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CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

TOPOLOBAMPO

COLLECTION, 1836-1979  
44.75 linear feet

- ACQUISITION: Part of the collection was donated by Viola Gabriel in 1955. The remainder was donated by Ray Reynolds in 1972. Some photographs were donated by Lois Sinclair in 1990. Various materials were donated by the Kneeland family over the years.
- ACCESS: The collection is open for research.
- COPYRIGHT: Copyright to Ira Kneeland's photographs has been transferred to California State University, Fresno. Copyright to other materials has not been transferred.
- PHOTOGRAPHS: In boxes 4, 16, 33, 34 and 35. Original glass plate negatives stored in a filing cabinet.
- PROCESSED BY: Ronald Mahoney and Special Collections staff, 1970s; Linda Sitterding, 1999; Nathan N. Orgill, 2000; Tammy Lau, 2001-2002, and Heather Crowder, 2002.

## History

The Topolobampo cooperative colony was founded at Topolobampo Bay near Los Mochis, Sinaloa, Mexico, by a group of American colonists in 1886. The colony was established and governed under a set of idealistic bylaws, predicated on socialistic reforms. The driving force behind the colonization effort was Albert Kimsey Owen (1847-1916).

After a brief stint as a civil servant in Chester, Pennsylvania, twenty-four-year-old Owen began working as a surveyor and civil engineer for William J. Palmer and the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad. Palmer formed a surveying party, which included Owen, whose mission was to reconnoiter a proposed railroad or surface road to Mexico City in 1872. After reaching Mexico City, Owen was sent to Mexico's west coast to look for promising harbor sites, and there he had his first look at Topolobampo Bay.

From 1873 through 1880 Owen worked to implement his dream of a port at Topolobampo Bay. He won approval of his plan for canals, highways and rail travel in Mexico. Owen quickly organized an American syndicate and with fourteen other members of the United States contingent, embarked on a journey in late August of 1880, bound for Vera Cruz, Mexico. The ship was lost in a hurricane off the coast of Florida with only four survivors. The accident cost Owen five years. Concessions were lost, plans and contracts had to be renegotiated. Finally in 1885, Owen was once again ready to return to Mexico.

Owen's original plan was to build a railroad from Texas to Topolobampo (the Texas, Topolobampo, and Pacific Railroad). However, having grown up with a Quaker father and having lived for a time at Robert Owen's (no relation to him) utopian colony in New Harmony, Indiana, A. K. Owen was a staunch and idealistic Socialist in addition to being a railroad promoter and engineer. Thus, his new plans included a cooperative colony in Sinaloa where the reorganization of labor and distribution followed the principles laid out in his essay "Integral Co-Operation." This socioeconomic treatise determined that labor was the source of all wealth, and that wealth, the end product of labor, should be justly dispersed through a system of credits. Out of this plan for a better world came the Credit Foncier Company of Sinaloa. The Credit Foncier Company issued stock, script and credits in return for labor, which benefited the colony. It was also the agency used to acquire and hold land for Owen and the colony.

Plans for the colony included a grand city called Pacific City, based on Owen's utopian ideal, as well as several agricultural colonies along the Fuerte River to the north of Topolobampo Bay. The railroad and the colony were to be mutually beneficial, each to stimulate growth of the other. However, the colony never had much success and the premature settling of twenty-seven colonists at Topolobampo in 1886 ultimately concluded with the "grand

**History** (cont.)

experiment's" failure. The reasons were multifarious and complex.

Although Christian B. Hoffman, a Kansas businessman, and Michael Flürscheim, a German land reformer, tried to infuse new life into the colony and mediate between all the factions that splintered the colonists, their efforts failed. In fact, this further divided the colonists into the Owen supporters versus the Hoffman/Flürscheim supporters. The whole episode was referred to as “the conspiracy” and involved many tense meetings and a flurry of communication back and forth. It was a battle fought in public, both in Mexico and the United States, through two newspapers—Owen’s *New City* and Hoffman’s *Integral Co-Operator*. The Hoffman/Flürscheim camp tried to form their own co-operative, called the Freeland Co-Operative Society, based in Libertad in Sinaloa. Though the co-operative never became a reality, the Hoffman/Flürscheim group did manage to build an irrigation ditch to foster agriculture.

Many personalities came into play in Sinaloa: Marie Howland, a socialist author and editor of the *Credit Foncier of Sinaloa*; Christian B. Hoffman, organizer of the Kansas-Sinaloa Investment Company, initially formed to purchase land for the floundering Credit Foncier; and John W. Lovell, a publisher and ardent reformer who was a loyal supporter of Owen. Yet, in the end, it was Owen who was held ultimately responsible for the failure of the colony.

Albert K. Owen left the colony in 1893, never to return. He continued to publish optimistic views of the colony in *New City* but by then the colony was, for all intents and purposes, defunct. The land was eventually cultivated by the Sinaloa Sugar Company (run by B.F. Johnston). Owen’s proposed railroad, which eventually became Arthur E. Stilwell’s Kansas City, Mexico and Orient Railroad (later the Chihuahua and Pacific Railroad), was not fully realized until 1962.

