Guide to the Papers of Frances Evelyn Bishop

Calaveras Big Trees State Park
Arnold, California

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Descriptive Summary

Collection Title
Frances Evelyn Bishop Papers, 1852-1987 (bulk 1852-1900 and 1975-1985)

Collection Number
Consult repository

Creator

Extent
4.5 cubic feet (5 boxes)

Repository
California State Parks. Calaveras Big Trees State Park (Arnold, Calif.)

Location of Collection
The collection is located at Calaveras Big Trees State Park, Arnold, Calif.
Administrative Information

Access
The collection is open for research by appointment only. Appointments may be made by calling (209) 795-2234

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[item], Frances Evelyn Bishop Papers, Calaveras Big Trees State Park, California State Parks, Calaveras, California.
Biography

FRANCES EVELYN BISHOP
(1918-1988)

Frances Bishop was born in Sacramento and grew up in the Stockton area, attending school in both Stockton and the town of Lodi. She was a descendent of a pioneer family, and her aunt and uncle, Frances and Charles Gann, owned grazing land along Highway 4, above Cottage Springs. Bishop and her husband, Thomas Bishop, moved to the town of Arnold in 1967.

As a historian, researcher, and writer, Bishop’s life work focussed on the history of the Calaveras Big Trees, with an emphasis on the Ebbett’s Pass area. For nearly 30 years, Bishop gathered facts from various repositories and individuals for her articles, brochures, and unpublished manuscript. She served as historian for the Calaveras Big Trees Association for 13 years, often contributing articles to the organization’s newsletter. Although her major work remains unpublished, Bishop’s influence permeates the brochures, trail guides, maps, and interpretation Calaveras Big Trees State Park.
Collection Scope and Content Summary

The papers of Frances Bishop were donated to the Department of Parks and Recreation and consist of 4.5 cubic feet of materials. The papers date between 1852 and 1987, with the bulk of the materials between 1852 and 1900 and 1975-1985. Document types include annotated manuscript drafts and typescripts, research notes and notecards, correspondence, articles and news clippings, and photographs.

For the most part, the materials have remained in the original order created by Frances Bishop. Folder headings were copied and materials were rehoused in acid free folders and boxes. Harmful fasteners, such as brads and paper clips, were removed and replaced with plastic clips. Photographs were sleeved in polyethylene sleeves. Newspaper articles were photocopied and the originals discarded.

Frances Bishop was an extremely meticulous researcher, often questioning her sources and her own conclusions. For this reason, and because her major work was still in progress, the vast majority of her handwritten notes and her research note cards have been retained and kept in their original order when possible. Often, it is unclear which notes and graphical materials correlate with which writing effort, and occasionally several articles or manuscript drafts will use the same graphics. No attempt has been made to separate background research materials and relate them to specific efforts.

The collection is organized into four series:

Series I: Publications. 1850-1978. .5 cf.

Series II: Background Research

- Subseries I: Individuals
- Subseries II: Places and subjects
- Subseries III: General background materials
- Subseries IV: Graphics

Series III: Biographical Materials

Series IV: Calaveras Big Trees Association
Indexing Terms

The following terms may be used to index the description of this collection.

Bishop, Frances Evelyn--Archives.
Calaveras Big Trees State Park (Arnold, Calif.)--Archival resources.
Collection Contents

I/1-24. Series I. Publications. .5 cf.
This series includes unpublished manuscript drafts and fragments for Bishop’s major work, which at various times was titled “The Big Tree Story” and “The Mammoth Tree Ranch;” several articles, and her published brochure. Also included in this series is research correspondence and publisher and reader correspondence.

BOX 1:

I/1: The Big Tree Story, table of contents
I/2-3: The Mammoth Tree Ranch, chapters 1-5
I/4: The Big Tree Story, chapters 1-5
I/5-6: The Big Tree Story, chapters 6-9
I/7-9: The Big Tree Story, notes
I/10-11: The Big Tree Story, index
I/12: The Big Tree Story, mss. fragment: trails & roads
I/13: The Big Tree Story, appendices
I/14: The Big Tree Story, bibliography
I/15: The Big Tree Story, mss. corrections & additions
I/16: The Big Tree Story, Dutton’s critique, chapters 1-6
I/17: The Big Tree Story, Dutton’s critique, chapters 7-appendices
I/20: The big tree, the big stump, and the first hotel. 1977.
I/21: A brief history of the big tree and the big stump.
I/22: The winter of the flood 1861-1862

Series II: Background research. 2.4 cf.
Materials in this series were acquired and used to support Bishop’s various manuscripts, and include clippings, articles, and notes on historical figures and places at Calaveras Big Trees and the surrounding towns. Also included are photographs, sketches, and other graphics to be included in her book and brochure.

