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## **Evertson Family Papers**

Finding aid prepared by Brooke M. Black.

The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens

Manuscripts Department

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## **Descriptive Summary**

**Title:** Evertson Family Papers

**Inclusive Dates:** 1832-1897

**Bulk Dates:** 1847-1866

**Collection Number:** mssHM 70414-70462

**Creator OR Collector:** Evertson (Family)

**Extent:** 56 items in 2 boxes

**Repository:** The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens. Manuscripts Department

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**Abstract:** This collection contains the papers of John R. Evertson, of Poughkeepsie, New York, and his family, chiefly dating from 1847-1866. Includes correspondence between Evertson family members with three distinct sections: Mexican-American War, Civil War, and California.

**Language of Material:** The records are in English.

### **Access**

Open to qualified researchers by prior application through the Reader Services Department. For more information, contact Reader Services.

### **Publication Rights**

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### **Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item]. Evertson Family Papers, The Huntington Library, San Marino, California.

### **Provenance**

Gift of Ellen H. Ellis, November 26, 2007.

### **Biographical Note**

John R. Evertson, of Poughkeepsie, New York, and Laura Morin, of Savannah, Georgia, were married in the 1830s. The couple had four children: John Jr., Clinton, Evert and Laura. Evertson spent some time in Camargo, Mexico, during the Mexican-American War (his exact business is unclear). In the 1850s, the family moved to Los Angeles, California, where Evertson took a job as a census enumerator. In 1862, Laura, by that time a widow, tried to secure properties in New York and Georgia. She sent her son Evert back East to look out for the family properties. While in New York he stayed with a family friend, William H. Richards. On Evert's way to Savannah, however, he was arrested by federal troops and spent the next two years as a citizen prisoner in federal prisons, first in Carroll (Old Capitol Prison, Washington, D.C.) and then Point Lookout, Maryland.

John R. Evertson, Jr., remained in Los Angeles and ran, unsuccessfully, for the office of the county of assessor. Evertson, Jr., moved up north first to Havilah, Kern County, where he tried, also without visible success, to practice law and pursue "mining interests," and then on to San Francisco where he held a string of various low paying jobs (he never kept one for very long). Laura C. Evertson married Andrew Jackson King, one of the proprietors and editors of the Los Angeles Times, City Attorney and County Judge. She wrote a number of sketches of life in San Gabriel Valley for the Historical Society of Southern California.

### **Scope and Content**

The collection is arranged chronologically and includes 56 items including 7 pieces of ephemera. The first four items are land grants and plats for land in Georgia (1832-1843). The majority of the rest of the collection is correspondence between Evertson family members with three distinct sections: Mexican-American War, Civil War and California. There are four letters concerning John R. Evertson's work which was somehow related to the Mexican-American War. In his letters he talks about the war, General Zachary Taylor, Antonio Santa Anna, and the battle of Buena Vista. These letters also discuss family matters and there are letters by John R. Evertson to two of his sons warning them to be diligent, do their school work and listen to their Mother while he is away. The second section consists of twelve letters from various correspondents to Evert

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C. Evertson while he was being held as a political prisoner in Carroll and Point Lookout prisons in Washington, D.C. and Maryland from 1863 to 1865 (there is one note by Evert). The letters by family friends, mostly William H. Richards, discusses their attempts to free Evert from prison and clear his name and express their sympathy with his situation. Richards also talks about the family situation in California at the time. (The collection also includes three documents related to Evert's release from prison including a letter of exemption from the Confederate States of America's War Department Bureau of Conscription, a parole and a pass for Evert issued by the United States' Office of the Provost Marshal General - all dated 1865). The third section of correspondence relates to John R. Evertson, Jr.'s life in Havilah and San Francisco, California in April-December 1866. These letters which are written to his mother, sister and brother-in-law in Los Angeles, talk chiefly about Evertson's search for stable employment, his attempts at mining (gold and quartz), his bad health and his general depression about his current situation. He often mentions Los Angeles in his letters. The last few items of the collection include documents about real estate in Los Angeles and a letter related to the estate of John R. Evertson.

**Arrangement**

The collection is arranged chronologically, followed by ephemera.

**Indexing Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the [Huntington Library's Online Catalog](#).

**Personal Names**

Evertson family

King, Andrew Jackson, 1833-1923, addressee

Santa Anna, Antonio López de, 1794?-1876

Taylor, Zachary, 1784-1850

**Corporate Names**

Confederate States of America. Bureau of Conscription

Old Capitol Prison (Washington, D.C.)

Point Lookout Prison Camp for Confederates

United States. Office of the Provost Marshal General

**Subjects**

Buena Vista, Battle of, Mexico, 1847

Gold mines and mining -- California

Mexican War, 1846-1848

Quartz mines and mining -- California

Real property -- California

Real property -- Georgia

**Geographic Areas**

Havilah (Calif.)

Los Angeles (Calif.)

San Francisco (Calif.)

United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865 -- Prisoners and prisons

**Genre**

Deeds -- United States -- 19th century

Letters (correspondence) -- United States -- 19th century

Plats (maps) -- United States -- 19th century

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Box 1

**1832-1865**

HM 70414 **Horton, Alfred M. Document and plat of land drawn by Peter Mortin/surveyed by Ezekiel Lester. (1832-1843)**

Handwritten copy.

HM 70415 **Horton, Alfred M. Document and plat of land drawn by Peter Mortin/surveyed by Ezekiel Lester. (1832-1843)**

Printed form, filled in. With wax seal.

HM 70416 **Horton, Alfred M. Document and plat of land drawn by Peter Mortin/surveyed by Nathan C. Barnett (1932-1943)**

Handwritten copy.

