Finding Aid for the Copies of William Heath Davis Manuscripts Holdings in the California State Library, Sacramento, ca. 1840-1909

Collection number: 104

UCLA Library, Department of Special Collections
Manuscripts Division

Los Angeles, CA

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Copies of William Heath Davis Manuscripts Holdings in the California State Library, Sacramento,
Date (inclusive): ca. 1840-1909
Collection number: 104
Creator: Davis, William Heath, 1822-1909
Extent: 1 oversize box
Repository: University of California, Los Angeles. Library. Department of Special Collections.
Los Angeles, California 90095-1575
Abstract: William Heath Davis (1822-1909) was a merchant in San Francisco, a real estate developer in San Diego, and an author. The collection consists of 2 reels of 35mm. positive microfilm of correspondence and other material related to Davis’ business in Northern California.
Physical location: Stored off-site at SRLF. Advance notice is required for access to the collection. Please contact the UCLA Library, Department of Special Collections Reference Desk for paging information.
Language: English.

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

Additional Physical Form Available
A copy of the original version of this online finding aid is available at the UCLA Department of Special Collections for in-house consultation and may be obtained for a fee. Please contact:

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Biography
William Heath Kanaka Bill Davis was born in Hawaii in 1822, the grandson of a Polynesian princess; accompanied his stepfather on voyages to Alaska, and when he was ten, to California; learned merchandizing from his uncle Nathan Spear, a wealthy merchant with stores in San Francisco and Monterey; operated store in San Francisco, served briefly on the town council, and became a millionaire by age 28; invested in 160 acre waterfront property, now located between Front Street and Broadway in San Diego; sent for six prefabricated buildings from Portland, Maine in 1849 and built a wharf and warehouse called New Town; however it did not attract sufficient business, and became known as Davis' Folly; Davis wrote Sixty Years in California (1889) and Seventy-Five Years in California (published posthumously in 1929); he died in 1909.

Scope and Content
Collection consists of 2 reels of 35mm. positive microfilm of correspondence and other material related to merchant William Heath Davis' business in Northern California.

Original papers held at the California State Library, Sacramento.

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog. Davis, William Heath, 1822-1909--Archives. Merchants--California--Archival resources. Microfilms.

Related Material
William Heath Davis Papers (Collection 2041). Available at Department of Special Collections, UCLA.

Box 1

Microfilm (positive).

Physical Description: 2 reels.