Overview of the Collection
Title: Matfield Family Collection
Dates (inclusive): 1849-1993
Bulk dates: 1873-1918
Collection Number: mssHM 64508-64531
Creator: Matfield family.
Extent: 204 items in 3 boxes + 1 envelope
Repository: The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens. Manuscripts Department
1151 Oxford Road
San Marino, California 91108
Phone: (626) 405-2129
Email: reference@huntington.org
URL: http://www.huntington.org
Abstract: This collection consists of material collected by physician Robert Stragnell (1923-2015) regarding the Bella Union Hotel, its owners the Matfield family, and early Los Angeles and California history, chiefly dating from 1873-1918.
Language: English.

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

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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item]. Matfield Family Collection, The Huntington Library, San Marino, California.

Provenance

Biographical Note
In the 1860s, the Matfield family became owners of the Bella Union Hotel, one of the earliest hotels in Los Angeles, California. The family consisted of George Matfield, his wife Alice, and their children James and Dora.

Scope and Content
The collection consists of material collected by Southern California physician Robert Stragnell (1923-2015) regarding the Bella Union Hotel, early Los Angeles and California history and the Matfield family. It includes original manuscripts and documents, correspondence, a scrapbook containing photographs of and articles about the Los Angeles City Gun Club (of which James Matfield was a member), and research material including notes written by Dr. Stragnell, ephemera, photographs and negatives. Most of the material focuses upon the history of Los Angeles and California; however, there are a few letters, postcards, and photographs related to Papeete, Tahiti. The photographs are mostly portraits of Matfield family members, while the negatives are family snapshots; both the photographs and negatives are dated roughly between 1890 and 1920. The negatives are of photographs that are not included in the collection.

Arrangement
Arranged in the following order:
Box 1: Manuscripts and Documents – 24 items, arranged chronologically
Box 2: Research Material – 22 items, arranged alphabetically by type Ephemera – 28 items, arranged alphabetically by type
Box 3: Photographs and Negatives – 130 items, arranged alphabetically by subject
Oversize envelope

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Huntington Library's Online Catalog.

Subjects
Box 1

Manuscripts and Documents

1849-1873. Abstract of Title of the Rancho Bella Union Property. HM 64508.
1849-1873. Typescript of Abstract of Title of the Rancho Bella Union Property. HM 64509.
1873, May 1. Deed to Mining Claim in Los Angeles County. HM 64510.
1880, Jan. 27. Restraining Order Against George Matfield. HM 64511.
1880, July 7. Satisfaction of Mortgage to E. B. Perrin. HM 64512.
1880, Aug. 18. Declaration of Homestead by Alice Matfield. HM 64513.
1885, Mar. 3. Mortgage for tract of land in Los Angeles (Calif.). HM 64514.
1885, May 15. Supplement Agreement to a build a new wall between properties. HM 64515.
1888, Jan. 27. Summons, Matfield vs. Matfield. HM 64517.
1888, Nov. 13. Agreement on Guardianship of Mary E. Flashner. HM 64518.
1889, Dec. 16. Indenture between A. Mcartney and Alice Matfield. HM 64519.
1892, Sep. 6. Complaint and Summons, Benedict vs. Flashner. HM 64520.
1894, Mar. 21. Land Deed for land in Los Angeles (Calif.). HM 64521.
1895-1900. Scrapbook of James Matfield. Note: Scrapbook is oversize and is located at end of the collection in a separate tan envelope. HM 64522.
1900, May 10. Certified Copy of Decree of Discharge of Executrix for Alice Matfield. HM 64523.
1908, Mar. 20. “Lovina” letter to James Matfield. HM 64525.
1919, Apr. 15. Dora Chapman letter to James Matfield. HM 64528.

Box 2

Research Material and Ephemera
| Research Material: Research Notes I by Robert Stragnell. 33 pages. |
| Research Material: Research Notes II by Robert Stragnell. 147 pages. |
| Research Material: Typescripts of newspaper articles regarding Bella Union Hotel (Los Angeles, Calif.), (1853-1872). 106 pages. |
| Envelopes. 2 items. Postcards [c.1908]. 6 items. |
| Program “Second Semi-Annual Tournament of the Los Angeles City Gun Club” [approximately 1900]. 1 item. |
| Stock Certificate for “Evangelina Copper Mining Company” (1904, Jan. 26). 1 item. |
| Tax Receipts (1898-1907). 18 items. |
| Box 3 |
| Photographs and Negatives |
| Photographs: Family Members (Chapman, Dora-Matfield, Alice). 10 items. |
| Photographs: Family Members (Chapman, Dora). 14 items. |
| Photographs: Family Members (Matfield, George-Matfield, James, and unidentified). 19 items. |
| Photographs: Gun Clubs. 3 items. |
| Photographs: Places. 7 items. |
| Photographs: Negatives. 77 items. |
| Oversize |
| Envelope |