Guide to the Lowe Collection on Big Trees M2147

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2019
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Language of Material: English
Contributing Institution: Department of Special Collections and University Archives
Title: Gary D. and Myrna R. Lowe collection relating to the Big Tree of California
source: Lowe, Gary
Identifier/Call Number: M2147
Physical Description: 45 Linear Feet (57 boxes, 4 volumes, 1 oversize folder)
Date (inclusive): 1853-2002
Date (bulk): 19th century
Abstract: Collection of historical material related to giant sequoias of California and their impact in popular culture.
Biographical / Historical
Gary D. Lowe is an environmental hydrogeologist and collector based out of Livermore, California. After receiving a BS and MS in geology at San Diego State University in 1974 and 1981 respectively, Lowe pursued a career in hydrogeology (the study of the movement of groundwater in the earth's crust; also sometimes called 'geohydrology'), including 30 years of private consulting practice.
Finding that working in consulting left him with a large amount of free time at his office, Lowe began studying the history of the giant sequoia tree (Sequoiadendron giganteum) of the Sierra Nevada, a topic he had been interested in since his early youth. Giant sequoias are the most massive trees in the world, as well as being amongst the tallest and longest-lived of all organisms, with an estimated lifespan of 1800-1700 years. Lowe developed a particular interest in the Anglo-American discovery of the giant sequoia tree (initially known as the 'Big Tree') in the Sierra Nevada, and subsequent early years of its popularization and exhibition, a period roughly covering the years 1853 through 1876.
Lowe's additional areas of giant sequoia study include the geologic history and biogeography of the tree, as well as the etymology of the genus name.
Scope and Contents
The Lowe collection of Big Tree materials contains photographs, prints, postcards, ephemera, pamphlets, government reports, periodicals, souvenirs, and other materials related to the history, exhibition, and logging of the giant sequoia tree. The bulk of these materials originate from the 19th century, with many also extending well into the mid-20th century. The collection is primarily arranged by location, with separate series for the Calaveras, Kings Canyon, Sequoia, and Yosemite National Parks each including materials pertaining to other local sights and industries. Because of both proximity and overlap, materials pertaining to Kings Canyon National Park, General Grant Grove, and Sequoia National Park have been consolidated into a single series.
A substantial portion of the collection consists of stereographs (also known as stereoviews or stereoscopic photographs), an early form of 3D viewing wherein two slightly-different views of the same scene are viewed through a double-lensed viewer (called a stereoscope) to create the illusion of dimensionality. The Big Trees collection contains hundreds of stereographs related to Big Trees (either of the giant sequoias themselves, tourists posing alongside the giant sequoias, or other stereoviews of local scenery and attractions), as well as others depicting cities and locations wherein portions of the Big Trees were exhibited. These items are organized by depicted location (i.e., North Calaveras Grove, Mariposa Grove, etc.), and sub-arranged by identified photographer or company (photographers include J.J. Reilly, Eadweard Muybridge, Carleton Watkins, Thomas Houseworth, Thomas C. Roche, and John P. Soule, among many others). These sub-arrangements maintain Gary Lowe's personal arrangement of the stereographs. Other represented photographic formats include numerous cabinet photographs (portable mounted photographs generally measuring around 4 1/4 by 6 1/2 inches; also known as cabinet cards and cabinet views), boudoir photographs (similar to cabinet photos but measuring approximately 8 1/2 by 5 1/2 inches), lantern slides, and real photo postcards.
The 'Published materials' series contains published works on topics relating to the history of California, giant sequoias, various world's fairs and expositions at which giant sequoias were exhibited, and locations such as Yosemite and Calaveras, as well as numerous contemporaneous periodicals with references to either the Snediker/Stegman or Jellerson/Rickerson exhibitions or other Big Tree-related events, all originally from Lowe's personal library. A listing of books contained in each
Guide to the Lowe Collection on Big Trees M2147

Approximately 75 volumes of note have been catalogued individually and are not listed here; these can be found here: https://searchworks.stanford.edu/catalog?q=%22Gary+D.+and+Myrna+R.+Lowe+Collection.%22&search_field=subject_terms or by searching ‘Gary D. and Myrna R. Lowe Collection’ in the Searchworks catalog.

**Conditions Governing Access**
Open for research. Note that material must be requested at least 36 hours in advance of intended use.

