
ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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MS 0012

**ALKIRE, FRANK TOMLIN, 1865-1962
PAPERS, 1886-1953 (bulk: 1886-1912)**

DESCRIPTION

Business and family correspondence and manuscripts relating to Arizona history, ranching and Arizona Native Americans. His papers of the Arizona National Guard include General Orders as well as correspondence and other papers. The bulk of the collection relates to Alkires' business ventures including cattle ranching, Alkire Dry Goods in Phoenix, and Manufacturing Stationers, Inc. of Phoenix.

6 Boxes, 3 linear feet

ACQUISITION

The papers were donated by Alkire between 1939-1941.

ACCESS

There are no restrictions on access to this collection.

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Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be addressed to the Arizona Historical Society, Tucson, Library/Archives Department.

PROCESSING

The collection was processed at some earlier date, and re-processed by Riva Dean in September 1997.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Frank Alkire, Phoenix businessman, cattleman, Arizona National Guard Officer, was one of the original developers of the Salt River Water Users Association. A native of St. Louis, he came to Phoenix in 1886. He soon moved to the Tonto Rim to cattle ranch. He spent a few years there, but finding it too difficult to maintain, the family bought farmland in the Salt River Valley and organized the Alkire Land and Cattle Company around 1887. In his manuscripts, he describes the 1892-97 drought which ended his ranching business in 1898. He opened the Alkire Dry Goods Store with his brother, George. They later opened an ostrich farm in Glendale and then the Manufacturing Stationers, Inc. of Phoenix. He was also a director of the Valley Bank. Besides his business ventures, he had an active civic life. He was a member of the First Regiment, Arizona National Guard for nine years, retiring with the rank of major, commanding the Second Battalion. He was a leader in the organization of the Salt River Valley Waters Users Association, the development of St. Joseph's Hospital in Phoenix and he was an active member of the Arizona Historical Society.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The papers of Frank T. Alkire include manuscripts relating to his interest in Arizona history, personal and correspondence from 1886-1953, papers and documents relating to his involvement with the Arizona National Guard (1904-1912), business papers covering many business ventures (banking, dry goods, ranching) and scrapbooks of clippings relating to Arizona history. Alkire went through the papers before donating them and wrote notes in pencil on much of the correspondence. He comments on many of the early Phoenix pioneers who wrote to him. His letters from 1940-53 are primarily correspondence which he wrote to Mrs. Kitt and others at the Historical Society regarding material which he was sending as well as comments on items of local historical interest.

The bulk of the collection is his business correspondence and because he was involved in so many things, this covers cattle ranching in the Tonto Basin, the dry goods business (including correspondence with Hubbell and other Indian Traders), and his work on the Salt River Valley Water Users' Association (including some correspondence with Carl Hayden). The papers on the Arizona National Guard will be of interest to the study of the formation of the Guard in Arizona.

The collection consists of six boxes of material (3 linear feet) arranged in 6 series:

Series 1: Manuscripts relating to Arizona History, 1939-1950, arranged alphabetically by title.

Series 2: Business correspondence, 1886-1953, arranged chronologically.

Series 3: Business Documents, 1886-1929, arranged by the business (dry goods, manufacturing stationers, Mining, etc.)

Series 4: Personal Correspondence and personal papers, letters to his wife and family, 1886-1950.

Series 5: Correspondence and papers relating to the Arizona National Guard, 1904-1912.

Series 6: 2 Scrapbooks, (one undated, the other 1940s), and one WWI cartoon book.

BOX AND FOLDER LIST

Box 1, Series 1: Manuscripts (literary)

- f. 1 "A Century and a Half Mystery Solved
- f. 2 "The Contrast"
- f. 3 "Happy Bob," "Ol' Kaintuc," "Look-See Trip"
- f. 4 "Iron Springs Camp"
- f. 5 "Little Lady"
- f. 6 "Payson and Indian Gardens," "Mrs. Frank Alkire"
- f. 7 "Pioneer Business Firms of Arizona"
- f. 8 "Prelude to the Contrast"
- f. 9 "Road of Yesterday," "Scalping Knife"
- f. 10 "A Wedding Trip"

Box 2, Series 2: Business Correspondence, 1886-1899

- f. 11--24 1886-1899

Box 3, Series 2: Business Correspondence, 1900-1953

- f. 25-f. 32 1900-1905

Box 4, Series 3: Business Papers and Documents, 1886-1929

- f. 33 Business Documents, 1886-1902
- f. 34 Bills and Receipts, 1886-1894
- f. 35 Cancelled checks, 1886-1888
- f. 36 Printed Material
- f. 37 Letters of Introduction, 1924-1929
- f. 38 Mining Documents, 1897-1918
- f. 39 Dry Goods Business
- f. 40 Manufacturing Stationers Business
- f. 41 Telephone Company, 1909-1910
- f. 42 Salt River Valley Waters Users Association
- f. 43 Banking Materials
- f. 44 Miscellaneous

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Box 4, Series 4: Personal Papers and Correspondence

- f. 45 Personal Correspondence, 1887-1888

- f. 46 Personal Correspondence, 1890-1892
- f. 47 Miscellaneous Personal Correspondence, 1886-1940

Box 5, Series 5: Arizona National Guard, 1896-1912 (Bulk: 1906-1912)

- f. 48-f. 51 Arizona National Guard Correspondence, 1906-1911
- f. 52 Arizona Rifle Team, 1907-1908
- f. 53 Arizona National Guard Circulars, 1903-1908
- f. 54 Arizona National Guard Disbursements, 1904-1909
- f. 55 Military Code of Arizona, 1912
- f. 56 Arizona National Guard Orders, 1896-1908
- f. 57 Arizona National Guard Payroll Documents, 1904-08
- f. 58 Arizona National Guard Rations, 1906-1907
- f. 59 Arizona National Guard Requisitions, 1906-1908
- f. 60 Arizona National Guard Roster, 1909

Box 6, Series 6

- 3 Items:
 - 1 World War I Cartoon Book
 - 1 Scrapbook of newspaper clippings (Arizona related, undated)
 - 1 Scrapbook of newspaper clippings (1886-1950)