II/1/1-50. Subseries 1. Individuals. .75 cf.
II/1/1: Anable, Henry Sheldon
II/1/2: Archbishop of San Francisco
II/1/3: Atwood, Henry
II/1/4: Baker, Isaac W.
II/1/5: Bernasconi, Barney
II/1/6: Blake, William P.
II/1/7: Case Philip H.
II/1/8: Curtis, Charles A.
II/1/9: Cutting, Ephraim
II/1/10: Davis, Ina
II/1/11: DeLaittre, John
II/1/12: Doble, John
II/1/13: Dowd, Augustus T.
II/1/14: Dunbar, Freeman and Willis
II/1/15: Farquhar, Francis P.
II/1/16: Flanders, Ira M.
II/1/17: Fricot, Desire
II/1/18: Gibbes, Charles D.
II/1/19: Graves, Newton H.
II/1/20: Greeley, Horace
II/1/21: Greenlaw, Louise
II/1/22: Horn, Alexander
II/1/23: Hutching, James M.
II/1/24: Hutchinson, James Sloan
II/1/25: Jameson, Phoebe Caroline
II/1/26: Jaquith, Abram
II/1/27: Journeay, James
II/1/28: Lapham, William W.
II/1/29: Libby, William J.
II/1/30: Manuel, John
II/1/31: Ordway, Ed
II/1/32: Sequoyah
II/1/33: Silliman, Benjamin
II/1/34: Smith, Andrew J.
II/1/35: Smith, Jedediah Strong
II/1/36: Smith, Leslie James

BOX 2:

II/1/37-39: Sperry, James L.
II/1/40: Sperry, Mehitable Berry Felton
II/1/41: Taylor, Bayard
II/1/42: Thompson, John A. “Snowshoe”
II/1/43: Tourtellott, Jane Augusta Holbrook
II/1/44: Turrill, Charles B.
II/1/45: Watkins, Carleton E.
II/1/46: Wheeler, Lt. George M.
II/1/47: Whiteside, Elizabeth
II/1/48: Whitney, J. D.
II/1/50: Miscellaneous, A-Z.

II/2/1-38. Subseries 2. Places and Subjects. 75 cf.
II/2/1: Arnold
II/2/2-3: Avery Station (Halfway House)
II/2/4: Big Bar Bridge
II/2/5: Blagen Lumber Co.
II/2/6: Calaveras Timber Co.
II/2/7: Camels
II/2/8: Camp Connell
II/2/9: Cattle Drives
II/2/10: Civilian Conservation Corps.
II/2/11: Cottage Springs
II/2/12-13: Dorrington
II/2/14: Douglas Flat
II/2/15-16: Ebbets Pass
II/2/17: Emigrant Road
II/2/18: Evans Cruise
II/2/19: Expositions 1850-1903
II/2/20: Felling Machines
II/2/21: Fire
II/2/22: Historic Sites and Roads
II/2/23: Hoe Printing Press
II/2/24: Hotel Registers
II/2/25: Memorial Groves
II/2/26: Mosquito Lake
II/2/27: Murphys
II/2/28: Pioneer Cabin
II/2/29: Plants
II/2/30: Raggio Sawmill
II/2/31: Ralston Wedding Party
II/2/32: Silver Valley
II/2/33: Squaw Hollow
II/2/34: Stopping Places
II/2/35: Tamarack
II/2/36: Trees, General
II/2/37: Union Water Co.
II/2/38: Woodruff's Lower Ranch

II/3/1: Assessment Rolls
II/3/2-3: State Surveyor General (2)
II/3/4: Historic accounts from Bancroft Library
II/3/5: Historic accounts (See also oversize box 5)
II/3/6: Biographies and Visitors

BOX 3:

II/3/7: Engbeck, Joseph, The Enduring Giants (unbound)
II/3/8-10: Clippings and articles (See also box 4)
II/3/11-12: Research notes & mss. fragments (See also box 4)
II/3/13: DPR correspondence & notes


II/4/1-2: Graphics correspondence & notes
II/4/3: Stereopticon history
II/4/5: Scripture, John Calvin
II/4/6: Stereopticon views (photocopies)
II/4/7: Stereopticon views: notes
II/4/8: Photographs from Vischer’s Views of California
II/4/9-11: Photographs and captions
II/4/12-14: Uncaptioned photographs
II/4/15: Images (photocopies)

**III/1. Series III. Biographical Materials. .1 cf**
III/1: Francis Bishop biographical materials

**IV/1-9. Series IV. Calaveras Big Trees Association. .3 cf.**
IV/1: CBTA general information
IV/2: CBTA membership
IV/3: CBTA brochures, guides, and lists
IV/4: Programs
IV/5: Big Tree Bulletin 1984-1987 (See also oversize box 5)
IV/7: Big Tree Bulletin 1992-1994

**BOX 4:**

Research note cards

**BOX 5: (Oversize)**

*Big Tree Bulletin, 1858*

Maps and drawings

Historical accounts