**Scope and Content Note**

The Topolobampo Collection measures 44.75 linear feet and dates from 1836 to 1979. The collection is arranged in six series: Owen, Albert K., Colonists and correspondents, Colony, Railroads, Scrapbooks and Photographs. The majority of the collection came from Viola Gabriel, whose aunt, Clarissa Kneeland, had received it from Louise B. Owen, Albert K. Owen’s widow. The Kneelands were colonists at Topolobampo who stayed on in Mexico until the Mexican Revolution forced them to flee. The rest of the collection was donated by different members of the Kneeland family and by Ray Reynolds, a former Fresno State College instructor and author of *Cat’s Paw Utopia*, a book about Owen and Topolobampo. A grandnephew of Owen’s in New York gave Reynolds most of this material.

**Scope and Content Note** (cont.)

The **Owen, Albert K.** series (1836-1949) contains correspondence, legal records and printed materials, all of which relate to Owen's work at Topolobampo, as well as his writings on utopian colonies and socialism. The bulk of the series is comprised of Owen's correspondence concerning the colony at Topolobampo although there are some materials about a few of his projects that were not related to Topolobampo, such as the Texcoco-Huehuetoca Canal, before the colony started, and building highways, after the colony failed.

The **Colonists and correspondents** series (1872-1979) is composed primarily of the correspondence of colonists and people outside the colony who were interested in it. It is arranged alphabetically by individual. Among the most important of these people are: Christian B. Hoffman, Michael Flürsheim, John W. Lovell, Edward and Marie Howland and the Kneeland family, in particular, Clarissa and Ira Kneeland. There is one letter each to Owen from Nellie Bly and Collis P. Huntington.

The **Colony** series (1864-1966) is arranged by broad subject categories, most notably: Agriculture, Arts, Construction, Credit Foncier Company, Ethnic groups, Finance corporations and stock companies, Lands and estates, Mexico and Newspapers. The finance corporations and stock companies include all the investment vehicles formed to fund the colony. The newspapers are the official newspapers created for the colonists and their supporters. These are: Edward and Marie Howland's *Credit Foncier of Sinaloa*, Albert K. Owen's *New City*, Christian B. Hoffman's *Integral Co-Operator* and a draft of a newspaper called *The Wave* that apparently never got off the ground.

The **Railroads** series (1872-1974) consists of documents about the various railroad schemes that proliferated during the 1880s and 1890s. Some of these directly relate to Owen; others do not. However, Owen was avidly interested in all railroad projects, either as models, competitors or partners for his own plans.

The **Scrapbooks** (1871-1914) are arranged alphabetically by topic. They contain newspaper clippings that were kept and organized by different departments in the Credit Foncier Company, numbered I through X, and include the following: Agriculture, Construction, Education, Energy and metallurgy, Law and arbitration, Manufacturing, Mexico, Public order and sanitation, Railroads and Supplies.

The **Photographs** (1886-1907) are divided into two main parts. The first concerns the original donation, which came with Ira Kneeland's (Kneeland was the colony's official photographer) 505 glass plate negatives, from which a print of each image was made. These prints are numbered and identified individually and are housed in binders. The first 73 are labeled and numbered using Kneeland's original list (available in this series). The rest were arbitrarily numbered, although grouped into broad categories. The list of the 505 photographs

**Scope and Content Note** (cont.)

can be found at the end of the finding aid. The list lacks numbers 187 through 227 because these images are of the Kneeland family in Colorado before they moved to the colony as well as in Mexico, after the colony failed. Thus, those photographs are housed in the Kneeland Family Papers. All 505 of the glass plate negatives are in numerical order and are kept in a filing cabinet. The second section is comprised of original prints that Ira Kneeland created which were donated much later by his descendant, Lois Sinclair. These are arranged by subject and in some cases, duplicate the numbered photographs made from the glass negatives. The duplicate photographs have numbers on the backs corresponding to the numbered prints.

**Related Collections**

**Special Collections Library**

Cataloged collections

All the maps and plans for Topolobampo have been cataloged and are accessible through the library's online catalog, ALIS. A book collection is also available, with works about Owen and Topolobampo as well as other utopian societies and the socialistic theories behind them. These are also available through ALIS. A microfilm copy of the newspaper *Credit Foncier of Sinaloa* (1885-1895) is in the Microforms area. This too is listed in ALIS.

Topolobampo Reference Collection (1.4 linear feet, 1862-1999)

Finding aids for Topolobampo-related collections available elsewhere as well as secondary sources about Owen and Topolobampo can be found in this collection. The collection also includes primary sources from other utopian societies as well as materials on utopianism/socialism in general. A separate guide to this collection is available.

Kneeland Family Papers (11.75 linear feet, 1820-1962, 1987)

This collection documents the Kneeland family and their lives on Black Mountain, near Prather, California, after their Topolobampo experience.

