
ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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MS 1102

Kirkland, William Hudson, 1832-1910
Personal and family history, 1890-1982

DESCRIPTION

Reminiscences, articles, photographs, and family documents relating to William H. Kirkland, his family, and their pioneer experiences in southern Arizona. Most of the photographs concern the Thomas and Elizabeth Steele family between 1890 and 1915.

9 boxes, 4.5 linear ft.

ACQUISITION

Donated by Myrtle Steele and Ben and Fern Allen in the 1980s.

ACCESS

There are no restrictions on access to this collection.

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Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be addressed to the Arizona Historical Society - Tucson, Archives Department.

PROCESSING

The collection was processed by Kim Frontz, September 1998.

ARRANGEMENT

Arranged in five series: Reminiscences, 1909. Letters and documents, 1888-1909. Articles about Kirkland family, 1920-1982. Steele family materials, 1886-1937. Photographs, ca. 1890-1915.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Pioneer cattleman; William Kirkland arrived in Tucson in 1856, and raised the first American flag over Tucson when the Mexican soldiers left following the Gadsden Purchase. He married Missouri Ann Bacon and worked in ranching, farming, mining, and the lumber business as well as serving as Justice of the Peace in several communities. Eventually he settled in Kirkland Valley in Yavapai County, where he farmed and mined until 1868 when he returned to Tucson to operate a sawmill in the Santa Rita Mountains.

Thomas Steele married Elizabeth Kirkland, daughter of William, and they operated Point of Mountain stage station between Tres Alamos and Fort Grant, he later ranched near Willcox, and, about 1907, he worked in Cananea putting timber in the copper mine. The family also lived in Tempe and Ajo, Ariz. Their children were: Wilfred Zears (Fred), Henry Earl (Earl), Albert J., Harry Kirkland, and Myrtle. Myrtle married Ben Allen. Another daughter of William Kirkland was Permelia Virginia Kirkland. She married Jim Roberts, a pioneer lawman.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

William Kirkland's reminiscences, related by him in 1909, concern his arrival in Arizona in 1854, the withdrawal of Mexican soldiers from Arizona after the Gadsden Purchase, an encounter with Apache Indians in 1857, the capture by Indians of Larcena Pennington, the discovery of gold near the Hassayampa, and his lumber business in the Santa Rita Mountains. The period covered by the reminiscences is 1850 to 1863. There are also articles and manuscripts about William Kirkland and about his children. A will and homestead application are present for Thomas Steele, 1888-1893.

There are photographs present of family members including William and Missouri Ann Kirkland posed with Sharlot Hall, and photographs of Jim Roberts and his Yavapai County badge, 1890, and gun. A large number of photographs of women and children are unidentified; however many were taken by Tucson portrait studios. There are photographs of University of Arizona students and faculty including President Howard Billman. A series of photographs from Cananea, Sonora, Mexico depict street scenes, a celebration, a funeral procession and images from the 1906 riots. There are also interiors and exteriors of mining operations and miners. Willcox photographs include adobe homes and the *Arizona Range News* building. Several photographs of transportation scenes include a stagecoach at Congress Junction and a gas car that ran from Ajo to Gila Bend using the railroad tracks, circa 1915. There are also images of Phoenix school groups and buildings. Three albums of unidentified carte-de-visites and cabinet cards are also present.

BOX AND FOLDER LIST

Box 1

Series 1: Reminiscences, 1909

- f.1 Trip across the Plains, 1850
- f.2 Arrival in Arizona, 1854
- f.3 Mexican withdrawal from Arizona, 1856
- f.4 Tucson in 1856
- f.5 Apache encounter, 1857
- f.6 William Kirkland history
- f.7 Account of Larcena Pennington's capture, 1859
- f.8 Hassayampa gold discovery and map, 1863
- f.9 Appointment to Co. K, Arizona Volunteers, transcription, 1863

Series 2: Letters and documents, 1888-1909

- f.10 Letters from Kirkland to Mr. Winsor re: lumber business in Santa Ritas
- f.11 Thomas Steele will and homestead application, 1888-1893
- f.12 Harry Steele lesson book, Tempe Union H.S., n.d.

