

A. T. Hamilton Family Collection, 1887-1926

**Ontario City Library
Robert E. Ellingwood Model
Colony History Room**



Ontario, California

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Date Completed: April 2008

Descriptive Summary

Title

A. T. Hamilton Family Collection, 1887-1926

Creator

This collection was donated to the Model Colony Room by Margaret Hamilton, daughter of A. T. Hamilton, on Feb. 7, 1990.

Extent

Number of containers: 1

Linear feet: 1.5

Abstract

Archibald T. Hamilton was born in Edinburgh, Scotland in 1860. A merchant in ill health, he decided to emigrate to Southern California in 1887 in hopes of regaining his strength. He bought 105 acres from Charles Frankish's Ontario Land and Improvement Company in 1890 the location of which was "southeast of the (future) Ontario Airport" and/or "on the plains south of (the) Cucamonga (train) station" (which would be the current Hamilton Ranch development south of Baseline and east of Carnelian). In any case, he utilized the "dry farming" method of raising grapes, olives, figs and other fruit trees.

On September 24, 1890, he married Catherine Hobby. They had three daughters, Catherine, Muriel and Margaret. By the early 1900's the family had built a house "in town" at 519 N. Euclid. Mr. Hamilton also purchased several parcels of land in the 800 block between H and I streets that were planted with orange trees purchased from Armstrong Nurseries. He was active in several citrus exchange associations and was the treasurer of the Westminster Presbyterian church at the time of his death on June 18, 1926.

His youngest daughter, Margaret, was the Ontario City Library's Children's librarian for 25 years from 1940-1965. The family historian, she donated family photographs, her father's diary and other memorabilia to the Model Colony Room in 1990. She died March 12, 1995.

There is an oral history of Margaret Hamilton and several Hamilton ephemera as well to augment this collection.

Administrative Information

Access

Collection is open for research during the operating hours of the Robert E. Ellingwood Model Colony History Room, or by appointment.

Preferred Citation

A. T. Hamilton Family Collection, 1887-1926. Robert E. Ellingwood Model Colony History Room, Ontario City Library.

Acquisitions Information

This collection was donated to the Model Colony Room by Margaret A. Hamilton, A. T. Hamilton's daughter and former Children's Librarian at the Ontario City Library, on Feb. 7, 1990.

Processing Information

LaVera Miller, 1990, Joanne Boyajian, April 2008

Container List

Folder

- 1 Letters to A. T. Hamilton, dated 1902-1904. Pages from Mrs. Hamilton's notebook, "Notes on How to Care for Orange Groves", dictated to her daughter Margaret Hamilton. Circa 1940's.
- 2 A. T. Hamilton's typed diary, 77 pages, 1887-1899
- 3 Correspondence with Fruit Exchanges 1903-1904
- 4 Muriel Hamilton letter and invitation to join sorority, undated
- 5 Catherine Hamilton's lawsuit against C. C. Waite dated 1897
- 6 Various invoices and receipts dated 1901-1905 to the dentist, Ontario Power Company, running tabs at hardware, grocery, furniture stores, poll tax (!) and Armstrong Nurseries
- 7 Copy of the "Citrograph" dated August 1926 containing A. T. Hamilton's obituary

One copy of "Summer Suns in the Far West" by W. G. Blaikie dated 1980. Page 95 contains a description of A. T. Hamilton's ranch in South Cucamonga.

Two photograph albums, one undated, the other dated Dec. 8, 1879 with Hamilton family relatives, most unidentified.