Guide to the Jefferson Wilcoxson papers

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Collection number: MS0019

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Descriptive Summary
Title: Jefferson Wilcoxson papers
Dates: 1860-1917
Collection number: MS0019
Creator: Wilcoxson, Jefferson
Collection Size: 1.5 linear feet (441 letters)
Repository: Center for Sacramento History
Sacramento, California 95811-0229

Abstract: The Jefferson Wilcoxson Collection is a series of business letters that were written primarily to Jefferson Wilcoxson by relatives and business associates who were involved in the day to day operations of his many business interests in Sacramento, Yolo, and Colusa counties. The Jefferson Wilcoxson Collection is divided into four series: Incoming, Outgoing, Third Party, and Family Correspondence. Within these series are correspondence, meeting notices, a supply catalog, financial information including trial balances and statements of condition, and some photos of relatives that were taken in 1917. The letters date from 1860 to 1917, while the bulk of the letters date from 1870 to 1897.

Physical location: 29B9
Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English
Access
Collection is open for research use.

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Preferred Citation
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Acquisition Information
Purchased from Charles Apfelbaum, Rare Manuscripts and Archives, Watchung, NJ, January. 2003 (Accession# 2003-055)

Processing Information

Biography / Administrative History
Jefferson Wilcoxson was born on February 24, 1809 in Mercer County, Kentucky to Isaac and Priscilla Wilcoxson. In 1819, he immigrated with his family to Missouri.
In 1849, he moved to Weaverville, California with his brother, Jackson. They remained there until the spring of 1850, when they moved to Sacramento. Together they set up a wholesale merchant business, Wilcoxson & Co., on J Street in Sacramento. Wilcoxson & Co. enjoyed a large trade up to 1852, and then closed. After the brothers dissolved their partnership, Jefferson became a member of the firm of Burton & McCarty.
A few years later, Jefferson engaged in the livestock business and became partners in a land owning company with James Farris. They purchased a tract of one thousand seven hundred and eighty acres of land, part of the Hardy grant, located four miles west of Woodland, California. For more than twenty years, Wilcoxson resided on a farm located on the Sacramento River, two miles below Washington (now part of West Sacramento).

He was at various times involved extensively in merchandising, farming, warehousing, banking, land investment, and the livestock business in Colusa, El Dorado, Placer, and Yolo counties. Through his business dealings he acquired property which was estimated to be worth several million dollars in the 1890s.

He died on April 8, 1898.

Scope and Content of Collection

The majority of the collection consists of 405 letters written to Jefferson Wilcoxson between 1870 and 1898. Correspondents consisted of area ranchers and businessmen, family members, and Yolo County officials. They included George W. Applegate, George W. Austin, George Wilcoxson, the Bank of Williams, and the Yolo County Treasurer, among others.

George W. Applegate was a resident of Applegate, California which was named after the large land holdings of his family. He planted a nursery there and cultivated hay and grain. He also organized a vineyard and installed cider mills, wine presses, tanks, and store houses. He grew many types of fruit including: apples, pears, plums, peaches, quinces, figs, and oranges. His letters discuss financial arrangements with Wilcoxson, local news, the production of wine and brandy, and mining operations.

George W. Austin, a nephew of Wilcoxson, also resided in Applegate, California. George’s mother, Mary Elizabeth Wilcoxson Austin, was the daughter of Jefferson’s brother Joseph. Austin’s letters discusses management of Wilcoxson’s ranch in Applegate, including land, cattle, crops, a winery, and the ranch workers. Also detailed in the letters are weather conditions, reports of area fires, and discussions about the development of a county road.

Letters from the Yolo County Treasurer detail the purchase and sale of warrants for the Yolo County General Fund, Contingent Fund, Hospital Fund, and Road Fund. Several letters contain information about the collection of county taxes.

Four letters written by Wilcoxson are included in the collection, as are six letters that are to or between individuals other than Wilcoxson.

The collections also contain several financial documents including one account statement and three receipts.

