Guide to the Lorenzo and Lavinia Hamilton Letters, 1851-1869

California State Library
Sacramento, California

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Contents
Correspondence of members of Hamilton family to Mrs. Hamilton's brother, Joseph Delliber, in Hartford, Connecticut.

Biography
Lorenzo Hamilton came to California from Hartford, Connecticut with the Henry Lee Company, sailing aboard the "Henry Lee," arriving Feb. 17, 1849. He went into business as a merchant in Sacramento. In 1851 his wife, Lavinia, and three children, Lillie, Frank and Joseph, joined him in Sacramento. The place of business, Hamilton & Brown, was destroyed by fire in 1852 and the family moved to the town of Washington, in Yolo County. Mr. Hamilton's partner at that time was Mr. Howlett. By 1857 the family was again in Sacramento. Mr. Hamilton bought out Mr. Howlett and in partnership with Mr. Daugherty of Daugherty & Company built a new store.

Lavinia Hamilton and the children returned to Hartford upon the death of her mother in 1864. Lorenzo joined them but returned to Sacramento and Daugherty & Company later in 1864. Lavinia and the children, now joined by Ida and Mary, stayed in Branford, Connecticut. Mary died, probably of whooping cough, in 1866.

In June or July of 1868 the family rejoined Lorenzo in Sacramento. On July 20, 1868, Lorenzo was killed in a fall downstairs. Lavinia stayed in Sacramento for about a year, settling business affairs and returned to Connecticut in 1869.

Delliber, Carrie
Hamilton, Lavinia Delliber
Hamilton, Lillie
Hamilton, Lorenzo

Box 1374 Arranged chronologically