TITLE: Nelson Appleton Miles Papers

DATE RANGE: 1886-1902

CALL NUMBER: MS 493

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 1 box, .25 linear feet

PROVENANCE: The letters were written to the Arizona Pioneers Historical Society, so were acquired at the time of their receipt.

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

RESTRICTIONS: There are no restrictions on this collection.

CREDIT LINE: Arizona Historical Society, MS 493 – Nelson Appleton Miles Collection

PROCESSED BY: The finding aid was completed in 1997 by Riva Dean, Library/Archives Co-Manager.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE: Nelson A. Miles was born in Massachusetts and joined the Massachusetts Infantry in 1861. After an exceptional civil war record, he became Major General in 1865. His military career was then centered on the Indian Wars where he engaged in campaigns against the Comanche, the Cheyenne, the Sioux and the Nez Perce. In 1880, he became Brigadier General and commanded the Department of the Platte until early 1886, when he succeeded George Crook as commander of the Department of Arizona. Miles accepted Geronimo’s surrender in September 1886 ending the Apache Wars. He engaged in other military campaigns until he retired in 1903. He died in Washington, D.C. in 1925.

SCOPE AND CONTENT: This small collection contains one folder of correspondence from General Miles to the Society of Arizona Pioneers. There are many items signed by General Miles thanking the Society for honoring him. There are also a number of letters wherein he regrets being unable to attend some function. There is also a dance program for the “Grand Ball in Honor of General Nelson A. Miles, Tucson, November 8th, 1887.”

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