
ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY949 East Second Street
Tucson, AZ 85719Library/Archives Department
(520) 617-1157ahsref@azhs.gov

MS 0040**Heap, Gwinn Harris, 1817-1887
Papers, 1853-1856****DESCRIPTION**

Letters and report, 1855 to 1856, from Heap relating to importing camels to the West for use by the United States Army. Heap writes from the Middle East regarding arrangements for purchasing and transporting camels; in one letter he writes from the ship which is also carrying 44 camels to the United States. Pencil sketches by Heap were probably made during an survey expedition from Missouri to California with Edward F. Beale in 1853. These drawings include the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, Spanish Peaks, Timpas Creek, and Fort Massachusetts, New Mexico. The expedition was described in Heap's Central Route to the Pacific published by Lippincott, 1854.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Heap served as acting American Consul at Tunis, North Africa from 1839 to 1840; he returned from the Middle East in 1846. From 1853 to 1854, he accompanied a survey expedition with his cousin, Edward F. Beale. He served as journalist and recorded the expedition in notes and sketches. He then sailed to Egypt and Turkey where he purchased camels for the U.S. government from 1855 to 1856. He accompanied Beale on the 1857 Camel Caravan but soon resigned after a disagreement. In later years, he held various American Consul positions.

ACQUISITION

Gift of William J. Holliday.

ACCESS

Restricted due to fragile condition; prior arrangements must be made to view.

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PROCESSING

The collection was processed by Kim Frontz, 1997.