
Leon and Jeannette Rowland collection MS.051

Stanley D. Stevens, Joan Gilbert Martin

University of California, Santa Cruz

1156 High Street

Santa Cruz 95064

speccoll@library.ucsc.edu

URL: <http://guides.library.ucsc.edu/speccoll>

Language of Material: English

Contributing Institution: University of California, Santa Cruz

Title: Leon and Jeannette Rowland collection

creator: Rowland, Jeannette Wheatly

creator: Rowland, Leon, 1884-1952

Identifier/Call Number: MS.051

Physical Description: 12 Linear Feet 19 boxes, 2 packages

Date (inclusive): 1812-1951

Collection stored, in part, off-site at NRLF. Advance notice is required for access.

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is partially processed and may contain restricted materials. Please contact Special Collections and Archives in advance to request access.

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Preferred Citation

Leon and Jeannette Rowland Collection. MS 51. Special Collections and Archives, University Library, University of California, Santa Cruz.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Jeannette Wheatley Rowland, 1977.

Existence and Location of Copies

A scrapbook of newspaper clippings collected by Leon Rowland is stored offsite at NRLF. A bound photocopy of this scrapbook can be located in the UCSC Library catalog under call number [F868.S3 L46 1900z](#).

Biographical / Historical

Leon Rowland (1884-1952) was a local historian in Santa Cruz County, and editor of the Santa Cruz Evening News and the Santa Cruz Sentinel.

Rowland's research covered the early exploration of California by Spain from Mexico in the Sixteenth Century, and by explorers sailing the Pacific Coast, notably Sebastián Vizcaíno who discovered Monterey Bay in 1602. Rowland documented the establishment of the Villa de Branciforte (now part of Santa Cruz), and the California Missions, the Santa Cruz Mission in particular. Because of the relationship among the Missions and because the civil government was located at Monterey, Rowland's research also touched on San Jose, Santa Clara, San Juan Bautista, Salinas, and Monterey. Rowland taught himself Spanish, and copied documents from the archives of many institutions and translated them into English.

By profession, Leon Rowland was a newspaper columnist, an editor, and a newspaper publisher. His writing was published principally in the Santa Cruz Evening News, in the Santa Cruz Sentinel-News (when the Santa Cruz Sentinel absorbed the Evening News in January 1942), and finally in the Santa Cruz Sentinel. Rowland also was an editor for the Soquel Weekly Journal (1938) and the San Lorenzo Valley Journal (1939).

See [About the Rowlands](#) for more information. Source materials and biographies about the Rowlands were compiled by Stanley D. Stevens and Joan Gilbert Martin in consultation with Jean Rowland Jackson.

Scope and Contents

This collection primarily comprises collected research documents on the history of people and places in Santa Cruz County from pre-statehood California to 1951. Included are scrapbooks, newspaper clippings, articles, writings, notes, notecards, and other research documents created and collected by Leon Rowland and his wife Jeannette. The collection also includes a small amount of original pre-statehood documents concerning land ownership in California.

Processing Information

The Rowland card collection was transcribed and indexed by Joan Gilbert Martin and Stanley D. Stevens in 2004-2012. A database of the rancho documents was created in 2005 by Special Collections volunteer Amy Dunning and edited and indexed in 2012 by Stanley D. Stevens.

Related Materials

Related materials can be located at the UC Berkeley Bancroft Library in the collection, Research materials relating to early California residents, under call number [BANC MSS 79/131 c](#)

Subjects and Indexing Terms

Scrapbooks

Santa Cruz County (Calif.)

box 1-11

Rowland Papers and Rancho Documents

Scope and Contents

Boxes 1-2 contain a set of 102 documents relating to California ranchos in 1802-1877, including Buena Vista in Monterey County, La Brea and Las Animas in Santa Clara County, and Corralitos, San Andrés, Soquel, and Soquel Augmentation in Santa Cruz County. An inventory and index to these documents are available here.

[Rancho Documents Inventory](#)

[Index to Rancho Documents](#)

Boxes 3-11 contain research materials compiled by the Rowlands, including some original pre-statehood documents. An inventory for this portion of the collection is available here.

[Rowland Box Inventory](#)

Rowland Card Collection

Scope and Contents

Through the course of their research, the Rowlands created over nine thousand index cards that capture their notes on the history prominent figures and locales of Santa Cruz County.

This set of 9,327 index cards has been transcribed and indexed. See the Rowland Card Database for transcriptions of the cards. See the Index to Rowland Cards for a comprehensive index to any person or subject referred to in the cards.

[Rowland Card Database](#)

[Index to Rowland Cards](#)

The cards are arranged in alphabetical order, divided according to surnames of people and subjects. See Card Categories for a complete list of the categories.

Boxes A-1 through A-5 contain 3x5 inch index cards with descriptions of people. Box A-6 contains larger cards that also describe people, mostly late in the alphabet from M through Z. Many of the entries on these cards have been crossed out in pencil; presumably, as the information was transferred at a later time to smaller cards in the red boxes. [The transcribers have included the crossed-out information.] Rowland used a standard set of abbreviations on his cards. See Rowland Abbreviations for a list of abbreviations used in his cards.

The cards in boxes B-1, B2, and B-3 describe selected subjects, in categories ranging from Banks through Taxes, including such diverse categories as Land Grants, County Roads, Railroads, and Padrónes (a census of people or animals).

Box C includes transcripts of the Pre-Statehood Documents in Spanish. Some have been translated from the Spanish by Leon Rowland, but many of the cards in Box C have not been translated. [Researchers may wish to compare Rowland's translations with California pre-statehood documents relating to Santa Cruz County, 1790-1850; English translation of Spanish documents by Starr Pait Gurcke. Spec Coll MS105]. See Spanish Terms for definitions of many Spanish terms on the cards. Box C also contains a set of cards illustrating California cattle brands. See Cattle Brand Images for a list of these brand illustrations.

[Card Categories](#)

[Rowland Abbreviations](#)

[Spanish Terms](#)

[Cattle Brand Images](#)

