Morse-Elliott Family Collection, 1832-2012

Collection number: Ms53

San Joaquin County Historical Society

Processed by:
Gail Erwin

Date Completed:
2012

Encoded by:
Leigh Johnsen
2012

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Morse-Elliott Family Collection

Date: 1832-2012

Date (bulk): 1859-1885

Collection Number: Ms53

Location: Erickson Vault

Extent: 0.3 linear feet

Contributing Institution: San Joaquin County Historical Society and Museum

11793 North Micke Grove Road
Lodi, CA 95240

Language of Material: Records written in English

Abstract: The material in the Morse-Elliott Family Collection provides a picture of early pioneer life in and around Lodi, California. The collection consists of documents related to family business ventures, including taxes, sales receipts, and various kinds of land documents, as well as a family history and genealogy.

Access Information

Collection is open for research by appointment.

Conditions of Use

The library can only claim physical ownership of the collection. Users are responsible for satisfying any claimants of literary property.

Preferred citation: [Item name], Morse-Elliott Family Collection, Ms53, San Joaquin County Historical Society and Museum, Lodi, California.

Historical Sketch

The story of the Morse-Elliott Family Collection begins with New Hampshire natives Edmund R. Elliott (1804-1884) and his wife, Sarah S. Elliott (1811-1881), who participated in America's westward migration in two stages. The first saw them move to Compton, Illinois, where they raised eight children, among them Wilson Edmund (1832-1912) and Eveline (Eva) Sarah (1834-1915). The second stage started in 1853, when Wilson migrated to California and took up residence on land near Lodi. His father, Edmund, followed five years later and was soon joined by other family members, which by then included not only Eva, but also her husband, Lorenzo Marion Morse (1830-1899), and the couple's son, Fred Marion Morse (1857-1881). The Morse family became pillars of the Lodi area. They initially settled on a farm near Bear Creek, where two more children were born: Edmund Elliott (1861-1945) and Hattie (1864-1921). Then, in 1867, they moved onto land about three miles south of Lodi on Cherokee Lane, where they planted watermelons, grain, apricots, and peaches, and were among the first farmers in the area to cultivate Tokay grapes. In addition, Lorenzo raised thoroughbred horses and with a partner operated a racing track near what eventually became Micke Grove Regional Park. Lorenzo's son, Edmund, continued the family's tradition of involvement in agriculture and business, not only developing his own fruit packing and shipping company, but also helping to establish the First National Bank of Lodi, the Farmer's Mutual Insurance Company, and the Lodi Investment Company. In 1888, Edmund married Florence Heaton (d. 1940), with whom he had two daughters:

**Scope and Content**
The Morse-Elliott Family Collection spans the years 1832-2012, with the bulk falling between 1859 and 1885. It consists of three series: 1. Papers of Edmund Elliott, 2. Papers of Lorenzo Marion Morse, and 3. Family History. The collection includes documents related to the business operations of the Elliott-Morse Ranch, including promissory notes, receipts, land deeds, and tax documents; a family history; genealogical material; correspondence; and Eva Morse's diary of her family's overland trip to California in 1859.

**Personal Names**
Elliott, Edmund R., 1804-1884
Elliott, Sarah S., 1811-1881
Elliott, Wilson Edmund, 1832-1912
Morse, Cora Eveline, d. 1869
Morse, Edmund Elliott, 1861-1945
Morse, Eveline Sarah Elliott, 1834-1915
Morse, Evelyn, 1888-1966
Morse, Florence Heaton, d. 1940
Morse, Fred Marion, 1857-1881
Morse, Genevieve, 1893-1846
Morse, Hattie, 1864-1921
Morse, Lorenzo Marion, 1830-1899
Skinner, John Carroll, 1885-1966

**Subjects**
Horse Breeders--United States
Lodi Region (Calif.)--Biography
Overland journeys to the Pacific
San Joaquin County (Calif.)--Genealogy
San Joaquin County (Calif.)--History, Local

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**Series 1**  
**Edmund Elliott Papers 1832-1880**  
**Scope and Content Note**  
Includes tax papers, sales receipts, and various business documents.

Folder 1  
**Tax Documents, 1861-1873**
Folder 2  
**Receipts and Various Documents, 1832-1880**

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**Series 2**  
**Lorenzo Marion Morse Papers 1858-1893**  
**Scope and Content Note**  
Contains documentation of Lorenzo Marion Morse's business dealings and civic involvement, including insurance policies, membership certificate, and account book.

Folder 3  
**Jamison Mining District and Cherokee Lane Gravel Road Company, Shares and Road Tolls, 1953-1954**

Folder 4  
**Promissory Notes, 1859-1872**
Folder 5

**Business Receipts, 1861-1885**

Folder 6

**Land Deeds, 1868-1893**

Folder 7

**Various Business Papers, 1864-1892**

Folder 8

**Correspondence, 1861-1885**

Folder 9

**Tax Documents, 1860-1899**

Folder 10

**Uncategorized Items, 1858-1880**

Series 3 **Family History 1859-2012**

Scope and Content Note

Includes diary of overland journey, assorted genealogical material, and newspaper articles.

Folder 11

**Diary of Eva S. Morse and Assorted Genealogical Material, 1859, 1979**

Folder 12

**Newspaper Articles, 1983-2012**