Descriptive Summary
Title: Benjamin Davis Wilson Collection
Dates: 1836-1941
Bulk Dates: 1847-1894
Collection Number: mssWN 1-2419
Creator: Wilson, Benjamin Davis, 1811-1878
Extent: 2,394 items in 41 boxes.
Repository: The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens. Manuscripts Department
1151 Oxford Road
San Marino, California 91108
Phone: (626) 405-2191
Email: reference@huntington.org
URL: http://www.huntington.org
Abstract: Collected business and personal correspondence relating to Southern California landowner Benjamin Davis Wilson (1811-1878) and his family. The collection also includes account books, diaries (kept by Wilson's wife Margaret and their daughters Annie and Ruth), and assorted ephemera. The Shorb and Patton families are also heavily represented in the correspondence.
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], Benjamin Davis Wilson collection, The Huntington Library, San Marino, California.
Acquisition Information
Purchased from Mrs. C.J. McClung in November 1933 (WN 1-1138).
Gift of Anne W. Patton in 1959 (WN 1139-1926).
Gift of David and Peter W. Patton, August 5, 1971 (WN 1127-2292; 2412-2419).
Gift of Mrs. James W. Totten, April 19, 1971 (WN 2293-2303).
Gift of Anne Totten, October 26, 1972 (WN 2304-2403).
Gift of Doyce Nunis, August 21, 1974 (assorted items).
Biographical note
Benjamin Davis Wilson (1811-1878), a native of Tennessee, was a pioneer California rancher and businessman who came to Southern California from New Mexico in 1841 as a member of the Rowland-Workman party. He purchased the Jurupa Rancho (Riverside, Calif.) in 1843. In 1851-52 Wilson was elected the second mayor of Los Angeles, in 1852 he served as U.S. Indian Agent under Superintendent Edward F. Beale, and in 1855-57 and 1869-72 he served as state senator. He purchased Rancho de Cuati and adjacent land to develop his Lake Vineyard Ranch (part of present-day San Marino) and with John S. Griffin purchased Rancho San Pascual (which later became the city of Pasadena). Wilson planted vineyards and citrus groves and became active in business circles.
In 1844, Benjamin D. Wilson married Ramona Yorba, daughter of Bernardo Yorba, a well-known land owner during the Mexican period. Their daughter, Maria de Jesus Wilson, known as Sue, married James DeBarth Shorb (1842-1896). They also had a son, John B. Wilson, who later committed suicide. After Ramona's death, Wilson married Margaret S. Hereford (d. 1898) in 1853. Margaret had a son, Edward Sublette Hereford, also called “Judge,” from her first marriage. Together Wilson and Margaret had two daughters, Anne (d. 1931) and Ruth (d. 1928), who married George S. Patton, Sr. (1856-1927). Ruth and George’s son was General George S. Patton (1885-1945). They also had a daughter, Anne W. Patton (1887-1971). The Pattons and Wilsons were also related to the Banning family through General Patton Sr.’s half-sister Anne Smith, who married Hancock Banning, the son of Phineas Banning.
Scope and Content
The collection consists of letters, manuscripts, documents and maps related to the life and business affairs of Benjamin Davis Wilson. Subject matter includes business and social life in California (1850-90), Indian affairs in Southern California (1852-56), the wine industry, the Santa Fe trade, the estate settlement of Solomon Sublette, and the early history of Pasadena, San Marino, and Wilmington, California.

There is also a great deal of personal correspondence from Wilson’s wife Margaret S. Hereford Hereford Wilson, his daughters Maria de Jesus Wilson Shorb, Ruth Wilson Patton, and Annie Wilson, his son John B. Wilson, Ruth’s husband George S. Patton, Sr., and many of Margaret’s Hereford relatives. Also included are diaries kept by Margaret, Ruth, and Annie Wilson. Other individuals represented in the collection include Phineas Banning, Edward Fitzgerald Beale, Joseph Lancaster Brent, Cave Johnson Couts, Stephen Clark Foster, John Charles Frémont, John S. Griffin, William McKendree Gwin, Benjamin Hayes, Henry Edwards Huntington, George S. Patton, Jr., and Jonathan Trumbull Warner.

Arrangement
The collection is arranged chronologically in 41 boxes. This includes 33 boxes of correspondence, manuscripts, and business records; 2 boxes of account records; 3 boxes of account books, letterbooks, school exercise books, and diaries; and 3 boxes of miscellaneous documents and ephemera. There are also four rolled maps and a deerskin trunk. Addenda series received after the acquisition of the original papers in 1933 have been integrated into the collection, with the exception of the Patton Papers (also called Wilson Addenda II), which have been cataloged as a separate collection.

• James De Barth Shorb papers (mssShorb papers)
• Patton Family Papers (mssPF 1-350)

Personal Names
Banning, Phineas, 1830-1885.
Beale, Edward Fitzgerald, 1822-1893.
Brent, Joseph Lancaster, 1826-1905.
Couts, Cave Johnson, 1821-1874.
Foster, Stephen Clark, 1820-1898.
Fremont, John Charles, 1813-1890.
Griffin, John S. (John Strother), 1816-1898.
Gwin, William McKendree, 1805-1885.
Hayes, Benjamin, 1815-1877.
Huntington, Henry Edwards, 1850-1927.
Patton, George S. (George Smith), 1856-1927.
Patton, George S. (George Smith), 1885-1945.
Warner, Jonathan Trumbull.
Wilson, Benjamin Davis, 1811-1878.

Subjects
Businessmen--Southern California--Correspondence.
Domestic relations--California.
Indians of North America--California, Southern.
Land tenure--California--Los Angeles County.
Politicians--California--Los Angeles.
Ranches--California, Southern.
Wine industry--California, Southern.

Geographic Areas
California, Southern--History--19th century--Sources.
California, Southern--History--20th century--Sources.
California, Southern--Social life and customs--19th century--Sources.
California, Southern--Social life and customs--20th century--Sources.
Pasadena (Calif.)--History--19th century--Sources.
Pasadena (Calif.)--History--20th century--Sources.
Genre
Account books -- California -- 19th century.
Diaries -- California -- 19th century.
Ephemera -- California -- 19th century.
Letters (correspondence) -- California -- 19th century.
Receipts -- California -- 19th century.

