Guide to the Leonard H. Swett Papers

WA MSS S-2708

by Lisa Conathan

2012

P. O. Box 208330
New Haven, CT 06520-8330
beinecke.library@yale.edu
http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/
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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
P. O. Box 208330
New Haven, CT 06520-8330
beinecke.library@yale.edu
http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/

CALL NUMBER: WA MSS S-2708

CREATOR: Swett, Leonard Herbet, 1859-

TITLE: Leonard H. Swett papers

DATES: 1867-1934

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 2.3 linear feet (7 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The papers consist chiefly of family correspondence, photographs, and journals, and include a small amount of financial records. Family correspondence includes letters from Leonard H. Swett to his parents (Leonard Swett and Laura Quigg Swett) that document his travels in the American West in the 1880s, when he worked with the United States Geological Survey. He was stationed at, among other locations, Fort Wingate, New Mexico, BQ (Barbecue) Ranch, Indian Territory, and Albuquerque, New Mexico. Other family papers include records of genealogical research. Personal papers include journals that document Swett’s (and an unidentified author’s, possibly Swett’s) travels in the American West. Photographs, dating chiefly from the late 19th century, depict Leonard H. Swett and family members.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.swett

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.swett.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to beinecke.images@yale.edu.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:
b. box
f. folder
Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Conditions Governing Access
The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use
The Leonard H. Swett Papers is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

Preferred Citation
Leonard H. Swett Papers. Yale Collection of Western Americana, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Processing Information
Former call number: Uncat MSS 1184
Collection are processed to a variety of levels, depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived research value, the availability of staff, competing priorities, and whether or not further accruals are expected. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

This collection received a basic level of processing, including rehousing and minimal organization, in 2012.

Information included in the Description of Papers note and Collection Contents section is drawn from information supplied with the collection and from an initial survey of the contents. Folder titles appearing in the contents list below are often based on those provided by the creator or previous custodian. Titles have not been verified against the contents of the folders in all cases. Otherwise, folder titles are supplied by staff during initial processing.

This finding aid may be updated periodically to account for new acquisitions to the collection and/or revisions in arrangement and description.

Leonard H. Swett
Leonard Herbert Swett, son of Leonard Swett and Laura Quigg, was born in 1858 in Bloomington, Illinois and traveled extensively in the American West as a surveyor with the United States Geological Survey. He married Rose Maria Skillings (1864-1914) in 1889 and they had at least one child, Laura Rose Swett, born in 1897.
Scope and Contents
The papers consist chiefly of family correspondence, photographs, and journals, and include a small amount of financial records. Family correspondence includes letters from Leonard H. Swett to his parents (Leonard Swett and Laura Swett, nee Quigg) that document his travels in the American West in the 1880s, when he worked with the United States Geological Survey. He was stationed at, among other locations, Fort Wingate, New Mexico, BQ (Barbecue) Ranch, Indian Territory, and Albuquerque, New Mexico. Other family papers include records of genealogical research. Personal papers include journals that document Swett’s (and an unidentified author’s, possibly Swett’s) travels in the American West. Photographs, dating chiefly from the late 19th century, depict Leonard H. Swett and family members.

Arrangement
Organized into five series: I. Family Correspondence and Family Papers, 1867-1934. II. Business Papers, 1876-1929. III. Personal Papers, 1882-1898. IV. Photographs, 1874-1900. V. Other Papers, 1876-1885.
**Collection Contents**

**Series I: Family Correspondence and Family Papers, 1867-1934**

*1.26 linear feet (3 boxes)*

Series I consists chiefly of letters from Leonard H. Swett to his mother and father in the 1870s and 1880s, including letters from the American West, where he worked with the United States Geological Survey. The series also includes other family correspondence and the records of genealogy research apparently carried out by Swett’s daughter Laura Rose Swett (born 1897).

