

Guide to

MS 225

**Martha Summerhayes Slide Program 1976-1978**

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Arizona Historical Society  
Central Arizona Division

## **HISTORICAL NOTE**

Born 21 October, 1846 on Nantucket Island, Martha Summerhayes was an Army Eighth Infantry wife. She married Major John Wyer Summerhayes, who also resided in Nantucket. He had been a former whaler, trapper, and thrice-wounded Civil War veteran. Martha further expanded her travels by going with her husband wherever the military sent him when no war was being fought. In June 1874, her husband's regiment was ordered to Arizona. At that time Arizona counted only about 20,000 inhabitants. They stayed at a ranch owned by Corydon Cooley, a white man who had two Indian wives.

Accommodations at Cooley's ranch were not up to the standards that Martha Summerhayes had grown used to, as a member of a rich family back in Massachusetts. She also objected to Cooley having two wives and she complained publicly about this. The Summerhayes travelled to Fort Mohave, a journey of about 200 miles by a steamboat from Fort Yuma. Summerhayes found the 122 degree temperature at the Colorado River difficult. After arriving at Fort Mohave, they loaded their belongings into wagons and headed to Prescott, near where Fort Whipple stood. Soon after arriving in Prescott, they moved to Camp Verde. She gave birth to her son Harry, at Camp Apache, Arizona, in January 1875. In April 1875, they moved to Phoenix. Soon after this they moved back to Nantucket. They moved back to Arizona shortly after this.

She recalls her life in Arizona in *Vanished Arizona: Recollections of My Army Life*.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT**

The Martha Summerhayes Slide Program 1976 – 1978 contains three boxes of slides and background information on the program, scripts, background information, photographs and announcements. The material was compiled as part of an outreach program conducted by the Arizona Historical Society.

## **PROVENANCE**

These papers were collected and preserved by the Arizona Historical Society.

## **RESTRICTIONS**

None

## **LITERARY RIGHTS STATEMENT**

Permission to publish material from the Martha Summerhayes Collection must be obtained from the Library and Archives Department at the Central Arizona Division of the Arizona Historical Society.

## **NOTES TO RESEARCHERS**

None

## **CONTAINER LIST**

### Box 1

Folder 1 Program Announcements

f.2 Script at Summerhayes Program (Original)

f.3 Script of Summerhayes Program – (Retrieved & Notes)

f.4 Background Info: Travel of Martha Summerhayes 1874

f.5 Background – Photo & Negative – Martha Summerhayes 1992.83.01

f.6 Background Info: The Summerhayes Trek

f.7 Background Info: Women in the west

f.8 Background Info: Military Western Life

f.9 Background photos – Military Life in Arizona

f.10 Background Info – Photos – Military in Arizona 1992.83.12 – 1992.83.21

f.11 Background Info – Photographs 1992.12.22-1992.12.30

f.12 Background Info – photographs 1992.12.31-1992.12.39

### Box 2

3 boxes of slides