
ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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MS 0188
COUTS, CAVE JOHNSON, 1821-1874
DIARY (Transcript), 1846-49

DESCRIPTION

The diary covers the period from September 1, 1846 to November 22, 1849 and describes military occupation in Mexico and service with the Boundary Commission surveying the U. S.-Mexican border. The diary is inconsistent in scope and sketchy in places. The more substantial portions have been published as *Hepab, California! The Journal of Cave Johnson Courts from Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico, to Los Angeles, California during the Years 1848-1849*, edited by Henry F. Dobyns (Tucson: Arizona Pioneers' Historical Society, 1961). This portion describes the trek of a contingent of occupation forces, under the command of Major L. P. Graham on the way to strengthen the garrison of Upper California. The diary for September 14 through November 22, 1849 has been published as *From San Diego to the Colorado in 1848, the Journal and Maps of Cave J. Coutts*, edited by William McPherson (Los Angeles : Arthur M. Ellis, 1932). This portion describes Coutts' escort duty with Lt. Amiel W. Whipple's contingent of the Boundary Commission on their way to survey the mouth of the Gila River.

1 Box, .1 linear feet

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Cave Johnson Coutts, military officer, was a lieutenant in the 1st U. S. Dragoons, serving in the Southwest at the time of the Mexican War and immediately thereafter. Coutts and a detachment established the short-lived Camp Calhoun in 1849, the forerunner of Fort Yuma, which was established in 1852. Coutts resigned from the army in 1851 and engaged in ranching. He became a colonel in the California state militia and then held various public positions. He died at the age of 53 in 1874.

ACQUISITION

The transcript was purchased from the Bancroft Library, University of California at Berkeley in 1931.

ACCESS

There are no restrictions on access to this collection.

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PROCESSING

The collection was processed by Todd Mills in 1979, the finding aid was completed by Riva Dean in October 1997.