

MS 1079

**George W. Chambers, 1901-1978
Papers, 1820-1971 (bulk 1880-1945)**

DESCRIPTION

Correspondence, notes, historical documents and photographs relating to George W. Chambers' historical interests as well as his business and civic involvement.

22 boxes, 10.25 linear feet.

ACQUISITION

This collection was donated by George W. Chambers, of Tucson, Arizona, on November 22, 1977.

TRANSFERS

- Two boxes of lantern slides to the lantern slide collection;
- One microfilm cartridge of The Ootam manuscript by Father Bonaventure Oblasser transferred to the library; and
- One vellum map of Tombstone, 1886, transferred to the map collection

ACCESS

There are no restrictions on access to this collection. Some materials are filed in Rare; photocopies are available for patron use.

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 Linda A. Conroy in October 1997, under the supervision of the Librarian, Kim Frontz.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

George W. Chambers was a Tucson businessman, civic leader and amateur historian. Born in Onaga, Kansas on June 20, 1901, his family moved to Arizona in 1914. He graduated from Bisbee High School and attended Tempe Normal School of Arizona (now Arizona State University) for one year. After serving in the Navy during World War I, he attended the University of Arizona from 1919-1922. He began a long career in the newspaper business by joining the Tucson Daily Citizen in 1919. Chambers was involved in a number of Tucson organizations, including the Tucson Sunshine Climate Club, the Chamber of Commerce, the War Production Board, the Tucson Street Naming Committee and the Arizona Pioneer Historical Society. Chambers died January 16, 1978 in San Diego, California.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The papers of George W. Chambers cover both his historical interests and his business and civic involvement. His historical interests were wide-ranging, but focused on Southern Arizona. He collected original documents relating to Cochise County court cases (1880-1907), Old Dominion Mine (1880-1886) and the San Agustin (Tucson, Arizona) census of 1820. Chambers also collected typescripts and manuscripts of John A. Rockfellow, an Arizona pioneer and author.

Chambers' civic involvement is represented in the collection. Records and correspondence relating to the Tucson Sunshine Climate Club, the Chamber of Commerce, Scrap Metal Campaign, War Production Board, Postwar Plan and the Tucson Street Naming Committee are included. Smaller portions of the collection relate to a variety of his projects including the restoration of the columns at Mission San Xavier del Bac, obtaining an honorary degree for Father Bonaventure Oblasser, the building of a road on Mount Lemmon and the designation of the Saguaro National Monument.

Chambers' personal papers are limited to four folders and consist of some personal correspondence, drafts of speeches and notes on various projects.

A major part of the collection consists of over 300 photographs. Approximately one-third of these photos are devoted to various projects: San Xavier del Bac restoration, Arizona Pioneer Historical Society and restored missions in the southwest. There are also 47 photographs of the filming of "Gay Desperado" in 1936, which appears to have been filmed at San Xavier. The remainder of the photographs are aerial views of Tucson, presumably from Chambers' days on the Tucson Street Naming Committee (1948-1952). These include aerial views of Tucson and the surrounding area as well as unidentified individual homes, ranches and businesses. Approximately half of these aerial views are 8x10 photographs, half 11x14 and a few 16x20 prints.

Oversize documents include an election tally sheet from Tombstone in 1886, hotel register pages from Wilcox House in 1894, a Huachuca Water Company bond with coupons and several large maps. There is a bound, oversize scrapbook containing

correspondence, book covers and more relating to the Arizona Silhouettes, a publishing company owned by Chambers.

The collection consists of 20 boxes (10 linear feet) of manuscript materials and photographs arranged in five series:

Series 1: Historical Collections, 1820 to 1910

Series 2: Projects and Organizations, 1940 to 1970

Series 3: Personal Papers, 1932 to 1966

Series 4: Photographs 1910 to 1970, bulk late 1940's

Series 5: Oversize Materials, 1886 to approximately 1940

The first three series are arranged chronologically. The photographs and oversize materials are organized by subject.

BOX AND FOLDER LIST

Box 1

Series 1: Historical Collections

Cochise County Court Cases and Voter Registration Records, 1880-1907

- f.1 Chambers' Name Index to Court Records
- f.2 Voter's Registration Records, 1880's
- f.3 Jerry Barton, 1880
- f.4 "Johnny Behind the Deuce" (Mike O'Rourke), 1881
- f.5 John Bailey, 1881
- f.6 George Ward, 1881
- f.7 Till Barnes, 1881
- f.8 Wells Spicer v. John Leary, 1881
- f.9 Dixie Belle Mine to B.L. Peel, 1881
- f.10 J.B. Southard, 1881
- f.11 Jack Schwartz, 1881
- f.12 William Langdon, 1881
- f.13 Tombstone Mining and Milling vs. Boston and Arizona S&R Co., 1881
- f.14 John Gage, 1881
- f.15 Frank Stillwell, 1881
- f.16 Territory of Arizona vs. Board of Supervisors, 1881
- f.17 "Curley Bill" (William Broscius), 1881

Box 1 (Continued)

