Milton B. Stevens Correspondence: Finding Aid

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Overview of the Collection
Title: Milton B. Stevens Correspondence
Dates (inclusive): 1849-1954
Bulk dates: 1849-1864
Collection Number: mssHM 59471-59532
Creator: Stevens, Milton B.
Extent: 62 items in 2 boxes
Repository: The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens. Manuscripts Department
1151 Oxford Road
San Marino, California 91108
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Abstract: This collection contains 62 letters from twenty-six different authors in mining camps and cities throughout Northern California illustrating aspects of the Gold Rush experience, chiefly from 1849-1864.
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]. Milton B. Stevens Correspondence, The Huntington Library, San Marino, California.
Provenance
Purchased at auction from Butterfield & Butterfield, Sale #6959Z, May 1999.
Biographical Note of Milton B. Stevens
Milton B. Stevens left his family and home in Shushan, New York to come to California on the ship Morrison, which departed from New York City on February 14, 1849. While in California, Stevens searched for gold at several mining towns throughout Northern California, including Salmon Falls, Pilot Hill, Oregon Bar, Independence, and Weber Creek. He left California and returned to New York in 1851. In 1852, he married Ann Maria Lyman of Salem, New York.
Scope and Content
This collection contains 62 letters from twenty-six different authors, including Milton B. Stevens, C. K. Dixon and Byron Whitcomb, in mining camps and cities throughout Northern California illustrating aspects of the Gold Rush experience, chiefly from 1849-1864.
Milton B. Stevens is the most prolific figure in this collection, as he wrote fifteen of the letters in the collection and was the addressee of twenty. There are, however, twenty-five other authors in these letters, including four women, two of them writing from California. Other significant authors in this collection are: Abbey Stevens (5 letters), Byron Whitcomb (7 letters), and C. K. Dixon (9 letters). The letters mention various mining camps throughout Northern California, such as Fosters Bar, Galena Hill, Murderers Bar, Pilot Hill, Salmon Falls, Weber Creek, and the Klamath River Valley mines. The letters illustrate several aspects of the Gold Rush experience: the journey to California through South America; life in California and the gold camps; gold discoveries, or the lack thereof; the techniques and equipment used in mining; loneliness and longing for home. The letters from Milton B. Stevens' mother tell of the experience of the miners' families back at home in the East. The letter dated 1954 was written by Stephen C. Lyon, who at one time owned the collection. Eighteen of the letters have handwritten or typed transcripts.
Indexing Subjects
Benicia (Calif.)
• 1858, June 4, Mary A. Gun letter to "Dear Friends." (HM 59523)
California--Politics/Elections
• [1859 or 1860], July 10, Byron Whitcomb letter to J. Baker Whitcomb. (HM 59524)
  Coyote Creek (Calif.)
  • 1853, Mar. 26, Ceralem Mathers letter to Milton B. Stevens. (HM 59514)
  Galena Hill (Calif.)
  • [1859 or 1860], July 10, Byron Whitcomb letter to J. Baker Whitcomb. (HM 59524)
  Mining Corporations
  • 1851, June 1, Andrew Wampler letter to "Sir." (HM 59499)
  Monterey (Calif.)
  • [1850], C. K. Dixon letter to Elizabeth Dixon. (HM 59487)
  Panama (Panama)
  • 1851, Apr. 29, C. R. Hawley letter to Milton B. Stevens. (HM 59496)
  Rio de Janeiro (Brazil)
  • 1849, May 4, Milton B. Stevens letter to Abbey Stevens. (HM 59473)
  Sacramento (Calif.)
  • 1852, Mar. 15, Henry A. Sharp letter to Milton B. Stevens. (HM 59510)
  Salmon Falls (Calif.)
  • 1850, Feb. 3, Milton B. Stevens letter to Abbey Stevens. (HM 59475)
  San Francisco (Calif.)
  • 1851, Nov. 28, Milton B. Stevens letter to Abbey Stevens. (HM 59508)
  Stockton (Calif.)
  • 1856, Mar. 9, S. L. Grow letter to "Friend Bryant." (HM 59519)