Correspondence, business records, and manuscripts.

Box 1

Florence, Ala. WN 1680.

Vicksburg, Miss. WN 1681

Salisbury, N.C. WN 1283.

[approximately 1830s?]. Fragment of letter to Margaret S. Hereford Hereford Wilson.
Decatur, Ga. WN 2265.

[1840], February 29. Margaret S. Hereford Hereford Wilson. Letter to Thomas A.
Hereford. WN 1369.

Hereford. Pontotoc, Miss. WN 1831.

Tuscumbia, Ala. WN 1376.

Hereford. Pontotoc, Miss. WN 1832.

Tuscumbia, Ala. WN 1375.

Tuscumbia, Ala. WN 1377.

[before 1841?]. Margaret S. Hereford Hereford Wilson. A glimpse at female biography: [essay].

1841, April 5-10. Alabama Courts. Franklin County. Appointment of Thomas A.
Hereford as guardian for minor heirs of Thomas Sublette Hereford. Russellville,
Ala. WN 1147.

1842, June 2-5. Margaret S. Hereford Hereford Wilson. Letter to Thomas A.
Hereford. Tuscaloosa, Ala. WN 1833.

Snickersville, Virginia. WN 1523.

1842, September 18. George Fitzhugh. Letter to Thomas A. Hereford. Port Royal,
Virginia. WN 1284.

St. Louis, Missouri. WN 1648.

WN 1646.

WN 1647.

California. WN 2225.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Correspondence Type</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1845, Sept 30</td>
<td>S. Ortigosa</td>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>Letter of introduction for James Kirken to Pedro Maria Anaya</td>
<td>WN 1494</td>
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<tr>
<td>1846, Aug 3</td>
<td>Margaret S. Hereford</td>
<td>St. Louis, Missouri</td>
<td>Letter to Thomas A. Hereford</td>
<td>WN 1834</td>
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<td>1846, Aug 8</td>
<td>Thomas A. Hereford</td>
<td>Blue Lick Spring, Ky.</td>
<td>Letter to Margaret S. Hereford Hereford Wilson</td>
<td>WN 1378</td>
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<tr>
<td>[1846], Aug 24</td>
<td>Thomas A. Hereford</td>
<td>Harrodsburg, Ky.</td>
<td>Letter to Margaret S. Hereford Hereford Wilson</td>
<td>WN 1379</td>
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<tr>
<td>1846, Dec 14</td>
<td>Thomas A. Hereford</td>
<td>St. Louis, Missouri</td>
<td>Letter to Margaret S. Hereford Hereford Wilson</td>
<td>WN 1380</td>
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<td>1846, Dec 28</td>
<td>Thomas A. Hereford</td>
<td>St. Louis, Missouri</td>
<td>Letter to Margaret S. Hereford Hereford Wilson</td>
<td>WN 1381</td>
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<tr>
<td>1847, Jan 3</td>
<td>Frances S. Hereford</td>
<td>Sulphur Springs Farm, Missouri</td>
<td>Letter to Margaret S. Hereford Hereford Wilson</td>
<td>WN 1641</td>
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<tr>
<td>1847, Jan 17</td>
<td>Mary Catharine Hereford Cooper</td>
<td>St. Louis, Missouri</td>
<td>Letter to Margaret S. Hereford Hereford Wilson</td>
<td>WN 1254</td>
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<td>1847, Feb 15</td>
<td>Mary Catharine Hereford Cooper</td>
<td>St. Louis, Missouri</td>
<td>Letter to Thomas A. Hereford</td>
<td>WN 1253</td>
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<td>1847, Apr 6</td>
<td>Margaret S. Hereford</td>
<td>Independence, Missouri</td>
<td>Letter to Thomas A. Hereford</td>
<td>WN 1835</td>
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<td>1847, Apr 8</td>
<td>Thomas A. Hereford</td>
<td>Independence, Missouri</td>
<td>Letter to Margaret S. Hereford Hereford Wilson</td>
<td>WN 1382</td>
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<td>1847, Apr 19</td>
<td>Margaret S. Hereford</td>
<td>Independence, Missouri</td>
<td>Letter to Thomas A. Hereford</td>
<td>WN 1836</td>
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<td>1847, Apr 20</td>
<td>Thomas A. Hereford</td>
<td>Independence, Missouri</td>
<td>Letter to Margaret S. Hereford Hereford Wilson</td>
<td>WN 1383</td>
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<tr>
<td>1847, Apr 24</td>
<td>Micah Tarver</td>
<td>St. Louis, Missouri</td>
<td>Letter to Edward S. Hereford</td>
<td>WN 2326</td>
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<tr>
<td>1847, Apr 28</td>
<td>Thomas A. Hereford</td>
<td>Independence, Missouri</td>
<td>Letter to Margaret S. Hereford Hereford Wilson</td>
<td>WN 1384</td>
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<tr>
<td>1847, May 5</td>
<td>Benjamin Davis Wilson</td>
<td>Los Angeles, California</td>
<td>Account of property taken by the insurgents at Jurupa belonging to Benjamin D. Wilson</td>
<td>WN 1802</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1847, May 7</td>
<td>Thomas A. Hereford</td>
<td>Santa Fe, New Mexico</td>
<td>Letter to Margaret S. Hereford Hereford Wilson</td>
<td>WN 1385</td>
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<tr>
<td>1847, June 8</td>
<td>Thomas A. Hereford</td>
<td>Cimarron, New Mexico</td>
<td>Letter to Margaret S. Hereford Hereford Wilson</td>
<td>WN 1386</td>
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<tr>
<td>1847, June 10</td>
<td>Thomas A. Hereford</td>
<td>Upper Cimarron Spring</td>
<td>Letter to Margaret S. Hereford Hereford Wilson</td>
<td>WN 1387</td>
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<tr>
<td>1847, July 4</td>
<td>Thomas A. Hereford</td>
<td>Santa Fe, New Mexico</td>
<td>Letter to Margaret S. Hereford Hereford Wilson</td>
<td>WN 1388</td>
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<tr>
<td>1847, July 26</td>
<td>Thomas A. Hereford</td>
<td>Santa Fe, New Mexico</td>
<td>Letter to Margaret S. Hereford Hereford Wilson</td>
<td>WN 1389</td>
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<tr>
<td>1847, Aug 28</td>
<td>Isadora Pico</td>
<td>San Juan Capistrano, California</td>
<td>Letter to Benjamin Davis Wilson</td>
<td>WN 2134</td>
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<tr>
<td>1847, Aug 28</td>
<td>Micah Tarver</td>
<td>St. Louis, Missouri</td>
<td>Letter to Margaret S. Hereford Hereford Wilson</td>
<td>WN 1649</td>
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<td>1847, Sept 22</td>
<td>A.B. Minor</td>
<td>San Francisco, California</td>
<td>Letter to Benjamin Davis Wilson</td>
<td>WN 2285</td>
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<tr>
<td>1847, Nov 23</td>
<td>Margaret Hereford</td>
<td>San Francisco, California</td>
<td>Letter to Rambler Hereford</td>
<td>WN 1368</td>
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<tr>
<td>1847-1853</td>
<td>Benjamin Davis Wilson</td>
<td>Miscellaneous papers regarding the California Battalion</td>
<td>Miscellaneous papers regarding the California Battalion</td>
<td>WN 1014</td>
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<tr>
<td>1848, Jan 9</td>
<td>C. S. Bartow</td>
<td>San Francisco, California</td>
<td>Letter to Benjamin Davis Wilson</td>
<td>WN 1934</td>
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<tr>
<td>1848, Feb 11</td>
<td>Albert Packard</td>
<td>San Pedro, California</td>
<td>Letter to Benjamin Davis Wilson</td>
<td>WN 2093</td>
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<tr>
<td>1848, March 20</td>
<td>Esther Hereford and Mary Hereford</td>
<td>Letter to Ludwell Luckett. St. Louis, Missouri</td>
<td>Letter to Ludwell Luckett. St. Louis, Missouri</td>
<td>WN 2310</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
1848, August 5. James McKinlay. Agreement for sale of house to Benjamin Davis Wilson. Los Angeles, California. WN 2404.
1848, August 5. James McKinlay. Agreement for sale of house to Benjamin Davis Wilson. Los Angeles, California. WN 2405.
1848, August Margaret S. Hereford Hereford Wilson. Letter to Esther Sale Hereford. Santa Fe, New Mexico. WN 1825.

