Guide to the Sacramento Swiss Clubs collection

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Guide to the Sacramento Swiss Clubs collection

Collection number: MS0046

Center for Sacramento History
Sacramento, CA

Processed by:
Ruth Craft
Date Completed:
2015
Encoded by:
Sean Heyliger

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Descriptive Summary
Title: Sacramento Swiss Clubs collection
Dates: 1892-2012
Bulk Dates: 1920-2010
Collection number: MS0046
Creator: Sacramento Swiss Ladies Society
Creator: Helvetia Verein
Collection Size: 5.5 linear feet (5 boxes + 1 oversized map drawer)
Repository: Center for Sacramento History
Sacramento, California 95811-0229

Abstract: This collection consists of the records of the Sacramento Swiss Ladies Society and the United Swiss Lodges of California as well as a few documents from the Sacramento Helvetia Verein. The Swiss Ladies Society was a Sacramento organization originally called Sacramento Helvetia Frauen and Toecher Verein. The organization was established in 1922 "to cultivate mutual sociability among its members and rendering financial aid in case of sickness." The Society was open to women of Swiss ancestry. This collection contains many of the club’s meeting minutes and financial records. Together with the men’s Swiss organization, the Helvetia Verein, these two clubs on May 1, 1981 established a parent organization called the United Swiss Lodges of California. This organization permitted the Swiss Ladies Society and The Helvetia Verein to gain nonprofit status. The United Swiss Lodges of California were deeply involved in efforts to erect a statue of John Sutter near Sutter’s Fort and to support the production of a film about John Sutter’s contribution to Sacramento and California.

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], Sacramento Swiss Clubs collection, MS0046, Center for Sacramento History.

Acquisition Information
The Sacramento Swiss Clubs collection was donated to the Center for Sacramento History by the Sacramento Helvetia Verein in 2015 (accession #2015/003).

Processing Information
The Sacramento Swiss Clubs Collection was processed in 2015 by Ruth Craft. The finding aid was prepared in 2015 by Ruth Craft.

**Biography / Administrative History**

The Swiss Ladies Society was a Sacramento organization originally called Sacramento Helvetia Frauen and Toecher Verein. The organization was established in 1922 “to cultivate mutual sociability among its members and rendering financial aid in case of sickness.” The Society was open to women of Swiss ancestry. This collection contains many of the club’s meeting minutes and financial records. Together with the men’s Swiss organization, the Helvetia Verein, these two clubs on May 1, 1981 established a parent organization called the United Swiss Lodges of California. This organization permitted the Swiss Ladies Society and The Helvetia Verein to gain nonprofit status. The United Swiss Lodges of California were deeply involved in efforts to erect a statue of John Sutter near Sutter’s Fort and to support the production of a film about John Sutter’s contribution to Sacramento and California.

**Scope and Content of Collection**

The Sacramento Swiss Clubs collection consists of the records of the Sacramento Swiss Ladies Society and the United Swiss Lodges of California as well as a few documents from the Sacramento Helvetia Verein. The collection is organized into five series: Series 1. Sacramento Swiss Ladies Society, Series 2. Sacramento Helvetia Verein, Series 3. United Swiss Lodges of California, Series 4. Audiovisual material, and Series 5. Artifacts. The Sacramento Swiss Ladies Society series consists mostly of the club’s constitution and bylaws, membership lists, and meeting minutes of the Society. The United Swiss Lodges of California series includes meeting minutes and correspondence of the organization and records documenting its efforts to erect a statue of John Sutter near Sutter’s Fort and to support the production of a film about John Sutter’s contribution to Sacramento and California. Additionally numerous files demonstrate the involvement of the Swiss community in the Sacramento Sesquicentennial celebration. The collection also contains newspaper articles and letters concerning the ongoing debate about John Sutter’s treatment of indigenous peoples.

Many of the pages in this collection were on fax paper which had already faded. These pages were photocopied if they were still legible. Some files contain photographs of activities of the clubs, and the photographs are retained in the folders. Numerous documents are in German and are not translated.

**Arrangement**

Series 1. Sacramento Swiss Ladies Society
Series 2. Sacramento Helvetia Verein
Series 3. United Swiss Lodges of California
Subseries 3.1 Administrative records
Subseries 3.2 Sutter film project
Subseries 3.3 Sutter statue project
Subseries 3.4 Sacramento sesquicentennial
Subseries 3.5 John Sutter information
Series 4. Audiovisual material
Series 5. Artifacts

**Indexing Terms**

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

Sacramento Helvetia Verein
Sacramento Swiss Ladies Society
United Swiss Lodges of California
Sutter, John Augustus, 1803-1880
Fraternal organizations--California--History
Swiss Americans--California--History
Swiss American women
Women--Societies and clubs

**Other Finding Aids**

Center for Sacramento collections accession #2004/027 and 2011/005 pertain to the Sacramento Helvetia Verein and contain information of a similar nature to many of the documents in this collection.

