Collection number: MSS 300

Title: W. P Miller Photo Album
Dates: 1861-1865
Bulk Dates: 1861-1865
Collection number: MSS 300
Creator: Miller, William P.
Repository: University of the Pacific. Library. Holt-Atherton Dept. of Special Collections
Stockton, California 95211
Abstract: Album contains over 700 photos of individuals and families in Stockton, California collected by William P. Miller.
The photographer was I.S. Locke.
Physical location: For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the library's online catalog.
Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English
Access
Collection open for research.
Publication Rights
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Preferred Citation
W. P Miller Photo Album. MSS 300. Holt-Atherton Department of Special Collections, University of the Pacific Library.
Biography / Administrative History
The creator of this Stockton photo album was William Payson Miller a well-known and trusted citizen of Stockton, California. W.P. Miller was born October 8th, 1825 in Windsor, Maine. In 1847 Miller married Phebe Y. Roberts. Phebe died September 17, 1849, leaving one son, Edward, than nine months old. In his adulthood, Edward moved to San Diego, California. In 1850 Miller headed for California by the way of the Isthmus of Panama. Miller arrived in San Francisco in on April 6th 1851, where he immediately found work as a carpenter. Miller continued to work in San Francisco until August when he moved to Stockton and began working for J.W. Smith. Miller later rented a corner of Smith's shop to produce his own work in carriage making. A year later Miller went into partnership with two gentlemen, Skiff and Tucker. Within three years Miller was able to buy out his partners and begin a long and reputable business in carriage manufacturing. Miller married his second wife, Pamela Tilton, in June of 1855. They had one daughter, Millie Louisa. Miller was a member of the Methodist church, follower of temperance, an abolitionist, and a member of Stockton's city council. The photographer of this collection was Captain I.S. Locke, a native of Kentucky. Locke was an Ambrotypist, photographer, and photographic colorist. He was active in Stockton between 1856-1859, and 1864-1867. Locke was a partner with Thomas Starbuck in the daguerreian firm of Starbuck and Locke, with a gallery on Court House Square, Stockton, California, in 1856. By 1859, Locke had a gallery on Main Street, Stockton. It is unclear if Locke had a continuous business in Stockton during the following five years. Records indicate that Locke did a twenty-five dollar federal tax assessment on his photographic business in May 1864. It was probably late in 1864 when Locke and his former partner revived the partnership of Starbuck and Locke in Stockton. Their business was listed under "Photographers" in an 1864-1865 California-Oregon business directory. On September 4th, 1865 Locke's studio on wheels was destroyed when a terrible fire struck Stockton. By September he was fully employed as a photographic
colorist at the gallery of Williams McCorslin Stuart at the corner of Hunter Street and Weber Avenue, Stockton. Stewart
drew the public's attention to Locke's photographs in oil colors. Locke continued to operate as a photographer in Stockton
until about 1867.

**Scope and Content of Collection**
The subjects in the photo album are considered the "old or pioneer" residents of Stockton, California and their families,
circa 1861-1865. The album contains over 700 photos, more than 300 have names labeled. The album was created by W. P.
Miller, a prominent citizen of Stockton in the 1850s and 1860s. The photographer, I.S. Locke, worked in Stockton throughout
the mid-19th century.

**Indexing Terms**
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.
Locke, I. S
Pioneers - California - Stockton - Portraits

Photo album contents.