A GUIDE TO THE
AMAT FAMILY PAPERS

(MS/NC 1020)

by
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NEVADA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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SCOPE AND CONTENT OF THE COLLECTION

This is a collection of the personal papers and photographs of the Rene and Fern Amat family of Winnemucca, Nevada. Included are documents pertaining to the Amats’ mining and ranching activities, invoices, statements, and receipts for personal expenditures, correspondence, including letters from relatives in France (in French), legal documents, agreements and contracts, bank statements and cancelled checks, and two folders of materials pertaining to Sylvain and Blanche Siard, Rene Amat’s uncle and aunt, with whom he lived from his arrival in the United States in 1912 until his marriage in 1948, and their estates.

1923-1993

1 box
FAMILY HISTORY

René F. Amat

Born in Laragne, Hautes-Alpes, France, either September 30, 1900 (obituary and age 39 on Census of April 13, 1940) or September 30, 1901 (grave). He came to the United States in December, 1912, with his uncle and aunt, Sylvain and Blanche Siard, and lived with them and their children, his cousins, until he married Fern Nelson in 1948. He was a wool and livestock buyer and also had several mining ventures. He lived in Winnemucca, Nevada, and died at his home there on August 4, 1993. Buried in Winnemucca Cemetery.

Fern Beatrice (Nelson) Amat


Sylvain D. Siard

Born April 22, 1869, in France. He came to the United States in 1898 and was a sheep rancher, first with his uncle, and then owned two large ranches in Pleasant Valley, south of Winnemucca. At his death, he owned 6,000 head of sheep. In 1912, he returned to France and married Blanche Robert. Died at his home in Pleasant Valley on February 8, 1927. Buried in Winnemucca Cemetery.

Blanche A. (Robert) Siard

Born in Gap, Hautes-Alpes, France on November 23, 1880. Came to the United States in 1912. Died January 9, 1975 in Reno. Buried in Winnemucca Cemetery. Sylvain and Blanche Siard were the parents of the following children:

Yvonne (Siard) Hager


Cesar Sylvain Siard


Robert D. Siard

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Folder 01  1931-1939

Miscellaneous invoices and statements sent to the Amat family from Winnemucca merchants such as drug stores, garages, grocers, hardware stores, lumber yards, gas stations, Bell Telephone, Hotel Humboldt, etc., and from a San Francisco grocer.

Receipts for registered mail.

Letters from a trust company in Wisconsin asking if they have any interest in some land held by an estate they are handling.

Two letters, 1931, from Arthur Amat, a cousin in France.

Receipt for sheep, 1935, from John Etchezar.

Invoice and letter regarding an order for salt from Great Western Salt Company, Salt Lake City, Utah.


Quartz mine notices of location, 1934 and 1938.

Letter, 1931, from First National Bank, Winnemucca, regarding a charge to Rene Amat for legal services paid to C.E. Robins, and a letter from the bank, 1932, requesting information about a claim for injury on a farm.

Catalogs for beverage bottling supplies from Home Manufacturing Co., Chicago, ca. 1931.

Letter from Pete Laca Jr. requesting payment of $50 for a horse, 1932.

Invoice from Nevada State Land Office, 1932, billing René Amat for interest on specified numbered contracts (mining claims?).

Letter from a José Peluaga of Lovelock, 1932.

Receipt for payment of dues, Fraternal Order of Eagles, 1932.

Letter from L.E. Lombardi, M.D., Nevada Tuberculosis Association, 1938, enclosing two sheets of Christmas Seals and requesting a donation.
Quitclaim deed transferring ownership of the Jupiter Pluvius and Jupiter Pluvius No. 1 lode mining claims in the Gold Banks Mining District, Pershing County, Nevada, from Blanche Siard and René Amat to Robert Siard, 1939.

Debit memo from First National Bank of Winnemucca to Amat & Pochelu charging their account for a grazing permit and Forest Service cooperative work.