The collection is arranged into four series: Series 1. Incoming Series 2. Outgoing Series 3. Third Parties Series 4. Family

Arrangement


Indexing Terms

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

Agriculture--California--History
Business enterprises--California--Sacramento Metropolitan Area
Ranching--California
Sacramento (Calif.)--History

“Another Pioneer.” Woodland Daily Democrat. April 8, 1898.

History of Placer County, California, with Illustrations and Biographical Sketches of its Prominent Men and Pioneers. Oakland: Thompson & West, 1882.

An illustrated history of Sacramento County, California: containing a history of Sacramento County from the earliest period of its occupancy to the present time, together with glimpses of its prospective future ... portraits of some of its most eminent men, and biographical mention of many of its pioneers and also prominent citizens of today. Chicago: Lewis Pub. Co., 1890.

The Western shore gazetteer and commercial directory for the state of California ... Yolo County: one volume being devoted to each county of the state, giving a brief history of each county. Woodland, [Calif.]: C.P. Sprague & H.W. Atwell, 1870.
Series 1. Incoming correspondence 1870 – 1897

Physical Description: 25 folders
Series Scope and Content Summary
Letters written to businessman Jefferson Wilcoxson between 1870-1897. Correspondents consisted of area ranchers and businessmen, family members, and Yolo County officials. They included George W. Applegate, George W. Austin, George Wilcoxson, the Bank of Williams, and the Yolo County Treasurer, among others

Box 1.1  Incoming A (Letters 001-021a) 1870 - 1870
Box 1.2  Incoming B (Letters 022-042) 1870 - 1895
Box 1.3  Incoming C (Letters 043-045) 1874 - 1888
Box 1.4  Incoming D (Letters 046-056) 1872 - 1888
Box 1.5  Incoming F to Forbes (Letters 057-084) 1878 – 1887
Box 1.6  Incoming Forbes (Letters 085-109) 1887 - 1888
Box 1.7  Incoming Forbes (Letters 110-128) 1889
Box 1.8  Incoming Forbes (Letters 129-155) 1890 - 1891
Box 1.9  Incoming Forbes (Letters 156-168) 1894
Box 1.10 Incoming Forbes to French (Letters 169-185) 1895 - 1896
Box 1.11 Incoming G (Letters 186-188) 1879 - 1896
Box 1.12 Incoming H (Letters 189-214) 1872 - 1896
Box 1.13 Incoming K (Letters 215-225) 1873 - 1880
Box 1.14 Incoming L to Lee (Letters 226-247) 1872 - 1879
Box 1.15 Incoming Lee to Lowell (Letters 248-272) 1879 - 1890
Box 1.16 Incoming M (Letters 273-277) 1879 - 1897
Box 1.17 Incoming N (Letters 278) 1886
Box 1.18 Incoming P (Letters 279-287) 1876 - 1887
Box 1.19 Incoming R (Letters 288-291) 1877 - 1995
Box 1.20 Incoming S to Stewart (Letters 292-305) 1872 - 1890
Box 1.21 Incoming Stovall to Street (Letters 306-331) 1876 - 1897
Box 1.22 Incoming T (Letters 332-338) 1879 - 1898
Box 1.23 Incoming W to Wilcoxson, C.E. (Letters 339-351) 1878 - 1896
Box 1.24 Incoming Wilcoxson, George H. (Letters 351a-389) 1890 - 1897
Box 1.25 Incoming Wilcoxson, George H. to Woodlawn (Letters 390-405) 1892-1897

Series 2. Outgoing correspondence 1877 - 1885

Physical Description: 1 folder
Series Scope and Content Summary
Letters written by businessman Jefferson Wilcoxson between 1877- 1885

Box 3.6  A to Z (Letters 406-408) 1877 - 1885

Series 3. Third party correspondence 1860 - 1897

Physical Description: 4 folders

Box 3.7  A to D (Letters 409-413) 1879 - 1888
Box 3.8  E to H (Letters 414-424) 1874 - 1897
Box 3.9  I to N (Letters 425-431a) 1860 - 1889
Box 3.10 O to Z (Letters 432-437) 1881 - 1888

Series 4. Wilcoxson family correspondence 1910 - 1917

Physical Description: 1 folder

Box 3.11 A to Z (Letters 438-441) 1910 - 1917