

Diaries, 1848-1973

Overview of the Collection

Creator	Brown, Hiram, 1823-1898
Title	Diaries
Dates	1848-1973 (inclusive) 1855-1896 (bulk)
Quantity	3 cubic feet, (2 card file boxes; 3 document cases)
Collection Number	Mss 370
Summary	Diaries of Hiram Brown, captain of a river steamboat operating between Portland and Astoria, Oregon, from the mid to late 19th century. Includes notations on ship movements and tides. Includes transcripts and notes by Joseph Schiwek.
Repository	Oregon Historical Society Research Library 1200 SW Park Avenue Portland, OR 97205 Telephone: 503-306-5240 Fax: 503-219-2040 libreference@ohs.org
Access Restrictions	The collection is open to the public.
Languages	English
Sponsor	Funding for encoding this finding aid was provided through a grant awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Biographical Note

Hiram Brown was born in Cayuga County, New York, on December 14, 1823. He was first employed as a deckhand on a Mississippi River steamboat and came West during the California gold rush. Brown returned to maritime work as a deckhand on the river steamer *Lot Whitcomb* in 1851, sailing between Portland and Astoria, Oregon. In 1857, he was promoted to captain and worked continuously for the next 32 years, until his retirement in December 1889. He died on March 9, 1898, in Astoria.

Content Description

Diaries record Brown's daily activities in Portland, Oregon, and Astoria, Oregon; also contains information about ships in port, including their names, arrival and departure times, and notes on tides. All years between 1855 and 1896 are represented except 1858 and 1874. Most entries are brief. Personal information, such as family events, is written in cipher. A key to the cipher is included in the collection.

In 1973 the diaries were transcribed by Joseph A. Schiwek. Besides these transcriptions, the collection includes Schiwek's extensive notes on people and places mentioned in the diaries.

Use of the Collection

Restrictions on Use

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Alternative Forms Available

A transcription of the diaries by Joseph A. Schiwiek, Jr., 1973, is included in the collection.

Preferred Citation

Hiram Brown Diaries, Mss 370, Oregon Historical Society Research Library.

Administrative Information

Arrangement

The diaries are arranged in two series as follows

Series A: Original diaries, 1855-1896

Series B: Transcriptions, notes, and related materials, circa 1973

Acquisition Information

Acquisition information unavailable.

Detailed Description of the Collection

The following section contains a detailed listing of the materials in the collection.

Series A: Original diaries, 1855-1896

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
1/1	Vol. 1	1855-1856
1/2	Vol. 2	1857

Container(s)	Description	Dates
1/3	Vol. 3	1859
1/4	Vol. 4	1860
1/5	Vol. 5	1861
1/6	Vol. 6	1862
1/7	Vol. 7	1863
1/8	Vol. 8	1864
1/9	Vol. 9	1865
1/10	Vol. 10	1866
1/11	Vol. 11	1867
1/12	Vol. 12	1868
1/13	Vol. 13	1869
1/14	Vol. 14	1870
1/15	Vol. 15	1871
1/16	Vol. 16	1872
1/17	Vol. 17	1873
1/18	Vol. 18	1875
1/19	Vol. 19	1876
1/20	Vol. 20	1877
1/21	Vol. 21	1878
1/22	Vol. 22	1879
2/1	Vol. 23	1880

Container(s)	Description	Dates
2/2	Vol. 24	1881
2/3	Vol. 25	1882
2/4	Vol. 26	1883
2/5	Vol. 27	1884
2/6	Vol. 28	1885
2/7	Vol. 29	1886
2/8	Vol. 30	1887
2/9	Vol. 31	1888
2/10	Vol. 32	1889
2/11	Vol. 33	1890
2/12	Vol. 34	1891
2/13	Vol. 35	1892
2/14	Vol. 36	1893
2/15	Vol. 37	1894
2/16	Vol. 38	1895
2/17	Vol. 39	1896

Series B:: Transcriptions, notes, and related materials, ca. 1973

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
3/1	Cipher key and biographical materials Includes explanation of cipher; copy of newspaper article; notes; loose papers found in diaries, ca. 1873; photocopy of	ca. 1848-1973

Container(s)	Description	Dates
	letter from Hiram Brown to his wife, 1848; and rubbing from grave stone of Hiram Brown	
	Uncorrected transcriptions by Joseph Schiwek	1973
Box/Folder		
3/2-4	Transcription vols. 1-3, for diaries 1855-1885	1973
4/1	Transcription vol. 4, for diaries 1886-1896	1973
Box/Folder		
4/2-4	Corrected transcriptions	1973
5/1-3	Notes	ca. 1973

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms :

Ship captains--Oregon--Diaries
 Steamboats--Columbia River
 Steamboats--Oregon--Willamette River
 Steam-navigation--Columbia River
 Steam-navigation--Oregon--Willamette River

Personal Names :

Schiwek, Joseph Anthony, 1947-
 (creator)

Form or Genre Terms :

Diaries
 Ledgers
 Weather diaries

Occupations :

Ship captains

Other Creators :

Personal Names :

Brown, Hiram, 1823-1898--Archives

2004



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