

Collection of the W. D. French Lynching Materials – 2013.27

Reference code US CoGrCGM 2013.27
Title French – Woodbury Collection
Processed by Dyani Johnson
Finding aid prepared by Dyani Johnson

Name and location of repository Hazel E. Johnson Research Center
Greeley History Museum
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URL: <http://greeleymuseums.com/>

Collection Summary

Dates 1888
Bulk dates 1888
Level of description Collection
Extent .50 cubic feet
Creator(s) Edward P. House

Administrative/Biographical History

The collection was written and compiled by Edward P. House under the authority of the Weld County Commissioners Office.

W. D. French Lynching

In 1887 Woodbury and French started a business partnership. Their business relationship deteriorated when French sold his ranch and moved into his Evans home. After a dispute between Woodbury and French, a settlement was agreed upon of eight hundred fifty pounds of flour to be given to Woodbury. When he received only two hundred fifty pounds, Woodbury filed a civil suit against French. French, some of his ranch hands, and one of his sons broke into Woodbury's residence and shot Woodbury. When the town of Greeley and Evans found out that there might not be enough evidence against French to convict him, they broke into the jail, removed and hanged French.

Harry Woodbury

Harry Woodbury was born in 1859-60 in Minnesota. Woodbury was married to Mary Agness Conley on September 15, 1883 and had three children. He died on December 14, 1888 in a

shooting in his Evans, Colorado home, by either Wilber French, one of his ranch hands, or French's son.

Wilbur Dwight French

W. D. French was married on January 1st, 1871 in Schuyler, Missouri. French moved from Missouri to Colorado in 1871 with his wife. He owned a ranch near Bee Be Draw, and had a house in Evans. French was hanged to death by an outraged mob in 1889, leaving his four children orphaned.

Scope and Content

This collection consists of records gathered by coroner Edward P. House for the murder of Harry Woodbury and lynching of Wilbur D. French; including handwritten testimonies, body positioning, final verdict, and finding.

System of arrangement

No original order. Order imposed by material type and subject. The collection is organized into a single series. Series consists of records gathered by the coroner Edward P. House for the murder of Harry Woodbury and lynching of Wilbur D. French; including a variety of handwritten testimonies, evidence and verdict on the death of Harry Woodbury, reports on body positioning, and final verdict and finding by Edward P. House.

Conditions governing access

There are no restrictions on the access of this collection.

Conditions governing reproduction and use

There are no restrictions on the use or reproduction of this collection.

Languages and scripts of the materials

English

Immediate source of acquisition

This collection was donated by the Board of County Commissioners of Weld County, Colorado.

Notes

Preferred citation: City of Greeley Museums' Permanent Collection, #2013.27.

Names

French, Wilbur Dwight, 1888
Hogan, John
House, Edward P., 1840 - 1917

Luther, Samuel
Macy, Thomas G.
McGaffey, Samuel
Sample, John
Wolaver, Herbert J., 1871 - 1890
Wolaver, Jacob Martin, 1838 - 1918
Woodbury, Harry, 1888
Woodbury, Mary Agness Conley, 1857 - 1920

Places Greeley (Colo.)

Subjects Deaths
Homicides
Lynchings

Document forms Records

Container List

Series I: Records

Box	Folder
1	1 - 4