

Guide to the Sacramento County (Calif.) County Court records

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Sacramento, CA

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Sacramento County (Calif.) County Court records

Dates: 1850-1879

Collection number: CNTY0011

Creator: Sacramento County (Calif.). County Court

Collection Size: 34.61 linear feet (72 boxes, 36 volumes)

Repository: Center for Sacramento History

Sacramento, California 95811-0229

Abstract: The collection documents cases and other activities of the Sacramento County Court from its establishment in 1850 to its abolishment in 1879 when the Superior Court system was created. The largest portion of the collection is made up of case files for civil and criminal trials. In addition, the collection contains court minutes; criminal and civil judgments; criminal records, registers of actions, and calendars; juror registers; fee books; and other documents.

Physical location: 15:E:4, 15:L:1-2, 21:F:6-11, 21:G:1-4.

Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English

Access

Collection is open for research use.

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Preferred Citation

[Identification of item and/or item number], [box and folder number], CNTY0011, Center for Sacramento History.

Acquisition Information

Acquired from the California State Archives in 1980 (accession #1980/132).

Biography / Administrative History

The County Court of Sacramento County was established by state legislature in 1850. The court was under the supervision of the county judge, and the county clerk served as its clerk. County Court held four regular sessions per year, hearing lower-level civil cases, probate cases, trials of appeals from justices of the peace, and other pending special cases. In 1851, the state's court system was changed, and jurisdiction of probate cases was transferred to the county Probate Court. In 1863, the County Court took over jurisdiction of criminal cases after the Court of Sessions was abolished. In 1879, the County Court was abolished by the state and its functions were transferred to the newly created Superior Court.

Scope and Content of Collection

The collection documents cases and other activities of the Sacramento County Court from its establishment in 1850 to its abolishment in 1879 when the Superior Court system was created. The largest portion of the collection is made up of case files for civil and criminal trials. In addition, the collection contains court minutes; criminal and civil judgments; criminal

records, registers of actions, and calendars; juror registers; fee books; and other documents.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into 3 series:

Series 1. Civil case files, 1850-1879

Series 2. Criminal case files, 1863-1879

Series 3. Other court records, 1850-1879

Indexing Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

Sacramento County (Calif.). County Court

Courts--Sacramento County (Calif.)--Cases

Sacramento County (Calif.)--Trials, litigation, etc.

Series 1. Civil case files, 1850-1879

Series Scope and Content Summary

This series contains case files for individual civil suits brought before the County Court from 1850 to 1879. The types of documents found in each case vary, but common records include complaint, summons, affidavit or proof of service, judgment, and orders relating to change of parties. A searchable index is available, courtesy of Root Cellar Sacramento Genealogical Society; see first item in container list.

Arrangement

This series is arranged chronologically by case number.

