Register of the McComb (John D.) Scrapbook, 1881-1891

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Register of the McComb (John D.) Scrapbook, 1881-1891

Collection number: Mss278

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Descriptive Summary

Title: McComb (John D.) Scrapbook,  
Date (inclusive): 1881-1891  
Collection number: Mss278  
Creator: A. Lamont Smith  
Extent: 0.25 linear ft.  
Repository: University of the Pacific. Library. Holt-Atherton Department of Special Collections  
Stockton, CA 95211  
Shelf location: For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the library's online catalog.  
Language: English.

Access

Collection is open for research.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], McComb (John D.) Scrapbook, Mss278, Holt-Atherton Department of Special Collections, University of the Pacific Library

personal name
McComb, John D. (1830-1896)

corporate name
San Quentin Prison (Calif.) -History -Sources  
Folsom Prison (Calif.) -History -Sources  

subject
Prison wardens -California  
Prisons -California -History  
Crime -California -History  
Criminology -California -History
Biography
John D. McComb (1830-1896) came to California on the steamer Oregon (1849). He worked as a printer in San Francisco, being associated with the Alta California for eighteen years, the last five of which he was managing editor. He subsequently became manager of the State Printing Office. From 1861 McComb was also associated with the California National Guard and was ultimately appointed a Brigadier General (1875). Governor Perkins selected him as Warden for Folsom Prison in 1881. He served there until transferred to San Quentin (1887) by Governor Waterman. McComb retired in 1891.

Folsom Prison, east of Sacramento, was erected between 1878 and 1880. McComb was the prison's second Warden. When he assumed the office, Folsom held 275 prisoners. The convicts performed daily labor on a 489 acre prison farm, area roads, sewers and forests. McComb also oversaw the erection of a dam and power house that furnished electricity for the prison (1882). San Quentin Prison, on San Francisco Bay, was founded in 1852. When McComb became Warden there the prison population was over one thousand and the principal employment of that population was the manufacture of jute grain sacks.

Scope and Content