Box 2

Correspondence, business records, and manuscripts. 1849, January-July.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>1849, March 23</td>
<td>Albert Packard. Promissory note to Ross, Benton &amp; Co. San Francisco, California.</td>
<td>WN 2096</td>
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<tr>
<td>1849, March 28</td>
<td>Neeley Dobson. Receipt to Benjamin Davis Wilson. Los Angeles, California.</td>
<td>WN 1970</td>
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<tr>
<td>1849, March 29</td>
<td>Damaso Lopez. Letter of recommendation for Thomas A. Hereford to Lorenzo Lopez. Santa Fe, New Mexico.</td>
<td>WN 1449</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1849, March 29</td>
<td>Albert Packard. Letter to Cross, Hobson &amp; Co. San Francisco, California.</td>
<td>WN 2100</td>
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<tr>
<td>1849, April 3</td>
<td>Isaac J. Sparks. Receipt to Albert Packard. Santa Barbara, California.</td>
<td>WN 2178</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1849, April 5</td>
<td>James McKinlay. Letter to Benjamin Davis Wilson. Monterey, California.</td>
<td>WN 2070</td>
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<tr>
<td>1849, April 10-11</td>
<td>John C. Bull. Receipt to Albert Packard. San Pedro, California.</td>
<td>WN 1946</td>
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<tr>
<td>1849, April 13</td>
<td>Gorham H. Nye. Receipt to Albert Packard.</td>
<td>WN 2091</td>
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<tr>
<td>1849, April 15</td>
<td>David W. Alexander. Letter to Benjamin D. Wilson &amp; Co. San Pedro, California.</td>
<td>WN 1928</td>
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<tr>
<td>1849, April 18</td>
<td>Albert Packard. Letter to Benjamin Davis Wilson. San Pedro, California.</td>
<td>WN 2097</td>
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<tr>
<td>1849, April 23</td>
<td>George Whittock. Receipt to Albert Packard. San Francisco, California.</td>
<td>WN 2220</td>
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<tr>
<td>1849, April 24</td>
<td>Robert Wells &amp; Co. Receipt to Albert Packard. San Francisco, California.</td>
<td>WN 2212</td>
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<tr>
<td>1849, April 25</td>
<td>Albert Packard. Order to Ross, Benton &amp; Co. San Francisco, California.</td>
<td>WN 2098</td>
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<tr>
<td>1849, April 25</td>
<td>Starky, Jamon &amp; Co. Receipts to Benjamin Davis Wilson. San Francisco, California.</td>
<td>WN 2182</td>
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<tr>
<td>1849, April 25</td>
<td>Ward &amp; Smith. Account and receipt to Albert Packard. San Francisco, California.</td>
<td>WN 2204</td>
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<tr>
<td>1849, April 25</td>
<td>Wilson &amp; Packard. Promissory note to Cross, Hobson &amp; Co. San Francisco, California.</td>
<td>WN 2256</td>
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<tr>
<td>1849, May 2</td>
<td>Vicente Lopez. Bill for sale of mules to Benjamin D. Wilson &amp; Co. Los Angeles, California.</td>
<td>WN 2279</td>
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<tr>
<td>1849, May 4</td>
<td>Jose Maria Rafael del Castillo. Bill of sale for mule to Benjamin D. Wilson &amp; Co. Los Angeles, California.</td>
<td>WN 1953</td>
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<tr>
<td>1849, May 5</td>
<td>James McKinlay. Letter to Benjamin Davis Wilson. Monterey, California.</td>
<td>WN 2071</td>
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<tr>
<td>1849, May 12</td>
<td>Erastus Volney Joice. Letter to Benjamin Davis Wilson. San Diego, California.</td>
<td>WN 2051</td>
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<tr>
<td>1849, May 23</td>
<td>Elias K. Kane. Letter to Benjamin Davis Wilson. Los Angeles, California.</td>
<td>WN 2056</td>
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<tr>
<td>1849, May 23</td>
<td>W. L. Thayer. Receipt for trunks. Los Angeles, California.</td>
<td>WN 2200</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1849, May 28</td>
<td>Manuel Alvarez et al. Letter of recommendation for Thomas A. Hereford to the Citizens of Chihuahua, Mexico. Santa Fe, New Mexico.</td>
<td>WN 1150</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1849, May 28</td>
<td>James McKinlay. Letter to Benjamin Davis Wilson. Monterey, California.</td>
<td>WN 2072</td>
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<tr>
<td>1849, May</td>
<td>Thomas A. Hereford. Letter to Esther Sale Hereford. Santa Fe, New Mexico.</td>
<td>WN 1371</td>
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<td>1849, June 1</td>
<td>John Charles Fremont. Letter to Benjamin Davis Wilson. Tulare Lake, California.</td>
<td>WN 1997</td>
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<tr>
<td>1849, June 4</td>
<td>Albert Packard. Promissory note to Thomas Oliver Larkin. Monterey, Calif.</td>
<td>WN 2099</td>
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<tr>
<td>1849, June 11</td>
<td>Benjamin Davis Wilson. Receipt for account of Juan Matias Sanchez to Teodosio Yorba.</td>
<td>WN 2226</td>
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</table>