- f.18 John Bottles and George Lewis, 1881
- f.19 John Boutot, 1881
- f.20 Charles Ewing, 1881
- f.21 James Sharp, 1881
- f.22 Jury Selection Documents, 1881
- f.23 Jury Selection Documents, 1881
- f.24 M.B. Potter, 1882
- f.25 Eugene Woodbury, 1882
- f.26 John Sharp, 1882
- f.27 Jury Selection Documents, 1882
- f.28 Jury Selection Documents, 1882

Box 2

- f.29 A.T. Allen vs. "23", 1883
- f.30 John Heath, 1883
- f.31 May Woodman, 1883
- f.32 John Mulligan, 1883
- f.34 James Burnett, 1884
- f.35 Joseph Curby, 1894
- f.36 William Hutchinson, 1884
- f.37 A.H. Davis, 1885
- f.38 Treasurer's Report, 1885

Box 3

- f.39 Oliver W. Bake, 1885
- f.40 Santiago Martinez, 1885
- f.41 William McIntyre, 1885
- f.42 Pleasant Happy Valley Ranch, 1885
- f.43 Francisco Sierra, 1885
- f.44 Charles Blair and Harry Raymond, 1885
- f.45 John Meager and French Kid, 1886
- f.46 Lottie Egan, 1886
- f.47 William Cole, 1886
- f.48 Thomas Ogden, 1886
- f.49 "Buckskin" Frank Leslie, 1886
- f.50 John Jackson, 1886
- f.51 Barney Riggs, 1886
- f.52 Wilson Douglas, 1886
- f.53 James T. Griffith vs. Pasquale Negro, 1886
- f.54 Bernardino Seles, 1887
- f.55 Jerry Burton, 1887
- f.56 S.C. Bagg, 1888
- f.57 Edward Lopez, 1888
- f.58 William C. Green, 1897
- f.59 William and Thomas Halderman, 1889

Box 4

- f.60 Andrew J. Ritter, 1889
- f.61 William Stiles, Burt Alvord, William Downing and Matt Burts, 1900
- f.62 William Stiles, Samuel Finley, 1900
- f.63 William Stiles, Burt Alvord, Thomas Yoas and Samuel Finley, 1900
- f.64 "Bravo" Juan, 1900
- f.65 William Stiles and Burt Alvord, 1903
- f.66 William Stiles, 1903
- f.67 John Paratti, 1907

Miscellaneous Historical Collection

- f.68 Miscellaneous Correspondence, 1862-1914
- f.69 Bills and Receipts - Historic Businesses, Tucson and Tombstone
- f.70 Wells Fargo Robbery Telegram, 1887
- f.71 Josey Brown MacTeague
- f.72 Jesus Maria Zepeda
- f.73 Nabor R. Cruz
- f.74 Christine Core Scrapbook, 1916-1923
- f.75 School Songbook, 1887
- f.76 Greaterville, Arizona School Record, 1882-1907 (Pima County, District 7)

Box 5

Old Dominion Mine

- f.77 Old Dominion Mine Incorporation Papers, 1880
- f.78 Old Dominion Mine Contracts, 1882 and 1883
- f.79 Old Dominion Mine Correspondence, 1883-1884
- f.80 Old Dominion Mine Loan Documents, 1883-1884
- f.81 Old Dominion Mine Lawsuits, 1884-1886
- f.82 Old Dominion Mine Canceled Checks and Stock Certificates

San Agustin Census

- f.83 San Agustin Census 1797, and Inventory, 1820 (Census previously listed as 1820)

John A. Rockfellow

- f.84 John A. Rockfellow, Correspondence
- f.85 John A. Rockfellow, Manuscripts
- f.86 John A. Rockfellow, Manuscripts
- f.87 John A. Rockfellow, Pamphlets
- f.88 John A. Rockfellow, Log of an Arizona Trailblazer
- f.89 John A. Rockfellow, Log of an Arizona Trailblazer Correspondence

Box 6

Series 2: Projects and Organizations

Tucson Promotion and Tourism

- f.90 Tucson Sunshine Climate Club, Correspondence, 1940-1945
- f.91 Tucson Sunshine Climate Club, Correspondence, 1946-1959
- f.92 Tucson Sunshine Climate Club, Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

f.93 Tucson Sunshine Climate Club, Financial Records, 1942-1961

Box 6, Continued

f.94 Tucson Sunshine Climate Club, Audit Reports

f.95 Tucson Sunshine Climate Club, Fundraising Campaigns, 1940-1959 (not inclusive)

f.96 Tucson Sunshine Climate Club, Advertisement Copy

f.97 Tucson Sunshine Climate Club, Publications

Box 7

f.98 Tucson Chamber of Commerce, Correspondence, 1945-1960

f.99 Tucson Chamber of Commerce, Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

f.100 Tucson Chamber of Commerce, Miscellaneous Reports

f.101 Miscellaneous Publications Promoting Tucson

Tucson Planning

f.102 Tucson Regional Plan Reports, 1942-1946

f.103 Tucson Regional Plan - Colors

f.104 Tucson Scrap Collection Campaigns, 1942-1945

f.105 Tucson Newspapers, Incorporated and War Production Board Correspondence, 1943-1944

f.106 Tucson Newspapers, Incorporated and War Production Board Correspondence, 1945

