

Henry James Hawley Diary

1860-1861

.25 linear feet (3 items)

Mss. 298

Abstract

Henry James Hawley was a prominent merchant and pioneer of Central City, Colorado. His diary, dating from 1860 to 1861, recounts his journey across the Great Plains and his experiences about Central City.

Background Note

Henry James Hawley, born in 1839 and raised in Argyle, Wisconsin, traveled across the Plains to the Rocky Mountains in 1860, at the age of 21. After arriving in Colorado, Hawley engaged in placer and lode mining, which did not prove lucrative. After giving up mining, he acquired a half interest in a grocery store. After gaining much success, Hawley headed his own merchandising business, from 1878 until his death in 1923, which became a leading establishment in Central City. In 1890 he and his family moved and settled in Denver.

Scope and Content

This collection contains the diary of Henry James Hawley, dated from March 1, 1860 to December 31, 1861, and two typescript copies. The diary details Henry's, then in his early twenties, decision to head west to Colorado and the subsequent journey. Also included are details of the hardships of placer mining during that era and the social and recreational activities that way of life afforded.

Subjects

Hawley, Henry James, 1839-1923.
Manuscripts, American--Colorado
Merchants--Colorado--Central City--Manuscripts
Overland journeys to the Pacific--Colorado--Manuscripts
Central City (Colo.)--Manuscripts
Diaries--Men

Contents List

FF1 Diary. (Typescript) 1860-1861
FF2 Diary. (Typescript) 1860-1861
Original Henry James Hawley Diary, 1860-1861

Additional Information:

Provenance

Gift of Mrs. W. G. Perry, June, 1935.

Preferred Citation

Cite as: Henry James Hawley Diary (Mss. 298), Colorado Historical Society, Denver, Colorado.

Processing Information

Processed by Leigh Jeremias, July, 2006.

Related Material

J. B. Hawley Merchandise Company, (MSS #299), Colorado Historical Society, Denver, Colorado.

References

Colorado Magazine. (Denver, Colorado : State Historical and Natural History Society of Colorado, State Museum, 1923-1981). v. 30, pp. 133-149.