**Other locations**

Albert K. Owen Collection, Henry E. Huntington Library (418 items, 1872-1909)

Albert K. Owen letters to Senator Henry W. Blair, Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley (6 items, 1895)

Topolobampo Collection, Mandeville Special Collections Library, University of California, San Diego (MS 106, donated by Ray Reynolds, 2.3 linear feet, 1872-1910)

Marie (Stevens) Howland Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress (6 items, undated)

**Related Collections (cont.)**

**Other locations (cont.)**

Edward Daniels Papers, Gunston Hall Plantation, Mason Neck, Virginia (17 items, 1850-1954)  
Daniels and his wife, Ione Gove Daniels, were colonists at Topolobampo and both kept up a correspondence with A.K. Owen (see also Colonists and correspondents, Correspondence in Topolobampo Collection).

**Box no. Description**

Box 1

**Owen, Albert K.**

Address book, 1861, 1892-1901  
Bills, 1881-1904 and undated  
Biography, 1916, 1945 and undated (includes information about Joshua Owen)  
Checkbooks, 1898-1906  
Chihuahua and Pacific Railroad, 1899-1900  
Correspondence  
    1853-1882 (16 folders)

Box 2

1883-1885 (10 folders)  
1886-1916  
    Folders 1-6

Box 3

    Folders 7-20  
    Undated and incomplete letters, 1872-1901 and undated  
    Compañía Limitada del Ferrocarril de Sonora, 1882-1893  
    Letters of introduction, 1891, 1893, 1909  
    Letters of support  
        From colonists, 1887-1901  
        From stockholders in Credit Foncier Company, 1893  
        To Mexican officials, 1895  
    Letters to Porfirio Diaz, 1892-1899 and undated  
    National Co-Operative Guild, 1888  
    Order of Knights of Labor, 1888-1912  
    Puget Sound Co-Operative Colony, 1888  
    Socialistic Labor Party, 1885  
    Window Glass Workers' Assembly, 1885  
    Daily planners, [1892-1897], 1907  
    Data for letter sheets, 1911-1914 and undated  
    Expenses, 1873-1903  
    Genealogy, 1907  
    Highways, 1880, 1908-1910  
    Legal documents  
        Agreements  
            Owen and Down, 1894  
            Owen and Doyle, 1896  
            Owen and Sutherland, 1890

**Box no. Description**

Box 3 (cont.)

**Owen, Albert K. (cont.)**

Legal documents (cont.)

Cases

Owen and Young, 1894

Owen v. Francisco Alfaro, 1890-1892

Owen v. Javier Amargoiz, 1891

Contracts

Owen, Carman and Ybarra, 1872-1881

Box 4

Owen and Manuel Gonzalez Cosio, 1892

Owen and Noblett, 1899

Owen and Stilwell, 1900-1909

Owen and Watsons, 1899

Power of attorney

For Mrs. Marie Louise Bigelow Owen, 1902

From Carman and Ybarra, 1875-1900

Proof of Association in Carman Lands, 1872-1900

Statement, 1907

Will, 1905

List of Owen's documents by Clarissa Kneeland, 1881-1887 and undated

Lists of letters and maps, 1872-1904

Memoranda, 1890, 1900

Notebook, 1881-1884, 1899, 1902 and undated

Notes about railroads, 1872-1877, 1890 and undated

Portraits of A.K. Owen, undated

Religion, 1891 and undated

Texcoco-Huehuetoca Canal, 1880

Writings

Advertisements, undated

"The Albert Owen Plan of Integral Cooperation," undated

"The Apparent Drift of Events towards the Industrial Cooperative Life or, the  
New Civilization," undated

*The Credit Foncier of Sinaloa: A Social Study*, undated

*Don't! Never!! And Always!* 1892

*A Dream of an Ideal City*, 1897

*Eclectic Column*, 1877, 1884 and undated

"Let Us Have Evolution and Not Revolution," undated

"A Few Facts from a World Standpoint," undated



**Box no. Description**

Box 4 (cont.)

**Owen, Albert K.** (cont.)

Writings (cont.)

*Friends! Attention!!*, [1891]

“The Fundamental of Socio-economics,” undated

*The Guernsey Market House Plan of Payments*, 1896-1897, 1912 and undated

“The Industrial Re-formation: A Prologue,” undated

*Integral-Cooperation at Work*, undated

*Integral-Cooperation at Work, No. 2*, 1891

*Integral-Cooperation - A Business Way to Solve Social Antagonisms*, ca. 1889

*Integral-Cooperation: Its Practical Application*, 1889 and undated

“Key to the Solution of Some of the Graver Industrial Problems,” ca. 1910

“Let Us Reason Together!” undated

*Looking at What Can Be Done NOW - Not Backward, Not Forward*, ca. 1911

Newspaper clippings, [1880]

“Norfolk—Her Future,” undated

*Nueva Ruta para el Pacifico: La Metropoli comercial futura del Pacifico*, 1880

Box 5

“Paris: A Glance at the City on the Seine,” undated

*The Problems of the Hour*, 1897 and undated

“Public Trusts vs. Private Trusts,” undated

“The Railroad - Its History, Its Uses,” undated

“Reflections,” undated

“A Study,” [1892]

