



Scope of Collections

-Mission Statement

The Sacramento Valley Museum Association is dedicated to collecting, preserving, and promoting interest in the historical development of the Sacramento Valley from the mid 19th through the mid 20th century. This collection strives to connect a rich multi-cultural history of the area with the community that has been built since and exists today.

-Collection Definition

The collection contains all aspects of life in Colusa County from approximately 1850 through the mid 20th century. This includes family, community, religious life, recreation, leisure, agriculture, and education. The collection primarily consists of family and personal histories as opposed to government or business histories.

-Scope of Collections

The Museum's permanent collection includes exhibited items, materials from the Archive, and stored items. These items are rotated through the Museum as exhibits as time and resources permit. Below are some examples of the many aspects of the Museum Collection.

Photographs: Many photographs of varying technology, including daguerreotype, ambrotype, tintype, jewel tintype, stereoscope, glass plate negative, carte-de-visite, cabinet card, mounted photographs, and paper photographs. Our extensive photograph collection spans from the 1850's to the early 1930's, with a few from 1940 – 1970.

Manuscripts (paper collections): Comprised of personal papers that includes deeds, legal documents, correspondence (letters, postcards, and greeting cards), maps, schoolwork, and other personal items.

Newspapers: Newspapers from each town in Colusa County, including some Sacramento newspapers.

Bound volumes: Registers, ledgers, and minutes from various organizations and businesses.

Textiles: Includes clothing and quilts.

Williams Union High School Alumni Room: This permanent exhibit commemorates the students who attended high school in the building from 1911 to 1959.

-Priorities for Acquisition

Due to time and resource restraints, the Museum is limited to accepting acquisitions that fall under the scope of our collection. More specifically, the period the Museum represents is approximately 1850 through the late 1920's. Collections the Museum seeks must pertain to

life in Colusa County (and the Sacramento Valley) specifically and will contribute to the collection at large.

Top priority for acquisition is objects created by the multi-cultural community in Colusa County. The Museum is looking specifically for information, photographs, and objects relating to the Native American and Chinese communities who lived in Colusa County during the Museum's collecting period.

-Collection Intention

The collection is meant to be used as a museum and research facility by the general public. Potential user groups include museum visitors, scholars, genealogists, undergraduate students and local schoolchildren.

-Ethical Responsibility of the Sacramento Valley Museum Association

In keeping with their responsibility to care for the collection in their charge, the Museum Board of Trustees, Director, staff and volunteers:

- Will not remove any part of the collection from the building for any purpose other than traveling exhibit or outgoing loan.
- Will not accept any object or collection for which they cannot properly store, preserve, or protect.
- Will act ethically and legally in acquiring, accepting, and disposing of articles within the collection.
- Will act according to the professional standards of conduct put forth in the American Association of Museum's *Code of Ethics for Museums*.
- Will not accept any object or collection with conditions that could lead to potential litigation.
- Will not accept any object or collection on the basis of personal interest and/or private collecting habits.
- Will not use proceeds from deaccessioning for general operating procedures.