

Finding Aid to the Dr. John W. Winkley Collection

Descriptive Summary

Title: Dr. John W. Winkley Collection

Date Range: 1940-1970s

Collection number: [Accession 87-16](#)

Extent: 1 box

Repository: County History Center, Contra Costa County Historical Society, 724 Escobar Street, Martinez, CA 94553, 925-229-1042

Legal status: public

Information for Researchers

Access: Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights: [Contact the Contra Costa County Historical Society for publication permission.](#)

Preferred Citation: Suggested citation of these records is: [Identification of item], Dr. John W. Winkley Collection, Contra Costa County Historical Society.

Scope and Content: The collection includes newspaper columns, letters and typewritten history manuscripts written by Dr. John W. Winkley, as well as historical information about the Contra Costa County Historical Society. Winkley, a Methodist minister, had a popular column in the Oakland Tribune newspaper in the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s. The column was titled "The Knave" and included stories of Winkley's travels throughout the west and Midwest. The letters and manuscripts in the collection are from Winkley's time as a board member and newsletter editor for the Contra Costa County Historical Society. Born in Indiana in the 1880s, Winkley graduated from Boston University in 1908, became a Methodist minister and settled in Auburn, California before moving to Contra Costa County. He lived into his 80s. The collection was donated in 1987 by former CCHS board member Roy Bloss, a longtime resident of Alamo who passed away in 2012.

Arrangement of Materials: The materials are filed in 17 folders in one box. The folders are as follows:

Folder 1—Chapter 1: The Romantic Sierras; Chapter II: Ministerial Gold Diggers; chapter III: The El Dorado Trail

Folder 2—Chapter IV: The Auburn Trail

Folder 3—Chapter V: The Yuba Trail; Chapter VI: The Feather River Trails

Folder 4—Chapter VII: The Trinity Trails; Chapter VIII: The Amador Trails

Folder 5—Chapter IX: The Calaveras Trails

Folder 6—Chapter X: The Tuolumne Trails

Folder 7—Chapter XI: The Mariposa Trails; Chapter XII: Indians, Orientals, and Others

Folder 8—Sierra Profiles

Folder 9—Autobiographical Articles

Folder 10—Monographs

Folder 11—Miscellaneous Papers

Folders 12, 13 and 14—Oakland Tribune: “The Knave” columns

Folder 15—Oakland Tribune: “The Knave” (Alameda County) columns

Folder 16—Oakland Tribune: “The Knave” (Contra Costa County) columns

Folder 17—Oakland Tribune: “The Knave” (western desert trip) columns

Indexing Terms: Columnist, Correspondence, History, East Bay Trails, Letters, Newspaper clippings