Correspondence, business records, and manuscripts. 1849, August-December.
[1849], November [Thomas A. Hereford. Letter fragment. [Chihuahua, Mexico]. WN 1395.
[1849]. Elias K. Kane. Extract of mail schedule between Monterey and San Diego to Benjamin D. Wilson & Co. Los Angeles, California. WN 2058.
[1849]. S.H. Williams & Co. Accounts to Alexander Bell. WN 2224.

Box 4

Correspondence, business records, and manuscripts. 1850, January-June.
1850, February Vicenta Sanchez. Letter to Albert Packard. WN 2156.

**Box 5**

**Correspondence, business records, and manuscripts. 1850, July-December.**
1850, August 24. Samuel R. Dummer. Deed to Jose Antonio Ezequiel Carrillo for a mortgage for a lot in the city of Los Angeles. Los Angeles, California. WN 1273.
1850, September 12. Jose Cerbolo Barilla and Benjamin Davis Wilson. Affidavit regarding payment of $100. Los Angeles, California. WN 1933.
1850, September J. Whiting. Bill to City of Los Angeles. Los Angeles, California. WN 2217.
1850. California Legislature. Bill...concerning cutting of timber. WN 159.

Box 6
1851, April 30. Wilson & Packard. Receipt to Tomas A. Sanchez. Los Angeles, California. WN 2259.
1851, June 23. Thomas A. Hereford. Preemption claim to land in Wilmington to the County Judge of Los Angeles County. Los Angeles, California. WN 1394.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tr>
<td>1851, December 31</td>
<td>John Reed. Letter to Sanford.</td>
<td>WN 2144.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>[1851?]. J.B. Stevens. Letter to William T.B. Sanford.</td>
<td>WN 2185.</td>
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**Box 7**

Correspondence, business records, and manuscripts. 1852-1853, September.

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>1852, January 11</td>
<td>Isaac J. Sparks. Letter to Benjamin Davis Wilson. Santa Barbara, California.</td>
<td>WN 2181.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1852, October 27</td>
<td>Letter to Benjamin Davis Wilson. Santa Ana, California.</td>
<td>WN 1119.</td>
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<td>1852, October 29</td>
<td>Edward Fitzgerald Beale. Letter to the Department of Indian Affairs.</td>
<td>WN 104.</td>
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Box 8

Correspondence, business records, and manuscripts. 1853, October-1855.
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Subject</th>
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<tr>
<td>1853, Nov. 8</td>
<td>Benjamin Davis Wilson. Letter to Edward Fitzgerald Beale. Los Angeles, California.</td>
<td>WN 1020.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1853, Dec. 3</td>
<td>Matthew Keller and Mary Keller. Mortgage deed to Benjamin Davis Wilson.</td>
<td>WN 1422.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1853</td>
<td>Benjamin Davis Wilson. Miscellaneous papers concerning Indian affairs. [3 items].</td>
<td>WN 1029.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>[1853?]</td>
<td>[Maria de Jesus Wilson Shorb]. Letter to [Benjamin Davis Wilson]. San Francisco, California.</td>
<td>WN 819.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[1853?]</td>
<td>[Benjamin Davis Wilson]. [Fragment of condemnation of Abel Stearns for not supporting Americans in the Mexican War].</td>
<td>WN 1804.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[between 1853 and 1856].</td>
<td>California Superintendent of Public Instruction. Order to the State Controller to pay the Treasurer of Los Angeles County. Sacramento, California.</td>
<td>WN 163.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1854, Feb. 6</td>
<td>Maria Victoria Bartholome Reid. Deed for Rancho Huerta de Cuati to Benjamin Davis Wilson.</td>
<td>WN 1528.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1854, Mar. 13</td>
<td>Ozias Morgan et al. Mortgage deed to Benjamin Davis Wilson. Los Angeles, California.</td>
<td>WN 1469.</td>
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<td>1854, March 27</td>
<td>Jacob R. Snyder.</td>
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<td>Charles A. Nash.</td>
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<td>1854, April 4</td>
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<td>1854, May 7</td>
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<td>1854, May 28</td>
<td>Oliver S. Witherby.</td>
<td>Letter to [Benjamin Davis Wilson].</td>
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<td>Letter to [Benjamin Davis Wilson].</td>
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<td>1854, July 4</td>
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<td>1854, September 15</td>
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<td>1855, Jan. 15</td>
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<td>1855, Mar. 5</td>
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<td>1855, May 23</td>
<td>Henry Hancock. Letter to Margaret S. Hereford Hereford Wilson.</td>
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<td>1855, June 4</td>
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<td>1855, Sept. 27</td>
<td>William T.B. Sanford. Deed to portion of Rancho Buenos Aires to Benjamin Davis Wilson.</td>
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<td>WN 1806.</td>
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Correspondence, business records, and manuscripts. 1856, January-June.


1856, February 17. Manuel Requena et al. [Resolutions of a committee representing the City of Los Angeles for purchasing for the Sisters of Charity the house and land of Benjamin D. Wilson on Alameda Street]. Los Angeles, California. WN 751.

