the Society of California Pioneers.

- **Box 74**
- **Box 75**
- **Box 76**
- **Box 77**
- **Box 78**
Subseries 2. Specific Correspondence, 1914-1993.

Physical Description:
4 boxes

Scope and Content Note
This subseries is arranged alphabetically by individual correspondent and by organization.

Box 79, Folders A through F

A through F 1930-1993.

California History Society, 1941-1976.
Conference of California Historical Society, April - June 1955.
Gross, Ralph H., 1940-1953.
Eberhart, Roland, 1930-1967.
Fuller, Henry H., 1953-1954.

Box 80, Folders G through H

G through H 1940-1989.

Hamlin, Herb, 1940-1942.
Hamlin, Herb, 1943-1945.
Hamlin, Herb, 1951-1953.
Huggins, Dorothy, 1945-1948.

Box 81, Folders J through M

J through M 1914-1983.

Jones, Herbert C. (California Senator), 1914-1917.
Jones, Herbert C. (California Senator), 1930-1939.
Jones, Herbert C. (California Senator), 1940-1949.
Keyes, Robert Cadden, 1936-1946.
Masons, 1938-1983.
Miccoti, Ramon D., 1936-1952.
Miller, Guy, 1945-1955.

Box 82, Folders N through Z

N through Z 1937-1983.

Norris, Thomas, 1940, 1941-1949
Older, Mrs. Fremont, 1944-1964.
Rambo, Ralph, 1962.
Scottish Rite Temple, 1939-1983.
Whitsell, Leon, 1937-1939
Whitsell, Leon, 1940-1949.

Box 83

Subseries 3. Miscellaneous Correspondence, 1847-1907

Physical Description:
1 boxes

Scope and Content Note
This subseries is minimally processed. Among the notable items are a letter from William Garner, Secretary for Navy Chaplain Walter Colton who was the American alcalde of Monterey, CA. dating from 1847; an 1849 letter from the attorney of Robert Walkinshaw who owned 3,042 acres of El Posito de las Aminas and an early settler to Santa Clara who arrived in 1848; a letter from Henry Wadsworth Longfellow dated 1877; and a letter from General Guadalupe Vallejo to his wife dated February 19, 1850. There are also letters dating from around the time of the United States' Civil War, such as a July 21, 1865 letter of a Treasury Department employee, an 1866 official letter from Governor of the State of Illinois Richard J. Oglesby, a handwritten letter dated January 28, 1871 from an unknown person from the Forty First Congress of the United States' House of Representatives, and Isadora Briones personal correspondence dated 1899.

Boxes 84-86

Series III. Yearbooks, 1905-1930.

Physical Description:
3 boxes

Scope and Content Note
This series contains San Jose High School's yearbook, The Bell (June 1905, November 1907, October 1908 (missing pages), January 1909, June 1910, June 1911, July 1912, February 1914, June 1914, February 1915, February 1916, February 1917, June 1917, 1919, and February/June 1921); Santa Clara High School's yearbook, The Tocsin (December 1904, June 1907, June 1908, and 1924); San Jose State College's yearbook, La Torre (1930); and San Jose State Normal School's yearbook (June 1912). This series is arranged alphabetically and chronologically.
Series IV. **Miscellaneous Items, 1852-1967.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Boxes 87-108</th>
<th>Physical Description: 22 boxes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Scope and Content Note**

The materials in this series represent local Santa Clara County history. They include documents related to local area businesses in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, to ranchos, to early settlers in the area, as well as documents relating to local women's organizations. Of note is an overland diary of a woman named Marion W. Battey traveling by herself in 1852, J.B. Randol's original handwritten correspondence (he was manager of the Quicksilver Mining Company in 1870s), and a book of handwritten letters belonging to Henry Laurencel, dated May 1859 through May 1860, who owned the Enriqueta or San Antonio quicksilver mine of San Jose, CA. These materials are minimally processed. The items are listed below.

**Box 87, 1867, 1876. May 1859-May 1860.**

**Scope and Content Note**

This box contains the following items:

- Unprocessed original handwritten correspondence of J.B. Randol, manager the Quicksilver Mining Company 1867, 1876.
- Book of handwritten letters of Henry Laurencel, May 1859-May 1860 who owned the Enriqueta or San Antonio Quicksilver Mine San Jose, CA.

