

---

**ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**949 East Second Street  
Tucson, AZ 85719Library & Archives  
(520) 617-1157ahsref@azhs.gov

---

**MS 0326  
HAND, GEORGE O., 1830-1887  
DIARIES, 1861-1887****DESCRIPTION**

The collection primarily consists of ten original diaries kept by George Hand recording daily life in early Tucson. Since Hand was a saloon owner, they are sometimes referred to as "Saloon Diaries" since he describes saloons and prostitutes. There are also three scrapbooks kept by Hand and one folder containing correspondence signed by Hand. For public use, there is microfilm of the diaries as well as transcripts and photostats for the 1861-63 diary. The diaries describe life in Tucson and mention many early residents. The scrapbooks include clippings of remedies, items of curiosity and obituaries.

3 boxes, 2 linear ft.

**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

Hand left his home in New York in 1848 for the gold fields of California. In 1861, he enlisted in Company G, 1<sup>st</sup> U. S. Infantry, California Volunteers, and traveled to Tucson via Ft. Yuma and the Gila Route. He was mustered out at Ft. Craig, New Mexico in 1864 and returned to Tucson where he remained for the rest of his life. He worked as a mail contractor, veterinarian, butcher and saloon keeper and janitor at the Pima County Courthouse. He and George Foster operated a saloon until 1881. He briefly left Tucson and on his return began working at the Pima County Courthouse until he became ill and then died in 1887.

**ACQUISITION**

The diaries were donated by the George Hand Estate after his death in 1887.

**ACCESS**

Use of the original diaries are restricted due to their fragile nature, patrons should use the microfilm. There are photostats of the 1861-63 diaries and transcripts (not exact) of all the diaries.

**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 processed by Riva Dean in December 1997.

**INVENTORY**

F. 1    Diary, 1861 (Civil War Diary)

- F. 2 Diary, 1863, 64, 76
- F. 3 Diary, 1875
- F. 4 Diary, 1877
- F. 5 Diary, 1878
- F. 6 Diary, 1882
- F. 7 Diary, 1883
- F. 8 Diary, 1885
- F. 9 Diary, 1886
- F. 10 Diary, 1887
- F. 11 Scrapbook, No. #1 (1860-77)
- F. 12 Scrapbook, 1883
- F. 13 Scrapbook, 1887
- F. 14 Correspondence, 1877-1886
- Box 3 Undated scrapbook