Shelf RR Library

Box 1

Box 2

Box 3

Box 4

Box 5

Box 6

Box 7

Box 8

Box 9

Box 10

Box 11

Box 12

Box 13

Box 14

Box 15

Box 16

Box 17

Box 18

Box 19

Box 20

Box 21

Box 22

Box 23

Box 24

Box 25

Box 26

Box 27

Box 28

Box 29

Box 30

Index to civil case files 1863-1879

Case numbers 1-115 1850-1851

Case numbers 116-191 1851-1853

Case numbers 192-240 1853

Case numbers 241-296 1853

Case numbers 297-364 1853-1854

Case numbers 365-433 1854-1855

Case numbers 434-499 1855-1856

Case numbers 500-520 1856

Case numbers 521-275 1856-1857

Case numbers 576-635 1857

Case numbers 635-708 1857-1858

Case numbers 709-782 1858

Case numbers 783-826 1858-1859

Case numbers 827-884 1859

Case numbers 885-923 1860

Case numbers 924-946 1860

Case numbers 947-1000 1860-1861

Case numbers 1001-1055 1860-1862

Case numbers 1056-1105 1861-1862

Case numbers 1106-1160 1862

Case numbers 1161-1200 1862-1863

Case numbers 1200-1241 1863

Case numbers 1242-1280 1863-1864

Case numbers 1281-1305 1864

Case numbers 1306-1358 1864-1865

Case numbers 1359-1409 1865

Case numbers 1410-1453 1865

Case numbers 1454-1504 1865-1866

Case numbers 1505-1593 1866-1867

Case numbers 1594-1642 1867

Box 31	Case numbers 1643-1690 1867-1868
Box 32	Case numbers 1691-1714 1868
Box 33	Case numbers 1715-1763 1868-1869
Box 34	Case numbers 1764-1824 1869-1870
Box 35	Case numbers 1833-1870 1870
Box 36	Case numbers 1871-1913 1870-1871
Box 37	Case numbers 1914-1951 1870-1871
Box 38	Case numbers 1952-1998 1871-1872
Box 39	Case numbers 1999-2026 1872-1873
Box 40	Case numbers 2027-2042 1872-1873
Box 41	Case numbers 2043-2074 1873
Box 42	Case numbers 2075-3011 1873
Box 43	Case numbers 3012-3041 1873
Box 44	Case numbers 3042-3058 1873-1874
Box 45	Case numbers 3059-3096 1874
Box 46	Case numbers 3097-3148 1874-1875
Box 47	Case numbers 3149-3196 1875
Box 48	Case numbers 3197-3239 1875-1876
Box 49	Case numbers 3240-3294 1876
Box 50	Case numbers 3295-3343 1875-1877
Box 51	Case numbers 3344-3370 1877
Box 52	Case numbers 3371-3428 1877
Box 53	Case numbers 3429-3482 1877-1878
Box 54	Case numbers 3483-3528 1878
Box 55	Case numbers 3529-3594 1878-1879
Box 56	Case numbers 3595-3666 1879


Series 2. Criminal case files, 1863-1879**Series Scope and Content Summary**

This series consists of case files for individual criminal suits brought before the County Court from 1863 to 1879. The types of documents found in each case vary, but common records include indictment, challenges by the defendant to the Grand Jury, minutes of the plea or demurrer, minutes of challenges to the jury, minutes of the trial, bill of exceptions, charges, instructions to the jury, and judgment. A searchable index is available; see first item in container list.

Arrangement

This series is arranged chronologically by case number.

Shelf RR Library

	Index to criminal case files 1863-1879 
Box 57	Case numbers 1-130 1863-1865
Box 58	Case numbers 131-266 1865-1866
Box 59	Case numbers 267-385 1866-1868
Box 60	Case numbers 386-561 1868-1869
Box 61	Case numbers 532-703 1869-1871
Box 62	Case numbers 704-808 1871-1872
Box 63	Case numbers 809-830 1872
Box 64	Case numbers 831-882 1872-1873
Box 65	Case numbers 883-920 1873
Box 66	Case numbers 921-1008 1873-1874
Box 67	Case numbers 1009-1119 1874-1875
Box 68	Case numbers 1120-1248 1875-1876
Box 69	Case numbers 1249-1393 1877
Box 70	Case numbers 1394-1553 1877-1878
Box 71	Case numbers 1554-1650 1878
Box 72	Case numbers 1621-1814 1878-1879

Series 3. Other court records, 1850-1879

Series Scope and Content Summary

This series is made up of various documents and records created by the County Court during its existence from 1850 to 1879. Included are court minutes; criminal and civil judgments; criminal records, registers of actions, and calendars; juror registers; fee books; 1860 and 1861 indenture documents for two Native American boys; an 1858 deed signed over to Leland Stanford for property in Sacramento; insane commitments; and other administrative records.

Arrangement

This series is arranged alphabetically.

Shelf SP SV
15:L:2, Volume A

Civil judgment docket 1856-1862

General

This is one of two civil judgment volumes labeled "A," from two different date ranges.

Shelf SP SV
15:L:2, Volume B
Shelf SP SV
15:L:2, Volume A

Civil judgment docket ca. 1862-1878

Civil judgment docket 1874-1879

General

This is one of two civil judgment volumes labeled "A," from two different date ranges.

Shelf SP SV
15:L:1,
Volume 1865-1878

Criminal calendar 1865-1878

General

Spine says "Court of Sessions," but volume includes both Court of Sessions and County Court calendars.

