

**TITLE:** Harvey Johnson Collection

**DATE RANGE:** 1850 - 1920

**CALL NUMBER:** Y-MS 16

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 3 boxes (1.5 linear feet)

**RESTRICTIONS:** This collection is unrestricted.

**PROVENANCE:** Unknown

**COPYRIGHT:** Unknown

**CREDIT LINE:** Harvey Johnson Collection, Y-MS 16, Arizona Historical Society-Rio Colorado Division, Yuma

**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE:**

Harvey Johnson was a geophysicist and amateur historian who specialized in the history of the Yuma area. He was born on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1921 in Somerton, Arizona. His parents, Frank and Ruth Johnson lived on a homestead nearby. He attended school in Somerton and the University of Arizona. When America entered World War II he left the University and joined the military as a draftsman, making charts and maps in the Pacific theatre. After the war, Harvey studied geophysics at the University of California - Los Angeles where he graduated.

For the next twenty years his profession led him to all four corners of the world. Upon retiring in 1968 he returned to Arizona and his family's homestead, where he devoted himself to studying the history of the Yuma area. As he was studying, he also became involved with teaching others about history. He ran historical tours, gave slideshow presentations and volunteered at the Arizona Historical Society – Rio Colorado Division. While he published very little material himself, he assisted others in research for books, articles and nominations to the National Register of Historical Places. He died in 1982.

**PROCESSED BY:** Benjamin Findley, 2013

**SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE:**

This collection contains notes made by Harvey Johnson about his research of the history of the Yuma area. The bulk of the papers are hand -written excerpts from a variety of books and articles concerning the local history of Western Arizona and the Colorado River area of Arizona and California. Johnson was an extremely meticulous and thorough researcher. His transcriptions of 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century Yuma area records and sources are an important tool for future researchers investigating the Territorial Era.

The collection is organized into ten series:

**Series I – Biographical:** This series contains information about specific individuals whom he researched, as well as information about himself.

**Series II – Correspondence:** This series contains letters about his s research into the history of Yuma, as well as copies of some historical letters.

**Series III – Education:** This series contains research done on various educational matters, including information about schools and teachers, a topic about which Harvey gave a presentation on.

**Series IV – Military:** This series contains information on military subjects. The company rolls are unidentified save for giving the letter of the company, beginning with company ‘A’ and ending with company ‘D’. The Department of the Pacific dealt with military matters on the west coast of the United States, including Arizona. The notes concerning this department deal with the Civil War era.

**Series V – Mining:** This series contains information about mining in Yuma County. The Mining Claims folder contains a list of claims from the area, and a map of the claims organized by the time period in which they were active. The records folder contains notes about various mining records, and a list of what records he could find and what dates they covered.

**Series VI – Miscellaneous:** This series contains notes and documents that did not fit in other categories. The historical files folder is an inventory of a collection of files, possibly those collected by Johnson himself. Many of the listed materials are not part of this collection however. The miscellaneous notes folder contains a large amount of notes of articles in an unnamed newspaper. The documents folder contains pages from the California census in 1850 and 1860, as well as possibly nautical data.

**Series VII – Newspapers:** This series contains notes about articles published in newspapers. The notes are organized by the date the article was published and covers a wide variety of subject matter.

**Series VIII – Publications:** The bulk of the material in this series is made up of hand- copied excerpts from a variety of books and periodicals. . The excerpts list the name of the work, author, and page numbers. Each group of notes contains an index of excerpts. This series also includes copies of some articles about the history of Yuma, either as photocopies or from the original publication of the article.

**Series IX – Yuma County:** This series contains notes and records concerning Yuma County. Included in this collection is a copy of a list of members of the Arizona Vigilance Committee, a vigilante organization formed in Yuma.

**Series X – 19<sup>th</sup> Century Historical Places Reference:** This series consists of a box of note cards of 19<sup>th</sup> newspaper references of western Arizona and Colorado River area place names, including some in eastern California. . Many of these are obscure, and difficult to identify and locate.