Miscellaneous invoices and statements sent to the Amat family from Winnemucca merchants such as Winnemucca Fuel Oil Co., Krenkel & Bosch Jewelers, Mrs. N.C. Johnson’s Flower Shop, Holman’s Men’s Wear, Eagle Drug Co., City Bakery, Union Oil Company of Nevada, C.P. Hoskins Humboldt Warehouse, garages, Minor’s of Winnemucca, R.C. Bergwin Men’s Wear, Lightning Battery Service, Shell Oil Co., Standard Oil Co., Southern Pacific Co., J.L. Feraldo, Sykes-Sheldon Garage, grocers, hardware stores, lumber yards, gas stations, Bell Telephone, Hotel Humboldt, etc.


Catalogs for coats and for robes and blankets, 1939, from Baron Woolen Mills, Brigham City, Utah.

A pre-shearing report from the Nevada Wool Marketing Assn., 1938.


Letter, 1932, from E.L. Connell of Fallon asking for a watch dog and discussing 150 lost sheep.

Three copies of a newsletter from the National Wool Marketing Corp. dated April 7, 1938, a copy of the same newsletter dated May 18, 1939, another copy dated May 7, 1938 with which is enclosed a form entitled “Notice of Change of Field Advance,” which announces “Raise flat field advance from: 11 cents to 12 cents on Average to Good Wools”.

Letter from General Motors Acceptance Corp., 1932, returning Rene Amat’s check because they were unable to cash it “due to the moratorium in Nevada.”

Invoice from Nevada State Land Office, 1932, billing René Amat for interest on specified numbered contracts (mining claims?) in the name of Sylvain Siard.

A letter from Henry Anderson, County Clerk of Pershing County, Nevada, advising Amat to be present at a Tax Sale of property owned by Sylvain Siard on July 18, 1932. It is erroneously addressed to “Mr. Reine Amat.”

A receipt for insured mail issued at San Francisco, January 23, 1933.

Two arrearages notices for dues from the Fraternal Order of Eagles, Aerie No. 487, August 5 and 31, 1932.
An assessment notice and bill for state and county taxes due on 1,500 head of sheep and 35 bucks from the Humboldt County Assessor, 1932.

Two certificates of location for quartz mining claims recorded by the Pershing County Recorder, which were owned by Blanche Siard (two thirds) and J.B. Davis (one third), 1938.

Letter, in French, from Amat’s brother in Paris, 1939.

Letter from John Clay & Co., Ogden, Utah, 1932, responding to Amat’s inquiry about buying heifers.

Invoice from Joe Scott for feeding and caring for livestock, 1932.

A telegram, apparently undated, from C.D. Richardson to “Renie Amat” asking him to telephone “regarding mines.”

Promotional letter, 1932, from Institute of Applied Science, Chicago, offering a course in fingerprint analysis.

Telegrams to Holland Livestock Co., 1939, with news about livestock markets.

A notification of an uncashed check from General Motors Acceptance Corp., 1930.

A 1939 Nevada certificate of registration issued to Robert Siard for a 1936 Chevrolet pickup.

Two postcards from Walter D. Kant of Smith, Lynden & Co., commissary supplies, 1932.

An assessment notice and bill for state and county taxes due on 1,500 head of sheep plus an inspection tax from the Pershing County Assessor, 1932.

A criminal complaint by C.E. Kent of Stillwater, Churchill County, Nevada that Rene Amat, R. Pochelu, John Doe, and Richard Roe, whose true names are unknown, did trespass at his watering place by watering 4,000 head of sheep, 1931.

Notice of Location for a quartz mine and a cinabar mine, Gold Bank Mining District, Pershing County, Nevada, 1933-1934.

Letter, 1932?, from J.B. Case Co., Paradise Valley, Nevada, regarding sheep.

Overdue notice for interest on a contract in the name of Sylvain Siard from State Land Office, Carson City, 1932.

Receipts for interest paid to the State Land Office by Auguste Siard under an act to provide for the sale of lands granted by the United States to the State of Nevada, 1931.
FOLDER 03  1934

The Humboldt Star and The Silver State newspaper for Thursday, May 31, 1934.

A scrap torn from an unknown newspaper with short items about sports.

FOLDER 04  Printed materials


A receipt for weighing a load of wild hay, 1926, issued to S. Siard.

A Treasury Department announcement about the repurchase of Third Liberty Loan bonds, 1925.

Pages apparently removed from a tourist guide to San Francisco, which includes a map of the major streets, 1928.

