
Register of the Shiman Family Papers, 1859-1921

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Collection number: Mss31

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Contact Information

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Shiman Family Papers,

Date (inclusive): 1859-1921

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Biography

John L. Shiman and his wife Johanna J. Shiman came to California from Germany in the mid-19th century. John Shiman settled at San Lorenzo, Alameda county, where he operated a general merchandise store, and, in 1857, became first postmaster. For about twelve years he was in partnership with Lewis Lengfeld (1853-c1865) then remained in business for himself until his death in 1898.

During the 1870s Shiman purchased substantial tracts of agricultural land east of San Lorenzo and north of San Lorenzo Creek where he grew cherries. He was one of the first California growers to ship fruit east by refrigerator railroad car.

By the 1880s Shiman apparently owned stores in San Leandro, Mt. Eden and San Lorenzo. His Mt. Eden store stood on the north corner of present-day Hesperian Boulevard and Jackson Street. Shiman's insurance accounts reveal that he also owned a butcher shop and a cobbler shop, as well as residential properties in Oakland and southern Alameda county. From the late 1880s, three of his four sons, Louis G., William J. and Lorenzo also participated in the operation of the various

family businesses. The original Shiman Store in San Lorenzo ceased operations after 1901.

Southern Alameda county seems first to have been a German enclave, although by 1900 it was probably more widely known as a Portuguese colony. Many of the important pioneers of southern Alameda county--especially those with German and Portuguese surnames--did business with John L. Shiman. Biographies of nine of these individuals, including Edward Clawiter, Justus Gading, J.H. Gansberger, William Meek, Henry Meininger, George S. Meyer, Erik Ruus, and A.W. Schafer, are to be found in various histories of Alameda county.

Scope and Content

The Shiman Family Papers consist principally of the records of the San Lorenzo store. These records occupy six journals (1860-1863, 1869-1890), eleven day books (1859-1863, 1873-1885, 1888-1890), three cash books (1879-1896), an inventory book (1888, 1891) and a purchase order book (1866-1880). There is also a small collection of business correspondence (1870-1890), tax receipts and miscellaneous licences.

A secondary collection within the papers consists of a scrapbook, scattered correspondence and some domestic accounts (1872-1875) produced by Mrs. Johanna Shiman. These materials are partly in German.

San Lorenzo Store Records

Scope and Content Note

Arrangement

Box 1: Journals (1860-1875) Box 2: Journals (1876-1900) Box 3: Day Books (1859-1865) Box 4: Day Books (1873-Dec. 1, 1877) Box 5: Day Books (Dec. 2, 1877-Dec. 1, 1881) Box 6: Day Books (Dec. 2, 1881-Jun. 15, 1885) Box 7: Day Books (1888-1901) Box 8: Cash Books (1879-1896) Box 9: Other Business Records (1866-1894)

Shiman Family Personal Papers

Scope and Content Note

Arrangement

Box 1: Johanna J. Shiman Scrapbook; Correspondence; Clippings; Household Records

Series 1: Shiman San Lorenzo Store Records 1859-1901

Box Box 1:	Journals 1860-1875
Folder 1	1860-1863 [includes index]
Folder 2	1869-1871 [do.]
Folder 3	1870-1875 [do.]
Box Box 2:	Journals, 1876-1890
Folder 4	1876-1880 [no index]
Folder 5	1880-1885
Folder 5a	Index to #2
Folder 6	1885-1890 [no index]
Box Box 3:	Day Books, 1859-1865
Folder 1	Jun. 19, 1859-Aug. 15, 1859
Folder 2	Aug. 1, 1860-Aug. 15, 1861
Folder 3	Nov. 11, 1862-Dec. 31, 1863 [scattered dates in 1864 & 1865]
Box Box 4:	Day Books, 1873-Dec. 1, 1877
Folder 4	1873-1875
Folder 5	1876-Dec. 1, 1877
Box Box 5:	Day Books, Dec. 2, 1877-DEC. 1, 1881
Folder 6	Dec. 2, 1877-Aug. 19, 1879
Folder 7	Aug. 20, 1879-Dec. 1, 1881
Box Box 6:	Day Books, Dec. 1, 1881-Jun. 15, 1885
Folder 8	Dec. 1, 1881-Dec. 31, 1883
Folder 9	Jan. 1, 1884-Jun. 15, 1885
Folder Box 7:	Day Books, 1888-1901
Folder 10	1888-Oct. 11, 1889
Folder 11	Oct. 12, 1889-Dec. 31, 1890

- Folder 12 **1891-1901 [incl. employee payroll for 1901 in back]**
Box Box 8: **Cash Books, 1879-1896**
Folder 1 **Cash Book, Feb. 3, 1879-Aug. 31, 1880**
Folder 2 **Cash Book, Feb. 5, 1886-Feb. 22, 1888**
Folder 3 **Cash Book supplement, Aug. 1, 1889-April 30, 1890**
Folder 4 **Cash Book, Mar. 17, 1890-Mar. 22, 1896**
Box Box 9: **Other Business Records, 1866-1894**
 Purchase order book, 1866-1880
 List of debtor names, 1871-1882
 Wells Fargo & Co. Express Tariffs Book, 1881
 "Inventory of stock," Dec. 26, 1888; "Inventory of stock sold to J. Lindsay," 1891
 [lacks covers]
 Misc. [store] Accounts, 1889-1894
 Misc. Accounts, 1886-1891 [principally mortgage-secured loans to individuals and
 rent records]
 Misc. business corresp., 1870s [5 items]
 Misc. business corresp., 1880s [2 items, 3 l.]
 Misc. stmts. & rcpts., 1870s [4 items]
 Misc. stmts. & rcpts., 1880s [3 items]
 Misc. tax rcpts., 1865-66, 69, 83-84 [9 items]
 Misc. business licences [tobacco, liquor, etc.], 1885-86 [9 items]
Series 2: Shiman Family Personal Papers 1872-1921

Box Box 1: **1872-1921**
 Day Book [San Lorenzo store], Jul. 23, 1862-Jul. 29, 1862; Household expenses of
 Johanna Juliane Shiman, Oct. 9, 1872- Feb. 17, 1875; One page diary, Mar. 1875;
 Records of pay for household workers [washing, etc.], 1876 [lacks covers]
 Cancelled checks written by John L. Shiman, 1887-91; by Johanna Shiman, 1906
 [50 items]
 Bay area business cards [5 items]
 Johanna J. Shiman corresp., 1901, 1921
 Johanna J. Shiman scrapbook, c1870-1910 [contains a few family clippings; chiefly
 news & oddities]
 Loose scraps formerly laid-in scrapbook
 Loose clippings formerly laid-in scrapbook
 Misc. ballots, rcpts., ads, papers [13 items]