

JA Cattle Company

The JA Cattle Company was founded by John Adair and Charles Goodnight in the late 19th century, and its records are among the Southwest Collection's most prominent holdings. They encompass over 218 boxes of material, including correspondence, financial records, land abstracts, maps, and scrapbooks. Accounting ledgers, such as this one dating from the 1910s, number in the dozens. Unique among all of it is this Burroughs Class I, Model 9 adding machine. Manufactured from 1895 until 1920, these machines were essential for clerks in the booming, pre-Depression U.S. economy. It, and hundreds of ledgers, helped the JA Cattle company thrive until the present day.

70

TAX ABSTRACT OF LANDS

TRACT No.	SECTION	RANGE	COUNTY	OWNER	ACRES	DATE	REMARKS
150	23	10	10	J. P. [unclear]	100	1912	JAN 24 1912
151	24	10	10	J. P. [unclear]	100	1912	JAN 24 1912
152	25	10	10	J. P. [unclear]	100	1912	JAN 24 1912
153	26	10	10	J. P. [unclear]	100	1912	JAN 24 1912
154	27	10	10	J. P. [unclear]	100	1912	JAN 24 1912
155	28	10	10	J. P. [unclear]	100	1912	JAN 24 1912
156	29	10	10	J. P. [unclear]	100	1912	JAN 24 1912
157	30	10	10	J. P. [unclear]	100	1912	JAN 24 1912
158	31	10	10	J. P. [unclear]	100	1912	JAN 24 1912
159	32	10	10	J. P. [unclear]	100	1912	JAN 24 1912
160	33	10	10	J. P. [unclear]	100	1912	JAN 24 1912
206	34	10	10	J. P. [unclear]	100	1912	JAN 24 1912
207	35	10	10	J. P. [unclear]	100	1912	JAN 24 1912
208	36	10	10	J. P. [unclear]	100	1912	JAN 24 1912
209	37	10	10	J. P. [unclear]	100	1912	JAN 24 1912

The Southwest Collection was unofficially founded in 1925 when Elizabeth Howard West began collecting the records of early Texas ranches. Holdings now include local, state, national, and internationally significant collections, such as the papers of U.S. Secretary of Education Lauro Cavazos, Governors Coke Stevenson and Preston Smith, Dr. Ted Fujita (creator of the F-scale for classifying tornadoes), and astronauts Rick Husband and Willie McCool. But it all began with ranching collections like that of the JA Cattle Company.

Robert Weaver
Southwest Collection