**Conditions Governing Use**
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**Preferred Citation**
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**Subjects and Indexing Terms**
Sequoia National Park (Calif.).
Yosemite National Park (Calif.)
Giant sequoia
California -- History -- 19th c.
Calaveras Big Trees State Park (Calif.)
Sequoia-Kings Canyon Wilderness (Calif.)
Historic trees
Logging

**Lowe, Gary**

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**Series 1. Calaveras Big Trees State Park**

**Scope and Contents**
This series contains material related to Calaveras County and Calaveras Big Trees State Park, including topics such as the North and South giant sequoia groves, the Mammoth Hotel, and the town of Murphys. The series is organized with stereographs and slides first, and the remaining materials listed in the order processed.

**Box 5**

**North Calaveras Grove stereographs**

**Scope and Contents**
Stereo cards created by E. and H.T. Anthony, Thomas C. Roche, and Lawrence and Houseworth.

**Box 6**

**North Calaveras Grove stereographs**

**Scope and Contents**
Stereo cards created by Lawrence and Houseworth and C.L. Pond.

**Box 7**

**North Calaveras Grove stereographs**

**Scope and Contents**

**Box 8**

**North Calaveras Grove stereographs**

**Scope and Contents**
Stereo cards created by Eadweard Muybridge, Carleton Watkins, and John Calvin Scripture.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 9</th>
<th>South Calaveras Grove stereographs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Scope and Contents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Stereo cards created by John Calvin Scripture and other miscellaneous photographers.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 42</th>
<th>Sperry's Hotel register</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Scope and Contents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Register contains autographs from figures such as J.M. Hutchings, Carleton Watkins, and John Jacob Astor; with Lowe’s list of personages and dates laid in.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 10</th>
<th>Calaveras lantern slides</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mounted Calaveras prints</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 1</td>
<td>Charles Weidner Calaveras prints</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 1</td>
<td>Perkins Calaveras boudoir photographs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 1</td>
<td>Calaveras photographs - labeled but unattributed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 1</td>
<td>Taber Calaveras boudoir photographs and prints</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 1</td>
<td>Calaveras envelopes and correspondence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 1</td>
<td>Mammoth Grove Hotel ledger pages 1895-1898</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 1</td>
<td>Mitchen/Murphys Hotel correspondence and ledger pages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 1</td>
<td>Murphys photographs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 1</td>
<td>Mammoth Tree Grove and Mammoth Hotel brochure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 1</td>
<td>Southern Pacific Big Trees brochures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 1</td>
<td>Mammoth Grove photographs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 1</td>
<td>Calaveras brochure facsimile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 1</td>
<td>Oversize mounted Calaveras prints</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 1</td>
<td>Mammoth Grove painting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 1</td>
<td>Calaveras postcards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 1</td>
<td>Mounted Calaveras print</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 1</td>
<td>Oversize Calaveras prints</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 1</td>
<td>Periodicals -- Mammoth Grove &amp; Mammoth Hotel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 1</td>
<td>T.A. Ayres Mammoth Grove prints</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 1</td>
<td>J.M. Lapham Giant Sequoia prints</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 1</td>
<td>Pedestal dish made of giant sequoia, Calaveras co.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 1</td>
<td>Pedestal dish made of giant sequoia, Calaveras co.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 1</td>
<td>Trinket box made of giant sequoia, Calaveras co.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 1</td>
<td>Thomas Houseworth &amp; Co. souvenir box containing redwood bark, Calaveras co.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 1</td>
<td>Misc. Calaveras and Yosemite ephemera</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 1</td>
<td>Misc. oversize Calaveras ephemera</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 1</td>
<td>Misc. Calaveras materials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 1</td>
<td>Misc. published Calaveras photographs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 1</td>
<td>Misc. unpublished Calaveras photographs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>folder 12-13</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Series 2. Kings Canyon & Sequoia National Parks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 18</th>
<th>Converse Basin Grove and Grant Grove stereographs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Scope and Contents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Also includes stereographs of Giant Forest Grove, the Great Elm on the Boston Common, and the Washington Elm in Cambridge.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 16</th>
<th>Converse Basin mounted prints</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 15</th>
<th>General Grant National Park mounted prints</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box/Folder</td>
<td>Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43, folder 3</td>
<td>Oversize Grant Grove prints</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59</td>
<td>Lantern slides</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14, folder 2</td>
<td>Sequoia National Park real photo postcards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14, folder 3</td>
<td>McKinley and Grant Grove postcards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14, folder 4</td>
<td>Grant Grove and Converse Basin postcards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14, folder 5</td>
<td>Lake Hume and Balch Park postcards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14, folder 6</td>
<td>Camp Nelson and Wellingtonia postcards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14, folder 7</td>
<td>Misc. Grant Grove prints</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17, folder 1-2</td>
<td>Mounted Kings Canyon prints</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17, folder 3</td>
<td>Mark Twain Tree / &quot;Big Stump&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17, folder 4</td>
<td>Walter Fry &amp; John White at General Grant tree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17, folder 5-6</td>
<td>General Noble Tree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19, folder 4-5</td>
<td>Sequoia National Park postcards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Sequoia and General Grant National Park reports, brochures, maps, and guides</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32, folder 7-8</td>
<td>Sequoia/General Grant NP superintendent reports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61, folder 1</td>
<td>Bret Harte &amp; Mark Twain cartes-de-visite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61, folder 2</td>
<td>Giant sequoia plates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1, folder 16</td>
<td>Tulare envelopes and correspondence</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Series 3. Yosemite National Park (Mariposa Grove, Merced Grove, and Tuolumne Grove)**

