

Local History Collection
 South Pasadena Public Library
 South Pasadena, California

Cawston Ostrich Farm Archive

Name: **Cawston Ostrich Farm** **MC0007**
 Materials: Bound Book, Maps, Physical Objects, Promotional Items
 Dates: 1897-1919
 Volume: 1.374 cubic feet (2 oversized boxes)
 Donation: N/A
 Usage: Unless otherwise stated by SPPL staff, these records are open for research without restrictions.

Historical Note

The Cawston Ostrich began when, in 1885, Edwin Cawston shipped fifty ostriches from South Africa to Galveston, Texas. From there the ostriches were transported to South Pasadena, California. Unfortunately, due to the harsh conditions of the trip, only eighteen ostriches survived. Of these eighteen, Cawston was able to bring his livestock supply back up and eventually owned over 100 ostriches.

The Cawston Ostrich Farm formally opened in 1886 and quickly became a very prominent tourist attraction during its time of operation in the early part of the 20th century. The Cawston Ostrich Farm shipped ostrich feathers all over the world and remained a successful business until the farm fell victim to the Great Depression and closed its doors in 1935.

Collection Description

This collection contains items related to the Cawston Ostrich Farm, previously located in South Pasadena. The collection contains a bound scrap book filled with newspaper clippings, an unpublished history of the farm, maps, physical objects, and promotional items created by the business owners.

Series and Subseries

I. Bound Book

One bound scrapbook containing newspaper clippings related to the Cawston Ostrich Farm. Dated from 1912 to 1914.

II. History

Manuscript written about the history of the Cawston Ostrich Farm. No author or date given.

III. Maps

Two printed maps. One map is an industrial tract map of the farm. One map is a tourist souvenir with directions to the farm. Undated.

IV. Physical Objects

Physical objects from the Cawston Ostrich Farm. These include: a stuffed ostrich chick, labelled boxes containing ostrich feathers, and a decorated ostrich egg. Undated.

V. Promotional Items

Brochures, price lists, catalogs, and souvenir items used as promotion for the Cawston Ostrich Farm. Dated from 1897 to 1919.

**Container List
MC0007**

I. Bound Book, [1912-1914]

<u>Location</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
MC0007 01	Scrapbook	1912-1914

II. History, [n.d.]

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
04	1	Manuscript	n.d.

III. Maps, [n.d.]

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
04	2	Industrial Tract Map	n.d.
04	2	Cawston Ostrich Farm Map	n.d.

IV. Physical Objects, [n.d.]

<u>Location</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
MC0007 01	Cawston Farm Box with Feathers	n.d.
MC0007 01	Cawston Farm Box with Feathers	n.d.
MC0007 01	Cawston Farm Box with Feathers	n.d.
MC0007 01	Cawston Farm Box with Feathers	n.d.
MC0007 01	Cawston Farm Box (Empty)	n.d.
MC0007 02	Stuffed Ostrich Chick	n.d.
MC0007 03	Decorated Ostrich Egg with Stand	n.d.

V. Promotional Items, [1897-1919]

<u>Location</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
MC0007 01	Catalog	1913

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
04	3	Mail-Order Brochure	n.d.
04	3	Mail-Order Brochure	n.d.
04	3	Mail-Order Brochure	n.d.
04	3	Mail-Order Brochure	n.d.
04	3	Mail-Order Catalog	n.d.
04	3	Mail-Order Catalog	n.d.
04	3	Pricing Pamphlet	n.d.
04	3	Pricing Pamphlet	n.d.
04	3	Catalog	n.d.
04	4	Shopping Suggestions	n.d.
04	4	Hints and Helps on Hat Training	n.d.

04	4	Hints and Helps on Hat Training	n.d.
04	4	Souvenir Booklet	n.d.
04	4	Story of Cawston Ostriches	n.d.
04	4	Handout	n.d.
04	4	Handout	n.d.
04	5	Souvenir Booklet	1897
04	5	Price List	1899-1900
04	5	Price List	1900
04	5	Souvenir Booklet	1909-1910
04	5	New Fashion Pamphlet	1919
04	5	New Fashion Pamphlet	1919
04	5	Mail-In Brochure	n.d.
04	5	Mail-In Brochure	n.d.
04	6	Salesman Guide	n.d.
04	6	Biggest Bird in the World	n.d.
04	6	Scan of Original Trademark	n.d.
04	6	The Cawston Girl	n.d.
04	6	Norwalk Ostrich Farm	n.d.
04	7	Booklet	n.d.
04	7	Booklet	n.d.
04	7	Booklet	n.d.
04	7	Booklet	n.d.
04	7	Booklet	n.d.
04	7	Booklet	n.d.
04	7	Booklet - Points of Interest	1902-1903
04	7	"My Life" by Daddy Ostrich (Copy)	n.d.
04	7	Postcard	n.d.
04	7	Magazine Article	n.d.

Cross-References: Local History Files - Businesses - Cawston Ostrich Farm

This collection was processed by Olivia Shea, June 2019.