
Guide to the Letter Book of the College of California, 1849-1867

Collection number: 308y.let

University Archives, The Bancroft Library



University of California, Berkeley
Berkeley, California

Contact Information:

- University Archives
- The Bancroft Library
- University of California, Berkeley
- Berkeley, California, 94720-6000
- Phone: (510) 642-2933
- Fax: (510) 642-7589
- Email: uarchive@library.berkeley.edu
- URL: <http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/BANC/UARC/>

Processed by:

The Bancroft Library staff

Date Completed:

1999

Encoded by:

Xiuzhi Zhou

© 2000 The Regents of the University of California. All rights reserved.

Collection Summary

Collection Title: Letter Book of the College of California,

Date (inclusive): 1849-1867

Collection Number: 308y.let

Creator: College of California

Extent: 1 box (.4 linear feet)

Repository: The Bancroft Library. University Archives.

Berkeley, California 94720-6000

Physical Location: For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Library's online catalog.

Languages Represented: English

Access

Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

Copyright has not been assigned to The Bancroft Library. All requests for permission to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted in writing to the Head of Public Services. Permission for publication is given on behalf of The Bancroft Library as the owner of the physical items and is not intended to include or imply permission of the copyright holder, which must also be obtained by the reader.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Letter book of the College of California, 308y.let, University Archives, The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley.

Related Collections

Documents of the College of California (308y.d)
Transfer of the College of California to the University of California (308y.tr)
Reports to the Board of Trustees of the College of California (308y.r)

Brief History

The College of California was chartered in 1855 and operated in Oakland, California until 1869. Initially it functioned as a preparatory academy, under the name of College School, and the first college class of ten freshmen began in 1860. The aspirations of the College led it to search for a larger site as early as 1856, and this search gradually led to the acquisition of land north of Oakland at a site the trustees named Berkeley, after George Berkeley, Bishop of Cloyne.

In 1866, California took advantage of the Morrill Land Grant Act and created the Agricultural, Mining, and Mechanical Arts College. The trustees of the College of California realized the implications for their own institution's lack of financial support and offered all the college's assets if the legislature would create a University of California combining the aims of the Agricultural, Mining and Mechanical Arts College and the more humanities-oriented College of California. An act to found the university was passed by the California legislature and was signed into law on March 23, 1868. The College of California offered no instruction after the 1868/69 academic year.

Scope and Content

This collection consists of letters addressed primarily to Samuel H. Willey relating to faculty and trustee appointments of the College of California. Included also are some early letters and memoranda concerning the establishment of a college at Benicia, California, and at the end there are specifications of the sale of part of the Oakland, California, property to Isaac Brayton. The collection also contains three letters by Frederick Law Olmsted concerning the college property in Berkeley, California.

- item 1 **Rogers, William M.**
 to Larkin, Thomas 06/25/1849
 Establishment of university at Benicia

- item 2 **Lyman, Chester S.; 01/01/1849**
 Memo re establishment of a college

- item 3 **Blakeslee, S.V.**
 to Dimick 11/29/1849
 Re donation of land in San Jose

- item 4 **Crockett, I.B.**
 to Billings, Frederick 12/29/1856
 Declining trustee position

- item 5 **Kip, William Ingraham**
 to Willey, Samuel H. 11/17/1856
 Acceptance as trustee.

- item 6 **Crockett, I.B.**
to Willey, Samuel B. 12/04/1858
Declines trusteeship.

- item 7 **Coon, Henry P.**
to Willey, Samuel H. 04/12/1858
Declines trusteeship.

- item 8 **Willey, Samuel H. 07/21/1858**
Memo of election of W.C. Anderson as trustee.

- item 9 **Willey, Samuel H.**
to Kip, William I. 11/13/1856
Notice of election as trustee.

- item 10 **Kip, William I.**
to Willey, Samuel H. 06/27/1859
Resignation as trustee.

- item 11 **Brierly, B.**
to Willey, Samuel H. 02/26/1859
Resignation as trustee.

- item 12 **Kellogg, Martin**
to Willey, Samuel H. 09/07/1859
Acceptance as prof.; church matters, Grass Valley.

- item 13 **Macondray, Frederick**
to Trustees 04/20/1860
Resignation as trustee.

- item 14 **Ely, C. Arthur**
to Willey, Samuel H. 03/28/1860
Re service to the college.

- item 15 **Cheney, D.B.**
to Willey, Samuel H. 03/09/1860
Acceptance as trustee.

- item 16 **Sather, Peder**
to Willey, Samuel H. 05/07/1860
Acceptance as trustee

- item 17 **Stanley, Edward**
to Willey, Samuel H. 04/23/1860
Acceptance as trustee

- item 18 **Goddard, E.B.**
to Trustees 05/10/1860
Berkeley prop.; Hillegas contract; water rights

- item 19 **Bushnell, Horace**
to Trustees 07/09/1861
Declines office.

