Finding Aid for the Bandini Family Papers, ca. 1834-1927

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Finding Aid for the Bandini Family Papers, ca. 1834-1927

Collection number: 101

UCLA Library Special Collections
UCLA Library Special Collections staff

Los Angeles, CA

Contact Information

UCLA Library Special Collections staff
UCLA Library Special Collections
Room A1713, Charles E. Young Research Library
Box 951575
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1575
Telephone: 310/825-4988 (10:00 a.m. - 4:45 p.m., Pacific Time)
Email: spec-coll@library.ucla.edu
URL: http://www.library.ucla.edu/libraries/special/scweb/

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Encoded by:
Caroline Cubé
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Descriptive Summary

Title: Bandini Family Papers,
Date (inclusive): ca. 1834-1927
Collection number: 101
Creator: Bandini Family
Extent: 3 boxes (1.5 linear ft.) 1 oversize box
Repository: University of California, Los Angeles. Library Special Collections.
Los Angeles, California 90095-1575

Abstract: Juan Bandini (1800-59) was one of the most prominent men of his time in Southern California. He amassed a fortune through merchandising, farming, and stockraising. One of his daughters married the biggest land owner and rancher in Southern California at the time. The collection consists of correspondence, legal papers, and business records of members of the Bandini family.

Physical location: Stored off-site at SRLF. Advance notice is required for access to the collection. Please contact the UCLA Library Special Collections Reference Desk for paging information.

Language: English.

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Restrictions on Access
COLLECTION STORED OFF-SITE AT SRLF: Advance notice required for access.

Additional Physical Form Available
Provenance/Source of Acquisition
Gift of Margaret Gaffey Kilroy, 1942.

Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Bandini Family Papers (Collection 101). UCLA Library Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library.

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Biography
Juan Bandini (1800-59) was one of the most prominent men of his time in Southern California, amassing a fortune through merchandising, farming, and stockraising; his landholdings eventually included fifty thousand acres extending from Rincon to Agua Manse; one of his daughters, Arcadia Bandini (1825-12), married Abel Stearns (1798-1871), a Yankee merchant who later became the biggest land owner and rancher in Southern California another of Bandini's daughters, Isidora, married Colonel Cave J. Couts; Bandini's son, Juan B. Bandini (b. 1833) managed his father's ranch, worked at Abel Stearns's store, and later operated a cattle business at Last Chance ranch.

Bandini family
Juan Bandini, 1800-1859.
  • Daughter - Arcadia Bandini, 1823-1912.
    -Married Abel Stearns in 1837 (Stearns was in business with Bandini). Stearns died 1871.
    -Married Colonel Robert S. Baker, 1874.
    -Arcadia had no children.
  • Daughter - Ysidora Bandini
    -Married Cave Johnson Couts, also in business with Stearns.
  • Son - Juan B. Bandini, d. 1906.
    -Married a Sepulveda.
    -Daughter - Arcadia Bandini, married John T. Gaffey. their daughter is Margaret Gaffey Kilroy, donor of this collection.

Scope and Content
Collection consists of correspondence, legal papers, and business records of members of the Bandini family, including Juan Bandini (1834-59), Juan B. Bandini (1860-89), Abel Stearns (1837-68), and John T. Gaffey (1885-1910). Correspondence includes 93 letters from Cave J. Couts to Abel Stearns, 1851-70. In addition to the business records, there are several documents related to various ranches and land holdings of the Bandini family. Also includes historical reminiscences of Mariano Ruiz.

Portions of this collection are in Spanish.

Organization and Arrangement
Arranged in the following series:
1. Juan Bandini.
2. Abel Stearns and Mariano Ruiz.

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

Bandini, Juan, 1800-1859--Archives.
Bandini, Juan B., b. 1833--Archives.
Couts, Cave Johnson, 1821-1874--Correspondence.
Ruiz, Mariano.
Stearns, Abel, 1798-1871.
Bandini family--Archives.
Ranchers--California, Southern--Archival resources.
Land settlement--California, Southern.
Family papers.
Business records.

Juan Bandini, 1800-1859

Box 1, Folder 1  Letters to Abel Stearns, 1837-1870.
    Physical Description: 27 letters.
    Scope and Content Note
    Includes two letters to Stearns from other members of Bandini family.
    Eight of letters have typed transcriptions and English translations.