**Scope and Contents**

This series contains materials related to Yosemite National Park, specifically the Mariposa, Merced, Nedler, and Tuolumne Groves of giant sequoias. The series is organized with stereographs first, and the remaining materials listed in the order processed.

**Box 12**

**Mariposa Grove stereographs**

**Scope and Contents**


**Box 13**

**Mariposa and Nedler Grove stereographs**

**Scope and Contents**


**Box 30**

**Mariposa Grove, Tuolumne Grove, and Merced Grove stereographs**

**Box 19, folder 6**

**Mariposa Grove postcards**

**Box 14, folder 1**

**Mounted Mariposa Grove snapshots**

**Box 2, folder 10-11**

**Mounted Mariposa Grove prints**

**Box 2, folder 12**

**Mariposa Grove snapshots**

**Box 43, folder 1**

**Oversize Mariposa Grove prints**

**Box 11, folder 4**

**Oversize Mariposa Grove prints**

**Box 19, folder 7**

**Misc. Mariposa Grove photos**

**Box 32, folder 1**

**Tuolumne and Merced Grove boudoir photos**

**Box 32, folder 2**

**Henry Pratt Tuolumne Grove painting**

**Box 32, folder 3**

**Tuolumne Grove postcards**

**Box 37, object 3**

**Harvard College book of portraits for class of 1871**

**Scope and Contents**

Features a mounted photograph of Galen Clark's son, Galen Alonzo Clark.
Series 4. Exhibitions

Scope and Contents
This series contains materials that either relate to the exhibiting of giant sequoias or to cities in which they were exhibited. This includes stereographs and prints of cities in which giant sequoias were exhibited, as well as maps, guidebooks, and other ephemera related to the exhibitions or the cities themselves.

box 27
City view and exhibition site stereographs
Scope and Contents
Including New YOrk City, Boston, London, Providence, Stockton, Chicago, Cincinnati, and Niagara Falls.

box 28
Mammoth Tree and California Big Tree exhibit stereographs
box 29
California Big Tree exhibits and miscellaneous Yosemite stereographs
box 50, folder 1
Periodicals -- Jellerson & Ricker exhibit
box 50, folder 2
Periodicals -- Forest King
box 51, folder 2
Periodicals -- World exhibitions
box 51, folder 4
Periodicals -- General Noble exhibit
box 51, folder 5
Periodicals -- Trask & Gale's Mother of the Forest exhibit
box 52, folder 1
Periodicals -- Hanford's exhibit 1854
box 51, folder 6
Applebee's exhibit 1854
box 63, object 4
Walking stick made from General Noble tree from 1893 Columbian Exposition
box 20, folder 4
Centennial tree exhibit ephemera
box 20, folder 3
Exhibition ephemera
box 20, folder 1-2
Crystal palace guides
box 19, folder 8
Crystal Palace ephemera
box 61, folder 3
City view plates
box 43, folder 4
Oversize maps

Series 5. Published materials

Scope and Contents
This series contains published works on topics relating to the history of California, giant sequoias, various world’s fairs and expositions (at which giant sequoias were exhibited), and locations such as Yosemite and Calaveras, as well as numerous contemporaneous periodicals containing references to either the Snediker/Stegman or Jellerson/Rickerson exhibitions or other Big Tree-related events, all from Gary Lowe's personal library. A listing of books contained in each box is included as a note beneath each record.