**CONTAINER LIST:**

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Dates</b>
<b>1</b>	1	<b>Biographical:</b> Coutts, Cave	1850 – 1854
	2	<b>Biographical:</b> Heintzleman, Samuel P.	1849
	3	<b>Biographical:</b> Johnson, Harvey	1978, N.D.
	4	<b>Correspondence:</b> Fort Yuma	1852
	5	<b>Correspondence:</b> Johnson, Harvey	N.D.
	6	<b>Education</b>	1872 – 1911
	7	<b>Military:</b> Company Rolls	N.D.
	8	<b>Military:</b> Department of the Pacific	1861 – 1865
	9	<b>Mining:</b> Claims	1874 – 1966, N.D.
	10	<b>Mining:</b> Records	1860 – 1890
	11	<b>Miscellaneous:</b> Historical Files	N.D.
	12	<b>Miscellaneous:</b> Notes	N.D.
	13	<b>Miscellaneous:</b> Documents	1850 – 1870
	14	<b>Newspapers:</b> Arizona Sentinel	1872 – 1891
	15	<b>Newspapers:</b> Arizona Sentinel	1878 – 1903
	16	<b>Newspapers:</b> Arizona Sentinel	1903 – 1915
	17	<b>Newspapers:</b> San Diego Union	1868 – 1877
	18	<b>Publications:</b> Article Extracts	N.D.
	19	<b>Publications:</b> Article Originals	1901 – 1972, N.D.
	20	<b>Publications:</b> Book Extracts	N.D.
<b>2</b>	1	<b>Publications:</b> Book Extracts	N.D.
	2	<b>Publications:</b> Book Extracts	N.D.
	3	<b>Publications:</b> Book Extracts	N.D.
	4	<b>Yuma County:</b> Arizona Vigilance Committee	1866
	5	<b>Yuma County:</b> Records	1850 – 1904, N.D.
	6	<b>Yuma County:</b> Supervisors	1865 – 1911
	7	<b>Yuma County:</b> Supervisors	1870s
	8	<b>Yuma County:</b> Supervisors	1880 – 1912
<b>3</b>	1	<b>19<sup>th</sup> Century Historical Places Reference File</b> Adonde, Agua Dulce, Alamo Mocho, Algodones, Antelope, Araby, Arizona City, Arizona Landing, Aubrey, Ax Landing, Aztec, The Barriers, Benigo Ruiz Landing (Douglas Ferry), Big Horn Camp, Black Metal, Black Picacho, Black Point, Black Rock, Blaisdell, Blossom, Blythe's Landing, Bonanza, Bradshaw Ferry, Buena Vista, Burke's, Cabeza Prieta, Cactus, Camp California, Camp Colorado, Camp La Paz, Campo, Cargo Muchacho, Carter's River, Carolina Colony, Castle Dome Landing, Castle Rock, Centennial, Chimney Peak, Chloride District, Cibola, Chuckawalla, Crystoval (Chrystoval), Clip, Cocopah Point, Colorado City, Colorado Station, Colorado River	N.D.

	<p>Indian Agency, Colorado Mine Precinct, Cooke's Well, Copper City and Copper Basin, Copper Hill, Comorant, Cottonwood Slough, Cottonwood Springs, Crane School, Coyote Wells, Cullen's Well (Cullings), Deep Wash, Descansco, Desert Station, Dome, Doanville, Doctors Camp, Dos Palmas, Douglas Ferry, Drift Desert, Eagle Tail Tank, Ehrenberg, El Dorado Canon, El Rio, Ellsworth, Empire Flat, Eureka, Fenter's Station, Fillibuster, Flowing Wells, Fort Gaston (Camp Gaston, Gaston Point), Fortuna, Fort Yuma, Fremont, Frink Springs, Gardner's Wells, Garrett and Cornwall's Station, Gates Landing, Gier's Landing, Gila City, Gila Bend, Glenburg, Gold Cross (Golden Cross), Gold Rock, Golden Dream, Goodman Camp and Landing, Gridiron, Gunsight, Halfway Bend, Happy Camp Station, Hanlon's, Harcuvar, Harqua Halla, Harman District, Harrisburg, Harwood Landing, Hedges, Hinton's Island, Hodges District, Horseshoe Bend, Horse Tank, Iaegerville, Indian Wells, Ingalls Lagoon, Keith City, Kenyon's, Knoxville District, Kofa, Laguna, Laguna Station, La Paz, Lerdo, Lighthouse Rock, Liguerta, Lookout Mountain, Los Angeles (on the Colorado River), Las Flores, Mammoth Tank, Mariquita, Martinez, Martinez Well and Lake, McMullen's Station, Mellon, Mesquite, Mesquite Well, Meyers District, Millage Tables, Milton, Mineral Hill, Minturn Slough, Mission Camp, Moffett Mining District, Mohawk, Mohawk Summit, Mohawk School, Monitor, Montague Island, Moreland City, Montezuma District, Moore's Woodyard, Mountain Springs, Myers District, Oatman Flat, Ogilby, Olive City, Orangedale, Orme's Island, Oroville, Pablo's Gulch, Pacific City, Palomas, Paymaster Mine, Parker, Pedricks, Phillips Point, Picacho, Pilot Knob, Planet, Plomosa, Polhamus Landing, Poole's Landing, Poorman's District, Port Famine, Port Isabel, Potholes, Providencia, Providence Ferry, Quitobaquito, Rajadura, Rattlesnake, Rawhide, Red Cloud, Redondo Wells, Reservoir Hill, Rhodes Ranch, Richland, Rock Springs, Rock Spur, Rood School, Rosario, Round Mountain, Ruiz Landing, Sacramento Colony, Sanchez Ranch, Salt Wells, San Felipe de Jesus, San Pablo Gulch, Santa Catarina, Santo Domingo District, San Ysidro, Schultz's Woodyard, Senator, Seneca District, Sentinel, Seven Wells, S. H. Mountains, Shipyard, Silver District,</p>	
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	Silent, Smith's Ferry (Hualapai Smith), Smokey Hole, Soldier Camp, Solomon's Well, Somerton, Spann's Landing, Stanwix, Stevenson's Island, Sulphur Wash and Bend, Swallownest Bend, Tacna, Teamster's Camp, Telegraph Pass, Tere-tall, Texas Bend, Texas Hill, 310 Landing, Tinajas Altas, Toltec, Tres Alamos Spring, Trigo Mountain Placers, Tule Lagoon, Tulle Well, Tyson's Wells, Volcano, White Gold Basin, Williams Fork District, Williamsport, Yuma, Yuma Wash, Yuma Copper Camp, Yuma County Boundary	
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