Box 1, Folder 2  Correspondence and papers, 1843-1889.
    Physical Description: 32 items.
    Scope and Content Note
    Includes letters to and from Bandini, legal documents relating to various Southern California ranchos and to Tecate in Lower California, and a few papers of his son, Juan B. Bandini.
    Also includes a document signed by Augustin Juan Vicente Zamorano, 1798-1842.

Box 1, Folder 3  Tecate.
    Scope and Content Note
    Certified copy (1876) of the original expediente for Bandini's rancho Tecate in Lower California.

Box 1, Folder 4  Libro de Casa del Ano, 1842.
    Scope and Content Note
    Journal of Stearns and Bandini's hide and tallow business, 1842. 1 vol. manuscript [c.f. oversize package].

Box 1, Folder 5  Accounts, 1843-1857.
    Physical Description: 8 pieces.
    Scope and Content Note
    re mainly to Bandini's partnership with Abel Stearns.

Box 1, Folder 6  Bandini, Juan. Apuntes para la Historia de California, 1769-1845.
    Physical Description: 157 leaves [incomplete copy] typescript.
    Note
    Original in Bancroft Library, University of California Berkeley.
Box 1, Folder 7  Kilroy, Margaret (Gaffey).
Scope and Content Note
Historical and biographical notes re Juan Bandini and his contemporaries. 39 leaves, manuscript and typescript; geneology (compiled 1985).

Abel Stearns, 1799-1871; and Mariano Ruiz

Box 2, Folder 1  Correspondence and legal papers, 1832-1868.
Physical Description: 25 items.
Scope and Content Note
Many relate to Juan Bandini.

Box 2, Folder 2  Celis, Eulogio de. Letters to Stearns, 1837-1850.
Physical Description: 15 letters.
Scope and Content Note
Includes 1 document (signed by Celis) re Stearns and Fremont, witnessed by William Wolfskill, September 27, 1852.

Box 2, Folder 3  Couts, Cave J. Letters to Stearns, 1851-1855.
Physical Description: 35 letters.

Box 2, Folder 4  Couts, Cave J. Letters to Stearns, 1857-1858.
Physical Description: 39 letters.

Box 2, Folder 5  Couts, Cave J. Letters to Stearns, 1859-1870.
Physical Description: 19 letters.

Box 2, Folder 6  Stearns. Accounts and papers, chiefly re business with Cave J. Couts, 1847-1857.
Physical Description: 15 items.

Box 2, Folder 7  Stearns. Miscellaneous memoranda and accounts entered by A.S. in their appropriate books, 1843-1844.
Physical Description: 1 vol. manuscript.

Box 2, Folder 8  Gaffey, John T. Letters and documents, 1885-1910.
Physical Description: 15 items.
Scope and Content Note
Letters to Gaffey from Mariano Ruiz and documents, etc. re the Ruiz mines in Tepic, Mexico.

Box 2, Folders 9-10  Ruiz, Mariano. Leyenda Historica del Territorio de Tepic. Escrita por el Senor General Mariano Ruiz, dedicada a los ninos de las escuelas nacionales del referido territorio. Mexico, January 30, 1914.
Physical Description: 3 vol. in 2. 346 leaves typescript. ports (of Ruiz and Manuel Lozada).

Ruiz, Mariano
Box 3

**Reminiscencias Historicas.** Escrita por el C. General de divison Mariano Ruiz, veterano de 1862. Dedicadas a su honorable amigo, Mr. John T. Gaffy, de San Pedro, Calif., E.U.A. Mexico, September 15, 1926.

Physical Description: 3 vol. in 1. 91 leaves of text. Typescript illustrated [mounted photographs].

Scope and Content Note
Reminiscences of the war of intervention in Mexico, 1862.

Box 3

**Leyenda Historica de los Estados de Michoacan, Jalisco y Nayarit, escrita por el General de Division, Mariano Ruiz, dedicada a la Honorable dama, Mrs. Arcadia Bandini de Gaffy, de San Pedro, California, E.U.A. 1927.**

Physical Description: 2 vol. in 1. 339 leaves of text. Typescript illustrated [mounted photographs].

Scope and Content Note
Portraits and reproductions of drawings by Ana Maria B. Ruiz.

Rancho San Rafael Account Book

Oversize Box 4

**Libro de Cuentas de San Rafael.** no. 1, 1843-1856.

Scope and Content Note
Book of accounts re Rancho San Rafael, 60,000 acres in Lower California.
The entries for 1843-44 re Stearns and Bandini's hide and tallow business in Los Angeles.
1 vol. manuscript.