
ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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MS 0162
Coleman, Evans P., 1874-1954
Papers, 1883-1959 (bulk 1938-1954)

DESCRIPTION

Personal correspondence, historical sketches, biographies, and reminiscences, business records, diaries, an autobiography, scrapbooks of news clippings, printed material, property deeds, and photographs relating to Coleman's life as a Mormon and cowboy in Arizona and his lifetime of collecting reminiscences, folk tales, and songs relating to cowboy life in Arizona and the Southwest.

10 boxes, 5 linear ft.

ACQUISITION

Donated by Evans P. Coleman.

RELATED MATERIAL

Related material is available in the Joseph Neal Heywood Collection, MS 352.

ACCESS

While there are no restrictions on access to this collection, there are restrictions on publishing any of the materials of this collection. For further information, contact the librarian or archivist. Some material is housed in a vault due to its fragility and may require advanced notice to view.

COPYRIGHT

The Coleman family has stipulated that the material in this collection is available for research only and may not be published in any form.

PROCESSING

The collection was processed by Mary Irvine MacLiesh.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Evans P. Coleman was born February 12, 1874, on a ranch in Spring Valley, Nevada. He and his family arrived in Alpine, Arizona on January 16, 1881. Coleman moved to Thatcher, Arizona in 1899 and herded cattle for W.W. Pages from Nutrioso to the Gila Valley. He worked as a cowboy and was an active Mormon. In 1912, he married Eliza Skinner and they had two sons, David and Envar, and one daughter, Eola. For many years Coleman collected reminiscences, folk tales and songs relating to Mormons and cowboy life and wrote many stories and biographies of western life. He died in Safford on December 15, 1954.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection documents Evans Coleman's interest in cowboy tales and Mormon history and chiefly contains manuscripts of stories, tall tales, reminiscences, biographies and an autobiography. There are histories of towns in Apache County, Arizona, biographical sketches of people in the area, and general stories of cowboy life and Mormon life.

The collections consists of seven series: Correspondence, 1887-1959; Manuscripts; Diaries and journals, 1887-1916; Scrapbooks, 1883-1959; Legal documents and printed material; Maps; and Photographs, 1902-1952.

Manuscripts concern his experiences on cattle roundups and encounters with Indians and outlaws, as well as stories from old-timers. He recorded his memories of many people he knew including family members, friends, and town notables. The correspondence is mostly letters between Evans Coleman and the Arizona Historical Society concerning his manuscripts; he expresses his feelings about his work and gives insight into these writings.

His diary and those of his father, Prime T. Coleman, and friend, Joseph Neal Heywood, are present. His diary includes 1896, 1899, 1902 and 1903 and relates daily cowboy life including roundups, working the chuckwagon, visiting town, and dealing with threats from Indians. Prime Coleman's diary, 1878, relates the work of a Mormon pioneer including building, hunting, farming, and tending animals. He also writes of his religious commitment. A typescript of Joseph Heywood's diary, 1880, is similar.

There are also family deeds, legal documents, account books, brand registrations, scrapbooks and histories about family, and two small maps of the White Mountain area. Photographs include portraits of family and two photograph albums; one is of friends and family, the other is from a trip to William Maxwell's ranch in Spring Valley, Nevada.

BOX AND FOLDER LIST

Box 1

Folder

1-8 Correspondence, 1887-1959

Box 2

Reminiscences

- 9 The Adams Lost Mine
Along in the 90s: do you remember the thrills of yesterday
- 10 Alpine; The Boneyard
- 11 Breaking horses
- 12 An Historic Deed
- 13 Horse racing in the '80s and '90s
1882 Horse races
- 14 Justice of the Peace - Thatcher 1899
Layton-Alfred Flour Mills
Land Transactions in the 80s
- 15-20 Missionary reminiscences, 1951 (**folders 18-20 are typed versions of folders 15-17**)
- 21 On the Trail Experiences
- 22 Pleasanton, now Williams Valley, 1935
- 23 Reminiscence of St. John's Stake, 1902
- 24 Springerville 1880 - Horse racing
Thatcher, Arizona in 1899
Teachers