Five miscellaneous color postcards, ca. 1940s-1970s.

Two cards or blotters, one advertising Monolith Cement from Reinhart's Inc. Department Store, Winnemucca, Nevada, and the other containing a September horoscope, ca. 1922.

A card advertising a winter special rate at Lake Tahoe Hyatt Lodge, n.d.

A brochure advertising Van Den Norden Kennels, “breeders and importers of highest quality German police dogs,” ca. 1920s.

A tabloid size advertisement for Stinson airplanes, ca. 1940s.

A magazine promoting Boys Town, Nebraska, 1940.

FOLDER 05  1926-1927

Personal letters to Rene Amat from Yvonne Siard, Grayce of Fallon, Dick of Winnemucca, Dick (later) in Carson City, Clément in France, Helen Miller of Lima, Ohio, and Grace Dalby of Fallon.

Various invoices and statements from Winnemucca merchants.

Correspondence with the Victor J. Evans & Co. law firm regarding a patent application on a flashlight invented by Rene Amat and W.W. Blake.

Promotional letters from The Crescent Tool Company offering to manufacture Amat's invention, 1928.

A receipt for registered mail sent to Grace Dalby of Reno, 1927.

An agreement between Rene Amat and Willard W. Blake establishing Amat’s two thirds interest and Blake’s one third interest in their invention of a flashlight, 1927.

Receipts for insurance premium (on postcards) from Mutual Benefit Health and Accident Association of Omaha, 1927-1928.

Promotional letter from Van Den Norden Kennels for German police dogs.


An empty envelope with a return address of D. Acorda, Propr., Silver State Hotel, Austin, Nevada, with a photograph of Acorda included.

Power of Attorney from Willard W. Blake appointing Rene Amat his attorney for his one-third interest in their flashlight invention, 1927.

Notice of Allowance from the Patent and Copyright Office of Canada regarding Amat’s flashlight invention, 1928, and a notice that the application had been received, 1927.

Receipt from E. Reinhart Co., 1928.

Invoices for purchases issued to “Siard Estate,” 1927.

Policy and application for insurance from Mutual Benefit Health and Accident Association of Omaha. It gives Rene Amat’s date of birth as September 30, 1901, in France.

A political letter from W.H. Moffat of Reno, October 6, 1928, addressed to the livestock growers of Nevada, supporting protective tariffs and Republican candidates.

A debit memo from First National Bank, Winnemucca, for payment of Humboldt County property taxes, addressed to Blanche Siard and Rene Amat.

Letter, apparently from Rene Amat, to National Carbon Co. inquiring if they are interested in Amat’s patent, 1928.

Receipt from the U.S. Patent Office for Amat and Blake’s application for a patent on a flashlight, 1927.

QUITCLAIM DEED

Quitclaim deed by which Rene Amat transferred his interest in the Argent No. 1, No. 2, and No. 3 mining claims in Pershing County, Nevada, to Yvonne Siard, 1941.

FOLDER 06  1940-1949
Book of carbon copies of Notices of Location, quartz mining claims, 1941.

Utility bill for June, 1940.

Delinquent dues notices, Fraternal Order of Eagles, Aerie No. 487, 1940-1941.

Political letter from the Nevada Republican State Central Committee, ca. 1940-1941.

Various invoices and statements from Winnemucca merchants.

Membership card, Fraternal Order of Eagles, valid through June 1, 1940.

Humboldt County poll tax receipt, 1946.

Letter from John A. Jurgenson, attorney of Lovelock, regarding the need to sell Amat’s cattle because the Friedman Ranch on which they are housed is about to be sold, 1941.

Receipt for personal property tax, 1946, on a 1937 Chevrolet panel truck.

Postcard from “Arthur” in French from Digne-Les-Bains, France; date not legible.

A racehorse keno ticket with notes written on the reverse.


FOLDER 07  1950-1959


A Silver Anniversary card from Eugene, Nena, and Larry of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, with a letter dated January 12, 1949; unclear to whom it was sent.

A Proof of Annual Labor recorded in Pershing County for Mrs. Fern Amat, 1954.

A paid bill for filing a Notice of Non-Liability, Pershing County, 1954.