HM 70417 **Horton, Alfred M. Document and plat of land drawn by Peter Mortin/surveyed by Nathan C. Barnett (1832-1843)**

Printed form, filled in. With wax seal.

HM 70418 **[Unknown author]. Letter to [unknown addressee] (1837)**

In German.

HM 70419 **Coppee, E. Letter to John R. Evertson (1844, Oct. 15)**

HM 70420 **Evertson, John R. Letter to Laura M. Evertson (1847, Mar. 8)**

Following the above is a letter by John R. Evertson to his son Clinton Evertson, 1847, Mar. 8.

HM 70421 **Evertson, John R. Letter to Laura M. Evertson (1847, July 6)**

Following the above is a letter by John R. Evertson to his son John R. Evertson, Jr.

HM 70422 **Evertson, John R. Letter to Laura M. Evertson (1847, Nov. 14)**

HM 70423 **Richards, Abraham. Letter to Evert C. Evertson (1863, Aug. 19)**

HM 70424 **Richards, William H. Letter to Evert C. Evertson (1863, Sep. 11)**

HM 70425 **Richards, William H. Letter to Laura M. Evertson (1863, Sep. 26)**

HM 70426 **Richards, William H. Letter to Evert C. Evertson (1863, Oct. 3)**

HM 70427 **Richards, William H. Letter to Evert C. Evertson (1864, May 21)**

HM 70428 **Richards, William H. Letter to Evert C. Evertson (1864, June 20)**

HM 70429 **Levering, Samuel J. Letter to Evert C. Evertson (1864, June 29)**

HM 70430 **Levering, G. W. Letter to Evert C. Evertson (1864, Aug. 3)**

HM 70431 **Levering, -----. Letter to Evert C. Evertson (1864, Sep. 10)**

HM 70432 **Richards, William H. Letter to Evert C. Evertson (1864, Nov. 28)**

HM 70433 **Mauland, Kate. Letter to Evert C. Evertson (1864, Dec. 10)**

HM 70434 **Mauland, Kate. Letter to Evert C. Evertson (1865, Jan. 28)**

Following the above is a letter by Evert C. Evertson to "Dear Cam," 1865, Feb. 1.

HM 70435 **Confederate States of America Bureau of Conscription. Exemption from conscription for Evert C. Evertson. (1865, Mar. 17)**

Signed by C. B. Duffield. In fragile condition.

HM 70436 **United States Office of the Provost Marshal General. Parole and pass for Evert C. Evertson (1865, May 11)**

HM 70437 **Evertson, John R., Jr. Letter to Laura Evertson King (1865, Sep. 23)**

Box 2

**1866-1897; Ephemera**

- HM 70438 **Evertson, John R., Jr. Letter to Andrew Jackson King, 1833-1923 (1866, Apr. 18)**
- HM 70439 **Evertson, John R., Jr. Letter to Laura M. Evertson (1866, May 5)**
- HM 70440 **Evertson, John R., Jr. Letter to Laura M. Evertson (1866, May 21)**
- HM 70441 **Evertson, John R., Jr. Letter to Andrew Jackson King, 1833-1923 (1866, May 23)**
- HM 70442 **Evertson, John R., Jr. Letter to Laura M. Evertson (1866, May 28)**
- HM 70443 **Evertson, John R., Jr. Letter to Andrew Jackson King, 1833-1923 (1866, June 5)**
- HM 70444 **Evertson, John R., Jr. Letter to Laura M. Evertson (1866, Aug. 8)**
- HM 70445 **Evertson, John R., Jr. Letter to Laura Evertson King (1866, Sep. 11)**
- HM 70446 **Evertson, John R., Jr. Letter to Laura M. Evertson (1866, Sep. 21)**
- HM 70447 **Evertson, John R., Jr. Letter to Laura Evertson King (1866, Sep. 27)**
- HM 70448 **Evertson, John R., Jr. Letter to Laura M. Evertson (1866, Oct. 3)**
- HM 70449 **Evertson, John R., Jr. Letter to Laura Evertson King (1866, Oct. 10)**
- HM 70450 **Evertson, John R., Jr. Letter to Laura M. Evertson (1866, Oct. 25)**
- HM 70451 **Evertson, John R., Jr. Letter to Laura M. Evertson (1866, Nov. 3)**
- HM 70452 **Evertson, John R., Jr. Letter to Laura Evertson King (1866, Nov. 4)**
- HM 70453 **Evertson, John R., Jr. Letter to Laura M. Evertson (1866, Nov. 14)**
- HM 70454 **Evertson, John R., Jr. Letter to Laura Evertson King (1866, Nov. 21)**
- HM 70455 **Evertson, John R., Jr. Letter to Andrew Jackson King, 1833-1923 (1866, Dec. 5)**
- HM 70456 **Evertson, John R., Jr. Letter to Laura M. Evertson (1866, Dec. 10)**
- HM 70457 **Evertson, John R., Jr. Letter to Laura Evertson King (1866, Dec. 10)**
- HM 70458 **Evertson, John R., Jr. Letter to Laura M. Evertson (1866, Dec. 26)**  
 On verso: letter by William H. Richards to Laura M. Evertson, 1866, Nov. 6.
- HM 70459 **Evertson, John R., Jr. Letter to Laura M. Evertson ([approximately 1867], Dec. 1)**
- HM 70460 **Abstracts of title for land in Los Angeles (Calif.) (1873)**  
 With drawing. Very fragile condition.
- HM 70461 -----, **Charles. Document regarding Adobe House in Los Angeles (Calif.) [1883]**

HM 70462 **[Unknown author]. Letter to Martin Heemance (1897, June 9)**

Folder 1

**Ephemera [undated]**

7 items.