

Butler Vineyard Ledger, 1903-1915

Fresno City & County Historical Society Archives, Fresno, California

Contact Information:

Fresno City & County Historical Society Archives
7160 West Kearney Boulevard
Fresno, California 93706
Phone: (559) 441-0862
Email: archives@valleyhistory.org
URL: <http://www.valleyhistory.org>

Processed By:
Madalyn Avitabile
Date: 7/19/17

Descriptive Summary

Title: Butler Vineyard Ledger

Date (Inclusive): February 1903 - February 1915

Collection Number: MSS 181

Origination: Butler Vineyard

Extent: One volume

Repository: Fresno City & County Historical Society, Fresno, California

Language: English

Acquisition: Unknown

Access: Collection is open for research by appointment only.

Publication Rights: Copyright has not been assigned to the Fresno County Historical Society. All requests for permission to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted in writing to the Society archivist. Permission for publication is given on behalf of the Fresno City and County Historical Society as the owner of the physical items and is not intended to include or imply permission of the copyright holder, which must also be obtained by the reader.

Preferred Citation: [Identification of page/item], Butler Vineyard Ledger, MSS 181, Fresno City and County Historical Society.

Biography:

Alban Bernard Butler was born in Owensboro, Kentucky on June 17, 1852. He was married to Luvean Jones Butler. In 1887, Butler purchased a parcel at 420 acres in the Easterby Rancho subdivision in Fresno County, California. The Easterby Rancho area is currently located in southeast Fresno, California near the Sunnyside neighborhood. Butler expanded his holdings to 600 acres to grow raisin grapes. According to the Fresno Morning Republican, his expertise quickly made his raisin vineyard known as one of the largest in the world. The newspaper also

noted that the success of Butler Vineyard often led to foreign and domestic governments visiting the vineyard to understand the raisin business. In 1894, Butler and another raisin farmer William Forsyth created the Raisin Growers Packing Association of Fresno and went to Washington D.C. to advocate for new tariff laws. By 1905, Butler sold his vineyard to J. S. Herman, a real estate investor, for \$54,000. Following the sale of the vineyard, Butler invested in real estate when he bought the Bank of Central California Building and rental properties in Fresno, however he moved out of the county. After the sale of his vineyard, Butler started investing in oil in Kern County, California and in Arizona until his death on July 11, 1924 in Washington D.C. The owners of the Vineyard during 1903-1915 were A. B. Butler and J. S. Herman, however the manager of the estate during that time frame was Julian J. Miley. The sale of Butler Vineyard from A. B. Butler to J.S. Herman became the subject of a civil court case in January 1910. Butler contended that he did not give his manager, J. J. Miley, authorization to complete the sale of the vineyard to J. S. Herman.

Scope and Content:

The Butler Vineyard accounting ledger lists receipts and expenditures of a raisin vineyard in Fresno County, California from February 1903 to February 1915. Ledger contains cash entries and expense entries for the vineyard. Each entry is dated by day, month, year; detailed description and dollar amount. This ledger highlights the vast amount of resources needed to run a raisin vineyard, including the supplies needed and the amount spent on payroll depending on the time of harvest. The ledger highlights interactions with many Fresno businesses including: Francher Creek Nursery, Fresno Agricultural Works, Fresno Canal & Irrigation Co., Fresno Consumers Ice Co., Fresno Democrat, Fresno Lumber Co., Fresno Meat Co., Fresno Republican Publishing Co., Fresno Veterinary, Kutner and Goldstein Department Store, Postal Tel and Cable Co., Raisin City Market, Standard Oil Co., and Western Union.

Inventory:

Number of Items: One Volume

Size: L- 15 ¼" x W- 6 1/8" x H-1/2"

Condition: The ledger is in good to fair condition with fragile binding, but still intact. Tan cloth cover with decorative designs both front and back; cover is severely worn at corners; spine has no markings; inside front cover has torn paper; missing pages.