“A Study [of] the Money Received from the Sales of Leaseholds by the Credit Foncier Company, or by the Pacific City Corporation,” 1894

“There is a Light in Asia,” 1891

*The Three-Headed Hydra of Society*, ca. 1886

“The Topolobampo Colony; or The Ethical-Social Reformation of Our Day,” 1894

“A Trust for Town, Farm and Factory Is the Demand of the Hour, [1888]

“The Ways and Means of Payments; or, The Question of the Day Answered,” 1894

*The West and the East*, 1881

“What I Believe and What I Am,” 1892

“The World’s Money,” undated

Miscellaneous, 1878 and undated

Other family members

Owen, Alfred, 1880-1888, 1902 and undated

**Box no. Description**

Box 5 (cont.)

**Owen, Albert K. (cont.)**

Other family members (cont.)

Owen family letters, 1880-1912 and undated

Owen, Joshua

Correspondence, 1836, 1853-1880

Documents relating to his death, 1880

Owen, Marie Louise Bigelow

Condolences, 1916

Correspondence, non-A.K. Owen, 1882-1928, 1945-1949 (2 folders)

Memorandum, 1899

Trial, *Marie Louise Bigelow Owen v. Arthur E. Stilwell*, 1911

**Colonists and correspondents**

Arrival and departure, 1886-1897 (2 folders)

Business cards and calling cards, undated

Correspondence

Abbey to Arthur, 1881-1908 (28 folders)

Box 6

Ash to Bumstead, 1881-1916, 1943 and undated (111 folders) [letter from Nellie Bly, Mexico City, 1886]

Box 7

Bungardt to Cushing, 1872-1914 and undated (104 folders)

Box 8

Daniel to Flood, 1885-1920, 1929-1930, 1944-1952 and undated (107 folders)  
Flürscheim, Michael, 1891-1893

Box 9

Fonseca to Hambleton, 1880-1916, 1927, 1930 and undated (80 folders)

Hampl, Joseph (José)

1891-1894

1895

1896

1897

1898-1901

1902

1903

**Box no. Description**

Box 10

**Colonists and correspondents (cont.)**

Correspondence (cont.)

Hampl, Joseph (José) (cont.)

1904

1905-1909

Hanna to Henck, 1885-1904 and undated (23 folders)

Herrera, Edward S., 1886-1901 (10 folders)

Herring to Hoepfner, 1884-1897 (15 folders)

Hoffman, Christian, 1887-1901 and undated (9 folders)

Hogarty to Howard, 1885-1904, 1943-1944 and undated (20 folders)

Box 11

Howard, Thomas Wade, 1884-1899 (4 folders)

Howe to Kruttschnitt 1884-1910, 1928-1934 (87 folders) [letter from C.P.

Huntington, New York, 1893]

Box 12

Lackany to Louderback, 1883-1910, 1928 and undated (44 folders)

Lovell, Augustus, 1885-1888

Lovell family, 1885-1897, 1944-1945

Lovell, John W.

1885-1889

1890

1891

1892-1893

1894-1902

Loveridge to Merchant, 1875-1911 and undated (55 folders)

Box 13

Merrill to Payne, 1885-1919, 1935 (99 folders)

Box 14

Pearce to Rhoades, 1880-1913, 1958 and undated (66 folders)

Rice, John H., 1886-1902 and undated (5 folders)

Richards to Sandoval, 1880-1910, 1961 and undated (40 folders)

Box 15

Sattler to Sawyer, 1888-1904 (6 folders)

Scally, Joshua W., 1885-1893 and undated (10 folders)

**Box no. Description**

Box 15 (cont.)

**Colonists and correspondents (cont.)**

Correspondence (cont.)

Schaefer to Swan, 1884-1929, 1940-1946 and undated (102 folders)

Box 16

Talbott to Taylor, 1886-1904 (9 folders)

Tays, Eugene A. H., 1886-1912 (9 folders)

Tays family, 1900-1945

Teller to Wettengel, 1883-1911 and undated (82 folders)

Wheeler, B. A., 1892-1897

Folders 1-5

Box 17

Folders 6-7

Wheeler to Whitzel, 1886-1894 and undated (11 folders)

Wilber, Alvin J., 1886-1904, 1920, 1948 (6 folders)

Wilber to Zwicker, 1882-1904, 1909-1917 and undated (48 folders)

Miscellaneous

English, 1886-1893

Spanish, 1881-1893

Flürsheim, Michael (Plan of Reorganization), undated

Grievances, 1888, 1902 and undated

Hampl, Joseph (José) writings, 1902-1903

Health, 1884, 1887

Box 18

Howland, Edward

Articles, 1872, 1886 and undated

Correspondence, 1884-1889 and undated

Howland, Marie

Articles, 1880, ca. 1893

Biographical information, 1894, 1965, 1974, 1979

Correspondence, 1875-1916 and undated (13 folders)

Publication information, 1874-1875, 1890, 1975

Kneeland family

Accounts with the Credit Foncier of Sinaloa Company, 1886-1895

Kneeland, Clarissa A.

