
Guide to the Jefferson Wilcoxson papers

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Collection number: MS0019

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Processed by:

Birdie Boyles and Jim Kay

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Encoded by:

Sean Heyliger

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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

Jefferson Wilcoxson Collection processed by Birdie Boyles and Jim Kay, 2004 - 2007. Finding aid prepared by Jim Kay, 2007.

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

Series 1. Incoming Series 2. Outgoing Series 3. Third Parties Series 4. Family

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 2.1 **Incoming Forbes (Letters 156-168) 1894**
- Box 2.2 **Incoming Forbes to French (Letters 169-185) 1895 - 1896**
- Box 2.3 **Incoming G (Letters 186-188) 1879 - 1896**
- Box 2.4 **Incoming H (Letters 189-214) 1872 - 1896**
- Box 2.5 **Incoming K (Letters 215-225) 1873 - 1880**
- Box 2.6 **Incoming L to Lee (Letters 226-247) 1872 - 1879**
- Box 2.7 **Incoming Lee to Lowell (Letters 248-272) 1879 - 1890**
- Box 2.8 **Incoming M (Letters 273-277) 1879 - 1897**
- Box 2.9 **Incoming N (Letters 278) 1886**
- Box 2.1 **Incoming P (Letters 279-287) 1876 - 1887**
- Box 2.11 **Incoming R (Letters 288-291) 1877 - 1895**
- Box 2.12 **Incoming S to Stewart (Letters 292-305) 1872 - 1890**
- Box 3.1 **Incoming Stovall to Street (Letters 306-331) 1876 - 1897**
- Box 3.2 **Incoming T (Letters 332-338) 1879 - 1898**
- Box 3.3 **Incoming W to Wilcoxson, C.E. (Letters 339-351) 1878 - 1896**
- Box 3.4 **Incoming Wilcoxson, George H. (Letters 351a-389) 1890 - 1897**
- Box 3.5 **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 3.1 **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**