
ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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**MS 1116
HYL Ranch
Papers, 1875-1967**

DESCRIPTION

The small collection consists of a journal of accounts for the HYL cattle ranch from 1908 to 1919; a scrapbook kept by Anna Lawhon ; family photographs and correspondence; and a number of newspaper clippings about Ft. Bowie and the Butterfield stage route.

2 boxes, 1.5 linear feet.

ACQUISITION

Unknown.

RELATED MATERIAL

PC 089 Josie Lawhon Moseley Photograph Collection

ACCESS

There are no restrictions on access to this collection.

COPYRIGHT

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

PROCESSING

This finding aid was prepared by Sue Conklin, volunteer, in 1998.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

The HYL Ranch, situated about 12 miles south of Bowie, Arizona, was owned and operated by Anna and Joe Lawhon from the time of their marriage in 1897 until her death in 1956. The ranch is located in Goodwin Canyon at the eastern foot of the old Butterfield stage road through Apache Pass.

Anna Schaeffer Lawhon lived most of her life at the north end of Apache Pass in Cochise County and became known as the "Guardian of Apache Pass." Anna was born in St. Louis, Missouri, in 1874 but her parents emigrated west shortly thereafter. They stopped in Texas long enough for her brother, Joe, to be born before settling at Fort Bowie in the Arizona Territory in 1879.

In 1897 Anna married Joel Lawhon who had also come to Arizona from Texas. The two of them homesteaded part of the old Fort Bowie which had been abandoned the previous year. Over the years their original cattle ranch grew from 160 acres and, despite some hard times such as the severe drought of 1918, it became a highly successful operation.

When Joe died in 1947, Anna carried on and managed the ranch with the help of her son-in-law. She was an expert cattlemaster and a fountain of knowledge about the Apache Pass area, Fort Bowie and the Butterfield Stage route. Anna died in 1956 and is buried in the Bowie Cemetery.

BOX AND FOLDER LISTING

Box 1

File 1 - H Y L Ranch, account book, 1908-1919 - Record of cattle sales, accounts with banks and local stores

File 2 - H Y L Ranch, correspondence, 1940-1965

File 3 - H Y L Ranch, Anna Lawhon, miscellaneous, 1888-1955

File 4 - H Y L Ranch, Anna Lawhon, trip to Alaska, 1937

File 5 - H Y L Ranch, photographs, undated

File 6 - Newspaper clippings - Articles about Fort Bowie, Cochise, Arizona pioneers

Box 2

Anna Lawhon, personal scrapbook, 1875-1953- Includes World War II letters, newspaper clippings, record of Cochise County Old-Timers picnic held at H Y L Ranch June 16, 1940, with names of all attendees