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## **Guide to the San José State Normal School Principals and Early Presidents Records 1862-1915**

Processed by Elizabeth Lopez.

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2009

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Collection number: MSS-2009-02-01



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Processed by:

Elizabeth Lopez

Date Completed:

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Encoded by:

Elizabeth Lopez and Lynn Sheehy.

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### Descriptive Summary

**Title:** San José State Normal School Principals and Early Presidents Records

**Dates:** 1862-1915

**Bulk Dates:** 1907-1915

**Collection number:** MSS-2009-02-01

**Creator:** San José State Normal School

**Collection Size:** 4 boxes(2.58 linear feet)

**Repository:** San José State University. Library.

San José, California 95192-0028

**Abstract:** The San José State Normal School Principals and Early Presidents Records(1862-1915)[bulk 1907-1915], document the early history of the Normal School from 1862-1915. The collection consists of correspondence ledgers, general correspondence, and also includes a diary written by Principal Ahira Holmes in 1862. The diary details the formation of the first State Normal School, and describes the growth of the student body as well as other historically significant events of the early days of the Normal School. The collection is arranged into two series: Series I. Correspondence, 1872-1915; and Series II. Ahira Holmes Diary, 1862.

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

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**Languages:** Languages represented in the collection: English

**Access**

The collection is open for research.

**Publication Rights**

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**Preferred Citation**

San José State Normal School Principals and Early Presidents Records, MSS-2009-02-01, San José State University Library Special Collections & Archives.

**Processing Information**

Collection processed by Elizabeth Lopez. Finding aid EAD encoded by Elizabeth Lopez and Lynn Sheehy. Reviewed by Danelle Moon and Erin Louthen.

**Project Information**

This finding aid was created as part of the Survey and Cataloging Project, a two-year San José State University Library grant project funded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. The project began in 2008. The Project Director is Danelle Moon. The Project Archivist is Erin Louthen.

**Organizational History**

In 1857 the San Francisco Board of Education established Minns' Evening Normal School for current and prospective teachers in the city. Named after its principal, George W. Minns, the institution was formally established as the first California State Normal School by the State Legislature in 1862. A decade later, the Legislature voted to move the Normal School to San José, and the school relocated to its new home on Washington Square prior to the fall term of 1872. After a fire destroyed the Normal School building in 1880, the Legislature authorized \$200,000 to construct a new building on the same site. Completed in 1881, the building was commonly referred to as the Second State Normal School. After several names and curriculum changes, Minns' Normal school is now San José State University, offering more than 134 bachelor's and master's degrees with 110 concentrations, and is recognized as one of the top public universities granting such degrees in the West.

**References**

Gilbert, Benjamin F., and Burdick, Charles. 1980. *Washington Square, 1857-1979: The History of San José State University*. San José, California: San José State University.

San José State University. *About SJSU*. [http://www.sjsu.edu/about\\_sjsu/](http://www.sjsu.edu/about_sjsu/).

Walsh, James P. 2003. *San José State University: An Interpretive History, 1950-2000*. San José, California: San José State University.

**Scope and Content of Collection**

The San José State Normal School Principals and Early Presidents Records consist of general correspondence from the early principals and presidents including: Charles H. Allen, Principal (1873-89); President James McNaughton (1899-1900) and President Morris E. Dailey (1900-1918). The correspondence include a petition to elect Principal Allen to membership in the San José State Normal School faculty, papers concerning President McNaughton, presidential correspondence ledgers and general correspondence. Most historically significant is a diary written by Principal Ahira Holmes (1862-1865) which details the formation of the first State Normal School. It describes the growth of the student body and other important events of the early days of the Normal School, such as the school's first graduating class, a catalog of the school's library holdings, incoming students' rosters, student body statistics, and so forth.

**Arrangement**

The collection is arranged into two series: Series I. Correspondence, 1872-1915; and Series II. Ahira Holmes Diary, 1862.

**Subject Headings**

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

Allen, Charles H.

Dailey, Morris E.

Holmes, Ahira

McNaughton, James

Minns' Evening Normal School -- History

California State Normal School -- History

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San José State Normal School -- History  
Minns' Evening Normal School -- Presidents -- Correspondence  
California State Normal School -- Presidents -- Correspondence  
San José State Normal School -- Presidents -- Correspondence  
Education, Higher -- California -- San José

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**Series: I Correspondence 1872-1915 (bulk 1907-1915)**

**Physical Description:** 3 Boxes

**Series Scope and Content Summary**

This series consists of correspondence of State Normal School principals and presidents. Early principals and presidents include Charles H. Allen, principal (1873-1889); President James McNaughton (1899-1900); and President Morris E. Dailey (1900-1918).

Charles H. Allen

Principal

Morris E. Dailey

President

James McNaughton

President

**Arrangement**

The series is arranged by format.

Box 1

**Letters 1899**

Box 2

**Communication/Petition 1911-1915**

Box 3

**Ledgers 1907-1910**

**Series: II Ahira Holmes Diary 1862**

**Physical Description:** 1 Box

**Series Scope and Content Summary**

This series consists of a diary written by Principal Ahira Holmes (1862-1865), which details the formation of the first State Normal School. It describes the growth of the student body and other historically significant events of the early days of the Normal School, such as the school's first graduating class, a catalog of the school's library holdings, incoming students' rosters, student body statistics, and so forth. Scholars interested in tracing the early formation of the programs, curriculum, and attitudes of the administration will find this diary incredibly insightful.

Box 4

**Diary 1862**