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**Series 1. Sacramento Swiss Ladies Society**

**Physical Description:** 22 folders

**Series Scope and Content Summary**

The Sacramento Swiss Ladies Society series consists mostly of the club’s constitution and bylaws, membership lists, and meeting minutes of the Society.

**Arrangement**

Arranged by format
Series 1. Sacramento Swiss Ladies Society

Guide to the Sacramento Swiss Clubs collection

Box 1:1  Constitution and by-laws 1922 -2002
Box 1:2  History undated
Box 1:3  Membership lists 1967 - 1998
Box 1:4  Membership applications 1975 - 2004
Box 1:5  Financial records June 1984 - April 1987
Box 1:6  Financial records 1988 - 1994
Box 1:7  Financial records 1995 - 1997
Box 1:8  Financial ledger 1973 - 2009
Box 1:9  Financial records - end of year report 1979 - 2001
Box 1:10 Financial Records - annual worksheets 1978 - 1997
Box 1:12 Financial Records – dues ledger book with obituary notices of deceased members undated
Box 1:13 Sick leave benefits ledger 1922 - 1999
Box 1:14 Meeting attendance ledger 1997
Box 1:15 Meeting minutes and club activity 1998
Box 1:16 Meeting minutes and club activity 1999
Box 1:17 Meeting minutes and club activity 2000
Box 1:18 Meeting minutes and club activity 2001
Box 1:19 Meeting minutes and club activity 2002
Box 1:20 Meeting minutes and club activity 2007
Box 1:21 Annual fall dance 1974-1975
Box 1:22 Swiss kids program 1970
Box 1:23 Anniversary banquet 1997

Box 1:24 Constitution 1892
Box 1:25 Meeting attendance ledger 2001-2012
Box 1:26 Sacramento Swiss Rifle Club - photograph photocopy undated
Box 1:27 Flashback of 95 years - program flyer undated
Box 1:28 Meeting minutes and Club activity 2006-2010

Series 2. Sacramento Helvetia Verein

- Physical Description: 5 folders
- Series Scope and Content Summary
  The Sacramento Helvetia Verein series includes the organization's constitution, membership roster, and meeting minutes.
- Arrangement
  Items arranged by format

Box 1:29 Constitution 1892
Box 1:30 Meeting attendance ledger 2001-2012
Box 1:31 Sacramento Swiss Rifle Club - photograph photocopy undated
Box 1:32 Flashback of 95 years - program flyer undated
Box 1:33 Meeting minutes and Club activity 2006-2010

Series 3. United Swiss Lodges of California

- Physical Description: 2 boxes
- Series Scope and Content Summary
  The United Swiss Lodges of California series includes meeting minutes and correspondence of the organization and records documenting its efforts to erect a statue of John Sutter near Sutter's Fort and to support the production of a film about John Sutter's contribution to Sacramento and California. Additionally numerous files demonstrate the involvement of the Swiss community in the Sacramento Sesquicentennial celebration. The collection also contains newspaper articles and letters concerning the ongoing debate about John Sutter's treatment of indigenous peoples.

Subseries 3.1 Administrative records

Box 2:1 History and purpose of the organization undated
Box 2:2 Meeting minutes and club activity 1987 - 1988
Box 2:3 Meeting minutes and club activity 1989
Box 2:4 Meeting minutes and club activity 1990
Box 2:5 Meeting minutes and club activity 1991 - 1992
Box 2:6 Meeting minutes and club activity 1993
Series 3. United Swiss Lodges of California

Subseries 3.1 Administrative records

Box 2:7  Meeting minutes and club activity 1994
Box 2:8  Meeting minutes and club activity 1995
Box 2:9  Meeting minutes and club activity 1996
Box 2:10 Meeting minutes and club activity 1997
Box 2:11 Meeting minutes and club activity 1998
Box 2:12 Meeting minutes and club activity January 1999 - August 1999
Box 2:13 Meeting minutes and club activity September 1999 - December 1999
Box 2:14 Meeting minutes and club activity 2000 - 2010
Box 2:15 Treasurer’s report October 1993 - November 1999
Box 2:16 Sister cities 1999 - 2004

Subseries 3.2 Sutter film project

Box 2:17 Correspondence, minutes, and notes 1987
Box 2:18 Correspondence, minutes, and notes 1988
Box 2:19 Correspondence, minutes, and notes 1989
Box 2:20 Correspondence, minutes, and notes 1992
Box 2:21 Correspondence, minutes, and notes 1993
Box 2:22 Correspondence, minutes, and notes 1994
Box 2:23 Correspondence, minutes, and notes 1995-1996
Box 2:24 Correspondence, minutes, and notes 1999
Box 2:25 Correspondence, minutes, and notes 2000
Box 3:1 Correspondence, minutes, and notes 2001-2002
Box 3:2 Film schedule 1991
Box 3:3 Script draft December 10, 1994
Box 3:4 Script draft April 10, 1995
Box 3:5 Script draft comments April 10, 1995
Box 3:6 Script draft May 30, 1995
Box 3:7 Script draft August 15, 1995
Box 3:8 “General Sutter” - film brochure undated
Box 3:9 Donation request 1992
Box 3:10 Crest Theater rental production handbooks 1996
Box 3:11 “The General” - project outline and financial plan 1996
Box 3:12 Sponsor brochure sample undated
Box 3:13 Film credits undated
Box 3:14 Letterhead undated
Box 3:15 Film premiere invitation 1999