Approximately 75 volumes of note have been removed from the collection and accessioned into the Stanford library catalog; these works can be found by searching ‘Gary D. and Myrna R. Lowe Collection’ in the Searchworks catalog.

box 49
New York Tribune 1853-1854
box 60
New York Daily Times 1854
box 48
New York Weekly Tribune 1854-1855
box 53, folder 2
New York Morning Express 1855
box 52, folder 2
Cincinnati Daily Gazette 1870-1871
box 54
Daily Evening Traveller 1870-1872
volume 57
Boston Daily Advertiser 1870
volume 55
Boston Daily Advertiser 1871
volume 56
Boston Post 1871
box 47
New York Herald 1871
volume 58
New York Post 1871
box 46
New York Tribune 1871
Box 40
Bancroft Company’s The book of the fair, vol. 1 1893
box 39, object 1
Bancroft Company’s The book of the fair, vol. 5 1893
box 39, object 2
Bancroft Company’s The book of the fair, vol. 2 1893
box 39, object 3
Bancroft Company’s The book of the fair, vol. 4 1893
box 39, object 4
Bancroft Company’s The book of the fair, vol. 3 1893
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box/object</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>44, object 2</td>
<td>Illustrated London news, vol. 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38, object 2</td>
<td>Illustrated London news, vol. 25 1854</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38, object 1</td>
<td>Illustrated London news, vol. 28 1856</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45, object 1</td>
<td>Illustrated London news, vol. 29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44, object 1</td>
<td>Illustrated London news, vol. 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45, object 2</td>
<td>Illustrated London news, vol. 50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 21</td>
<td>Books</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Scope and Contents**

The works of Hubert Howe Bancroft, Vol. XX, 1885
The works of Hubert Howe Bancroft, Vol. XXI, 1886
The works of Hubert Howe Bancroft, Vol. XXII, 1886
The journal of horticulture, cottage gardener, country gentleman, bee-keeper, and poultry chronicle, Vol. XIII, 1867
The journal of horticulture, cottage gardener, country gentleman, bee-keeper, and poultry chronicle, Vol. XIV, 1868
The journal of horticulture, cottage gardener, country gentleman, bee-keeper, and poultry chronicle, Vol. XV, 1868
The journal of horticulture, cottage gardener, country gentleman, bee-keeper, and poultry chronicle, Vol. XVI, 1869
The journal of horticulture, cottage gardener, country gentleman, bee-keeper, and poultry chronicle, Vol. XVII, 1870
The journal of horticulture, cottage gardener, country gentleman, bee-keeper, and poultry chronicle, Vol. XVIII, 1871
The journal of horticulture, cottage gardener, country gentleman, bee-keeper, and poultry chronicle, Vol. XIX, 1872
The journal of horticulture, cottage gardener, country gentleman, bee-keeper, and poultry chronicle, Vol. XX, 1873
The journal of horticulture, cottage gardener, country gentleman, bee-keeper, and poultry chronicle, Vol. XXI, 1874

**Box 22**

**Books**

**Scope and Contents**

Punch, Vol. XXX, 1856
Punch, Vol. XXXII, 1857
Punch, Vol. XXXIII, 1857
The journal of horticulture, cottage gardener, country gentleman, bee-keeper, and poultry chronicle, Vol. X, 1866
The journal of horticulture, cottage gardener, country gentleman, bee-keeper, and poultry chronicle, Vol. XI, 1866
James Veitch's catalogue of new and beautiful plants for 1863
James Veitch and son's catalogue of new and beautiful plants for 1869
The Athenaeum journal of literature, science, and the fine arts for the year 1856
Magee's illustrated guide of Philadelphia and the Centennial Exhibition, 1876
Stark's antique views of ye towne of Boston, 1901
The works of Hubert Howe Bancroft, Vol. XVIII, 1884
The works of Hubert Howe Bancroft, Vol. XIX, 1885
Reports of the United States commissioners to the Paris Universal Exposition, 1867
1870.
Twain, Mark. The innocents abroad, or, the new pilgrims' progress. Hartford: American Publishing Company, 1869.
Box 23