Letter from the Pershing County Recorder confirming the recording of two Proofs of Annual Labor, 1956, and a hand-drawn map of apparent mining claims.


Hand drawn maps of mining claims identified as “Joe Group” and “Hot Group,” n.d.

Proof of Annual Labor for four mining claims called the Fern Mining Group filed by Rene Amat’s wife, Fern Amat; recorded in Pershing County in 1951.
Proof of Annual Labor for Fern No. 1 and Fern No. 2 claims; recorded in Pershing County in 1957.

Proof of Annual Labor for Fern Mining Claim Group; recorded in Pershing County in 1953.

Notices of Location for the Stud Group of Claims; recorded in Pershing County in 1951.


Receipt for recording fees, Pershing County Recorder, 1955.

Four Notices of Location for the Fern Group of claims; recorded in Pershing County in 1951.

Notice of Location for the Mike No. 1 mining claim, Kiten Mining District, Pershing County, 1954.

Proof of Annual Labor for Mike No. 1 claim, 1954.

A cover letter for three Certificates of Location recorded by the Pershing County Recorder, 1955.

A mining lease which leased nine claims in the Joe Group, Mount Tobin Mining District, Pershing County, to Rene and Fern Amat from Walter I. Gertz and James E. Walsh, 1964.

FOLDER 08 1960-1979

Certificates of Location, 1969-1970

Mining lease which leased ten claims in the Hot Group and nine claims in the Joe Group, Mount Tobin Mining District, Pershing County to Clyde and Gladys Robinson from Rene and Fern Amat, 1968.

Two copies of an assignment of 50% of the mining lease of Rene and Fern Amat, lessors, and Walter Gertz and James Walsh, lessees, to Anthony Ardizzone of San Jose, California, 1964.

Nine Certificates of Location for claims filed by Fern Amat, 1955.

Agreement between Rene and Fern Amat, lessors, and Louis Crosswhite, lessee, for mining claims which had previously been leased by the Amats to Clyde and Gladys Robinson; their interest was sold to Crosswhite; 1968.

Agreement between Clyde and Gladys Robinson and Louis Crosswhite setting forth the terms of royalties due on the mining lease interest sold to Crosswhite, 1968.

Copy of the mining lease, with assignment, between Rene and Fern Amat and Walter Gertz and James Walsh, 1964.

Cover letter from the Pershing County Recorder describing enclosure of two Proofs of Labor and two Claim Maps which were recorded in 1972.
Two Proofs of Annual Labor, 1972.

Mining lease, 1967, between Rene and Fern Amat, lessors, and Clyde and Gladys Robinson, lessees.

Supplemental agreement to the above mining lease, 1967.

1970 Christmas Seals promotional letter and three sheets of the seals.

A birthday card for Rene Amat from “Bea” of 80 Highland Drive, Winnemucca, Nevada 89445; postmarked September 29, 1971.

Mining lease, 1970, between Rene and Fern Amat, lessors, and Clyde and Gladys Robinson, lessees.

Flyer advertising a vehicle battery charger, 1968.

Two Proofs of Annual Labor recorded in Pershing County in 1965.

Notice of Location for Telephone No. 1 mining claim in Pershing County signed by Rene Amat and Jerry Holloway; recorded in 1955.

Proof of Annual Labor, Hot Group of claims; recorded in Pershing County, 1961.

A used keno ticket, Bonanza Casino, Reno.


Proof of Annual Labor, Hot Group of claims, Pershing County, 1965; apparently not recorded.

Cover letter from the Pershing County Recorder describing enclosure of two Notices of Location, file numbers 77346 and 77347, 1970.

A Notice of Public Hearing from the Humboldt County Regional Planning Commission sent to Rene and Fern Amat regarding rezoning a part of the Warmouth Addition near Winnemucca, 1980.

An envelope containing a blank sheet of paper addressed to Rene Amat from Eugene A. Moore of Winnemucca, postmarked May 31, 1971, and labelled “June check.”


Certificate of Location for the Sunshine Claim, recorded in Pershing County, 1964.

Proofs of Annual Labor signed by Clyde Robinson for the Hot Group and Joe Group of claims; recorded in Pershing County in 1968.
Agreement by which James Walsh and Walter Gertz, lessees of a group of mining claims leased to them by Rene and Fern Amat, assign a one-half interest in them to Anthony Ardizzone of San Jose, California, 1964.

