



## **Guide to the Adherble T.D. Button Papers**

San Juan Bautista State Historic Park

San Juan Bautista, California

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**Date Completed:**

2002

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## Descriptive Summary

**Collection Title**

Adherble T.D. Button Papers, 1848-1905 (bulk 1860-1868)

**Collection Number**

411.1

**Collector**

San Juan Bautista State Historic Park (San Juan Bautista, Calif.)

**Extent**

3.75 cubic ft. (7 boxes)

**Repository**

California State Parks. San Juan Bautista State Historic Park (San Juan Bautista, Calif.).

**Physical location**

For current information on the location of these materials, please contact the Monterey District Museum Curator at (408) 623-4881.

## **Administrative Information**

### **Access**

The collection is open for research by appointment only. Appointments may be made by calling (408) 623-4881.

### **Publication Rights**

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### **Preferred Citation**

[item], California State Parks, Adherble T.D. Button Papers, San Juan Bautista State Historic Park, San Juan Bautista, California.

## Biography of Adherble T.D. Button

Adherble Thomas Dale Button (1832-1904), a native of Covenant, Erie County, Pennsylvania, was among the earliest settlers of the Hernandez Valley, San Benito County, California. In the late 1850s, Button left Pennsylvania for California, leaving behind his wife Lucelia, who joined him at a later date. He ended up initially in Placer County, possibly working as a foreman for a mining company until the mid-1860s. While in the gold country he and his wife produced four sons, Ira, Ival, Carroll and Grant. In the mid to late 1860s he moved his family to San Mateo County where he lived and worked in San Mateo and Redwood City. His son J. Edward was born in San Mateo and a daughter, May, followed a few years later. While living in Redwood City, Button worked for the Corte Madera Water Company, a firm that supplied water to the Atherton area. Assorted documents show that he came to San Benito County sometime in the 1870s. He either homesteaded or bought land in the Hernandez Valley. He worked as superintendent of the re-opened Picacho Quicksilver Mine in the 1870s and 1880s and became an established and respected figure in the county, serving on the board of the local school district and as postmaster of the local Post Office. Button was twice elected Justice of the Peace in 1875 and 1877. He was instrumental in naming Erie Township, San Benito County, after his Pennsylvania birthplace. A long time member of the International Order of Oddfellows, Button died in 1904 at age 72 and is buried in the old Oddfellows cemetery in Hollister, along with most of his family.

## Collection Scope and Content Summary

The Adherble T.D. Button Collection at San Juan Bautista State Historic Park consists of correspondence to and from Adherble T.D. Button, a pioneer of southern San Benito County who arrived in California from his native Pennsylvania in the early 1850s. The correspondence dates between the years 1848-1904. The collection contains a good selection of correspondence relating to his work as superintendent of the Picacho Quicksilver Mine in the 1870s and 1880s, as well as correspondence from his family members who remained in Pennsylvania. A trio of letters in the collection from 1905 is addressed to his wife and deal with the disposition of the estate after Button's death. The bulk of the collection is dated between 1880 and 1886. There are a number of interesting letters from a brother of Button who relates his trials and challenges in joining his brother in California, including a few letters from the voyage by sea around Cape Horn. In addition, the correspondence to Button from the New York investor/owners of the Picacho mine are interesting for their insight into the expectations and demands of the far-flung moneyed interests in the mining riches of California.

The collection is organized as a single series, arranged chronologically:

Series 1. Correspondence, 1848-1905. 3.75 cubic ft.

## **Bibliography**

Additional information about San Benito County and Adherble T.D. Button may be found in the following publications:

Frusetta, Peter C. Beyond the Pinnacles. Tres Pinos, CA: Peter C. Frusetta, 1990.

Thomas, Mark. Wielding the Gavel: the story of the courts of San Benito County from 1874 through 1994. San Jose, CA: Alma Press, 1996.

## **Indexing Terms**

Library of Congress Subject Headings

Personal names:

Button, Adherble Thomas Dale, 1832 - 1904.

Subjects:

California—Pioneers.

Courts—California—San Benito County—History.

Mines and mining—California—San Benito County—History.

San Benito County (Calif.)--Biography.

San Benito County (Calif.)—History.

## **Collection Contents**

### **Series 1. Correspondence, 1848-1905. 3.75 cubic ft.**

Box 1: 1848-1860

Box 2: 1861-1864

Box 3: 1865-1873

Box 4: 1874-1879

Box 5: 1880

Box 6: 1881-1886

Box 7: 1888-1905