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[1856], May 18. Margaret S. Hereford Hereford Wilson. Letter to [Benjamin Davis Wilson]. Aboard the “Golden Gate” off Panama. WN 1863.

Box 10

Correspondence, business records, and manuscripts. 1856, July-December.
1856-1858. Miscellaneous accounts and receipts [6 items]. WN 1916.
[1856]. [Benjamin Davis Wilson?]. Floor plan of Benjamin Davis Wilson’s residence. WN 2255.
[1856]. [Benjamin Davis Wilson]. Speech in California State Senate against review of land titles. WN 2240.
[1856]?]. California Legislature. An act concerning the compensation of the District Attorney of Los Angeles, California. WN 160.
[approximately 1856]. Plat of a lot on Alameda Street. WN 617.
[approximately 1856]. Machado Family. Notes concerning the Machado family with regard to the title of land acquired by Benjamin Davis Wilson. WN 1131.
[approximately 1856]. [Benjamin Davis Wilson]. Letter to unknown. WN 1045.

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[1858?]. John Strother Griffin. Letter to [Benjamin Davis Wilson]. [Los Angeles, California]. WN 324.


1858, 1864. [John B. Wilson]. Trial balance sheets. WN 1814.

Correspondence, business records, and manuscripts. 1859-1862.


1859. John Rains. Papers regarding his services in the Mexican War, entitling him to 160 acres of land [4 items]. WN 743.
1860, November 17. Los Angeles First Presbyterian Church Trustees. Indenture with City of Los Angeles for parcel of land. Los Angeles, California. WN 1451.
[1861?]. Election returns from Los Angeles. WN 152.
[1862?]. Jonathan R. Scott. Letter to Phineas Banning et al. [Los Angeles, California]. WN 789.

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[1864, before June 7]. Anna Ogier. Letter to Margaret S. Hereford Hereford Wilson. WN 1489.
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[1864], October 27. John Strother Griffin. Letter to [Benjamin Davis Wilson]. Los Angeles, California. WN 1310.
1864-1867. U. S. Internal Revenue Department. Distiller’s licenses to Benjamin Davis Wilson. WN unknown

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1866, November 27. E.G. Obear. Statement of sale for lots owned by Esther Sale Hereford in Sublette subdivision. [St. Louis, Mo.]. WN 1482.

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Box 18

Correspondence, business records, and manuscripts. 1869.

1869, August 18. [Annie Wilson?]. Letter to [Maria de Jesus Wilson Shorb]. Lake Vineyard, California. WN 975.
1869, December 28. Benjamin Davis Wilson. Deed to lot in Wilmington, Calif., to Peter Hansen. Los Angeles, California. WN 1731.
1869-1872. Miscellaneous papers pertaining to Drum Barracks, Wilmington, Calif. [4 items]. WN 1130.

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<td>1870, February 14</td>
<td>Margaret S. Hereford Hereford Wilson</td>
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Francisco, California. WN 1153.

1871, May 19. California District Court, 17th Judicial District. Complaint and

execution in the case of Samuel B. Caswell vs. Edward Sublette Hereford. Los

Angeles, California. WN 1245.


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1871, November 18. Annie Wilson. Letter to [Margaret S. Hereford Hereford

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1871, November 23. Ruth Wilson Patton. Letter to Maria de Jesus Wilson Shorb

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1871, December 3. Benjamin Davis Wilson. Letter to [Margaret S. Hereford

Hereford Wilson]... Sacramento, California. WN 1791.


Davis Wilson]. Lake Vineyard, California. WN 1885.


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San Francisco, California. WN 488.

1871, December 13. Benjamin Davis Wilson. Letter to [Ruth Wilson Patton and

Annie Patton]... Sacramento, California. WN 1743.

1871, December 15. Benjamin Davis Wilson. Letter to [Margaret S. Hereford

Hereford Wilson]... Sacramento, California. WN 1792.


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1871, December 17. Benjamin Davis Wilson. Letter to [Ruth Wilson Patton and

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Hereford Wilson.. [San Francisco, California]. WN 1794.

1871, December 27. [Annie Wilson]. Letter to Benjamin Davis Wilson. Lake

Vineyard, California. WN 1705.


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1871, December 31. Margaret S. Hereford Hereford Wilson. Letter to Benjamin

Davis Wilson. Lake Vineyard, California. WN 1887.


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1871-1879. Miscellaneous accounts and receipts [26 items]. WN 1918.


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al. [Los Angeles, Calif]. WN 552.


Wilson.. Sacramento, California. WN 1745.