Violence in the Mines -
• 1851, Feb. 23, Henry A. Sharp letter to Milton B. Stevens. (HM 59490)
• 1851, Apr. 20-23, Milton B. Stevens letter to Abbey Stevens. (HM 59494)
• 1851, June 1, Andrew Wampler letter to "Sir." (HM 59499)
• [1859 or 1860], Dec. 22, Byron Whitcomb letter to J. Baker Whitcomb. (HM 59525)
• 1860, June 5, William Loutenheiser to "Dear Sir." (HM 59528)

Voyages to the Pacific Coast -
• 1849, Jan., Milton B. Stevens letter to Abbey Stevens. (HM 59472)
• 1849, Mar. 14, Milton B. Stevens letter to Abbey Stevens. (HM 59473)
• 1853, May 8, G. W. Warner letter to Milton B. Stevens. (HM 59515)

Weber Creek (Calif.)
• 1853, Mar. 13, Alexander King letter to Milton B. Stevens. (HM 59513)

Women in California
• 1858, June 4, Mary A. Gun letter to "Dear Friends." (HM 59523)

Arrangement
Arranged chronologically.

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

Subjects
Stevens, Milton B.
Frontier and pioneer life -- California.
Gold dredging -- California.
Gold miners -- California -- Correspondence.
Gold mines and mining -- California.
Mines and mineral resources -- California.
Mining camps -- California.
Mining corporations -- California.
Voyages to the Pacific coast.  
Women -- California.  
Benicia (Calif.) -- History -- 19th century -- Sources.  
California -- Description and travel.  
California -- Gold discoveries -- Personal narratives.  
Klamath River Valley (Or. and Calif.) -- History -- 19th century -- Sources.  
Panama (Panama) -- Description and travel.  
Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) -- Description and travel.  
Sacramento (Calif.) -- History -- 19th century -- Sources.  
San Francisco (Calif.) -- History -- 19th century -- Sources.  
San Jose (Calif.) -- History -- 19th century -- Sources.  
Stockton (Calif.) -- History -- 19th century -- Sources.  

**Forms/Genres**

Letters (correspondence) California.

**Alternate Authors**

Dixon, C. K.  
Whitcomb, Byron.

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**Box 1**

1849-1850

Milton B. Stevens. To Abbey Stevens. New York, New York 1849, Jan. HM 59471
Milton B. Stevens. To Abbey Stevens. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. 1849, May 4. HM 59473
Milton B. Stevens. To Abbey Stevens. Salmon Falls, Calif. 1849, Dec. 9. HM 59474
Milton B. Stevens. To Abbey Stevens. Pilot Hill, Calif. 1850, Feb. 3. HM 59475
Milton B. Stevens. To Abbey Stevens. Oregon Bar, Calif. 1850, Mar. 14-15. HM 59476
Henry A. Stevens. To Milton B. Stevens. Richmond, Va. 1850, Apr. 10. HM 59477
Milton B. Stevens. To Abbey Stevens. Independence, Calif. 1850, July 22. HM 59479
C. K. Dixon. To Elizabeth Dixon. Long's Bar, Calif. 1850, Oct. 15. HM 59480
Abbey Stevens. To Milton B. Stevens. Shushan, New York. 1850, Dec. 25. HM 59483
C. K. Dixon. To Elizabeth Dixon. Calif. 1850. HM 59484
C. K. Dixon. To Elizabeth Dixon. Calif. 1850. HM 59485
C. K. Dixon. To Elizabeth Dixon. Calif. 1850. HM 59486
C. K. Dixon. To Elizabeth Dixon. Calif. 1850. HM 59487

