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Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Guide to the George Chorpensing Papers

WA MSS S-2767



by Lisa Conathan

2012

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
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CALL NUMBER: WA MSS S-2767

CREATOR: Chorpenning, George, 1820-1894

TITLE: George Chorpenning papers

DATES: 1856-1903

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 1.88 linear feet (5 boxes) + 1 broadside folder

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The papers consist of account books, financial records, legal records, correspondence, and maps that document George Chorpenning's operation of an overland mail route in western states during the 1850s, his subsequent petition to the United States government for reimbursement, and other business, including his interest in a quartz mine in Sparta, Oregon, owned by E. E. Clough. The papers include correspondence of Chorpenning's sons George and Frank relating to continued claims against the United States government, 1895-1903.

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

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.chorpenning>.

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

Purchased from Michael D. Heaston on the William Robertson Coe Fund No. 3, 2004.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

The George Chorpenning 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

George Chorpenning Papers. Yale Collection of Western Americana, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Processing Information

Collections 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 in 2012, including rehousing and minimal organization. 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.

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

George Chorpenning

George Chorpenning (1820-1894) operated mail service in western states during the 1850s. Beginning in 1857, he petitioned the United States government for compensation and recovery of business losses, a claim that remained unresolved at his death in 1894.

Scope and Contents

The papers consist of account books, financial records, legal records, correspondence, and maps that document George Chorpenning's operation of an overland mail route in western states during the 1850s, his subsequent petition to the United States government for reimbursement, and other business, including his interest in a quartz mine in Sparta, Oregon, owned by E. E. Clough. The papers include correspondence of Chorpenning's sons George and Frank relating to continued claims against the United States government, 1895-1903.

Arrangement

Organized into four series: I. Account Books, 1856-1893. II. Business Records, 1856-1894. III. Correspondence, 1889-1903. IV. Other Papers, 1857-1891.

Collection Contents

Series I: Account Books, 1856-1893

0.85 linear feet (2 boxes)

Arranged chronologically.

b. 1, f. 1-17	1856-1889 March	1856-1889 March
b. 2, f. 18-28	1889 July-1893, undated	1889 July-1893, undated

Series II: Business Records, 1856-1894

0.42 linear feet (1 box)

Organized by type of material.

b. 3, f. 29	Bills	1874-1881
b. 3, f. 30-35	Memoranda and other documents	1858-1894
b. 3, f. 36-46	Cancelled checks	1856-1865

Series III: Correspondence, 1889-1903

0.21 linear feet (1 box)

b. 4, f. 47-51	Unsorted correspondence	1890-1903
b. 4, f. 52	McDonald, John	1888-1893
b. 4, f. 53	McManus, Henry	1889

Series IV: Other Papers, 1857-1891*0.42 linear feet (1 box) + 1 broadside folder*

Organized by type of material

b. 5, f. 54-59	Real estate documents	1857-1861
b. 5, f. 60	Photographs of George Chorpenning and family members	1877-1891
b. 5, f. 61	Prospectus, North Fork Consolidated Mining & Tunnel Company	1881
b. 5, f. 62	Printed reports relating to Chorpenning vs. The United States	1857-1876
b. 5, f. 63	Clippings and ephemera	undated
b. 6 (Broadside), f. 64	Maps "Map showing the several mail routes through the Indian Country from 1850 to 1861, and Indian depredations committed upon mail trains" "Map of Oregon ditch property" United States Land Office, La Grande, Oregon, Survey maps Survey of "Township No. 77"	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

Letter carriers -- West (U.S.)
Postal service -- West (U.S.)
Quartz mines and mining -- Oregon

Geographic Names

Sparta (Or.)
United States -- Politics and government --
1865-1900

Genres / Formats

Account books -- West (U.S.) -- 19th century
Maps (documents) -- West (U.S.) -- 19th
century

Occupations

Letter carriers -- West (U.S.) -- 19th century

Names

Chorpensing, George, 1820-1894
Clough, E. E.

Corporate Bodies

United States. Postmaster General
United States. Post Office Department