Box 3

- 25 Trail experiences
- 26 Wild Horses 1870s and 1880s

Stories and Incidents

- 27 Brother A's birthday party; An Arizona Attraction, The Antinquitullian Antonio, A little outlaw gang, The Apache County Treasury Robbery
- 28 Cattle Stealing, A Cowboy Christmas Story, Cowboy Dictionary, Cowboy Incidents
- 29 An Experience, Alex Dewitt and Ted Wiltbank, Environment pro and con
- 30 A Fishing Trip, A Cotton-raising Valley, A Fishing Trip 29 years ago, A Fishing Trip 40 years ago, Freighting on the Gila River, Faith Promoting
- 31 J.T. Hazelwood and Mace Slaughter, 1890s Horse Trading, 1880s Horse Trading, Horse Trading 1899, Horse Trading, Henry at the Wheel, Story of Haun's Mill Massacre
- 32 An Incident, Incidents, Incidents from Coleman Letters, Incidents of Thatcher in 1899, Other Incidents

Box 4

- 33 Jap Thomas Kills a Man, Johnny (Earl), 1902 The Jury Strikes
- 34 Mr. C. Sells his Produce, Maupin and Street, A Mule Transaction, Nutrioso, The Nutrioso Cutting Scrape, One on Myself, One on Ourselves
- 35 A Pioneer Before Christmas Incident, Pioneer Christmas, A Pioneer Incident, Pioneer Indian Story, A Pioneer's Experience, A Pioneer Story-True Too
- 36 Thatcher Incidents (Ralph Lee, Hay Shortage), Solomonville-Coronado Stage Line, The Saga of the Pueblo Lost Gold Mine, the Salt Lake Pool Outfit Goes Agricultural, Superstitions, Stage Line Route Bowie-Ft. Thomas
- 37 A Tea-Leaf Romance, The Thatcher Soap Bubble, Thrills of Tom Phelps, Thrills, A Big Thrill, True Story of a Grizzly Bear, Tom Alger Kills a Beef, Thompson and Gibson Fight, Thomas Pet
- 38 Willie, Why I Came to Gila Valley, Fragments

Tall Tales

- 39 Andrew Maxwell's Ox, Another Ben Platt Hunting Trip, Healing Salve, A Hunting Experience, Why I keep looking behind me, Why the Spur Lake went dry, The Wild Woman of the Galloria Mountains, A Short Pioneer Story

Prose and Poetry

- 40 1938 Psalm, The Burro pro and con, The Cowboy Dream, Hassayampa, The Lazy Cotton Growers Refrain, Lines, Our Store, Pioneer Reunion, That Old Chuck Wagon, and more

Biographies

- 41 Ben Platt, Dr. William E. Platt

Box 5

- 42 Benny Olney, Billy Smith, Bob Harper, Bob Wilson and the Texans
- 43 Cleveland and Pittman, Climax Jim (nephews), Carlos Montezuma, Dick Burrell and Bud Jones, Doug Peerey, Dick Jenkins
- 44 Mr. & Mrs. E.S. Wakefield, George Graham, G.G. Graham
- 45 Henry Thompson, Henry Street, Brigham Stowell, John D. Lee
- 46 M.D. Taylor, My Friend Charley, The Olsens
- 47 Pat Trainor, The Power Boys
- 48 Sol Barth, William B. Maxwell, Sister M
- 49-51 A bit of family history, Coleman Family, Family Life
- 52 Abbott "Tibby" Coleman
- 53 David Evans Coleman
- 54 Elizabeth Coleman Jacobs
- 55 Emma Beck Coleman
- 56 Prima Thornton Coleman
- 57 Evans Coleman (obituary material)

Autobiography

58-59 Reminiscences of an Arizona Cowboy drafts

Box 6

60-61 Reminiscences of an Arizona Cowboy drafts

Diaries and Journals, 1876-1916

62-63 Diary, Prime T. Coleman, 1878, holograph and typescript

64-65 Diary, Joseph Neal Heywood, 1880 typescript

66 Diary, Evans Coleman, 1896 holograph

Box 7

67-70 Diaries, Evans Coleman, 1896, 1899, 1902

Box 8

71-73 Diaries, Evans Coleman, 1902-1903

74 Mormon Missionary Reference Books, 1909-1910

75 Little Spring Valley Advocate, 1876

76-77 Account books, 1876-1916

Box 9

78 Name index to Coleman diaries

79 Fragments

Scrapbooks

80 Family

81 Mormon

82 Cowboy

83-85 Misc.

Legal documents and printed materials

86 Deeds, brands, Alpine School Attendance sheets (1884-1887)

Box 10

87 Mongollon Mines Magazine, 1914-1916; Primary Geography Textbook, 1886

88 Mormon Church play, 1950; 2 Mormon newspapers, 1876, 1886-1887

89-91 Misc. magazines

92 Maps

Photographs

93 Photographs

94 Photograph album – Family, 1903-1952

95 Photograph album – Spring Valley, Nevada trip, 1950

Some material filed in Oversize Box MS 162 (Newspaper issues, land deed).