
Guide to the Cowell Ranch Records

Collection number: MS 80

The University Library
Special Collections and Archives
University of California, Santa Cruz
Santa Cruz, California

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Cowell Ranch records

Dates: 1890-1955

Collection number: MS 80

Creator: Cowell (S. H.) Foundation

Collection Size: 29 boxes
3 framed photographs

Repository: University of California, Santa Cruz. University Library. Special Collections and Archives
Santa Cruz, California 95064

Abstract: This collection contains various record books, ledgers, cash books, tax records and artifacts from the Cowell properties and businesses, Henry Cowell Lime & Cement Company and Cowell Portland Cement Company.

Physical location: Stored offsite at NRLF: Advance notice is required for access to the papers.

Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English

Access

Collection open for research.

Publication Rights

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Preferred Citation

Cowell Ranch records. MS 80. Special Collections and Archives, University Library, University of California, Santa Cruz.

Acquisition Information

Gift of S.H. Cowell Foundation, Claude Lazarotti, and Barbara Murray.

Biographical History

A comprehensive history of the Cowell family can be found on the Santa Cruz Public Libraries web site;

[Title: Henry Cowell and His Family \(1819-1955\)](#)

Scope and Content of Collection

This collection contains various record books, ledgers, cash books, tax records and artifacts from the Cowell properties and businesses, Henry Cowell Lime & Cement Company, and Cowell Portland Cement Company.

Boxes 25-26 are unprocessed and unavailable. 7/16/08

Indexing Terms

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

Cowell, Henry--Archives

Cowell Ranch (Calif.)--History

Santa Cruz County (Calif.)--History

S.H. Cowell Foundation

Series 1 Henry Cowell Lime & Cement Company 1880-1952

Physical Description: 15 boxes

Series Scope and Content Summary

This series contains various account books, petty ledgers, tax books, cash books, property tax books, voucher registers, trial balance books, etc. Also included are an annotated plat book of the Cowell property holdings, and a ranch diary.

Box 10-11	Accounts
Box 10	January 1925 - December 1929
Box 11	January 1925 - December 1942
Box 11	Purissima, San Mateo November 1902 - November 1910
Box 15	Annotated Plat Book ca. 1880-1920
Box 12-13, 22	Cash Book
Box 12	February 1940-June 1950
Box 13	#32 September 1942 - August 1946
Box 22	Accounts September 1946 - July 1947
Box 19, 22	General ledger / Accounts Receivable
Box 19	May 1943 - June 1948
Box 22	July 1948 - January 1950
Box 21-22	Ledgers
Box 21	1906-1914
Box 22	1909-1912
Box 1-9	Petty Ledgers
Box 1	1903
Box 2	1904
Box 3	1905
Box 4	1906
Box 5	1907
Box 6	1908
Box 7	1909
Box 8	1910
Box 9	1911
Box 20, 23-24	Property Taxes
Box 20	1895-1903
Box 23	1907-1924
Box 24	1925-1936
Box 20	[Ranch Diary] 1902-1910

Scope and Content Note

Includes expenses, receipts, animal births/deaths, grain threshed, rents, supplies, etc.

Box 21	Stock Ledger 1898-1913
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Scope and Content Note

Stock certificates issued or cancelled

Box 18-19	Trial Balances
Box 18	1925-1926
Box 18	1932
Box 18	1933
Box 18	1934
Box 19	1935-1936
Box 19	1939 - 1945
Box 14-15	Voucher Registers
Box 15	Book 1 January 1925 - December 1933
Box 14	Book 6 October 1939 - February 1952

Series 2 **Cowell Portland Cement Company 1907-1913**

Physical Description: 1 box

Series Scope and Content Summary

This series contains one book containing the stock certificates of the Cowell family.

Box 20

Stock Ledger 1907-1913

Series 3 S. H. Cowell Foundation 1946-1953

Physical Description: 2 flats

Series Scope and Content Summary

This series contains one Ledger book and one Cash book for the S.H. Cowell Foundation.

Box 17

Cash Book June 1946 - March 1952

Box 16

Ledger July 1950 - March 1953

Series 4 **Realia ca. 1890-1955**

Physical Description: 5 boxes

Series Scope and Content Summary

This series contains realia from Henry Cowell, the Cowell Ranch offices as well as artifacts found on the property.

- Box 27 **Arrow heads and rock samples ca. 1890-1955**
- Box 28 **Misc. artifacts - Lead bottle cap, glass tube with rubber tip, spoon, small bottle with cork, shell buttons, cork, metal stencils D& C and H.C., pottery shards ca. 1890-1955**
- Box 29 **Misc. metal artifacts - railroad spikes, washer, nail, square head nails, gear fragment, horseshoe, splitting wedge ca. 1890-1955**
- Box 30 **Misc. business artifacts - 3 signs; "Principles of Business Conduct"; "Let's keep Jack Anderson" card; 2 certificates 1913, 1925; leather brief case; Henry Cowell's leather portfolio; leather book cover ca. 1890-1955**
- Box 31 **Misc. business artifacts - Mt. Diablo Portland Cement Co. / Cowell Portland Cement Co.; Pencil Pointer instructions; Pencil Pointer Jupiter N. Favor Ruhl Co. N.Y.; brass "Clip path sundial"; pen & ink stand (2 horses in stall); glass card holder (H. Cowell Lime & Cement Co.) ca. 1890-1955**

Series 5 **Photographs ca. 1870-1940**

Physical Description: 3 pieces

Series Scope and Content Summary

This series contains three framed black and white photographs.

Box 32 **Famous ox team owned by Henry Cowell Lime & Cement Company ca. 1870-1912**

Physical Description: 15.5" x 25"

Box 33 **H. C. Cowell Land & Cattle Co., Davis, Yolo Co., CA ca. 1900-1940**

Physical Description: 9" x 33.5"

Box 34 **Ernest W. Cowell ca. 1880-1940**

Physical Description: 21.5" x 17.5"

Scope and Content Note

Gift of Barbara Murray