Two Certificates of Location for the June No. 1 and No. 2 claims; recorded in Pershing County in 1970.


A postcard, 1971, from Bermuda signed by “Mervyn & Gloria.”


Four Notices of Location, 1969-1970, recorded in Pershing County.

Proof of Annual Labor recorded in Pershing County, 1960.

Proof of Annual Labor, Joe Group of claims, signed by Fern Amat, 1956; recorded in Pershing County.

Letter to whom it may concern, 1973, certifying that the Annual Proof of Labor has been completed and recorded in Pershing County for the Joe Group, Sunshine Group, and Hot Group of claims; unsigned.

Proof of Annual Labor, Hot Group of claims, recorded in Pershing County in 1973.

Proof of Annual Labor, Hot Group of claims, recorded in Pershing County, 1959.


Statement of Taxable Property Within Pershing County, 1963-1964, from the Pershing County Assessor’s Office belonging to Arthur Amat (a total of 40 acres).

Statement of Taxable Property Within Pershing County, 1963-1964, from the Pershing County Assessor’s Office belonging to Rene Amat (a total of 720 acres).

FOLDER 09  1926-1939

Financial records, including bank statements, cancelled checks, and check registers.

Certificate of Title of a Motor Vehicle, issued to Rene Amat, December 3, 1929, for a 1929 Chevrolet Coupe.

Receipts for 1931 Humboldt County property taxes on Sylvain Siard (Rene Amat’s uncle) property; issued June 4, 1932. A bank debit memo issued to Amat & Pochelu for payment of taxes, June 8, 1932.
Papers pertaining to the Sylvain and Blanche Siard family:

Invoices for personal expenditures of the Siard family.

A wedge used for installing a handle on a hammer, with instructions.

Two premium coupons issued by a tobacco company, 1942-1943.

An empty Knox gelatin envelope.

Tag from Empire Unfibered Hardwall Plaster.

A flyer advertising the Big Yank shirt, Reliance Manufacturing Co., Chicago, n.d.

Receipt issued to S. Siard by Western States Utilities Co. for water and light for May and June, 1928.

Promissory note signed by George W. Fleming promising to pay Mrs. Blanche Siard $200, 1933.

Agreement to lease Jupiter Pluvius and Jupiter Pluvius No. 1 mining claims from Robert Siard, lessor, to J.W. Hicks, lessee, 1939.

Postcard to Blanche Siard from the U.S. Agricultural Adjustment Administration, 1941, notifying her of deferred grazing from April 1 to July 29, 1941 in Pershing County, requiring her to keep stock off the deferred grazing area.

A handwritten copy of a poem entitled “Ramona,” dated August 14, 1928, and marked copied by Catherine Etchegoyhen.

A scrap of paper listing “steers, heifers, cows,” etc. along with numbers.

A receipt for fire insurance premiums, 1939, issued to Yvonne Siard by J.G. Moore.

Postcard to Blanche Siard from the Agriculture Department, County Extension Agent, Lovelock, Nevada, offering poisoned oats and traps for the control of ground squirrels and gophers.

Bank statement and cancelled checks, 1926.


Postcard from H.W. Sherid of Long Beach, Washington, to the Winnemucca Chief of Police, 1939, asking if anyone in the area has burros for sale.

A note to Bob Siard on Hotel Humboldt stationery about meeting to view a gold property; unsigned and undated.
Card issued to Yvonne Siard certifying insurance on her Plymouth, 1939, by Fireman’s Fund Group.

Personal property tax receipt for 1934 issued to Yvonne Siard of Lovelock.

Letter promoting reinstatement of a life insurance policy from The Columbian National Life Insurance Company, Boston, to “Mr. Sylvain Liotard, c/o S. Seard,” 1928.

Spreadsheet detailing purchases from J.R. Case Co. General Merchandise by men working for the S. Siard estate, July and August (no year stated).

Two empty envelopes addressed to Yvonne Siard from Montgomery Ward, Oakland and Chicago, 1938 and 1940.

A newsletter to wool growers from California-Nevada Wool Sales Division of Pacific Wool Growers, Stockton, California, 1940.