**Box 88, 1849-1850, 1906-1914, 1955.**

**Scope and Content Note**

This box contains the following items:

- Santa Clara County Sheriff Election Book 1906, 1910, 1914.
- Book: Mail List of Santa Clara County, undated.
- Santa Clara County blank Applications for Liquor Licenses, 1913.
- Poll Book for Election at San Jose held November 13, 1849 (first and only page).
- Book with one page that confirms marriage between Sarah Davies and Solomon Dodd at Methodist Episcopal Church in 1850.

**Box 89, April 1875-October 1878, October 1874-July 1880.**

**Scope and Content Note**

This box contains the following items:

- Remillard Bros. Brickmakers Ledger A, April 1875- October 1878.
- San Jose Lime Company Stock Certificates, October 1874-July 1880.

**Box 90, 1895-1896.**

**Scope and Content Note**

This box contains the following items:

- North Coast Lumber Company Check Book D, December 24, 1895-April 27, 1896.
- Tape of what may be an oral history (autobiography) of Ralph Rambo.
- Mailing list, California handwritten undated/unknown owner.
- Ledger from 1896.

**Box 91, 1895-1896. circa 1890.**

**Scope and Content Note**

This box contains the following items:

- Santa Clara County Ranchoes Record of land disbursements/sales, latter 1800s.
- Simon McArdle's ledger with handwritten notes and letters, 1895-1896.
**Box 92, 1909, 1913, 1967.**

Scope and Content Note

This box contains the following items:

- Secretary's Record of the Ladies' Improvement Society of the Presbyterian Church, Santa Clara, CA, March 1913.

**Box 93, 1929, 1879, Circa 1900.**

Scope and Content Note

This box contains the following items:

- Travel Diary from trip made around the world from May 31, 1929 through August 3, 1929. It belonged to a school teacher named Maude Weston. She was born in 1877.
- Pamphlet called *The Rubaiyat* belonging to named L.E. Higgins of Santa Clara, includes some handwritten essays by Higgins and says that it was read at the Shakespeare Club on Oct., Nov., and Dec., 1879.

**Box 94, 1852.**

Scope and Content Note

This box contains the following item:

- Handwritten diary consisting of two volumes detailing the overland journey of Marion W. Battey (also known as Marion Elizabeth Weller of Milpitas, CA) titled *Scenes and Adventures of an Overland Journey to California Beginning April 10, 1852*.

**Box 95, circa 1900.**

Scope and Content Note

This box contains the following item:

- San Jose Appellate Court Judge John E. Richards Scrapbook, early 1900s.

**Box 96, 1903, undated.**

Scope and Content Note

This box contains the following items:

- Petition transcripts of Leland Stanford Junior University June 15, 1903 regarding clauses of Leland Stanford’s will, trustees and land grant in Superior Court of the County of Santa Clara. State of California.
- Petition transcripts of Leland Stanford Junior University June 16, 1903 regarding clauses of Leland Stanford’s will, trustees and land grant in Superior Court of the County of Santa Clara. State of California.

**Box 97, circa 1860.**

Scope and Content Note

This box contains the following items:

- Robertson family photo album from mid 1800s.
- Photo album of an unknown family around the time of the United States Civil War.
Scope and Content Note
This box contains the following items:
• Supplement to Great Register of Santa Clara County, 1877.
• Santa Clara County Road Atlas, 1950.
• Brainard, Henry A. Brainard Agricultural Atlas, 1885-1890.
• "Ham and Eggs" Proposition ephemera, circa 1933.

Box 99, 1853.
Scope and Content Note
This box contains the following item:
• Agustin Bernal V. United States, transcripts of proceedings for petition of land claim for Santa Teresa, 1853.

Box 100, circa 1917.
Scope and Content Note
This box contains the following item:
• World War I Bond Drive Flag.

Box 101, 1869-1903.
Scope and Content Note
This box contains the following items:
• Santa Clara County Treasurer Warrants 1872.
• Current Expense Fund 1878, 1886.
• Infirmary Fund, 1878, 1886.
• Juror Fees, 1880-1881.
• River Improvement, 1878.
• Road Improvement, 1877, 1878, 1880.
• Salary Fund, 1878, 1886.
• Squirrel Nuisance Abatement Fund, 1878.
• School Fund, 1878-1890.
• Witness Allowances, 1880-1881.
• Real Estate Deeds late 1800s through early 1900s.
• Cemetery deeds, 1869, 1891, 1896, 1902, 1903.

