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**CANAL COMPANIES OF ARIZONA
MS 1129
Papers, 1901-1916****DESCRIPTION**

The collection is comprised of legal papers and correspondence from the office of attorney John H. Campbell regarding several early twentieth century irrigation and canal companies in southern Arizona. Half of the collection consists of documents related to a civil case brought by William Schulze (representing Casa Grande farmers) against two canal companies, the Florence Canal Company and the Casa Grande Valley Canal Company, between 1911 and 1916. The other half of the collection consists of legal documents relating to the Rillito Canal Company (1901-1909) and its successor, the Rillito Farms Company, incorporated in 1910.

1 Box, .5 linear feet

HISTORICAL NOTE

John Henry Campbell (1868-1928) began his legal career in Washington D.C. where he studied law while working for the U.S. Treasury Department. He moved to Tucson in 1901 to practice private law. From 1902 to 1905, he served as Assistant U. S. Attorney, and in 1905 was appointed as an associate justice of the Supreme Court of Arizona. He held the position until 1912, when Arizona became a state. Campbell resumed his private law practice in Tucson in 1912 in partnership with several others. Among his most notable cases was the irrigation rights of the Casa Grande Valley Water Users Association. This case stemmed from a dispute over irrigation canal maintenance. Citing an Arizona statute that stated that canal owners were obligated to maintain canals, Casa Grande farmers (organized as the Casa Grande Valley Water Users under William Schultze) obtained a court order to take possession of the canals belonging to the Casa Grande Valley Canal Company and the Florence Canal Company for the purpose of conducting repairs and restoring the flow of water. The cost of repairs were placed as a lien on the canal owners who attempted, unsuccessfully, to overturn the court order. Disputes over water rights and maintenance responsibilities soon arose among the Casa Grande farmers who began to take legal action against one another. The old Casa Grande Valley Canal was foreclosed and eventually purchased by H. M. Fennemore in 1914. Campbell was involved in legal disputes over water rights involving the Casa Grande Valley Water Users for another decade.

RELATED MATERIALS

See MS 131, John Henry Campbell Collection, for related materials.

ACQUISITION

Provenance is unknown.

ACCESS

There are no restrictions on access to this collection.

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PROCESSING

The collection was processed by Allison Diehl under the supervision of Riva Dean in February 1999