Sheep market report from Wm. R. Smith & Son, sheep commission merchants, Omaha, Nebraska, sent to S. Siard, 1932.

Letter, 1925, to S. Siard from Fairbanks, Morse & Co. regarding shipment of a pump.

Letter, 1928, to Rene Amat from Patent Bureau Reichelt offering to license foreign manufacturing of his flashlight invention.

FOLDER 11  1925-1956  Chiefly pertaining to the Siard family

Several pages listing expenditures by payee name, type, and amount, sorted by months with no years shown.

Hospital bill and receipt from Mt. Zion Hospital, San Francisco, 1928, to Blanche Siard.

Invoices and statements for personal expenditures from various merchants.

Telephone bill from Bell Telephone Co. of Nevada to S. Siard, 1931.

Quartz mining claim Notice of Location, Argent claim, Pershing County, 1941.

Receipt issued to Rene Amat for health and accident insurance by Mutual Benefit Health and Accident Association, 1928.

Postcard addressed to Mrs. J. Weikel, Winnemucca, from St. Helena, California, 1940.

Letter, unsigned, 1928, to The Crescent Tool Co. enclosing a patent office drawing of the invention.

Railway Express Co. receipt for one bale trees shipped by S. Siard from Winnemucca to Jungo, Nevada, 1927.
Fireman’s Fund Group identification card for car insurance on a Plymouth issued to Yvonne Siard and expiring April 23, 1939.

Bank statement and cancelled checks for Yvonne Siard, April, 1939.

Promissory note for $200 signed by Rene Amat December 30, 1938 and due to First National Bank of Nevada, Reno, on June 30, 1939.

Several pages of accounts.

Note on the cost of 1,169 pounds of barley on the letterhead of Winnemucca Hotel, n.d.

Scrap of paper with notes on it.

Advertising flyer for Mutual Benefit Health & Accident Association, Omaha, J.M. Hopkins, State Manager, Clay Peters Building, Reno, n.d.

Letter, 1936, from C. Hempey of San Francisco to Mr. T. Bergerson, Reno regarding tracts of Nevada land that were to be offered for sale.

Sheet summarizing the contents of this box (“Box 2”) as well as a “Box 1,” the entirety of which is described as “Holabird Collection.

FOLDER 12 Photographs

A folder containing black and white photos of mining machinery, a Jeep, and a man shoveling dirt into a wheelbarrow. It is marked “Lee Hand/Uncle Sam Lode/Tonopah.”

Several loose photos similar to the above, including shots of a small cabin with a diagram of the interior drawn on the back, some photos of unidentified men, and one marked on the back “the mill, pick up, and the con table shed at the left.” The pickup truck appears to be an approximately 1950-1952 model.

Postcard with a photo of a boys’ band marked “Boys Booster Band,” and “taken 30 of May 1912.”

Two small square color photos marked “Uncle Sam Lode, 2/65.”

Black and white photo of a man standing next to an electrical panel, approx. 1910-1920, marked “Tonopah Mizpah” on reverse.

Approx. 5 X 7 inch photo of an airplane flight deck.

Approx. 5 X 7 inch black and white photo of an adolescent girl marked “Dolly Masterfield? Tacoma” and “With love, Charlotte, Xmas 1928.”

An approx. 3.5 X 5 inch black and white photo of an infant on a postcard marked “Paul Somers Latimer, age 1 year” on the reverse.
Another photo of the same infant mounted on a card and marked “Paul, about 1 year of age” on the reverse.

A photo album with black pages containing 3 pages of small approx. 2 X 3 inch black and white photos of unidentified people, including several children, plus one loose photo of four men and four women.

FOLDER 13  Genealogical information

The following items have been added by the docent:


Grave information for René F. Amat.

Grave information for Fern Beatrice (Nelson) Amat.

Obituary of Blanche Siard, Reno Evening Gazette, January 10, 1975, page 17 (includes photograph).

Grave information for Blanche A. (Robert) Siard.

Grave information for Sylvain D. Siard (includes copy of an obituary).

Grave information for Yvonne (Siard) Hager (includes photograph and copy of obituary).


Grave information for Cesar Sylvain Siard.

Grave information for Robert D. Siard (includes early photographs).