Box 102, 1888.
Scope and Content Note
This box contains the following item:
• Brainard Agricultural ledger school district maps 1888. Includes 15 maps. Title on over is: Henry A. Brainard's Map of Santa Clara County. In a ledger recording the number of fruit trees.

Box 103, 1893-1900.
Scope and Content Note
This box contains the following items:
Box 104, 1866.
Scope and Content Note
This box contains the following item:

Box 105, undated, 1866, 1930, 1977.
Scope and Content Note
This box contains the following items:
• Advertisements.
• Ballots (Sample early 1900s).
• Bond for street improvement in San Jose, CA 1930.
• Business letterheads and bills.
• Confederate money/bond.
• Dance and Social Invitations.
• Grant for School in 16th and 36th Sections of Santa Cruz County, 1866.
• Greeting Cards.
• Handbooks and Almanacs.
• Stamps, Postage California, 1977.

Box 106, 1852.
Scope and Content Note
This box contains the following item:

Box 107, 1871.
Scope and Content Note
This box contains the following item:
• San Jose Block Book, 1871.

Box 108, 1915.
Scope and Content Note
This box contains the following item:

Boxes 109-110
Series V. **Ephemera, undated.**
Physical Description:
2 boxes
Scope and Content Note
This series consists of various ephemera. Of note is Sheriff George W. Lyle for Sheriff election materials; a rock from one of King Solomon's quarries in Jerusalem; Teddy Roosevelt for President election button; Roberto Adobe mounted nail; Independent Order of Foresters badge and pin; and assorted pins and buttons.

**Physical Description:**
2 boxes

**Scope and Content Note**
This series consists of Masonic ribbons, Masonic honor certificates and medals awarded to Clyde Arbuckle, a Masonic Lodge index (mid-1800s - early 1900s), and various Masonic publications.

**Related Material**
There are also some general Masonic material in Series I., boxes 32 and 33.

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**Physical Description:**
2 boxes

**Scope and Content Note**
Abstract of Titles were used originally to record the history of transactions affecting a particular parcel of land. An important part of the abstract was the attorney's opinion certifying the transaction and title. This collection of abstracts is representative of Santa Clara County, California parcels in the latter 1800s and early 1900s.

**Box 113 1848-1902.**

**Scope and Content Note**
This box contains the following items:

- Abstracts of Title of property of Overbaugh and Roberto to lots numbered 8 through 19 and a formation of the tract formerly covered by the Canoa or Azequia pond in the City of San Jose, CA volume 1. Prepared by San Jose Abstract Company. 1848-1871.
- Abstracts of Title of property of Overbaugh and Roberto to lots numbered 8 through 19 and a formation of the tract formerly covered by the Canoa or Azequia pond in the City of San Jose, CA volume 2. Prepared by San Jose Abstract Company. 1892.
- Abstract of Title. Copy of original Pueblo of San Jose filed July 14, 1852 as well as deed on August 23, 1858. Includes amended Articles of Incorporation through April 17, 1902.
- Abstract of Title and Certificate of Search to Property of Thomas Lawrence Lot number 4, and the NE quarter of the SE quarter of section ten, in township seven South of range One West of Mount Diablo Meridian. Prepared by Edward Halsey June 10, 1871.
- Abstract of Title and Certificate of Search to Easterly half of the Western two-thirds of lots 19, 22 and 23 in Block 24 C. Freyschlag Subdivision October 23,1873. Prepared by Garden City Abstract Company.
- Title Abstract Dwyer - Northerly one-half of Lot. No. eight in Block No. Three Range No. eight south of the base line of the City of San Jose. May 5, 1877. Prepared by San Jose Abstract Company.
Scope and Content Note
This box contains the following items:

