Inventory of the Alexander J. Gardiner Collection, 1876-1930

Collection number: MS 48

California State Railroad Museum Library

Sacramento, California

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Descriptive Summary
Title: Alexander J. Gardiner Collection,
Date (inclusive): 1876-1930
Collection number: MS 48
Creator: Gardiner, Alexander J.
Extent: 1 volume
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Sacramento, California 95814
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Collection Description
The collection consists of a scrapbook kept by Alexander J. Gardiner (1852-1921), and maintained by his widow, Hattie Gardiner, following his death. The scrapbook contains clippings, mostly about the Southern Pacific -- history, special events, personnel, retirements and wrecks, as well as extensive clippings regarding the opening of SP's Sacramento passenger depot in 1926. It also contains Gardiner's correspondence regarding establishment of Southern Pacific's pension system, drafts of the pension rules, and photographs of Gardiner, the Sacramento General Shops (emphasizing fire safety hazards) and shop employees.
Historical Background
An immigrant from England, Alexander J. Gardiner entered the employ of the Southern Pacific Company's Sacramento General Shops in 1876 and remained there until his retirement in 1915. During this period he worked with Andrew J. Stevens and Taylor W. Heintzelman. For most of his career Gardiner served as pipe gang foreman, although shortly before retiring he became a fire inspector.

Beginning at the turn of the century, Gardiner assumed the lead of a movement to establish a pension system for veteran employees of the Southern Pacific. This led to the organization of the company's Benefit and Pension Department. Gardiner formulated the pension rules eventually adopted by Southern Pacific.