Not arranged in any particular order.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 1-9</td>
<td>Leonard H. Swett to mother and father</td>
<td>1872-1882</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 10</td>
<td>Mother to Leonard H. Swett</td>
<td>1879-1886</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 11</td>
<td>Ernest H. to Annie Laurie</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 12</td>
<td>Laura Swett to mother</td>
<td>1910, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 13-16</td>
<td>Laura Swett to father</td>
<td>1925-1926, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 17</td>
<td>Laura Swett, incoming correspondence</td>
<td>1867-1926</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 18</td>
<td>Leonard H. Swett to wife</td>
<td>1867-1885</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 19</td>
<td>Harold Ashley Burnham (son-in-law) to Leonard H. Swett</td>
<td>1926, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 20</td>
<td>Rose M. Briggs to Rose, Herbert, and Laura</td>
<td>1896-1914</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 21</td>
<td>Ezra M. Prince to Herbert Swett</td>
<td>1900-1901</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 22</td>
<td>Laura R. Swett to son</td>
<td>1885-1886</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 23</td>
<td>Rose M. Swett, incoming correspondence</td>
<td>1910-1914, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 24</td>
<td>Leonard H. Swett, incoming correspondence</td>
<td>1880-1925</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 25-26</td>
<td>Unsorted correspondence</td>
<td>1875-1934</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 3, f. 27</td>
<td>Unsorted correspondence</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 3, f. 28-34</td>
<td>Genealogy files</td>
<td>1887-1913, undated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Series II: Business Papers, 1876-1929

Series II consists of correspondence relating to Swett’s appointment with the United States Geological Survey, receipts for household goods, bank records, and tax returns.

Organized by format.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 4, f. 35</td>
<td>Business correspondence</td>
<td>1885-1913</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 4, f. 36</td>
<td>Receipts</td>
<td>1876-1929</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 4, f. 37-38</td>
<td>Financial records</td>
<td>1889-1927</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Series III: Personal Papers, 1882-1898

0.21 linear feet (1 box)

Series III consists of diaries of Leonard and Rose Swett, unidentified diaries, and an address book of Leonard Swett.

Not arranged in any particular order.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 5, f. 39</td>
<td>Address book, Leonard H. Swett</td>
<td>1887</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 5, f. 40</td>
<td>Diary of Leonard H. Swett</td>
<td>1882</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 5, f. 41</td>
<td>Diary of Rose Swett</td>
<td>1897-1898</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 5, f. 42-43</td>
<td>Unidentified diaries</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Series IV: Photographs, 1874-1900**

*0.21 linear feet (1 box)*

Series IV consists of photographs of Leonard H. Swett and family members.

Not arranged in any particular order

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 6, f. 44-49</td>
<td>Leonard H. Swett</td>
<td>1874, 1900, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 6, f. 50</td>
<td>Family members of Leonard H. Swett</td>
<td>1876-1897, undated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Series V: Other Papers, 1876-1885, undated

0.42 linear feet (1 box)

Series V consists of a manuscript of a speech about Paris by an unidentified author, a phrenology report on Leonard H. Swett, and other miscellaneous papers.

Not arranged in any particular order.

| b. 7, f. 51 | Speech about Paris, manuscript | undated |
| b. 7, f. 52 | Phrenological Character of L. H. Swett | 1876 |
| b. 7, f. 53 | Greeting cards | 1882, undated |
| b. 7, f. 54 | Unsorted papers: lists, drawings, etc. | undated |
| b. 7, f. 55 | Newspaper clippings | undated |
| b. 7, f. 56-58 | Envelope and stamp collection | 1885, undated |
| b. 7, f. 59 | Blank paper | undated |
Selected Search Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects
Surveyors -- West (U.S.)

Geographic Names
Albuquerque (N.M.) -- Description and travel
Fort Wingate (N.M.) -- Description and travel
Indian Territory -- Description and travel
New Mexico -- Description and travel

Genres / Formats
Photographic prints -- United States -- 19th century

Occupations
Surveyors -- United States -- 19th century
Surveyors -- West (U.S.) -- 19th century

Names
Swett, Laura Quigg
Swett, Leonard, 1825-1889
Swett, Leonard Herbet, 1859-

Families
Sweet family

Corporate Body
Geological Survey (U.S.)