- Abstract of Title and Certificate of Search to Auzerais House Property Part of Block No. 2 Range No. 1 North City of San Jose November 10, 1883. Prepared by Thos. H. Cordell & Edward Halsey, Searchers of Records & Conveyancers, San Jose, CA.
- Abstract of Title and Certificate of Search Lot No. 3 in Block No. 5 North of Range 6 West in County of Santa Clara. State of California Search June 3, 1886. Prepared by Thos. H. Cordell & Edward Halsey - Searchers of Records & Conveyancers, San Jose, CA.
- Abstracts of Title to parts of the Ranchos "San Francisco de Las Llagas" and "La Polka," - Sections 29, 31, and 32 in Township 9 South, and Sec. 5 in Twp. 10 South, Range 4 East, M.D.M. in the County of Santa Clara. April 25th, 1892. Prepared by San Jose Abstract, Title, and Trust Co.
- Abstract of Title to Part of lot 10 of Hill and Sampson Tract July 1904. Prepared by San Jose Abstract Company.
- Abstract of Title to NW Corner of 3rd and Julian Streets, W. 125 x N. 49 feet City of San Jose, CA. March 10, 1913. Prepared by San Jose Abstract Company.
- Abstract of Title to Part Lot 320 Block 32 whites addition in City of San Jose, CA. June 9, 1919. Prepared by San Jose Abstract Company.
- Abstract of Title, No. 25875 9 acres on Malone Ave. San Juan Bautista Rancho June 1, 1925, property of C.P. Gandaubert. Prepared by California Pacific Title Insurance Co.

A description of this series is as follows:

- **Series VIII. Scrapbooks, 1920s-1980s.**
  - Physical Description:
    - 8 boxes
  - Scope and Content Note
    - The scrapbooks in this series pertain mostly to local Santa Clara County history. Not only are there scrapbooks that were compiled by Clyde Arbuckle, but there are also scrapbooks created by Helen Arbuckle, Clyde’s wife. Additionally, there are two scrapbooks that were compiled by Roscoe Wyatt that list East Bay and Santa Clara Valley Ranchos.

A list of the contents of this series is as follows:

- **Box 115** Clyde Arbuckle Scrapbook, Local History, 1930s-1940s.
- **Box 116** Clyde Arbuckle Scrapbook, Local History and Buildings, 1960s-1980s.
- **Box 117** East Bay and Santa Clara Valley Ranchos, undated.
- **Box 118** Helen Arbuckle Scrapbook, 1966-1976.
- **Box 119** Helen Arbuckle Scrapbook, 1977-1986.
- **Box 120** Helen Arbuckle Scrapbook, 1987-1991.
- **Box 121** Helen Arbuckle Scrapbook, 1992-1998.
- **Box 122** Clyde Arbuckle Music Scrapbook, 1890s-1910s.
Series IX. Historic Newspapers and Journals, 1892, 1903, 1906-1936.

Boxes 123-141

**Series IX. Historic Newspapers and Journals, 1892, 1903, 1906-1936.**

**Physical Description:**
18 boxes

**Scope and Content Note**
This series includes journals (for example the Mining and Scientific Press) and magazines like the Argonaut and California Journal as well as local historical newspapers from the early twentieth century. Represented are the Los Gatos Mail Weekly (1906 through 1915), Palo Alto (May 17, 1906), Palo Alto Sun Weekly (November 16, 1933 through October 4, 1935), Palo Alto Times (February 22, 1935 through February 28, 1936), San Jose Mercury Centennial Edition (issued June 17, 1951), San Jose Mercury 125th edition (issued June 20, 1976), San Jose Morning Times Daily (August 11, 1909 through December 31, 1909), San Jose Times - Star (1911 through 1914), San Citizen (March 18, 1922 through January 26, 1924, San Jose California Weekly German (August 1909 through July 1924), San Francisco Chronicle Centennial edition (January 18, 1965), San Francisco Examiner (July 4, 1976), and the Stanford Palo Alto News Weekly (February 25, 1916 through October 5, 1917). There is also one copy of the San Jose Daily Patriot dated 12/22/1871. The newspapers are arranged by title and the journal and magazines are boxed together with the exception of the Mining and Scientific Press.

Boxes 142

**Series X. Postcards, undated.**

**Physical Description:**
1 box

**Scope and Content Note**
This series includes assorted postcards with subjects ranging from Abraham Lincoln, Siskiyou county, E Clampus Vitus, San Jose's electric tower, and others generally relating to California and California history.