Correspondence (history of colony), 1945-1947 and undated

Diary (with photocopies), 1896

**Box no.   Description**

Box 18 (cont.)

**Colonists and correspondents (cont.)**

Kneeland family (cont.)

Kneeland, Clarissa A. (cont.)

“Letters to Anita,” 1945-1946 and undated

Correspondence [a microfilm copy is in oversize box 35]

1886

1887

1888

1889

Box 19

1890

1891

1892

1893

1894

1895

1896

1897

1898

1899

1900

1901

1902

1903

1904

1905

1907

1908

1909

1910

1911

1912

1913

1914

1915

1916

1917

**Box no. Description**

Box 19 (cont.)

**Colonists and correspondents (cont.)**

Kneeland family (cont.)

Correspondence (cont.)

1919

Undated and incomplete

Kneeland-Gabriel-Reynolds correspondence relative to Topolobampo, 1948,  
1975, 1977 and undated

Viola Gabriel's notes, 1864-1907 (3 folders)

History of colony, 1949, 1958

Kneeland, Ira

Diary, undated

Essays and articles, 1915-1926

Maps, undated

Mining interests, 1903-1929 and undated

Photography company, 1889

Miscellaneous, undated

Kneeland Store, 1893-1917

List of equipment and belongings

Brought back to the United States, undated

Left at Sivirijoa, undated

Mary Kneeland Diary, 1893-1894

*Our Hatchet*, 1902-1906

Postcards and ephemera, 1891-1904, 1922, 1934 and undated

Printed materials, 1886, 1909 and undated

Box 20

Lists of colonists, 1886-1892 [oversize: shelved in map case A, drawer 10]

Lists of colonists' belongings, 1888-1895 (3 folders)

Lists of items needed, undated

Register books (with biographical information), undated (2 books)

[shelved in oversize box 35]

Women, 1887-1902

**Colony**

Agriculture

Crops, 1886-1896

Haskell farm, 1887

**Box no. Description**

Box 20 (cont.)

**Colony (cont.)**

Agriculture (cont.)

Irrigation, 1897-1902

Irrigation Pump Company, 1889

Weather and climate, 1888 and undated

Arts

Photography, 1889-1910 and undated

Sketches and drawings, 1886-1890 and undated

Songs, 1886-1890 and undated

Conditions of the colony

1886-1888

1890-1891

1892

1893

1894

1895

1896

1898

1901

1902

1903

1904

Conspiracy, 1892-1902

Construction

International Construction Company, 1905 and undated

Mexican-American Construction Company, 1885-1887 and undated

Mexican Contractors' Association, undated

Mexican National Construction Company, 1881-1886

North Mexico Contracting Company, 1902

Topolobampo Terminal Contracting and Purveying Company, 1903

United Production and Manufacturing Association of Mexico, 1880

United States Contractors' Association, 1874, 1877

Correspondence

Incomplete and undated, 1878-1911 and undated

Credit Foncier Company

Accounts, 1887-1901

Annual report, 1893-1896

Application for permit, 1893

Assets and liabilities, undated

**Box no. Description**

Box 20 (cont.)

**Colony**

Credit Foncier Company (cont.)

Auditing Committee, 1887

Bills, 1887-1892

Board of directors

Correspondence, 1887-1895

Minutes, 1893-1897 (2 folders)

By-laws, 1887-1891

Calendar, 1889

Call for payment, 1886

Charter, undated

Circulars to stockholders, 1886-1894

Clippings, 1894

Clubs

Chicago, 1888, 1893

Pittsburgh, 1893-1894

Committee upon Public Order and Discipline, 1887

Constitution, 1892

Contracts with colonists, 1886, 1892

Credit forms, undated

Currency, 1888 and undated

Departments, undated

Deposits, 1886

Equipment bonds, 1887

History of colony, 1893, 1895 and undated

Improvement funds, 1891

Instructions to colonists, 1886-1893

Letterheads, 1873-1901

List of goods for shipment to Topolobampo, undated

List of publications, undated

Maps and plans, undated [oversize: shelved in map case A, drawer 10]

Memoranda of agreement, 1892

Memorial to Mexican government on condition of the colony, 1896

Box 21

Minutes of meetings, 1887-1894

Newspaper articles, [1887]

Opposition letters, 1881-1887

Pacific Colony, 1890



**Box no. Description**

Box 21 (cont.)

**Colony (cont.)**

Credit Foncier Company (cont.)

