
Guide to the Hearst Ranch and Cayucos Photograph Collection

Special Collections Department

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San Luis Obispo, CA 93407

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Date Completed:

2008

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Hearst Ranch and Cayucos Photograph Collection,

Date (inclusive): c.1890 -

Date (inclusive): c.1930

Date (bulk): (bulk 1920s)

Collection number: MS 158

Creator: Morss, Clayton Leonard, 1891-1967

Extent: 1 box

Language: English

Repository: Special Collections, Robert E. Kennedy Library

California Polytechnic State University San Luis Obispo, California 93407

Abstract: The Hearst Ranch and Cayucos Photograph Collection contains nine vintage snapshots and 1 mounted print believed to have been taken by longtime Central Coast resident Clayton Leonard Morss (1891-1967). Includes black-and-white snapshots of construction of the Hearst Ranch in San Simeon, California, in the 1920s, and albumen prints of the town of Cayucos, California in the 1890s, both in San Luis Obispo County. Most of the photos have been removed from an album.

Provenance

Anonymous gift.

Access

Collection is open to qualified researchers by appointment only. For more information on access policies and to obtain a copy of the Researcher Registration form, please visit the Special Collections Access page.

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Preferred Citation

[Identification of Item], Hearst Ranch and Cayucos Photograph Collection, Special Collections, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo.

Abbreviations Used:

c.: circa

Calif.: California

Biography

These photographs were probably taken by Clayton Leonard Morss (1891-1967), a longtime resident of San Luis Obispo and Monterey counties. Morss was born in Cayucos and was a member of the extended Leffingwell family, who owned the private wharf known as Leffingwell Landing north of Cambria. Morss lived in various places up and down the North Coast including Cayucos, San Simeon, and Gorda. He eventually moved inland to the county seat of San Luis Obispo by the 1930s. His occupation is listed in various city directories and telephone directories from the 1930s-1960s as a grader operator, WPA supervisor, and a landscape gardener.

Morss was married to Myrtle Rose Woodworth Morss (1899-1946). He died in San Luis Obispo Nov. 3, 1967.

Sources

Arnold, Allyn, Lou Kløver and Al Musso. *Cayucos by the sea: a pictorial history*. Cayucos, Ca: Friends of the Cayucos Library, 2000.

Hamilton, Geneva. *Where the Highway Ends*. Cambria, CA: Williams Printing Co., 1974.

1900, 1920, *United States Federal Census*, Ancestry.com

San Luis Obispo County City and Telephone Directory. Los Angeles, CA.: General Directories, Local Chamber of Commerce, 1938.

San Luis Obispo County City and Telephone Directory. Los Angeles, CA.: General Directories, Local Chamber of Commerce, 1939.

Social Security Death Index, Ancestry.com

World War I Draft Registration Cards, Ancestry.com

Scope and Content Note

The Hearst Ranch and Cayucos Photograph Collection contains nine vintage snapshots and 1 mounted print believed to have been taken by longtime Central Coast resident Clayton Leonard Morss (1891-1967). Includes black-and-white snapshots of construction of the Hearst Ranch in San Simeon, California, in the 1920s, and albumen prints of the town of Cayucos, California in the 1890s, both in San Luis Obispo County. Most of the photos have been removed from an album.

The Hearst Ranch and Cayucos Photograph Collection is housed in one box with one series and two subseries:

Series 1. Photographs, c.1890 - c.1930

A. Photographs of Cayucos

B. Photographs of Hearst Ranch at San Simeon

The National Endowment for the Humanities has generously funded the arrangement and description of this collection, along with matching funds from California Polytechnic State University.

Indexing Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

Subjects

San Simeon Ranch (California) -- History.
San Simeon (California) -- Buildings, structures, etc.
Cayucos (California) -- History.

Genre and Forms of Materials

Photographs

Related Material

Related Collections
Special Collections, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo:
Julia Morgan Papers, 1835-1958 (MS 10)
Local History Ephemera Collection (MS 016)

1. Photographs, c.1890 - c.1930

Scope and Content Note

Contains two subseries: A. Photographs of Cayucos, and B. Photographs of Hearst Ranch at San Simeon.

A. Photographs of Cayucos

Scope and Content Note

Contains five black-and-white prints arranged chronologically. 5 folders.

Box 1, Folder 1	Coast along Cayucos, albumen print, c.1890
Box 1, Folder 2	Cayucos Creek ranch, albumen print, c.1890
Box 1, Folder 3	Cayucos, with pier, albumen print, c.1894
Box 1, Folder 4	Group of 26 men posed in field with threshing machine; location unknown, c.1895
Box 1, Folder 5	Old Creek Bridge construction, Cayucos, c.1913

B. Photographs of Hearst Ranch at San Simeon

Scope and Content Note

Contains five black and white prints, arranged chronologically. Folder headers are from inscriptions on prints. Bracketted information has been added as clarification for the researcher. 5 folders.

Box 1, Folder 6	Robinson, Hearst Camp, c.1920s
Box 1, Folder 7	G. Tomilson (?) and coyote, c.1920s
Box 1, Folder 8	Hearst Ranch [truck at warehouse with crated animals], c.1927
Box 1, Folder 9	Hearst Ranch [truck with palm trees], c.1927
Box 1, Folder 10	Hearst Camp, 1920 [view from Esplanade, entrance to C House, San Simeon, c.1930]