Guide to the Samuel and Alice L. Armor Papers

Processed by Mary Ellen Goddard; machine-readable finding aid created by Robin Chandler
Special Collections and Archives
The UCI Libraries
P.O. Box 19557
University of California
Irvine, California 92623-9557
Phone: (949) 824-3947
Fax: (949) 824-2472
Email: spcoll@uci.edu
URL: http://www.lib.uci.edu/rrsc/speccoll.html
© 2000
The Regents of the University of California. All rights reserved.

Note
History--California History--Los Angeles Area HistoryGeographical (By Place)--California--Los Angeles Area
Guide to the Samuel and Alice L. Armor Papers

Collection number: MS-R12

Special Collections and Archives
The UCI Libraries
University of California
Irvine, California

Contact Information
Special Collections and Archives
The UCI Libraries
P.O. Box 19557
University of California
Irvine, California 92623-9557
Phone: (949) 824-3947
Fax: (949) 824-2472
Email: spcoll@uci.edu
URL: http://www.lib.uci.edu/rrsc/speccoll.html

Processed by:
Mary Ellen Goddard
Date Completed:
1999
Encoded by:
Robin Chandler

© 2000 The Regents of the University of California. All rights reserved.

Descriptive Summary
Title: Samuel and Alice L. Armor papers,
Date (inclusive): 1876-1938
Collection number: MS-R012
Creator: Armor, Samuel, 1843-1933
Creator: Armor, Alice L., 1848-1939
Extent: 0.7 linear feet (1 box and 1 oversize folder)
Repository: University of California, Irvine. Library. Special Collections and Archives.
Irvine, California 92623-9557

Abstract: The papers of Samuel and his wife Alice L. Armor of Orange, California include incoming letters and postcards, miscellaneous Orange County ephemera, photographs of family and friends, and essays by Samuel on topics such as flood control and politics. Also included are a history of the First Presbyterian Church of Orange, California, of which the Armors were members, and an oversized city plan in manuscript, ca. 1900, of portions of the cities of Orange and Santa Ana.

Language: English.

Access
Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights
Property rights reside with the University of California. Literary rights are retained by the creators of the records and their heirs. For permissions to reproduce or to publish, please contact the Head of Special Collections and Archives.

Preferred Citation
For the benefit of current and future researchers, please cite any additional information about sources consulted in this collection, including permanent URLs, item or folder descriptions, and box/folder locations.

**Acquisition Information**
The Armor papers were acquired with the Don Meadows Papers, MS-R01, in Spring 1973. They were identified as a discrete collection of personal papers and separated from the larger collection in April 1996.

**Processing History**
Processed by Mary Ellen Goddard, 1999.

**Biography**
Samuel and Alice Armor played an important part in the early history of Orange County, California. Samuel was one of the original Orange County supervisors, served on a number of organizations' boards of directors, and also edited two editions of the first major history of Orange County in 1911 and 1921. Alice Armor owned and edited the *Orange Post* newspaper from 1890 to 1915.

Samuel Armor was born in Essex County, New York on March 20, 1843. In 1854 he and his family moved to Iowa. In 1861 he moved to Illinois, where he attended high school in Kewanee. In the spring of 1865 Samuel and other classmates enlisted in the Ninth Illinois Cavalry and served in the Civil War. He was discharged in September at the end of the war and began classes at Knox Academy and College in Galesburg, Illinois. He transferred to Oberlin College in Ohio in his freshman year and graduated from there in 1871, having paid his way by working odd jobs as well as teaching school. Also in 1871, he married Alice L. Taylor.

After Samuel and Alice married, they taught at Indian schools in Minnesota and Dakota until the failure of his health made it necessary to move to California in 1874. After a year in Los Angeles, the couple moved to Orange.

For several years after moving to California Samuel worked at outdoor jobs, both as a carpenter and on the improvement of thirteen acres of his own land on North Main Street in the city of Orange; he sold this property in 1881. He taught school for several years in Orange and then clerked for W.B. Forsythe before starting his own book and stationary store. Later he also sold shoes in this store. Shortly after being elected as one of the first Orange County Supervisors in 1889, he closed the store and never reopened it.