Permit, 1891

Principles, 1891-1893

Printing press

Circular, 1885

Sample, undated

Promissory note of stock, 1887

Promotional booklet, undated

Prospectus, undated

Receivership, 1891 and undated

Reorganization, 1892-1893

Report of receipts and expenditures, 1887

Reports, 1887

Restaurant meal tickets, undated

Settlement with colonists, 1890-1894

Stocks, 1886-1892

Miscellaneous, 1888, 1891 and undated

Ethnic groups

Blacks at Topolobampo, 1892-1894

Chinese at Topolobampo, undated

Japanese at Topolobampo, 1895-1897

Finance corporations and stock companies

American Homes Corporation, undated

Home Investment Company, 1897-1901 and undated

Ingersoll-Sergeant Drill Company, 1891

Integral Co-operative Fraternity, undated

International Construction Company, 1901-1906

Kansas-Sinaloa Investment Company, 1889-1893 and undated

Lamson Consolidated Store Service, 1892

Mexican Finance Corporation, 1899

Mexico and Orient Townsite Company, undated

North Mexico Company, 1896

Pacific City Colonization Company, [ca. 1897]

Pacific City Terminal and Contracting Company, [ca. 1900]

Pacific-Kansas Investment Company, undated

Pearl Prospecting Company, undated

Sinaloa Guarantee Trust Company, 1889

Sinaloa Lumber Company, undated

**Box no. Description**

Box 21 (cont.)

**Colony (cont.)**

Finance corporations and stock companies (cont.)

Sinaloa Sugar Company, ca. 1902

Smith Pneumatic Transfer and Storage Company, 1893-1896 and undated

Topolobampo Pool, 1882

Union Construction Company, [ca. 1903], 1905

United States and Mexican Trust Company, 1902-1903, 1910 and undated

Freeland Company (Libertad), 1893

Lands and estates

Bachomobampo, Carman and Ybarra lands, 1873-1881, 1901

Carman estate, 1873, 1892-1904 and undated

El Salto tract, undated

Engineer Farm, 1887, 1895

English survey party, 1896-1897

Los Mochis lands, 1872-1903 and undated (2 folders)

Maps and charts, 1873-1905

Topolobampo lands, 1873-1906 (3 folders)

Legal contracts

Colonization contract, 1886, 1891, 1966

Contracts, 1890

Marriage contracts, undated

Box 22

Letters of inquiry and support

A, 1884-1894

B, 1883-1894 and undated

C, 1883-1907

D, 1885-1902

E, 1885-1895

F, 1885-1903

G, 1883-1902

H, 1883-1907 (2 folders)

I-J, 1884-1894

K, 1882-1894

L, 1874-1917

M, 1882-1895

N-O, 1885-1905

P-Q, 1884-1907

R, 1884-1904

**Box no.   Description**

Box 23

**Colony (cont.)**

Letters of inquiry and support (cont.)

S, 1883-1907

T, 1883-1904

U-V, 1882-1894

W, 1885-1910

X-Z, 1886-1896

French, 1888-1896

Fresno County, 1885-1896

German, 1891-1894

Mexican, 1887

San Joaquin Valley, 1885-1894

Libraries, 1878-1914

Maritime trade and commerce

*Dora Bluhm* (ship), 1892-1893 and undated

Fishing rights, 1897 and undated

*Guadalupe* (ship), 1893

Harbor

Topolobampo Bay discovery, 1872

Topolobampo Harbor report, 1869, 1886

Topolobampo port, 1891, 1903

Topolobampo site description, 1882-1905 and undated

Mexico

Baviri and Mapau, 1876

Commercial relations with U.S., 1885-1888, 1898

Contracts, 1886-1897 and undated

*El Monitor Republicano* (Mexico City), 1891

Government

Concessions, 1881, 1897-1898 and undated

Customs and duties, 1883-1892

Elections, 1893-1896

La Logia, undated

Laws and statutes, undated

Los Tastes ditch, 1890-1905

Natural resources

Coal, 1876

Northern Mexico, 1868

**Box no. Description**

Box 23 (cont.)

**Colony (cont.)**

Mexico (cont.)

Official requests and reports

1883

1887 (2 folders)

1888

1889

1890

Box 24

1891 (2 folders)

1892 (2 folders)

1893 (2 folders)

1894

1895-1896

1897-1902

Politics, 1906

Post-colony, 1899-1913, 1954 and undated

Revolution, 1913-1919

*Sindicado Mexicano de Majoras Materiales*, ca. 1880

Tariff laws, 1885

Taxes

Colony, 1884-1889

Non-colony, 1890-1891

Travel narratives, 1886, 1893

Natural resources

Copper mines and smelting, 1881-1899 and undated

Empire Coal-Mining Company, undated

Guadalupe y Calvo mines, 1879-1883

High Ridge Mineral Land Co-operative Association, undated

Mexico, 1864-1900

New Sonora Mining Company, 1889

Silver mines, 1899-1900

Sinaloa, 1883-1893

Sinaloa and Sonora Mining and Smelting Company, 1901-1902

Newspaper clippings, 1891

**Box no. Description**

Box 24 (cont.)