1872, January 5. Margaret S. Hereford Hereford Wilson. Letter to Benjamin Davis

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<td>1872, Feb 9</td>
<td>James Denman. Letter to Benjamin Davis Wilson. San Francisco, California.</td>
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<td>John Strother Griffin. Letter to Benjamin Davis Wilson. Los Angeles, California.</td>
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<td>California Legislature. Act to ratify and confirm the incorporation of the town of Wilmington, California.</td>
<td>WN 1247</td>
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<td>1872, Feb 12</td>
<td>James F. Burns. Letter to Benjamin Davis Wilson. Los Angeles, California.</td>
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<td>1872, Feb 16</td>
<td>Phineas Banning. Letter to Benjamin Davis Wilson. Los Angeles, California.</td>
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<td>1872, Feb 16</td>
<td>Matthew Keller. Letter to Benjamin Davis Wilson. Los Angeles, California.</td>
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<td>1872, March 2</td>
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<td>1872, August 31</td>
<td>J. Mosher</td>
<td>Letter to Benjamin Davis Wilson</td>
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<td>1872, September 3</td>
<td>Herman Jacoby</td>
<td>Letter to Benjamin Davis Wilson</td>
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<td>L.D. Palmer</td>
<td>Letter to Benjamin Davis Wilson</td>
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<td>1872, October 9</td>
<td>William S. Hereford</td>
<td>Letter to Annie Wilson</td>
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<td>1872, October 16</td>
<td>William S. Hereford</td>
<td>Letter to Margaret S. Hereford</td>
<td>WN 1407</td>
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<td>1872, October 17</td>
<td>Frederick W. Mitchell</td>
<td>Letter to Benjamin Davis Wilson</td>
<td>WN 624</td>
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<td>1872, October 26</td>
<td>Phineas Banning</td>
<td>Letter to Benjamin Davis Wilson</td>
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<td>1872, October 29</td>
<td>Henry Douglas Bacon</td>
<td>Letter to Benjamin Davis Wilson</td>
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<td>1872, November 2</td>
<td>William S. Hereford</td>
<td>Letter to Ruth Wilson Patton</td>
<td>WN 1399</td>
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<td>1872, November 21</td>
<td>Davis W. Alexander</td>
<td>Letter to Benjamin Davis Wilson</td>
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<td>Charles Higbee et al.</td>
<td>Letter regard character</td>
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|                      |                               | recommendation of David M. Doremies.  
|                      |                               | Pelham, N.Y.                    |           |
|                      | [1872?].Benjamin Davis Wilson. | Agreement regarding donation of land in   
|                      |                               | Wilmington, Calif., to the Southern Methodist Conference for Wilson College. | WN 2243   |
|                      |                               |                                  |           |
| 1872, December 2     | J.W. Dallar?                   | Letter to Benjamin Davis Wilson | WN 201    |
| 1872, December 12    | John Fischer et al.            | Letter to Benjamin Davis Wilson | WN 294    |
| 1872, December 21    | U. S. Department of the Interior Pension Office | Letter to  
|                      |                               | Benjamin Davis Wilson.  
|                      |                               | Washington, D.C.                | WN 905    |
|                      | [1872?].California Legislature. | An act to authorize Phineas Banning to purchase   
|                      |                               | certain Tide lands in Los Angeles County. | WN 162    |
| 1872, January 2      | J.B. Saunders                  | Letter to Benjamin Davis Wilson | WN 779    |
|                      |                               | Wailuku Maui, Hawaii.           |           |
| 1872, January 4      | Phineas Banning                | Letter to Benjamin Davis Wilson | WN 70     |
|                      |                               | Washington, D.C.                |           |
| 1873, January 4      | Adolf Eberhart                 | Letter to Benjamin Davis Wilson | WN 282    |
| 1873, January 8      | California District Court      | 18th Judicial District.  Complaint of  
|                      |                               | plaintiffs and summons in the case of R. W. Rives et al. vs. Ynes Yorba de Cota et  
|                      |                               | San Bernardino, California.      | WN 158    |
| 1873, January 15     | Phineas Banning                | Letter to David W. Alexander    | WN 80     |
|                      |                               | Washington, D.C.                |           |
| 1873, January 16     | John H. Lyman                  | Letter to Benjamin Davis Wilson | WN 582    |
| 1873, January 19     | James Holden Lander            | Letter to Benjamin Davis Wilson | WN 528    |
| 1873, January 28     | John H. Lyman                  | Letter to Benjamin Davis Wilson | WN 1455   |
| 1873, January 18     | Eldridge Edwards Hewitt        | Letter to Benjamin Davis Wilson | WN 440    |
|                      |                               | Wilmington, California.         |           |
1873, August 29. Benjamin Davis Wilson. Deed to land in Wilmington, Calif., donated by Benjamin Davis Wilson to the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, for a college at Wilmington, send to W.A. Spurlock. Los Angeles, California. WN 1749.

Box 23

Correspondence, business records, and manuscripts. 1874-1875.
1875, January 2. Benjamin Davis Wilson. Agreement with W.A. Spurlock and others for a grant of land to be held in trust for the Methodist Episcopal Church South for the purpose of maintaining a Literary College in Wilmington, Calif. Los Angeles, California. WN 2244.
[approximately 1875]. Benjamin Davis Wilson and James DeBarth Shorb. Agreement with Charles A. Sumner regarding water rights for the San Gabriel Hotel. WN 1809.

Box 24

Correspondence, business records, and manuscripts. 1876-1877.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name of Correspondent</th>
<th>Letter to</th>
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<td>1876, Feb 14</td>
<td>Joseph Kilrod</td>
<td>Benjamin Davis Wilson</td>
<td>Wilmington, California</td>
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<td>1876, Feb 15</td>
<td>John H. Lyman</td>
<td>Benjamin Davis Wilson</td>
<td>Northampton, Mass.</td>
<td>585</td>
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<tr>
<td>1876, Feb 16</td>
<td>Jeanie Spring Johns</td>
<td>Benjamin Davis Wilson</td>
<td>Perth Amboy, N.J.</td>
<td>63</td>
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<td>1876, Mar 11</td>
<td>W. L. Oge</td>
<td>Benjamin Davis Wilson</td>
<td>Los Angeles, California</td>
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<td>1876, Mar 12</td>
<td>Mary E. Moore</td>
<td>Benjamin Davis Wilson</td>
<td>Los Angeles, California</td>
<td>627</td>
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<td>1876, Mar 12</td>
<td>James DeBarth Shorb</td>
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<td>San Francisco, California</td>
<td>817</td>
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<td>1876, Mar 13</td>
<td>H.H. Spaulding</td>
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<td>1876, Mar 12</td>
<td>James DeBarth Shorb</td>
<td>Benjamin Davis Wilson</td>
<td>San Francisco, California</td>
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<td>1876, Mar 13</td>
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<td>Perth Amboy, N.J.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1876, Mar 27</td>
<td>Jeanie Spring Johns</td>
<td>[Mary E. Moore]</td>
<td>[Perth Amboy, N.J.]</td>
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<td>1876, Apr  8</td>
<td>Peter Dinwiddie Wigginton</td>
<td>Benjamin Davis Wilson</td>
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<td>Edward Lancaster Watkins</td>
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<td>1876, Apr 16</td>
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<td>1876, Apr 17</td>
<td>Albert Lusk &amp; Co.</td>
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<td>Maria de Jesus Wilson Shorb</td>
<td>Benjamin Davis Wilson</td>
<td>[San Francisco, Calif.]</td>
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<td>Joseph Kilrod</td>
<td>Benjamin Davis Wilson</td>
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<td>Benjamin Davis Wilson</td>
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<td>1876, May 17</td>
<td>Frederick A. MacDougall</td>
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<td>1876, May 18</td>
<td>William McKendree Gwin</td>
<td>Benjamin Davis Wilson</td>
<td>San Francisco, California</td>
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1876, June 1. Mary E. Moore. Letter to Benjamin Davis Wilson. Los Angeles, California. WN 629.
1876. Margaret S. Hereford Hereford Wilson. Last will and testament. San Gabriel, California. WN 1900.
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<th>Date</th>
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<td>1877, June 19</td>
<td>American Pipe Co.</td>
<td>San Francisco, California</td>
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<td>1877, June 26</td>
<td>Jeremiah W. Gale &amp; Co.</td>
<td>San Francisco, California</td>
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<td>[1877?], July 10. Edward Lancaster Watkins</td>
<td>Wilmington, California</td>
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<td>Charles Cabot</td>
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<td>David W. Alexander</td>
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<td>J.J. Maxwell</td>
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<td>John D. Thorne</td>
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<td>[1877?], August 12. Edward Lancaster Watkins</td>
<td>Fort Yuma, Ariz.</td>
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<td>Nichols, Blum &amp; Co.</td>
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<td>John H. Lyman</td>
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<td>1877, October 24</td>
<td>Alfred Beck Chapman</td>
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<td>1877, November 13</td>
<td>A.M. Campbell</td>
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<td>1877, December 1</td>
<td>Mary Hollister Banning</td>
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<td>Caius Tacitus? Ryland</td>
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<td>[1877?], December 15. Howe &amp; Hall.</td>
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<td>1877, December 16</td>
<td>Hubert Howe Bancroft</td>
<td>San Francisco, California</td>
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<td>[1877?]. Letter to [Benjamin Davis Wilson].</td>
<td>(Stanstead, Quebec)</td>
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<td>[after 1877]. [Ruth Wilson Patton].</td>
<td>[Lake Vineyard, California]</td>
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Correspondence, business records, and manuscripts. 1878-1879.

