Nellie Suydam Cowley papers

Processed by Reajinae Jenkins and Aleia McDaniel, 2015.
Special Collections & University Archives
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Descriptive Summary

Title: Nellie Suydam Cowley papers
Date (inclusive): 1861-1945, undated
Date (bulk): 1892-1945
Collection Number: MS 158
Extent: 1.67 linear feet (4 boxes)
Repository: Rivera Library. Special Collections Department.
Riverside, CA 92517-5900

Abstract: This collection contains diaries, correspondence, photographs, publications, and other material pertaining to Nellie Suydam Cowley, an average citizen who spent much of her life in Glendora, California. Her diaries and writings are based on what she considered to be her “ordinary” life and the “ordinary” events that encompassed it. While much of the material pertains to Glendora there is also material that documents her time in Arizona. Includes Cowley’s diaries which depict the everyday happenings of her life in California and Arizona over a span of fifty-three years, photographs of her family, friends, residences, and travels, and her published poems and short stories. Also includes documents such as mortgage and stock certificates pertaining to her financial dealings.

Languages: The collection is in English.

Access
The collection is open for research.

Publication Rights
Copyright Unknown: Some materials in these collections may be protected by the U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.). In addition, the reproduction, and/or commercial use, of some materials may be restricted by gift or purchase agreements, donor restrictions, privacy and publicity rights, licensing agreement(s), and/or trademark rights. Distribution or reproduction of materials protected by copyright beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. To the extent other restrictions apply, permission for distribution or reproduction from the applicable rights holder is also required. Responsibility for obtaining permissions, and for any use rests exclusively with the user.

Preferred Citation
[identification of item], [date if possible]. Nellie Suydam Cowley papers (MS 158). Special Collections & University Archives, University of California, Riverside.

Acquisition Information
The Nellie Suydam Cowley papers were acquired as a gift in 1983.

Processing History
Processing of the Nellie Suydam Cowley papers was completed by undergraduate students from the University of California, Riverside as part of the Special Collections & University Archives Backlog Processing Project started in 2015. This project was funded by the UCR Library and administered by Bergis Jules, University and Political Papers Archivist, and Eric Milenkiewicz, Manuscripts Curator.

Biography
Nellie Suydam Cowley was raised in both Southern California and Arizona. She grew up filled with a love for books that eventually led to her love of writing. Nellie chronicled her life and dreams through her diaries and letters. As one of two children, Nellie and her family moved to California in 1885 where she spent the majority of her life in the city of Glendora. Her writings are based on what she considered her “ordinary” life and the “ordinary” events that encompassed it. Cowley had dreams of becoming a writer and going to college but ultimately was never able to achieve these goals. Unable to become a writer, Nellie became a printer and in 1913 set up a printing shop in Arizona with her husband Harry Cowley. After the death of her mother, the failure of the printing shop, and the dissolution of her marriage Nellie relocated to Glendora, California. She continued to write stories, some of which were published; participate in civic events; and completed twenty-nine diaries detailing her life before dying of cancer in 1946.

Collection Scope and Contents
This collection contains diaries, correspondence, photographs, publications, and other material pertaining to Nellie Suydam Cowley and her life in Glendora, California and Douglas, Arizona. Includes Cowley’s diaries which depict the everyday happenings of her life in California and Arizona over a span of fifty three years, photographs of her family, friends,
residences, and travels, and her published poems and short stories. Also includes documents such as mortgage and stock certificates pertaining to her financial dealings.

Collection Arrangement
This collection is arranged into four series. The series arrangement is as follows:

Series 1. Writings, circa 1875-1945.

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

Subjects
Cowley, Nellie Suydam
Douglas (Ariz.)
Glendora (Calif.)

Genres and Forms of Materials
Clippings (information artifacts)
Diaries
Photographs

Series 1. Writings. circa 1875-1945.
Series Scope and Contents
This series contains diaries, correspondence, and other material documenting the life of Nellie Suydam Cowley from 1892-1945 in California and Arizona. The diaries depict the everyday happenings of Cowley's life over the span of fifty three years while the correspondence provides a first hand account of Cowley's personal and business dealings.

Series Arrangement
This series is arranged sequentially by box and folder number.

Box 1, Box 2
Diaries of Nellie Suydam Cowley documenting her everyday life and ordinary events in Glendora, California and Douglas, Arizona. 1892-1945.

Box 3, Folder 6
Correspondence to Nellie Suydam Cowley from various individuals. 1910-1938.

Box 4
Keepsake album containing autographs and handwritten notes. circa 1875.

Series Scope and Contents
This series contains photographs documenting the personal life of Nellie Suydam Cowley. All photographs are black and white and include images of her family, friends, residences, and travels.

Series Arrangement
This series is arranged sequentially by box and folder number.

Box 3, Folders 1-3
Photographs of Nellie Suydam Cowley's family and friends. 1887-1913.

Box 3, Folder 4

Box 4
Photograph album of Nellie Suydam Cowley's family and friends. 1861-1897.
Series 3. **Financial Documents. 1886-1906.**

Series Scope and Contents
This series contains certificates, notes, and other material pertaining to the financial dealings of Nellie Suydam Cowley. Includes mortgage certificates and deeds from various individuals in Glendora, California from the late nineteenth to early twentieth century and handwritten notes detailing price lists and receipts.

Series Arrangement
This series is arranged sequentially by box and folder number.

| Box 3, Folder 5 | Mortgage, deed, and stock certificates. 1886-1906. |
| Box 3, Folder 5 | Handwritten notes including price lists and receipts. 1886-1906. |

Series 4. **Publications. 1902-1949, undated.**

Series Scope and Contents
This series contains publications written or collected by Nellie Suydam Cowley. Includes published poems and short stories written by Cowley as well as newspaper clippings on a variety of topics. An interview with Keith Suydam detailing the history of the Suydam family is also included.

Series Arrangement
This series is arranged sequentially by box and folder number.

| Box 3, Folder 8 | Newspaper clippings on a variety of topics. undated. |
| Box 3, Folder 9 | Typescript of an interview with Keith Suydam by Helen Bettin regarding the Suydam family. circa 1940-1949. |