Past and Present

Clerk-Recorder Map Books at Archives

The Archives has received the Clerk-Recorder map books, a significant addition to its holdings. The 108 volumes contain maps and surveys recorded with the County from 1874 through 1957. Taken together, they provide an excellent picture of the growth and development of the county. The surveys include subdivisions in all the cities and towns of the county, such as the survey of “Palo Alto: The Town of the Leland Stanford, Jr.

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Property Records Moving to Archives

The Archives has begun receiving paper copies of property records from the County Clerk-Recorder, a transfer that will take several months to be complete. When finished, the move will allow researchers access to original copies of recorded documents affecting property ownership throughout the county. Researchers wishing certified copies of property records, however, still will need to obtain those directly from the County Clerk-Recorder’s Office.

The first documents to be transferred are the Official Records series. The Official Records begin in 1923, when a change in

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Archives Displays Sheriff’s Office Exhibit

In celebration of National Law Enforcement Month, the Archives recently hosted an exhibit on the history of the Santa Clara County Sheriff’s Office. The displays, from the collection of Sergeant Rick Sprain, included a wide range of photographs, badges, historical newspapers, and memorabilia. Among the items shown were reward posters from the early 1900s, jailer keys from the old County Jail, private booking records kept during the 1940s, and nineteenth century portraits of County Sheriffs. The exhibit testified to the rich history of the Sheriff’s Office from 1850 to the present day.
Past and Present

**Map Books** (continued)

University” recorded in 1888 in Map Book “D”. In addition, the map books contain surveys of other properties besides subdivisions, such as the “Map of the Church Lot and Burial Grounds Belonging to the Cumberland Presbyterian Church of Mountain View”, also recorded in 1888, in Map Book “C”.

Currently, the Archives does not have an index to the map books, but it is anticipated that a finding aid will be available in the future.

**Property Records** (continued)

state law required that all documents affecting title to real property be maintained as one series of records. To date, the Archives has received over 1400 volumes, dating from 1923 to the late 1940s. There are approximately 4000 volumes altogether. It is planned that an index to these volumes also will be placed in the Archives.

**Wills Collection Now Online**

The index to the County Wills Collection is now searchable online. Go to the Archives website (http://archives.sccgov.org) and click on “Wills Collection”. There are approximately 10,000 wills in the collection. The wills themselves are available for viewing at the Archives.

**Contacting the Archives**

Our address: 1875 Senter Road, San Jose 95112

Directions: Please see our website at http://archives.sccgov.org.

Our phone: 408-792-1895

E-mail: Archives@rec.sccgov.org

Hours: We are open on an appointment-only basis. Appointments are normally available Monday and Wednesday 10-5, Tuesday and Thursday, 9-3, and Friday 9-12.

**Subscribing**

To subscribe (or unsubscribe) to this Newsletter, please send an e-mail to: Michael.Griffith@rec.sccgov.org.
COUNTY HIGHLIGHT

Office of the Sheriff

The images below show the variety of records the Archives contains relating to the Office of the Sheriff. They illustrate the history of the office since 1850 and in particular the history of the County Jails.

Certification of the election of John Yontz as the first Sheriff of the County of Santa Clara, 1850.

Detail of a 1921 plan for remodeling of the County Jail.

The interior of the old County Jail, probably in the 1950s.

Badge for Sheriff’s Posse Comitatus. This photograph was taken in 1976; the date of the badge is uncertain.
Sheriff Howard Hornbuckle, 1952.

Women’s quarters at the old County Jail, 1958.

Interior of the new County Jail, 1958.

Exterior of the new County Jail, 1958.