- item 20 **King, Thomas Starr**
to Willey, Samuel H. 05/26/1862
Excuses absence from meeting
- item 21 **Anderson, William C.**
to Willey, Samuel H. 03/28/1862
Willey as vice-pres and financial agent of college
- item 22 **Brewer, William**
to Willey, Samuel H. 04/01/1863
Accepts professorship of natural science.
- item 23 **Sather, Peder**
to Willey, Samuel H. 10/10/1863
Resignation as trustee
- item 24 **Anderson, W.C.**
to Willey, Samuel H. 06/02/1863
Resignation as trustee.
- item 25 **Cheney, D.B.**
to Trustees 10/20/1863
Resignation as trustee.
- item 26 **Hendrickson, C.R.**
to Willey, Samuel H. 10/20/1863
Resignation as trustee
- item 27 **Blake, William P.**
to Willey, Samuel H. 12/26/1863
Acceptance as director of the college.
- item 28 **Billings, Frederick**
to Willey, Samuel H. 03/22/1864
Re presidence and finances.
- item 29 **McGill, Alexander T.**
to Shedd, William 03/05/1864
Re candidates for presidency.
- item 30 **Brewer, William H.**
to Trustees 04/22/1864
Resignation as professor.
- item 31 **Brewer, William H.**
to Willey, Samuel H. 04/22/1864
Re his resignation.
- item 32 **Blake, William P.**
to Trustees 05/20/1864
Rept as director mining & agricultural college.
- item 33 **Swain, Robert B.**
to Willey, Samuel H. 06/18/1864
Acceptance as trustee.

-
- item 34 **McLane, Louis**
to Willey, Samuel H 06/09/1864
Declines trusteeship.
- item 35 **Shedd, William G.T.**
to Willey, Samuel H. 03/02/1864
Re presidency.
- item 36 **Jackson, C.T.**
to Willey, Samuel H. 06/20/1865
Asking for revised proof.
- item 37 **Sherman, William**
to Willey, Samuel H. 10/19/1864
Acceptance as trustee.
- item 38 **Alvord, William**
to Willey, Samuel H. 10/19/1864
Acceptance as trustee.
- item 39 **Bellows, Henry W.**
to Willey, Samuel H. 11/21/1864
Re professorship of Schutz.
- item 40 **Olmsted, Frederick L**
to Willey, Samuel H. 11/21/1864
Re trees for college grounds.
- item 41 **Stiles, Anson G.**
to Willey, Samuel H. 10/28/1864
Acceptance as trustee.
- item 42 **Hilgard, Julius E.**
to President 02/21/1865
Coast Survey reports and charts.
- item 43 **Bayles, James**
to Willey, Samuel H. 03/11/1865
Re death of Rev. L.C. Bayles.
- item 44 **Torrey, John**
to Willey, Samuel H. 06/01/1865
Absence from commencement.
- item 45 **Olmsted, Frederick L**
to Willey, Samuel H. 08/31/1865
Re plan of college grounds.
- item 46 **Briggs, Martin C.**
to Willey, Samuel H. 07/07/1865
Acceptance as trustee.
- item 47 **Olmsted, Frederick L**
to Willey, Samuel H. 07/25/1865
Re name for college property or town.
-

- item 48 **Barnes, William Henry**
to Willey, Samuel H. 09/05/1865
Thanks for degree.
- item 49 **McLane, Allan**
to Willey, Samuel H. 11/21/1865
Pacific Mail Steamship Co donation for library.
- item 50 **Stow, J.W.**
to Willey, Samuel H. 12/06/1865
Acceptance as trustee.
- item 51 **Stebbins, Horatio**
to Willey, Samuel H. 12/07/1865
Acceptance as trustee.
- item 52 **Billings, Frederick**
to Willey, Samuel H. 02/14/1866
Resignation as trustee.
- item 53 **Hitchcock, Roswell D.**
to Willey, Samuel H. 04/05/1866
Declines college presidency.
- item 54 **Cleaveland, H.W.**
to Willey, Samuel H. 07/13/1866
Thanks for degree.
- item 55 **Sawyer, E.D.**
to Willey, Samuel H. 06/13/1866
Thanks for degree.
- item 56 **Dwinelle, John W.**
to Trustees 07/07/1866
Acceptance as trustee.
- item 57 **Bank of California 09/01/1866**
Re sale of gold; statement of balance.
- item 58 **Stone, A.L.**
to Willey, Samuel H. 02/09/1866
Acceptance as trustee
- item 59 **Scudder, Henry**
to Willey, Samuel H. 02/11/1867
Acceptance as trustee.
- item 60 **Willey, Samuel H.**
to Lees & Waller 07/03/1867
Instructions re funds.
- item 61 **Lees & Waller**
to Willey, Samuel H. 08/05/1867
Reply and statement

- item 62 **Conness, John**
to Willey, Samuel H. 05/20/1867
 Thanks for commence invitation; praise for college

- item 63 **Wylie, James**
to Willey, Samuel H. 06/14/1867
 Thanks for degree.

- item 64 **Shafter, Oscar L.**
to Willey, Samuel H. 07/03/1865
 Thanks for degree.

- item 65 **Sargent, A.A.**
to Willey, Samuel H. 06/19/1865
 Thanks for degree.

- item 66 **Swezey, S.I.C**
to Willey, Samuel H. 06/21/1865
 Thanks for degree.

- item 67 **Bidwell, John**
to Willey, Samuel H 06/20/1865
 Thanks for degree.

- item 68 **Lake, Delos**
to Willey, Samuel H. 06/19/1865
 Thanks for degree.

- item 69 **Gates, F.**
to Willey, Samuel H. 06/18/1865
 Thanks for degree.

- item 70 **Specification re sale of property to I. Brayton.**