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**MS 0785  
TENNEY, AMMON M. 1844-1925  
Papers, 1884-1923****DESCRIPTION**

This collection reflects a portion of Ammon Tenney's years as a missionary for the Mormon Church from 1858 to 1921. Correspondence from his family in the period 1884-1885 speak of activities at home, concern for their father, and activities of other Church members. These letters were written during the time that Tenney was in prison at the House of Corrections, Detroit, Michigan for the practice of polygamy. The heart of the collection is contained in eight folders with the diary Tenney maintained on his missionary activities in southern Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, and northern Mexico from 1887 to 1921. The journal entries commence with a departure from Springerville, Arizona Territory with a mission assignment to northern Mexico in 1887. The diary entries conclude with Tenney in New Mexico.

Mary S. Wilbur transcribed all the diary entries in February 1941. The portion of the Tenney diary from 1858 to 1887 not located at the Historical Society may be in the Office of Church Historian, Salt Lake City, Utah. All items have been copied for this collection with the exception of two small notebooks with family history by Fred A. Whiting (married to Lurline Tenney) and a copy of their marriage certificate dated August 20, 1912.

1 Box, .5 linear feet

**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

Ammon M. Tenney was born in Lee County, Iowa on November 16, 1844. His family converted to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in 1830 and traveled to numerous locations at the direction of the Mormon Church or as a result of religious hostility. In 1846 the family departed Iowa and resettled in Little Cottonwood, Utah by 1848. Upon his marriage to Anna Eager, Tenney moved to Kanab, Utah in 1870. During this period he participated with the militia of southern Utah against the Navajos and, by direction of Brigham Young, worked with Jacob Hamblin as a missionary to the Hopi in 1858. Tenney married his second wife (Eliza Udall) in 1870.

The church again asked Tenney to accept a mission assignment in 1875 to southern Utah, northern Arizona, and New Mexico. Upon completion of this assignment his father and two brothers joined the Tenney family in northern New Mexico where they established Tenney Camp. Upon the passage of the Anti-Bigamy Act by the United States Congress in 1862 and enforcement legislation in 1882 Tenney and three others were jailed for two years for practicing polygamy. Tenney undertook two addition mission assignments for the Mormon Church-1887 to the Papago Reservation in southern Arizona and 1901 to Mexico City. While in Mexico in 1890 he married a third wife, Hettie Adams.

Driven from Mexico in 1912, along with other Mormon settlers by the Mexican Revolution, Tenney settled in Mesa, Arizona and El Paso, Texas. On October 4, 1925 Tenney died and was buried at Thatcher, Arizona.

## **ACQUISITION**

This collection was received at the Historical Society in 1939 from Mrs. Mimmie Coleman.

## **ACCESS**

The original diaries are restricted due to their fragile condition; transcripts are available for patron use. Patrons may also utilize the material on microfilm roll #304.

## **COPYRIGHT**

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

## **PROCESSING**

The collection was originally processed in 1977 and reviewed by William Tackenberg in November 1998.