Samuel was reelected supervisor three times, serving for nearly ten years. In 1892 he was appointed to fill a vacancy on the Board of Directors of the Santa Ana Valley Irrigation Company. He served this organization for thirteen years, ten of them as president. In 1900 he was elected a member of the Board of Trustees of Orange Township and served in this capacity for eight years, two of them as president. Later in life Armor served several terms as a justice of the peace. He also was an associate editor of the *Orange Post* during the time his wife Alice owned it. In 1911 he edited the *History of Orange County*, a second edition of which was published in 1921. Samuel Armor died on April 1, 1933.

Alice L. Taylor was born August 20, 1848 in Stockholm, New York. When she was three years old the family moved to Ohio, where her father was pastor of the Congregational Church. She and a sister attended the Lake Erie Female Seminary at Painesville, Ohio. In 1865 Alice moved to Iowa and taught for two years in country schools. Soon thereafter, as an employee of the American Missionary Association, she taught in black schools in Lexington, Kentucky. In 1867 she entered Oberlin College, teaching to pay her way, and graduated in 1871.

Following her marriage to Samuel Armor in 1871, Alice taught school with her husband in Minnesota, the Dakota Territory, and in California in Orange, Garden Grove, and Tustin. In 1890 she gave up teaching and became an editor for the *Orange Post*. Mrs. Armor bought the paper in 1892, serving as editor and publisher until she sold it in 1915. During that time she was one of five women in the area involved in running newspapers. After selling the paper, she devoted her time to volunteer work with the Presbyterian Church, King's Daughters and Women's Relief Corps. Alice Armor died on September 13, 1939.

**1843**  
Samuel Armor born.

**1848**  
Alice Taylor born.

**1865**  
Samuel enlists in Ninth Illinois Cavalry, served in the Civil War, and was discharged at end of war. He begins classes at Knox Academy and College in Galesburg, Illinois.

**1866**  
Samuel transfers to Oberlin College in Oberlin, Ohio.

**1867**  
Alice enters Oberlin College.

**1871**  
Samuel and Alice graduate from Oberlin College and are married.

**1874**  
The Armors move to Los Angeles, California.

**1875**  
The Armors move to Orange, California.

**1889**  
Samuel elected Orange County Supervisor.

**1892**  
Samuel appointed to the board of Santa Ana Valley Irrigation Company.

**1892**  
Alice buys the *Orange Post*.
1900 Samuel elected to board of trustees of Orange Township.
1911 Samuel edits *History of Orange County*.
1915 Alice sells the *Orange Post*.
1921 Samuel edits the second edition of *History of Orange County*.
1933 Samuel dies.
1939 Alice dies.

**Collection Scope and Content Summary**
The papers of Samuel and his wife Alice L. Armor of Orange, California include incoming letters and postcards, miscellaneous Orange County ephemera, photographs of family and friends, and essays by Samuel on topics such as flood control and politics. Also included are a history of the First Presbyterian Church of Orange, California, of which the Armors were members, and an oversized plat map in manuscript, ca. 1900, of portions of the cities of Orange and Santa Ana.

The collection has been organized into four series:
- **Series 1.** Correspondence, 1898-1938. 0.2 linear ft.
- **Series 2.** Orange County materials, 1876-1934. 0.2 linear ft.
- **Series 3.** Topical materials, 1899-1927. 0.2 linear ft.
- **Series 4.** Photographs, undated. 0.1 linear ft.

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

**Subjects**
- Armor, Samuel, 1843-1933--Archives.
- Armor, Alice L., 1848-1939--Archives.
- Orange County (Calif.)--Archival resources.
- Santa Ana (Calif.)--Archival resources.

**Genres and Forms of Materials**
- Photographic prints--California--Orange County--19th century.
- Photographic prints--California--Orange County--20th century.
- Plats--California--Orange County.

