
ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY949 East Second Street
Tucson, AZ 85719Library and Archives
(520) 617-1157ahsref@azhs.gov

**MS 209
Davis, Alonzo E.
Manuscript, 1916****DESCRIPTION**

This collection consists of one copied manuscript by Alonzo E. Davis titled "Pioneer Days in Arizona by One Who Was There." The paper describes Davis' early life and his coming to the West following the Civil War. The paper was written shortly before his death in 1916 and was edited by his daughters Louise Davis Van Cleve and Jessie Davis White.

1 Box, .25 linear ft.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Alonzo E. Davis was born in 1839 in Livingston County New York about six miles from Genesee. The family later moved to Wisconsin (1847) by way of the Erie Canal in New York but later returned to New York after the family lost everything in a fire. In 1857 at the age of 17 Davis departed alone for the California gold fields. He enlisted in Company I, 4th Regiment of Infantry Volunteers in 1863 and became part of the California Column. After crossing the desert they reached Fort Mojave on May 23, 1863 where Davis was assigned to guard duty at the post. Along with other soldiers Davis explored the surrounding area for minerals and to help pass the time. In 1864 he was assigned to accompany Professor J. Ross Browne who had arrived to collect mining information for a future book. Returning with the California unit to San Bernardino he was mustered out of service on October 5, 1865. Davis returned to Arizona and began prospecting, contracting for mining timbers, and reading law books. In the Fall of 1866 he was elected to the Territorial Legislature and passed an oral examination to be admitted to practice law in Arizona Territory. Davis and Samuel Todd established a settlers store at Fort Mojave and Davis continued to practice law in the Yuma area. Davis was again elected to the Territorial Legislature in 1874. In 1880 Davis moved his family to Downey, California where he continued legal work. He died in 1915.

ACQUISITION - Unknown

ACCESS

There are no restrictions on access to this collection.

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PROCESSING

The collection was originally processed and reviewed by Dave Tackenberg in September 2008.