
ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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**MS 977
BOX, WILEY, 1837-1913**

DESCRIPTION

This collection consists of one folder containing the marriage certificate of Wiley Box and Priscilla Baldwin dated 1870 and letters from Wiley Box to his son-in-law, James Lewis concerning a trial, dated 1885. In addition, there are some calling cards of Priscilla Box.

1 folder, .10 linear feet

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Biographical information can be found in an article by Donald M. Bentz entitled "William and Anna Neal of Oracle and the Mountain View Hotel" in *The Oracle Historian* (Summer 1982). Wiley Box is considered the first African-American pioneer in Tucson. He was the son of an English physician and an African-American woman in New Orleans. Some sources claim that Wiley Box came to Tucson between 1850 and 1855, but he does not appear in the 1860 or 1864 census. It is probable that he actually arrived in 1879. All the reports are that he and his wife Hannah were married in Oklahoma, but the marriage certificate is from Texas for Wiley and Priscilla. He and his wife pursued various kinds of labor in Tucson and they had two daughters, Annie and Josephine. Annie married William Neal and they started the Mountain View Hotel in Oracle. Wiley Box was killed when his legs were set on fire as a practical joke in 1913.

ACQUISITION

The provenance is uncertain.

ACCESS

There are no restrictions on this collection.

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Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be addressed to the Arizona Historical Society.

PROCESSING

The processing was done around 1980 and the finding aid was completed in 1997 by Riva Dean, Library/Archives Co-Manager.