Box 8

f.107 Tucson Postwar Planning Board, Initial Stages

f.108 Tucson Postwar Planning Board, Correspondence, 1943-1945

f.109 Tucson Postwar Planning Board, Meeting Minutes, 1944-1949

f.110 Tucson Postwar Planning Board, Reports and Legislation

f.111 Tucson Street Naming Committee, Correspondence, 1948-1952

f.112 Tucson Street Naming Committee, Reports and Presentation

f.113 Tucson Street Naming Committee, Ordinances

f.114 Tucson Street Naming Committee, Miscellaneous

Box 9

Miscellaneous Projects

f.115 Father Bonaventure Oblasser, Correspondence re: Honorary Degree

f.116 Father Bonaventure Oblasser, Article Reprints

f.117 Father Bonaventure Oblasser, Publications

f.118 Father Bonaventure Oblasser, The Ootam Manuscript

f.119 Howard Pyle Campaign for Governor, 1952

Box 10

f.120 Arizona Historical Foundation, Reports

f.121 Arizona Historical Foundation, Correspondence, 1960-1970

f.122 Arizona Pioneers Historical Society, Correspondence, 1931-1960 (bulk 1959)

f.123 Arizona Pioneers Historical Society, Notes on the Organization's History

f.124 Saguaro National Monument Correspondence, 1949-1953

f.125 Campaign to Build Mount Lemmon Road, 1927

Box 10, Continued

f.126 Manana Properties Articles of Incorporation, 1945

f.127 Ranch Brands Research

f.128 Old Presidio Excavation, 1954

f.129 Correspondence re: Mission Locations

f.130 Mission Location Maps

f.131 San Xavier del Bac Column Restoration Correspondence, 1941-1954; 1970

f.132 San Xavier del Bac Restoration Contract

f.133 San Xavier del Bac Restoration Reports

f.134 Shrine of the Ages Chapel Correspondence and Bulletins, 1954-1955

f.135 Pioneer Register, Cochise Stronghold, 1934

f.136 City of Tombstone Charter, typed copy, n.d.

Box 11

Series 3: Personal Papers, 1932 to 1975

f.137 George W. Chambers Honors

f.138 George W. Chambers Notes

f.139 George W. Chambers Speeches

f.140 George W. Chambers Personal Correspondence

Box 12

f.140b Two oral history reel-to-reel audio tapes (Levi Udall and Lenna Burgess)

Series 4: Photographs

f.141 Miscellaneous Photographs

f.142 "Gay Desperado" Filming, July 23, 1936

f.143 San Miguel, California Novices 1964

f.144 Jeff D. Milton, 1937

f.145 Presidio Excavation, 1955

f.146 Manana Properties

f.147 Arizona Historical Figures

f.148 Lucky Cuss Mine

f.149 Tombstone Hotel Fire

f.150 John A. Rockfellow

f.151 Father Bonaventure Oblasser

f.152 Restored Missions

f.153 Arizona Pioneer Historical Society, People, 1960's

f.154 Arizona Pioneer Historical Society, Building Interiors

f.155 San Augustin at Plazita Proposed Commercial Development, 1945

f.156 San Xavier del Bac Restoration

f.157 San Xavier del Bac Restoration

f.158 San Xavier del Bac Column Restoration Scrapbook

f.159 San Xavier del Bac Historical Photos

Box 12x

f. 159x Album of photographs and descriptions of buggies, coaches and wagons

Box 13**Tucson Aerial Photographs, circa 1948-1952**

- f.160 Rodeo and Parade (8x10 photos)
- f.161 University of Arizona (8x10 photos)
- f.162 Homes (8x10 photos)
- f.163 Ranches (8x10 photos)
- f.164 Businesses, Residential Areas (8x10 photos)
- f.165 Aerial Views (8x10 photos)
- f.166 Aerial Views (8x10 photos)
- f.167 Landscapes (8x10 photos)
- f.168 Landscapes (8x10 photos)

Box 14

- f.169 Rodeo and Parade (11x14 photos)
- f.170 University of Arizona (11x14 photos)

Box 15

- f.171 Homes (11x14 photos)
- f.172 Ranches (11x14 photos)

Box 16

- f.173 Businesses, Residential Areas (11x14 photos)

Box 17

- f.174 Mid Range Aerial Views (11x14 photos)

Box 18

- f.175 Aerial Views (11x14 photos)
- f.176 Landscapes (11x14 photos)

Box 19**Oversize Photos**

- f.177 Saguaro Wine Making (16x20 photo)
- f.178 Aerial Views (16x20 photos)
- f.179 High Altitude Aerial Photographs (16x20 photos)

Box 20**Series 5: Oversize Materials**

- f.180 Cochise County Election Tally Sheet, November 2, 1886
- f.181 Great Register, Cochise County, 1886
- f.182 Cochise County Ballot, November 6, 1906
- f.183 Wilcox House Register, February and March 1894 (not inclusive)
- f.184 Huachuca Water Company Bond and Coupons
- f.185 Oversize Maps

Item 21 **Arizona Silhouettes** scrapbook