Register of the Shiman Family Papers, 1859-1921

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Register of the Shiman Family Papers, 1859-1921

Collection number: Mss31

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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

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

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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]