

# Guide to the Nathan Judson Papers

WA MSS S-2695



by Lisa Conathan

2011

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## Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	3
Requesting Instructions .....	3
Administrative Information .....	4
Immediate Source of Acquisition .....	4
Conditions Governing Access .....	4
Conditions Governing Use .....	4
Preferred Citation .....	4
Processing Information .....	4
Nathan Judson .....	4
Scope and Contents .....	5
Arrangement .....	5
Collection Contents .....	6
Series I: Correspondence, 1880-1950 .....	6
Series II: Financial and Real Estate Records, 1837-1902 .....	7
Selected Search Terms .....	8

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

**CALL NUMBER:** WA MSS S-2695

**CREATOR:** Judson, Nathan

**TITLE:** Nathan Judson papers

**DATES:** 1837–1950

**BULK DATES:** 1880–1930

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 2.71 linear feet (7 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The papers document the business and personal life of Nathan Judson, his brother James B. Judson, and his nephews Wilber, Lowell, and Paul. Correspondence and financial records document the activity of the firms Judson, Wiley & Judson and Judson Brothers in late nineteenth-century and early twentieth-century Michigan, and the Judson Brothers fruit growing business in Kinderhook, New York. Correspondence documents the buying and selling of Michigan real estate, mining investments in various western states and Mexico (including the Buck Eye Mining Company in Basin, Montana and the Sierra Mining Company in Ocampo, Chihuahua, Mexico), and the horticulture business in the Hudson Valley of New York State in the 1910s and 1920s. Other than correspondence, the collection includes fragmentary financial records (including bank records and cancelled checks) and real estate documents (including deeds and abstracts to holdings in Michigan).

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.judson>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.judson>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to [beinecke.images@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.images@yale.edu).

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b.      box  
f.      folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from Tom Stanford on the Frederick W. and Carrie S. Beinecke Fund for Western Americana, 1999.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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### Conditions Governing Use

The Nathan Judson Papers is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

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### Preferred Citation

Nathan Judson Papers. Yale Collection of Western Americana, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

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### Processing Information

Collection are processed to a variety of levels, depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived research value, the availability of staff, competing priorities, and whether or not further accruals are expected. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

This collection received a basic level of processing, including rehousing and minimal organization, in 2011.

This finding aid may be updated periodically to account for new acquisitions to the collection and/or revisions in arrangement and description.

Former Call number: Uncat WA MS 243

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## Nathan Judson

Nathan Judson was a real estate dealer in Lansing, Michigan. Together with his brother James B. Judson, he ran the firms Judson, Wiley & Judson, and Judson Brothers. In addition to buying and selling Michigan real estate, he invested in gold mines, including the Buck Eye Mining Company in Basin, Montana. After the death of James, he supported the education of his three nephews Wilber, Lowell, and Paul Judson. Wilber travelled extensively in the Western United States and in Mexico to investigate mining prospects on behalf of his uncle. Wilber worked at several mines, including the Buck Eye Mine in Basin, Montana (1902-1903), an unidentified mine in Panama (1905), and the Sierra Mining Company in Ocampo, Chihuahua, Mexico (1911). Paul and Lowell founded the Judson Brothers fruit growing business in Kinderhook, New York.

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## Scope and Contents

The papers document the business and personal life of Nathan Judson, his brother James B. Judson, and his nephews Wilber, Lowell, and Paul. Correspondence and financial records document the activity of the firms Judson, Wiley & Judson and Judson Brothers, in late nineteenth-century and early twentieth-century Michigan. Correspondence documents the buying and selling of Michigan real estate, mining investments in various western states and Mexico (including the Buck Eye Mining Company in Basin, Montana and the Sierra Mining Company in Ocampo, Chihuahua, Mexico), and the horticulture business in the Hudson Valley of New York State in the 1910s and 1920s. Other than correspondence, the collection includes fragmentary financial records (including bank records and cancelled cheques) and real estate documents (including deeds and abstracts to holdings in Michigan).

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## Arrangement

Organized into two series: I. Correspondence, 1880-1950. II. Financial and Real Estate Records, 1837-1902.

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## Collection Contents

### Series I: Correspondence, 1880-1950

*1.88 linear feet (5 boxes)*

Early correspondence (before 1911) relates chiefly to Michigan real estate and includes letters sent to landowners, often in Eastern states, making offers on their holdings in Michigan. Correspondence from the 1900s and 1910s includes documentation of the Judsons' involvement in mining ventures. Much of the later correspondence relates to Nathan Judson's business and personal relationships with his three nephews: Wilber, Lowell, and Paul Judson.

Arranged chronologically.

b. 1, f. 1-5	Correspondence	1880-1897
b. 2, f. 6-11	Correspondence	1898-1905
b. 3, f. 12-18	Correspondence	1906-1922
b. 4, f. 19-22	Correspondence	1923-1945
b. 4, f. 23-24	Correspondence	undated
b. 5, f. 25-26	Other papers found with correspondence	1899-1950

**Series II: Financial and Real Estate Records, 1837-1902**

*0.84 linear feet (2 boxes)*

Real estate records include deeds and abstracts to lands purchased by Nathan Judson, Judson Brothers, and Judson, Wiley & Judson. Financial records consist chiefly of cancelled checks drawn on the Judson Brothers accounts.

Organized into two files by type of material: Real estate records, and Financial records.

b. 6, f. 27-31	Real estate records, including deeds	1837-1900
b. 7, f. 32-36	Financial records, chiefly checks and bank records	1898-1902

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## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### Subjects

Gold mines and mining -- Mexico  
Gold mines and mining -- Montana  
Horticulture -- New York (State)  
Land titles -- Michigan  
Real estate agents -- Michigan  
Real property -- Michigan

### Geographic Names

Mexico -- Gold discoveries  
Montana -- Gold discoveries

### Occupations

Real estate agents -- Michigan

### Names

Judson, James B.  
Judson, Lowell  
Judson, Nathan  
Judson, Paul  
Judson, Wilber

### Corporate Bodies

Buck Eye Mining Company  
Judson, Wiley & Judson  
Judson Brothers  
Sierra Mining Company