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<td>1878, January 4</td>
<td>Frederick W. Wood.</td>
<td>Los Angeles, California</td>
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<td>Baker, Hamilton &amp; Truman.</td>
<td>San Francisco, California</td>
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<td>1878, February 2</td>
<td>Santos Ocano.</td>
<td>Los Angeles, California</td>
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<td>1878, February 8</td>
<td>James DeBarth Shorb.</td>
<td>San Francisco, California</td>
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<td>1878, February 12</td>
<td>J. Strelitz.</td>
<td>Los Angeles, California</td>
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<td>Doolittle, Webster &amp; Co.</td>
<td>Detroit, Mich.</td>
<td>WN 230</td>
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<td>1878, February 14</td>
<td>L.J. Farnam.</td>
<td>Lexington, Ky.</td>
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<td>1878, February 19</td>
<td>James DeBarth Shorb.</td>
<td>San Francisco, California</td>
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<td>1878, February 22</td>
<td>Clara M. Foord.</td>
<td>(Los Angeles, Calif.)</td>
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<td>1878, February 23</td>
<td>James DeBarth Shorb.</td>
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<td>Lake Vineyard Land &amp; Water Association.</td>
<td>Los Angeles, California</td>
<td>WN 521</td>
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1878, March 4. [Benjamin Davis Wilson]. [Draft of article or speech on control of Washington Harbor]. WN 1808.
1878, April 15. Frank A. Gibson. Letter to [Margaret S. Hereford Wilson]. Los Angeles, California. WN 1291.

Box 26

Correspondence, business records, and manuscripts. 1880-1881, July.
[approximately 1880]. Medical prescriptions [3 items]. WN 1133.


Box 27 Correspondence, business records, and manuscripts. 1881, October-1882.


[approximately 1881]. Survey of boundary of Mayberry-Shorb property. WN 1920.


[1882, February 7]. Maria de Jesus Wilson Shorb. Letter to Atherton. [San Francisco, California]. WN 839.


Box 28

Correspondence, business records, and manuscripts. 1883-1884, September.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Recipient</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<td>1884, [June?]</td>
<td>B. S. Adams.</td>
<td>[Annie Wilson and Ruth Wilson Patton].</td>
<td>Monterey, California.</td>
<td>WN 2</td>
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<td>1884, July 3</td>
<td>Carrie H. Adams.</td>
<td>Margaret S. Hereford. Hereford Wilson.</td>
<td>San Gabriel, California.</td>
<td>WN 4</td>
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<td>1884, July 8</td>
<td>Edward Sublette Hereford.</td>
<td>Margaret S. Hereford. Hereford Wilson.</td>
<td>Lake Vineyard, California.</td>
<td>WN 408</td>
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<td>1884, July 9</td>
<td>James M. Tiernan.</td>
<td>Annie Wilson.</td>
<td>San Gabriel, California.</td>
<td>WN 902</td>
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<td>James Tiernan.</td>
<td>Annie Wilson.</td>
<td>San Gabriel, California.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1884, July 15</td>
<td>Ynez Shorb White Buck.</td>
<td>Ruth Wilson Patton.</td>
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<td>WN 139</td>
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<td>1884, July 28</td>
<td>William Banning.</td>
<td>Ruth Wilson Patton.</td>
<td>Wilmington, California.</td>
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<td>[1884?], July 30</td>
<td>Sophie E. McPherson.</td>
<td>Ruth Wilson Patton.</td>
<td>Monterey, California.</td>
<td>WN 597</td>
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<td>[1884?], August 10</td>
<td>Mary B. Collier.</td>
<td>Margaret S. Hereford Hereford Wilson.</td>
<td>Monterey, California.</td>
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<td>[1884, August 21?]</td>
<td>Maria de Jesus Wilson Shorb.</td>
<td>Annie Wilson.</td>
<td>San Marino, California.</td>
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<td>1884, August 27</td>
<td>A. Glassell Patton.</td>
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<td>[New Tacoma, Wash.].</td>
<td>WN 694</td>
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<td>[1884], September 14</td>
<td>Sophie E. McPherson.</td>
<td>Ruth Wilson Patton.</td>
<td>San Francisco, California.</td>
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Correspondence, business records, and manuscripts. 1884, October-1885, May.


[1885, April 3?]. Sophie E. McPherson. Letter to Annie Wilson. En route to Deming, New Mexico. WN 603.