**Colony (cont.)**

Newspapers

*Credit Foncier of Sinaloa*

Vol. 1-2, 1885-1886

Vol. 3-7, 1887-1895

Circular, undated

Subscription book, 1890-1895

Box 25

*Integral Co-Operator*

Vol. 1-3, 1889-1892

Vol. 4-5, 1893-1894

*New City*

Vol. 1-2, 1893-1894

Articles, 1893-1894 and undated

Mailing list, undated

*The Wave*

Vol. 1 (draft), 1887

Transcript, 1887

Pacific City

Pacific City Colonization Company, 1890-1905 and undated

Pacific City Joint Stock Company, 1890

Pacific City site, undated

Pacific City studies, [1892]

Pacific City Terminal and Contracting Company, 1904-1906

Plans for the colony

Names for the colony, 1903

Plan of integral co-operation, 1886-1893

Postcards and ephemera, 1884-1896 (3 folders)

Promotional schemes

Non-Owen, 1891-1909

Owen, 1884-1897 and undated

Publishing and the press

Associated Press report, 1887

*The Kansas City Star* (Kansas City, Kansas), 1894

*The Labor Leader*, 1896

Mexican editor tour, 1885

Newspapers, 1884-1902

Press club, undated

**Box no. Description**

Box 25 (cont.)

**Colony (cont.)**

- Publishing and the press (cont.)
  - Publishers, 1877-1903
- Schools, 1887-1893
- Supplies, 1885-1892
- United States
  - Alabama project, 1898, 1906
  - American Federation of Labor, 1895
  - American Society to Promote Justice, 1885
  - Congressmen, 1880-1912
  - Foreign relations with Mexico, 1878
  - Navy
    - Correspondence, 1881-1897
    - Naval reports, 1887-1888
  - Oregon State Secular Union, 1891
  - Western Immigration Bureau, 1886
  - World's Columbian Exposition (Chicago), 1889-1892
- Utilities
  - Cable addresses, 1899 and undated
  - Mexican Pacific Telephone Company, 1885

Box 26

**Railroads**

- American and Mexican Pacific Railroad (New York), ca. 1880s, 1883
- American and Mexican Pacific Railway, 1883-1903 and undated
- American Railway Construction Company, 1884-1886
- Austin-Topolobampo Railroad, 1875-1879
- Chicago, Texas and Mexican Central Railway Company, 1881
- Chihuahua and Pacific Railroad, 1899-1909, 1961-1974
- Cuba Railroad Company, 1914
- Denver, Memphis, and Atlantic Railway Company, 1884
- Denver, South Park and Pacific Railway Company, 1872-1873
- Doty-MacKnight-Grauten third rail relay system, 1897
- Galveston and Eagle Pass Air Line Railway Company, 1881
- Hidalgo Railroad Company, 1893
- Isthmus of Tehuantepec (James Andrews), undated
- The Kansas City, Mexico and Orient Railway, 1900-1909, 1927 and undated
- Los Ferrocarrileros, undated
- Mexican Central Railway Company, [1892], 1903

**Box no. Description**

Box 26 (cont.)

**Railroads (cont.)**

Mexican National Railroad, ca. 1888  
Mexican North-Western Railway Company, 1909  
Mexican Northern Railroad, ca. 1898  
Mexican Pacific Railroad, 1888-1899  
Mexican railroads with no connection to A.K. Owen, 1887, 1892  
Mexican Western Railroad Company, 1890-1899  
Norfolk-Topolobampo Rail-Highway, undated  
Railroad costs, 1883-1900  
Railroad lands, 1883-1900  
Railroad routes to Topolobampo, 1896, 1904 and undated  
Railroad supplies, 1881-1902, 1912  
Silver City, Deming and Pacific Railroad Company, 1883  
Sinaloa and Chicago Railroad, 1895  
Texas, Topolobampo and Pacific Railroad and Telegraph Company, 1881-1904 and undated (2 folders)  
Topolobampo-Pacific Railway, 1882 and undated  
Topolobampo-Texas, Ltd., 1890-1891  
Union Pacific system, 1907  
Veracruz and Isthmus Railroad, 1909  
Miscellaneous, [1885], 1888, 1890 and undated

Box 27

**Scrapbooks**

Agriculture (Department IX)  
Agriculture, 1887-1896 and undated  
Arboriculture, undated  
Dairy, undated  
Fauna and wild animals, undated  
Floriculture, undated  
Fowls and eggs, 1896 and undated  
Horticulture, 1896 and undated  
Stock raising, undated  
Construction (Department III)  
Buildings, 1896 and undated  
Engineering, 1894-1896 and undated  
Education (Department VIII)  
Cities, 1884-1900 and undated (6 folders)  
Education, 1895-1897 and undated (2 folders)

**Box no. Description**

Box 27 (cont.)

