

MS 69
BENNETT, CLARENCE EDMUND, 1833-1902
PAPERS, 1851-1894

DESCRIPTION

The collection combines original material and photocopies concerning the military career of Clarence E. Bennett. It includes Bennett's original diary of the Utah Expedition, 1857-1859, and two original diaries from 1862-63 concerning the military in Arizona with notes through 1866. It also contains original correspondence from Bennett's wife in San Bernardino, 1864-66, "Synopsis of Indian Scouts and Their Results from the Year 1864," transcripts of Bennett's service record and some biographical information. The diaries describe conditions at the various military posts including Camp McDowell. The reports and photocopies include Bennett's West Point Diary, 1851-1853, copies of his court martial papers, 1865 and documents concerning his military career, 1867-1894.

1 Box, .5 linear feet

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Clarence E. Bennett, army officer, was born at New Lisbon, New York and went to West Point. In 1857, he participated in the expedition to Utah but was forced to resign after marrying a Mormon girl despite doubts about the legality of a divorce from a previous marriage. He then settled in San Bernardino, California to farm and organize a local militia to protect settlers from secessionists at the beginning of the Civil War. He was appointed major in the 1st California Volunteers in 1863. He briefly commanded Fort Yuma and then was stationed at Fort Craig, New Mexico. In 1864, he moved on to Fort Bowie. In 1865, he established Camp (later Fort) McDowell. He was mustered out of the Volunteer service in 1866 and was commissioned a second lieutenant that year. He eventually retired as a lieutenant colonel of the 11th Infantry in 1897. He died at Fort McPherson, Georgia in 1902.

ACQUISITION

Parts of the collection were donated by Dorothy Evans in 1968; the rest was donated by Lucile Muir in 1989.

ACCESS

There are no restrictions on access to this collection.

COPYRIGHT

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 by Riva Dean in November 1997.