Box 30

Correspondence, business records, and manuscripts. 1885, June-December.
1885, June 1. Ruth Wilson Patton. Letter to Annie Wilson. [San Gabriel, California].
   WN 709.
   WN 710.
   WN 1005.
   Lake Vineyard, California. WN 1085.
   WN 1006.
   WN 988.
   WN 1007.
   WN 711.
   WN 965.
   WN 1086.
   WN 989.
   WN 856.
   WN 1087.
   WN 712.
   WN 1008.
   WN 1088.
[1885, June 22?]. Maria de Jesus Wilson Shorb. Letter to [Margaret S. Hereford Hereford Wilson]. [San Francisco, California].
   WN 833.
   WN 222.
   WN 845.
   WN 2391.
   WN 699.
   WN 435.
   WN 966.
   WN 607.
   WN 967.
   WN 760.
   WN 785.
   WN 420.

Box 31

Correspondence, business records, and manuscripts. 1886-1887.


[1887, September 8?]. Maria E. Lawrence Kip. Letter to Annie Wilson. WN 1426.


Box 32

Correspondence, business records, and manuscripts. 1888-1893.
[1889, June 7]. [Maria de Jesus Wilson Shorb]. Letter to Annie Wilson. [San Marino, California]. WN 848.
[approximately 1890]. Directions for playing the game “Boston.” WN 1134.

Box 33

Correspondence, business records, and miscellaneous. 1894-1941 and undated.

Benjamin Davis Wilson Collection mssWN 1-2419 83
1941. Missouri Circuit Court of St. Louis. Printed court case re: Sublette Estate. WN 2288.
Correspondence, business records, and manuscripts.

Box 34

Business accounts. 1850-1889.
1850-1859. Receipts, bills, etc. WN 1135 (1).
   Physical Description: 10 items.

1860-1862. Receipts, bills, etc. WN 1135 (2).
   Physical Description: 34 items.

1863. Receipts, bills, etc. WN 1135 (3).
   Physical Description: 27 items.

1864. Receipts, bills, etc. WN 1135 (4).
   Physical Description: 48 items.

1865. Receipts, bills, etc. WN 1135 (5).
   Physical Description: 24 items.

1866. Receipts, bills, etc. WN 1135 (6).
   Physical Description: 25 items.

1867. Receipts, bills, etc. WN 1135 (7).
   Physical Description: 12 items.

1868-1869. Receipts, bills, etc. WN 1135 (8).
   Physical Description: 33 items.

1870-1879. Receipts, bills, etc. WN 1135 (9).
   Physical Description: 31 items.

1880-1884. Receipts, bills, etc. WN 1135 (10).
   Physical Description: 46 items.

1885. Receipts, bills, etc. WN 1135 (11).
   Physical Description: 24 items.

1886. Receipts, bills, etc. WN 1135 (12).
   Physical Description: 15 items.

1887-1889. Receipts, bills, etc. WN 1135 (13).
   Physical Description: 12 items.

Box 35

Personal and household accounts. 1850-1889.
1850-1859. Receipts, bills, etc. WN 1136 (1).
   Physical Description: 40 items.

1860-1862. Receipts, bills, etc. WN 1136 (2).
   Physical Description: 16 items.

1863-1865. Receipts, bills, etc. WN 1136 (3).
   Physical Description: 9 items.
1866-1869. Receipts, bills, etc. WN 1136 (4).
   Physical Description: 20 items.

1870-1877. Receipts, bills, etc. WN 1136 (5).
   Physical Description: 14 items.

1880-1884. Receipts, bills, etc. WN 1136 (6).
   Physical Description: 45 items.

1885. Receipts, bills, etc. WN 1136 (7).
   Physical Description: 47 items.

1886. Receipts, bills, etc. WN 1136 (8).
   Physical Description: 28 items.

1887-1889. Receipts, bills, etc. WN 1136 (9).
   Physical Description: 32 items.

Box 36
Invoice and account books. 1850-1873.

Box 37
Lake Vineyard Ranch notebooks. 1873-1884.
   1876-1884. [Lake Vineyard Land & Water Co.]. Notebook on land, water, vintage,
   etc. WN 1911.

Diaries, letterbook, and school notebooks

Box 38
Diaries, letterbook, and school notebooks. 1863-after 1887.
   1884-1898. Unknown author. Diary. WN 2400.
   [Undated]. Anne W. Patton. School lesson books. WN 1137 (2-7).

Ephemera

Box 39
Newspaper clippings, invitations, cards, etc. approximately 1850s-1880s.
   approximately 1850s. Newspaper clippings.
      Physical Description: 21 items.
   approximately 1890s. Newspaper clippings.
      Physical Description: 40 items.
   approximately 1890s. Invitations, cards, and envelopes.
      Physical Description: 40 items.
Box 40

**Miscellaneous and ephemera. approximately 1850s-1870s.**

- **Miscellaneous notes.**
  - Physical Description: 37 items.

- **Approximately 1850s-1860s. Assorted wrappers and labels.**
  - Physical Description: 23 items.

- **[Undated]. Benjamin Davis Wilson's Freemason sashes and California Delegate badge.**
  - Physical Description: 3 items.

- **Envelopes.**
  - Physical Description: 46 items.

- **Ephemera.**
  - Physical Description: 4 items.

**Oversize**

**Rolled maps and plans (and oversize)**

Box 41

- **Rolled maps and plans (and oversize). 1853-1900.**
  - 1853. Andrew W. Sublette. Probate of will. WN 2287.
    - Physical Description: 7 items.

- **[Undated]. Plans for a house with estimate by W.B. Booze. WN 2414.**

- **[Undated]. Unidentified plans. WN 2415.**

**Oversize**

- **Rolled plans and maps. approximately 1892-1903.**
  - Physical Description: 4 items.

- **1892-1899. Maps of Oak Grove Subdivision area. WN 2416.**
  - Physical Description: 7 items.

- **1903. Maps of Wilmington, Calif. WN 2417.**
  - Physical Description: 2 items.

- **[Undated]. Maps of the Alhambra Tract WN 2418.**
  - Physical Description: 2 items.

- **[Undated]. Pencil maps of Alhambra Road in the Mill Creek area. WN 2419.**
  - Physical Description: 2 items.

**Oversize Trunk**

- **Deerskin trunk. 1 item.**
  - Physical Description: