

**A GUIDE TO THE  
FREY FAMILY PAPERS**

**MS/NC 1094**

**By**

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**NEVADA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**Reno, Nevada**

**May 2015**

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Joseph Frey was born in Alsace, France in 1834, and immigrated to the United States at the age of 15. He went to Cincinnati, Ohio, where he found work as a gardener for a short period, and then to New Orleans, Louisiana where he got into the butcher's trade. Frey then traveled West by wagon train in 1854. He spent six months in California, then moved to Genoa, in Utah Territory, in 1855. He spent a year in Genoa and went to Placerville, California until 1859. In 1860 he purchased a farm in Franktown, Nevada. Frey was a farmer and butcher in Franktown and served on the Washoe County Board of Commissioners, the Washoe County Grand Jury, and was school trustee for the Franktown School District during the 1860s and 1870s.

In November 1862, Frey married Louisa Schaffer, from Germany. They had twelve children, although two died in childhood. They lived on their ranch until 1879 when the family moved to a farm on Hunter Lake Drive in Reno. In 1894, Joseph and Louisa purchased a 240 acre ranch from Enoch Morrill. Morrill had much of his land under cultivation, but the Frey's expanded the operation. They raised cattle and hogs for meat and grew alfalfa and supplied dairy products to markets, including Reno and Virginia City. Louisa established orchards on the ranch, and became famous for her apples and apple cider. She managed a portion of the ranch, producing 1,000 boxes of apples per year and grew vegetables, put up ham and bacon, and sold milk to surrounding towns. It was reported that her earnings enabled her to send her children to college. Joseph died in 1915 at the age of 81, and Louisa died on August 1, 1917 at age 76. The ranch was passed on to their children, and was managed by the

youngest son, Jack for many years. Around 1927, Jack decided to take advantage of the divorce trade, and remodeled much of the upstairs of the main house into separate bedrooms, added its first indoor bathroom, and began operating the property as a dude ranch. It is not known how long the ranch operated in this fashion, but Jack's name last appeared at the Frey Ranch in the 1944 city directory. Several of Joseph's other sons and grandsons continued ranching, settling in the Reno and Fallon areas. Today, the main house and outbuildings sit on 0.972 acre of land at 1140 West Peckham Lane in Reno, Nevada. The ranch is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Joseph and Louisa Frey's son, Frank J. married Lizzie (Mary) Dolley on January 1, 1902. The marriage produced four daughters, Amelia, Anna, Elizabeth (Sally), and Josephine. Amelia, married Edward Hand. They had six children, Virginia, Elma Dee, Melva, Arlene and Arland (twins), and James, who was adopted. The Hand family lived in the Reno area and in Northern California over a period of many years. Edward Hand was a railroad employee for part of his working life. There are numerous mostly unidentified photographs from the Hand family, as well as some correspondence which are part of this collection. Amelia died in 1962 and Edward in 1967.

Anna Frey married Charles L. Hill, both graduates of the University of Nevada. Charles died about two years later. Anna subsequently adopted two children, Frank and Ellen Hill. She and her sister Sally Elizabeth Frey lived together for many years.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT OF THE COLLECTION**

The Frey Family papers consist of a broad and diverse array of records and photographs retained by various members of the family over a period of many years. Most family members and their descendants settled in Nevada with a few moving to California or Oregon. Much of the collection consists of a medley of keepsakes, greeting cards, news clippings, magazine illustrations, souvenir postcards and photos among other ephemera.

Correspondence includes letters received by Lizzie Dolley Frey which date from the 1890s, legal documents regarding property acquisitions, wills, deeds, etc. and letters to Anna Frey Hill from her son, 1964-1969. There are several folders of Sally Frey, Anna Frey Hill and Charles Leland Hill, pertaining to their activities and graduation from the University of Nevada. Much of this collection was gathered and kept by both Anna Frey Hill and Sally Frey, and was eventually passed on to their niece, Melva Hand.

The collection includes a large number of photographs, family portraits and photo albums. Some of the pictures date to the late 1800s. Unfortunately, most of the subjects are not identified.

## **FREY FAMILY PAPERS**

**Box Folder**

**Description**

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- Frey Family Genealogy  
 Joseph Frey Obituary (1915)  
 Letters to Annie Frey (1864-1934) from Brother, 1908-1918  
 Marriage Certificate, Leo (Jack) Frey & Catherine Harris  
 Architect Plan for Jack Frey House, Reno  
 Joseph A. "Red" Frey Obituary (1979)  
 Charles P. Frey, Fallon  
 George Frey Funeral Expenses (1938)  
 Estate of Frances A. Frey, 1871-1928  
 Frank Frey Correspondence  
 Frank & Lizzie Frey – Legal  
 Frank J. Frey & Lizzie (Mary) Frey Misc.  
 Sympathy Letters to Frey Family – Death of Lizzie Frey (1931)  
 Josephine Frey Correspondence  
 News Clippings, Frey, Dolley, etc.  
 Correspondence, Lizzie Dolley 1890s Folder 1  
 Correspondence, Lizzie Dolley 1890s Folder 2  
 Lizzie Dolley Frey Correspondence 1901-1931  
 Frey Ranch Abstract  
 Frey Ranch Real Estate Info (1995 Sale)  
 Sally Elizabeth Frey – University of Nevada  
 Sally Elizabeth Frey – Correspondence  
 Sally Elizabeth Frey – Military  
 Sally Elizabeth Frey – Certificates, Misc.  
 Souvenir Postcards, etc. Sally E. Frey, Folder 1  
 Souvenir Postcards, etc. Sally E. Frey, Folder 2  
 Sally Elizabeth Frey – Death Certificate  
 Sally Elizabeth Frey – Legal
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- Anna Frey – Reno High School  
 Anna Frey – Military Publications  
 Misc. Ephemera, Anna Frey, Folder 1  
 Misc. Ephemera, Anna Frey, Folder 2  
 Misc. Ephemera, Anna Frey, Folder 3  
 Anna Frey Hill – News Clippings  
 Anna Frey Hill – Medical  
 Anna Frey Hill – Carnelian Bay  
 Legal & Probate Correspondence, Anna F. Hill & Sally Frey  
 Anna Frey Hill and Sally Frey, Legal  
 Anna Frey Hill - Financial, Folder 1  
 Anna Frey Hill - Financial, Folder 2  
 Mortgages and Legal Papers, Anna Frey Hill  
 Taxes, Bank Accounts, Anna Frey Hill  
 Louise Frey Sadlier (Book, 1939)  
 Dolley – Frey Corporation

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	2	Charles Leland Hill – Death Certificate
	3	Charles L. Hill Family Photos, Folder 1
	4	Charles L. Hill Family Photos, Folder 2
	5	Charles L. Hill Family Photos, Folder 3
	6	Charles L. Hill Family Photos, Folder 4
	7	Anna Frey – Education
	8	Correspondence, Anna Frey 1920s – 1940s
	9	Correspondence, Anna Frey Hill 1940s – 1990s
	10	Anna Hill - Letters From Son 1964-1966
	11	Anna Hill - Letters from Son 1968-1969
	12	Anna Hill – Vacation Trips, Letters, Menus, etc.
	13	Greeting Cards, Anna Frey Hill
	14	News Clippings, Anna Frey Hill
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	5	Sally Elizabeth Frey – Military Photos
	6	Anna Frey Photos, 1940s-'50s
	7	Anna Frey Hill Photos, 1950s-1990
	8	Hand Family Photographs
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	7	Photo Album, Frey Family 1932-1940
	8	Sally Frey Album – Pictures of Frey/Hand Families
	9	Album, Mostly 1920s Photographs
	10	Frey Family Album
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6	1	Unidentified Photographs, Folder 1

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- 3 Unidentified Photographs, Folder 3
- 4 Unidentified Photographs, Folder 4
  
- 7 1 Scrapbook, Sally Elizabeth Frey
- 2 "Grandma Hand" Folder 1
- 3 "Grandma Hand" Folder 2