Shelf SP SV
15:L:1, Volume A
Shelf SP SV
15:L:2, Volume A
Shelf SP SV
15:L:2, Volume A
Shelf SP SV
15:L:2, Volume B
Shelf SP SV
15:L:2, Volume B
index
Shelf SP SV
15:L:1,
Volume 1851-1859
Box 56

Criminal calendar 1878-1879

Criminal judgments 1878-1879

Criminal record 1874-1877

Criminal record 1877-1879

Criminal record, index 1877-1879

Criminal register of actions 1851-1859

Deed between Shelton Fogus and Leland Stanford 1858

General

The deed is for land in the City of Sacramento from Shelton Fogus to Leland Stanford, encompassing lots 1 and 2 in the square between N and O, and 8th and 9th streets.

Shelf SP SV
15:L:1,
Volume 1862-1863

Fee book 1862-1863

General

This volume also includes fees logged for Probate Court and Court of Sessions.

Shelf SP SV
15:L:1,
Volume 1864-1866

Fee book 1864-1866

General

Volume includes both Probate Court and County Court.

<p>Shelf SP SV 15:L:1, Volume A</p>	<p>Fee book, civil 1850-1855 General Spine says dates range from 1850-1858.</p>
<p>Shelf SP SV 15:L:1, Volume B</p>	<p>Fee book, civil 1855-1859 General This is one of two civil fee book volumes labeled "B," from two different date ranges.</p>
<p>Shelf SP SV 15:L:1, Volume B</p>	<p>Fee book, civil 1860-1867 General This is one of two civil fee book volumes labeled "B," from two different date ranges.</p>
<p>Shelf SP SV 15:L:1, Volume C</p>	<p>Fee book, civil 1867-1876</p>
<p>Shelf SP SV 15:L:1, Volume D</p>	<p>Fee book, civil 1876-1879</p>
<p>Shelf SP SV 15:L:1, Volume D index</p>	<p>Fee book index, civil 1876-1879</p>
<p>Shelf SP SV 15:L:1, Volume D index</p>	<p>Fee book "D" index, civil and criminal undated</p>
<p>Shelf SP SV 15:L:1, Volume B index</p>	<p>Index to County Court docket, fee book B undated General This index does not appear to correspond to any of the other books in the collection.</p>
<p>Box 56</p>	<p>Indian indentures 1861-1862 General Documents are related to the indenture of two 15-year-old Native American boys.</p>
<p>Box 56</p>	<p>Insane persons commitments 1858 General Contains insane commitment records for Austina Levy and Horace Hyler.</p>
<p>Shelf SP SV 15:L:1, Volume 1860-1870</p>	<p>Jury book 1860-1870</p>
<p>Shelf SP SV 15:L:1, Volume 1870-1879</p>	<p>Jury book 1870-1879 General Volume also includes entries for Court of Sessions.</p>
<p>Shelf SP SV 15:L:2, Volume 1867-1870</p>	<p>Minutes 1867-1870</p>
<p>Shelf SP SV 15:E:4, Volume 1870-1872</p>	<p>Minutes 1870-1872</p>
<p>Shelf SP SV 15:E:4, Volume 1872-1875</p>	<p>Minutes 1872-1875</p>
<p>Shelf SP SV 15:E:4, Volume 1875-1877</p>	<p>Minutes 1875-1877</p>

Shelf SP SV 15:E:4, Volume 1877-1878	Minutes 1877-1878
Shelf SP SV 15:L:1, Volume 1878-1879	Minutes 1878-1879
Shelf SP SV 15:L:2, Volume A	Minutes, civil and criminal 1850-1852
Shelf SP SV 15:L:2, Volume B	Minutes, civil and criminal 1853-1857
Shelf SP SV 15:L:2, Volume B index	Minutes, civil and criminal, index 1853-1857
Shelf SP SV 15:L:2, Volume C	Minutes, civil and criminal 1857-1864
Shelf SP SV 15:L:2, Volume D	Minutes, civil and criminal 1864-1866
Shelf SP SV 15:L:2, Volume E	Minutes, civil and criminal 1866-1871
Shelf SP SV 15:L:2, Volume F	Minutes, civil and criminal 1871-1874
Shelf SP SV 15:L:2, Volume G	Minutes, civil and criminal 1874-1879
Box 56	Unidentified court documents 1854-1874

General

Documents include a statement about the county sheriff finding a suitable room for the County Court to conduct its business (1854); a letter from a judge in Utah asking the Sacramento County Sheriff's Office to locate and question trial witnesses residing in the county, and the sheriff's office response that said witness could not be found (1860); and an arrest warrant for a defaulting juror, with a statement that he was arrested and is now in court (1874).