**Scrapbooks (cont.)**

Education (Department VIII)

Entertainment, undated (2 folders)

Ethical culture, 1896 and undated

Geography, 1896 and undated

History, 1892-1896 and undated

Libraries, 1896 and undated

Literature, 1896 and undated

Museums, 1896 and undated

Music, undated

Printing, undated

Science, 1895 and undated

Socialism, 1885-1896 and undated (4 folders)

Society, 1895-1896

Statistics, 1896 and undated

Energy and metallurgy (Department IV)

Electricity and gas, 1896 and undated

Engines, 1896 and undated

Box 28

Fuels and powers, 1895-1897 and undated

Metallurgy, 1896 and undated

Smelting, reduction works and foundries, undated

Waterworks, 1896 and undated

Law and arbitration (Department II)

Banking, 1896 and undated

Laws, 1895-1900 and undated

Speeches, 1896 and undated

Manufacturing (Department VII)

Kilns, 1895 and undated

Manufactures, undated

Shipwrights, 1896 and undated

Shops, undated

Tailoring, undated

Mexico

Clippings, 1883-1896 and undated (3 folders, 1 binder)

Tariffs and laws, 1883-1887 and undated

Trade, 1888 and undated

United States-Mexico relations, undated



**Box no. Description**

Box 28 (cont.)

**Scrapbooks** (cont.)

- Public order and sanitation (Department X)
  - Convict labor, 1895-1896 and undated
  - Diseases and remedies, 1886-1896 and undated
  - Hygiene and sanitation, 1896 and undated
  - Medicine, 1888 and undated
  - Pharmacy and chemistry, 1895 and undated
  - Public order, 1894-1896

Box 29

- Railroads, 1886-1899 and undated (4 folders, 1 binder)
- Socialism, undated
- Supplies (Department V)
  - Commissary, undated (2 folders)
  - Cooking, 1896 and undated
  - Hotels, undated
- Trade trusts and colonization (Department VI)
  - Automobiles and airplanes, 1896 and undated
  - Bicycles, undated
  - Canals and canal boats, 1895-1896
  - Communication, undated
  - Factories, 1895 and undated
  - Rapid transit, 1896 and undated
- Trade trusts and colonization (Department VI)
  - Trade unions, 1896 and undated
  - Transportation and communication, undated
  - Miscellaneous, undated
- Ways and means (Department I)
  - Banking, 1887-1896 and undated
  - Currency
    - Bimetallism, 1888-1898 and undated (2 folders)

Box 30

- Clippings
  - Ca. 1878
  - 1893-1896 and undated
- Finance, 1895-1896
- Finance and politics, 1877-1890 (2 folders)
- Fines, rents, leases and licenses (United States), 1896 and undated

**Box no. Description**

Box 30 (cont.)

**Scrapbooks (cont.)**

Ways and means (Department I) (cont.)

Incomes, profits, interest and dividends (United States), 1895 and undated

Insurance, 1895 and undated

Investments, 1896 and undated

Municipal, state, and national government in Europe and the Americas,  
1900 and undated

Subsidies (British Empire), 1895 and undated

Taxes and tariffs, 1896 and undated (2 folders)

Trade, 1887-1896 and undated

Wages, 1895-1896 and undated

Weights and measures, 1896 and undated

Miscellaneous

1871-1884

1871-1914 and undated

Folder [in oversize box 35]

Scrapbook [in oversize box 35]

1874-1888

1877-1888

1885

Box 31

1886-1887

1886-1888

1887

1887-1889

1887-1891

1889-1890

1889-1891

1889-1897

1890

1890-1891

1891-1893

Box 32

1892-1896

1893-1894

1895-1914

Undated (3 scrapbooks)

**Box no. Description**

Box 33

**Photographs**

- Ira Kneeland photographs
  - List of colony photographs, undated
  - Numbered photographs
    - No. 1-75, 1886-1890 and undated
    - No. 76-186, 1888-1896 and undated
    - No. 228-325, 1886-1898 and undated
    - No. 326-425, 1891-1904 and undated
    - No. 426-510, 1890, 1894, 1899 and undated
  - Loose prints, 1894, 1904 and undated
  - Scrapbooks, undated (2 scrapbooks) [in oversize box 35]

Box 34

- Original prints
  - Agriculture, 1894 and undated (2 folders)
  - Buildings, 1889, 1894 and undated (3 folders)
  - Logging, 1894 and undated
  - Mining, undated
  - Mountain scenes, undated
  - People, 1893 and undated (3 folders) [some in oversize box 35]
  - Rivers, undated
  - Topolobampo Bay, undated
  - Miscellaneous, ca. 1892 and undated
- Scrapbooks
  - Mining, 1906-1907 and undated [in oversize box 35]

Box 35

*Oversize:*

- Colonists and correspondents
  - Kneeland family
    - Correspondence, 1886-1919 and undated [microfilm]
    - Register books (with biographical information), undated (2 books)
- Photographs
  - Ira Kneeland photographs
    - Scrapbooks, undated (2 scrapbooks)
  - Original prints
    - People, 1893 and undated (2 photographs)

**Box no. Description**

Box 35

*Oversize:*

Photographs (cont.)

Scrapbooks

Mining, 1906-1907 and undated

Scrapbooks

Miscellaneous

1871-1914 and undated (1 folder, 1 scrapbook)