Subseries 3.3 Sutter statue project

Box 3:16 Correspondence and activities 1985
Box 3:17 Correspondence and activities January 1986 - September, 1986
Box 3:18 Correspondence and activities October 1986 - December 1986
Box 3:19 Correspondence and activities (contains photographs of statue) January 1987 - March 1987
Box 3:20 Correspondence and activities April 1987 - July 1987
Box 3:21 Correspondence and activities August 1987 - September 1987
Box 3:22 Correspondence and activities (contains photographs of dedication ceremony) September 1987 - December 1987
Box 3:23 Proposal 1985
Box 3:24 Fundraising undated
Box 3:25 Dedication brochure 1987
Box 3:26 Dedication information 1987
Box 3:27 Memorial stamp 1987
Box 3:28 Proclamations 1987
Box 3:29 Statue reproduction sales brochure undated
Box 3:30 Photographs of statue 1987
Box 3:31  Stationery undated

Subseries 3.4 Sacramento sesquicentennial

Box 3:32  Correspondence and activities 1987 - 1988
Box 3:33  Correspondence and activities 1988 - 1990
Box 3:34  News articles 1989
Box 3:35  Celebration photographs 1989
Box 3:36  Birthday dinner (contains photographs) 1989
Box 3:37  Slides 1989

Subseries 3.5 John Sutter information

Box 3:38  Biographical information undated
Box 3:39  Biographical information (in German) undated
Box 3:40  Biography by Werner Diller undated
Box 3:41  John Sutter’s incredible odyssey - California highway patrolman August 1989
Box 3:42  Sutter story (in German) undated
Box 3:43  Dogtown Territorial Quarterly - Special Sutter’s Fort Issue Fall 1994
Box 3:44  John A. Sutter - images undated
Box 3:45  Sutter’s Fort - images undated
Box 3:46  Family, home, and locations of importance - images undated
Box 3:47  Land claims undated
Box 3:48  Hock Farm undated
Box 3:49  Sutter’s Fort introductory program - German translation 1987
Box 3:50  Sutters gold (in German) undated
Box 3:51  Davis Street name change undated

Series 4. Audiovisual material

Physical Description: 8 videotapes + 1 photo album
Series Scope and Content Summary
Series includes 8 videotapes and one photograph album related to the "General Sutter" film project.
Arrangement
Items arranged by format

Box 4:1  Film “General Sutter” - English version - Beta version, Part 1 circa 1999
Box 4:2  Film “General Sutter” - English version - Beta version, Part 2 circa 1999
Box 4:3  Film “General Sutter” - Anniversary edition - video circa 1999
Box 4:4  Film “General Sutter” - Docudrama of the man and his vision - video circa 1999
Box 4:5  Film “General Sutter” - Anniversary edition - DVD undated
Box 4:6  Film “General Sutter” - Anniversary edition - DVD undated
Box 4:7  John Sutter ceremonies - Raw footage - video circa 1999
Box 4:8  Photo album of places in Europe of significance to John Sutter circa 1999

Series 5. Artifacts

Physical Description: 9 items
Series Scope and Content Summary
Items include proclamations, movie posters, and drawings related to the John Sutter film and statue projects.

36: L: 07  Commemorative Belt Buckle mounted on a wood plaques used as a fundraiser for the statue of General John Sutter now located near Sutter’s Fort undated
36: L: 07  Scale Statue of General John Sutter mounted on a wood plaque used as a fundraiser for the life size statue now located near Sutter’s Fort undated
Map Case 15:02  Movie Poster for the film “General Sutter” [3 copies] undated
Map Case 15:02  Sutter Statue Project - Proclamation from the City of Burgdorf, Germany 1987
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Map Case 15:02</th>
<th>Sutter Film Project - Poster in German depicting 50,000 francs issued for the film from Switzerland undated</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Map Case 15:02</td>
<td>Sutter Statue Project - Swiss Journal special issue September 2, 1987</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Map Case 15:02</td>
<td>Drawing of John Sutter by Jacques Mader undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Map Case 15:02</td>
<td>Sutter Statue Project - State Senate Resolution on Sutter Statue Dedication undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Map Case 15:02</td>
<td>Drawing of John Sutter with Sacramento Scenes and Swiss Flag undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Map Case 15:02</td>
<td>Sutter Statues Project - Image for John A. Sutter Memorial Fund undated</td>
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