Descriptive Summary
Languages: English
Contributing Institution: Special Collections & Archives, UC San Diego
9500 Gilman Drive
La Jolla 92093-0175
Title: Ritter Family Papers
Creator: Ritter family
Identifier/Call Number: SMC 0015
Physical Description: 0.65 Linear feet (1.5 archives boxes)
Date (inclusive): 1841-1916
Abstract: The collection consists of correspondence, legal documents, and early photographs from the Ritter families of Syracuse, New York and Hampden, Wisconsin, the immediate relatives of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography founder William E. Ritter.
Related Materials
Scope and Content of Collection
The collection consists of correspondence, legal documents, and early photographs from the Ritter families of Syracuse, New York and Hampden, Wisconsin, the immediate relatives of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography founder William E. Ritter.
The collection is arranged in three series: 1) CORRESPONDENCE, 2) LEGAL PAPERS, 3) PHOTOGRAPHS.
Biography
William E. Ritter (1856-1944), biologist and co-founder of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, was born on the farm in Hampden, Wisconsin. His uncle Nelson of Syracuse encouraged William’s education and scientific career, and maintained close ties between the New York and Wisconsin branches of the Ritter family. William left his parent’s farm to attend the State Normal School at Oshkosh. He obtained degrees from the University of California, Berkeley and Harvard University, and began teaching at the University of California, Berkeley in 1891. The Ritter family papers were gathered from the Ritter ancestral home in Syracuse, New York and donated to the SIO Archives in 1986.
Preferred Citation
Ritter Family Papers, SMC 15. Special Collections & Archives, UC San Diego.
OFF-SITE STORAGE
COLLECTION STORED OFF-SITE. ALLOW ONE WEEK FOR RETRIEVAL OF MATERIALS.
Publication Rights
Publication rights are held by the Regents of the University of California.
Acquisition Information
Acquired 1986.
Digital Content
Selected photographs from this collection have been digitized and can be viewed through links in the container list.
Subjects and Indexing Terms
Wisconsin -- History -- Sources -- Archives
Ritter, Ella Louisa -- Correspondence
Ritter, Mary Emaline -- Correspondence
Scripps Institution of Oceanography
Ritter, William Emerson -- Correspondence
Ritter family -- Archives
CORRESPONDENCE

Scope and Content of Series

Series 1) CORRESPONDENCE: Letters and postcards exchanged between members of the Ritter family, the majority written by William E. Ritter and his uncle Nelson Ritter between 1860 and 1905. The correspondence documents births, deaths, and the health of family members; social and economic aspects of life on the farms; and William E. Ritter’s educational and career experiences. Early letters contain impressions of the Civil War and Union recruiting and drafting policies in Wisconsin. The final folder in the series contains handwritten poems. Arranged chronologically.

Box 1, Folder 1-36
Letters 1841-1916
General
Folder 35 contains several California and La Jolla themed picture postcards ca. 1910.

Box 1, Folder 37
Poems undated

RECEIPTS AND LEGAL PAPERS

Scope and Content of Series

Series 2) LEGAL PAPERS: Documents concerning the estate of Ezra Ritter, such as receipts, tax records, and bank documents.

Box 1, Folder 38-39
Receipts 1876-1886

Box 1, Folder 40-42
City taxes 1863-1908

Box 1, Folder 43
Bank receipts 1901-1909

Box 2, Folder 1-5
Legal papers 1824-1891

PHOTOGRAPHS

Scope and Content of Series

Series 3) PHOTOGRAPHS: Contains two original tintypes of William E. Ritter as a young man, and portraits of other family members. Photographic postcards are located in the CORRESPONDENCE series.

Box 2, Folder 6
Ritter Family portraits ca. 1860-1890s

General

Selected photographs from this folder have been digitized and can be viewed through the links below.

Portrait subjects include (all surnames Ritter): William E., Ella Louisa, Dwight Nelson, Mary Elizabeth, Damaris Winslow, Jane, and Mary Emaline.