---

**Series 1. Correspondence, 1898-1938.**

*Physical Description: 0.2 linear ft.*

*Series Scope and Content Summary*

This series contains letters, cards, and membership information sent to Samuel and Alice Armor and includes correspondence from Rev. M.L. Pearson of the First Presbyterian Church of Orange and his second wife Lola to the Armors and two photographs of natives of the Dutch East Indies taken by the Pearsons on one of their cruises. Also included are a 1917 letter from California Governor William D. Stephens and correspondence regarding Alice Armor's affairs following the death of her husband. Incoming correspondence in this series is arranged topically, followed by other correspondence.

**Box : Folder 1:**
- 1-6
- Christmas cards, 1938 and undated
- General
  - 1898-1926
  - 1928-1938
- Knox College alumni, 1922-1924
- Memberships, 1908-1926
- Pearson, M.L. and Lola, 1926-1928
- Correspondence regarding Alice Armor, 1938
Series 2. Orange County materials, 1876-1934.

**Series Scope and Content Summary**
This series contains miscellaneous materials pertaining to Orange County history. Materials in this series are arranged topically.

- **Box : Folder 1 : 8** Armor biographical information, undated
- **Folder XOS** Election ballot sample, Republican Party, 11th Congressional, 39th Senatorial and 76th Assembly District, 1926
- **Box : Folder 1 : 9-10** First Presbyterian Church of Orange
- **Box : Folder 1 : 9** Program for reception honoring Rev. M.L. Pearson, 1934
- **Box : Folder 1 : 10** Typescript history by Samuel and Alice Armor, 1924
- **Box : Folder 1 : 11** Hewes Park (Orange, CA) postcards, undated.
  - Physical Description: 10 items.
- **Box : Folder 1 : 22** Orange County Public School student journal, 1876-1878
- **Folder XOS** Plat map in manuscript, illustrating blocks between 4th Street in Santa Ana and LaVeta Avenue in Orange, and between the Santa Fe Railroad and Grand Avenue, ca. 1900
- **Folder XOS** Santa Ana Valley Irrigation Company, annual report, 1928
- **Box : Folder 1 : 12** Water and politics, miscellaneous writings by Samuel Armor, undated
- **Box : Folder 1 : 13** Weather reports kept by Alice Armor, 1933


- **Box : Folder 1 : 14** Allied War Exposition postcards, undated.
  - Physical Description: 12 items.
- **Box : Folder 1 : 15** "Best Practicable Plan by Which the United States may Cooperate With Other Nations to Achieve and Preserve the Peace of the World" by Samuel Armor, typescript and holograph summary, undated
- **Box : Folder 1 : 16** Bishop, California postcards, undated.
  - Physical Description: 13 items.
- **Box : Folder 1 : 17** Church-related materials
  - **Box : Folder 1 : 17** A History of the Congregation Church and Society of Claridon, Ohio, 1899.
  - Note
  - Alice Armor's father served as pastor of this church.
- **Box : Folder 1 : 17** Calvary Presbyterian Church of San Diego, dedication service program, 1920
- **Box : Folder 1 : 17** Poems by Rev. Horace Taylor (Anacortes, WA), typescripts, 1927 and undated
- **Box : Folder 1 : 18** Ohio postcards, undated.
  - Physical Description: 4 items.
- **Folder XOS** Temperance newspaper, Southern California White Ribbon (Covina, CA), 1922 July


- Physical Description: 0.1 linear ft.
- **Series Scope and Content Summary**
  - This series includes photographs of the Armor family, their friends, and a group of unidentified photographs.
| Box : Folder 1 : 19 | Armor family, ca. 1890 and undated.  
|                   | Physical Description: 5 items. |
| Box : Folder 1 : 20 | Armor friends, 1894-1906 and undated  
|                   | Physical Description: 7 items. |
| Box : Folder 1 : 21 | Unidentified people, undated.  
|                   | Physical Description: 6 items. |