**Books**

**Scope and Contents**


Box 24

**Books**

**Scope and Contents**

Box 25

**Books**

**Scope and Contents**

The Buffalo business directory, Vol. 1, 1855
The poems, sacred, passionate, and humorous, of Nathaniel Parker Willis. New York: Clark & Maynard, 1866
The Boston business and copartnership directory. Boston: Dean Dudley, 1863-4
The commercial advertiser directory for the city of Buffalo. Buffalo: Jewett, Thomas, & Co., 1852
The commercial advertiser directory for the city of Buffalo. Buffalo: Jewett, Thomas, & Co., 1853
The commercial advertiser directory for the city of Buffalo. Buffalo: Jewett, Thomas, & Co., 1854
Cunningham, Peter. London in 1856. London: John Murray, 1856
The stranger's guide in Philadelphia and its environs. Philadelphia: Lindsay & Blakiston, 1854
Wilson's business directory of New York City. New York: John F. Trow, 1854
The Boston almanac for the year 1871, Vol. 36, 1870
Morris, George P. American melodies. New York: Linen and Fennell, 1841
Boston directory for the year 1854. Boston: Geo. Adams, 1854
Thomas' Buffalo city directory for 1863. Buffalo: E.A. Thomas, 1863
Phelps' hundred cities and large towns of America. New York: Ensign, Bridgman, & Fanning, 1854
The New York City directory, for 1851-1852. New York: Doggett & Rode, 1854
Headley, P.C. The life of the empress Josephine. New York: Miller, Orton & Mulligan, 1856
Franklin, Benjamin. The life of Benjamin Franklin. Auburn: Derby and Miller, 1853
Kewen, E.J.C. Idealina; and other poems. San Francisco: Cooke, Kenny & Co., 1853.
Delano, A. Life on the plains and among the diggings. Auburn: Miller, Orton & Mulligan, 1854
Lockhart, J.G. Life of Napoleon Bonaparte. New York: Miller, Orton & Mulligan, 1855
Patterson, A.W. The Pacific coast third reader. San Francisco: A.L. Bancroft & Company, 1874
Towler, J. The silver sunbeam. New York: Joseph H. Ladd, 1864
Reynolds's new map of London, 1855

Box 26

**Books**

**Scope and Contents**

Raymond, Henry. History of the administration of President Lincoln. New York: J.C. Derby, 1864
Holland, J.G. Scribner's monthly, Vol. XXII, 1881
Holland, J.G. Scribner's monthly, Vol. XVII, 1879
Transactions of the American Institute of the city of New-York for the year 1853, 1854
Transactions of the American Institute of the city of New-York for the year 1854, 1855
Annual report of the American Institute of the city of New York for the years 1870-71, 1869
Thirty-second annual report of the American Institute of the city of New York for the year 1871-72, 1872
Martin, Edward Winslow. The life and public services of Schuyler Colfax. San Francisco: H.H. Bancroft, 1868
Publications of the Historical Society of Southern California, Vol. VI, 1903-1905
The American journal of science and arts, Vol. XIX, 1855
Raymond, Henry. The life and public services of Abraham Lincoln, sixteenth president of the United States. New York: Derby and Miller, 1865
Harper's new monthly magazine, Vol. LVII, 1878
Willis, N. Parker. Famous persons and places. Auburn: Alden, Beardsley & Co., 1854
Cassell's illustrated family paper, Vol. I-II
**Series 5. Published materials**

**Box 33**

**Books**

**Scope and Contents**


**Box 34**

**Books**

**Scope and Contents**


**Box 35**

**Books**

**Scope and Contents**


**Periodicals -- Big Tree discoveries**

**Periodicals -- Park posturing**

**Big Trees in advertisements**

**Broadsides**

**Misc. oversize periodicals**

**Misc. oversize periodicals**

**Series 6. Works by Gary Lowe**

**Scope and Contents**

This series contains different manuscripts drafts of Gary Lowe's book 'The Big Tree Exhibits of 1870-1871', as well as a guide to his stereograph collection.

**Box 36, object 1**

Snediker & Stegman manuscript Apr. 1998

**Box 36, object 2**

Snediker & Stegman manuscript May 1998

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**Guide to the Lowe Collection on Big Trees M2147**
Series 6. Works by Gary Lowe

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