**Box 2**

1851-1864, 1954

Abbey Stevens. To Milton B. Stevens. Shushan, New York 1851, Feb. 5. HM 59488
Henry A. Sharp. To Milton B. Stevens. San Francisco, Calif. 1851, Feb. 23. HM 59490
Milton B. Stevens. To Abbey Stevens. San Jose, Calif. 1851, Feb. 23. HM 59491
George W. McLean. To Milton B. Stevens. Shushan, New York. 1851, Mar. 4. HM 59492
Abbey Stevens. To Milton B. Stevens. Shushan, New York. 1851, Apr. 17. HM 59493
Abbey Stevens. To Milton B. Stevens. Weber Creek, Calif. 1851, Apr. 20-23. HM 59494
Abbey Stevens. To Milton B. Stevens. Shushan, New York. 1851, Apr. 23. HM 59495
C. R. Hawley. To Milton B. Stevens. Cambridge, Mass. 1851, Apr. 29. HM 59496
Abbey Stevens. To Milton B. Stevens. Shushan, New York. 1851, May 8. HM 59497
Milton B. Stevens. To Abbey Stevens. Weber Creek, Calif. 1851, May 18. HM 59498
Andrew Wampler. To "Sir". Murderers Bar, Calif. 1851, June 1. HM 59499
Milton B. Stevens. To Abbey Stevens. Weber Creek, Calif. 1851, June 7-13. HM 59500
----- Judson. To Abbey Stevens. Shushan, New York. 1851, July 9. HM 59501

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**Milton B. Stevens**  
**Correspondence: Finding Aid**
Milton B. Stevens. To Abbey Stevens. Salmon Falls, Calif. 1851, July 20. HM 59502
G. W. Warner. To Milton B. Stevens. San Jose, Calif. 1851, July 29. HM 59503
Milton B. Stevens. To Abbey Stevens. Salmon Falls, Calif. 1851, Aug. 10. HM 59504
G. W. Warner. To Milton B. Stevens. San Jose, Calif. 1851, Sep. 8. HM 59505
G. W. Warner. To Milton B. Stevens. San Jose, Calif. 1851, Sep. 21. HM 59506
Milton B. Stevens. To Abbey Stevens. Salmon Falls, Calif. 1851, Nov. 23. HM 59507
Milton B. Stevens. To Abbey Stevens. San Francisco, Calif. 1851, Nov. 28. HM 59508
Henry A. Sharp. To Milton B. Stevens. San Francisco, Calif. 1852, Mar. 15. HM 59510
William H. Mintzer. To "Dear Sir". Sonora, Calif. 1852, Apr. 30. HM 59511
Alexander King. To Milton B. Stevens. Copetown, Ontario, Canada. 1853, Feb. HM 59512
Alexander King. To Milton B. Stevens. Copetown, Ontario, Canada. 1853, Mar. 13. HM 59513
Ceralem Mathers. To Milton B. Stevens. San Jose, Calif. 1853, Mar. 26. HM 59514
G. W. Warner. To Milton B. Stevens. San Jose, Calif. 1853, May 8. HM 59515
Elizabeth Dixon. To Danforth "Danny" Dixon. Clayton, Wis. 1854, Aug. 6. HM 59516
A. Lytte. To Milton B. Stevens. Salem, New York. 1855, Mar. 7. HM 59518
S. L. Grow. To "Friend Bryant". Stockton, Calif. 1856, Mar. 9. HM 59519
J. C. Stevens. To Milton B. Stevens. Clifton, New York. 1856, Apr. HM 59520
Byron Whitcomb. To Lucy Jane Whitcomb. Fosters Bar, Calif. [between 1856 and 1859]. HM 59521
Byron Whitcomb. To H. H. Whitcomb. Fosters Bar, Calif. [between 1856 and 1859]. HM 59522
Mary A. Gun. To "Dear Friends". Benicia, Calif. 1858, June 4. HM 59523
Byron Whitcomb. To J. Baker Whitcomb. Fosters Bar, Calif. [1859 or 1860], July 10. HM 59524
Byron Whitcomb. To J. Baker Whitcomb. Fosters Bar, Calif. [1859 or 1860], Dec. 22. HM 59525
Byron Whitcomb. To Lucy Jane Whitcomb. Fosters Bar, Calif. [1859 or 1860], Dec. 22. HM 59526
Byron Whitcomb. To J. Baker Whitcomb. Fosters Bar, Calif. [1859 or 1860]. HM 59527
William Loutenheiser. To "Dr Sir". Grass Valley, Calif. 1860, June 5. HM 59528
Byron Whitcomb and Eliza Whitcomb. To "Father & Mother". Fosters Bar, Calif. [1862], Feb. 12. HM 59529
J. Baker Whitcomb. To "Dear Sister". Fosters Bar, Calif. 1863, July 29. HM 59530
Stephen C. Lyon. To George N. Ponnay. Providence, Rhode Island 1954, Jan. 29. HM 59532