Series 3: Articles about Kirkland family, 1920-1954

- f.13 Biographical articles, etc. about William Kirkland
- f.14 History of W.H. Kirkland by Bill and Fern Allen, 1982
- f.15 Article about W.H. Kirkland, by James Barney, Sheriff Magazine, 1952
- f.16 Articles about daughter, Permelia and J.H. Roberts family
- f.17 Articles about son, Franklin Kirkland
- f.18 Articles about daughter, Elizabeth and Thomas Steele family

Series 4: Steele family materials, 1886-1937

- f.19 Steele and Allen family genealogy and clippings
- f.19B Steele family correspondence, 1897-1937
- f.19C Steele family legal documents, 1886-1917
- f.19D Steele family financial records, 1887-1931
- f.19E Steele family certificates, 1889-1922
- f.19F Steele family printed material
- f.20 Valentines and novelty postcards

Series 5: Photographs

- f.21 Photographs – Kirkland, William H.
- f.22 Photographs – Kirkland family
- f.23 Photographs – Bacon family
- f.24 Photographs – Allen family
- f.25 Photographs – Ritter family
- f.26 Photographs – Roberts family

Box 2

- f.27 Photographs – Lizzie Steele, alone and with family
- f.28 Photographs – Steele family
- f.29 Photographs – Steele family – U of A students
- f.30 Photographs – Steele – U of A School groups and faculty
- f.31 Photographs – Steele – U of A graduate portraits
- f.32 Photographs – Men (Identified)

- f.33 Photographs – Men (Unidentified)
- f.34 Photographs – Men (Unidentified – taken by Buehman Studios)
- f.35 Photographs – Women (Identified)
- f.36 Photographs – Women (Unidentified)
- f.37 Photographs – Women (Unidentified – taken by Phoenix studios)

Box 3

- f.38 Photographs – Women (Unidentified – Tucson portrait studios)
- f.39 Photographs – Women (Unidentified – California portrait studios)
- f.40 Photographs – Women (Unidentified – Midwestern portrait studios)
- f.41 Photographs – Women (Unidentified groups)
- f.42 Photographs – Couples (Identified)
- f.43 Photographs – Families (Unidentified)
- f.44 Photographs – School groups (see also oversize)
- f.45 Photographs – Children (Identified)
- f.46 Photographs – Children (Unidentified older girls)
- f.47 Photographs – Children (Unidentified younger girls)
- f.48 Photographs – Children (Unidentified boys)

Box 4

- f.49 Photographs – Children (Unidentified families)
- f.50 Photographs – Infants (Unidentified)
- f.51 Photographs – Infants (Unidentified – Calif. and N.M. studios)
- f.52 Photographs – Unidentified groups
- f.53 Photographs – Earl Steele in Cananea, Mexico
- f.54 Photographs – Cananea, Mexico – Miners
- f.55 Photographs – Cananea, Mexico – Street scenes and groups
- f.56 Photographs – Cananea, Mex. – Mine buildings – Interiors
- f.57 Photographs – Cananea, Mex. – Mining – Exteriors
- f.58 Photographs – Willcox, Ariz. including Ariz. Range News bldg.
- f.59 Photographs – Places (Identified)

Box 5

- f.60 Photographs – Unidentified places and homes
- f.61 Transportation

Box 6 Album of unidentified portraits (carte-de-visites)

Box 7-8 Two albums of unidentified portraits (cabinet cards)

Box 9 Oversize materials

- f.62 Wedding certificate – Thomas and Elizabeth Steele
- f.63 Photographs – Phoenix school groups
- f.64 Photographs – University of Arizona school groups
- f.65 Miscellaneous
- f.66 Thomas Steele - charcoals