

Arizona Historical Society - Tucson

TITLE: Gustav Becker family photographs

DATE RANGE: ca. 1848-1996 (bulk 1870-1920)

CALL NUMBER: PC 262

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 1.5 linear ft (3 boxes, 1 oversize item)

CREATOR: Becker, Hugo

PROVENANCE: Donated by Becker family members, 2003 to 2010.

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RESTRICTIONS: This collection is unrestricted.

CREDIT LINE: Gustav Becker Family photographs, PC 262, Arizona Historical Society-Tucson.

PROCESSED BY: Kim Frontz, November 2012

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE: Gustav Becker, pioneer merchant and businessman, was born in Germany in 1856; he came to the United States in 1871 and worked for his brother, John, at the Huning and Becker Store in Belen, New Mexico. In 1875, Gustav joined his brother, Julius, in Round Valley, Arizona. They established the Becker Brothers store (1876-1893) which supplied goods to military posts, farmers and ranchers. When Julius died in 1893, Gustav renamed the store the Gustav Becker Store (1893-1908); in 1908 the store was incorporated as the Becker Mercantile Company. Gustav married Louisa Homrighausen in 1885; they had nine children: Julius W., Lucie, Walter, Edward, Paul, Alvin, Hugo, Emma, and Arthur.

Gustav was an advocate of highway construction in Arizona. In 1881, he laid out a road from Springerville east to Quemado, New Mexico; in 1887, he developed a road from Springerville to McNary, Arizona. In addition to his business, he served as Notary Public and was U.S. Postmaster for many years. He was also president, owner or partner in the Apache Tavern Hotel, Becker Motor Company, Becker-Keogh Hardware Company in El Paso, Texas, Becker-Mactavich Company in Magdalena, N.M., and Becker-Franz Co. in Socorro, N.M. Gustav died in 1940 and a monument was erected to him on the Post Office grounds in Springerville, Arizona.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE: Family photographs depicting several generations of the Gustav Becker family and their businesses, homes, cabins, and activities, chiefly from 1875 to 1920. Earlier cartes-de-visite are portraits of individual family members. There are images of the Becker Mercantile Store, interior and exterior, and other family owned businesses. Activities represented include automobile outings, camping and cabins, horseback riding, tennis, rodeos and parades, mostly in Springerville, Arizona and the White Mountains. There is one photograph present of Alchesay, as a young man, taken by D. A. Markey. Folders 46 to 55 were removed from photo albums at an earlier date but are kept together to assist researchers.

This collection is arranged in four series. Series I: People; Series II: Buildings and views; Series III: Activities, pets, and sanatoriums; Series IV: Photographs from albums.

CONTAINER LIST:

Box	Folder	Title	Dates
Series 1: People			
Box 1	1	Photographs - Gustav Becker and his siblings	ca. 1848-1920
	2	Cartes de visite – Homrighausen – Haak – Dietzel – Franz – Dierks – Vielstitch families	ca. 1850s-1870s
	3	Photographs - Gustav Becker, Sr.	ca. 1883-1931
	4	Photographs - Louise Homrighausen Becker	ca. 1885-1927
	5	Photographs - Groups – Children of Gus & Louise Becker	ca. 1890-1906, 1955
	6	Photographs - Groups – Family groups with Gustav Becker	ca. 1900-1916
	7	Photographs - Groups – Family groups with Louise Becker	ca. 1925-1951
	8	Photographs - Groups – Family groups - 1 st generation Becker family	ca. 1880-1910, 1950
	9	Photographs -Groups – Family groups – 2 nd generation Becker family	ca. 1910-1940
	10	Photographs - Homrighausen family	ca. 1870-1910
	11	Photographs - Other family groups, identified	ca. 1880-1920

	12	Photographs - Becker, Hugo	ca. 1889-1960
Box 2	13	Photographs – Emma L. Becker	ca. 1909-1920
	14	Photographs – Alvin & Margaret Becker	ca. 1895-1950
	15	Photographs – Lucie Becker Rieb (New Mexico)	ca. 1895-1960
	16	Photographs – Paul Becker	ca. 1918-1960
	17	Photographs Groups and individuals, unidentified	ca. 1878-1950
	18	Photographs – Individuals A-L	ca. 1915-1996
	19	Photographs – Individuals, M-Z	ca. 1908-1940
	20	Photographs – Alchesay portrait	ca. 1880s
	21	Photographs – Children, Identified	ca. 1900-1960
	22	Photographs – Hammell family	ca. 1920s
Series 2: Buildings and views			
	23	Photographs – Becker Mercantile Store, interior and exterior	1895-1948
	24	Photographs – Becker store, exterior, with people	1880-1920
	25	Photographs - Becker businesses in N.M., Texas and Louisiana	ca. 1890-1916, 1954
	26	Photographs – Springerville, Ariz. buildings, monuments, and views	ca. 1918-1970
	27	Photographs – Becker homes and cemetery	ca. 1885-1920
	28	Photographs – Cabins, lodges and homes	ca. 1920s
	29	Photographs – Huth Restaurant, unidentified Indian School	ca. 1890-1910
	30	Photographs – Community Presbyterian Church, Round Valley High School	n.d.
Series 3: Activities and miscellaneous			
	31	Photographs – Becker Lake and fishing	ca.1915-1920, 1960
	32	Photographs – Camping and horseback riding	ca. 1905-1920
	33	Photographs – Farming and steam thresher	ca. 1885
	34	Photographs – Parade floats	ca. 1910-1960

	35	Photographs – Pets and animals	ca. 1910-1940
	36	Photographs – Ranching and rodeos	ca. 1918-1932
	37	Photographs – Sanatoriums in California and Michigan	ca. 1911
	38	Photographs – Snow activities	ca. 1915-1920
Box 3	39	Photographs – Sports activities – Tennis	ca. 1912-1918
	40	Photographs – Wagons and automobiles	ca.1895-1940
	41	Photographs – White Mountain area scenic views	ca. 1910-1920
	42	Photographs – Becker Butte and memorial	1965
	43	Photographs – Arizona	ca. 1910-1920
	44	Photographs - Travel scenes – California and Panama	1912 and undated
	45	Photographs – California- People, views, buildings	ca. 1910-1915
Series 4: Photographs removed from photograph albums			
	46	Photograph album #1 – Becker and Homrighausen families – cartes-de-visite	ca. 1870s
	47	Photograph album #1 – Becker and Homrighausen families – cabinet cards	ca. 1880s
	48	Photograph album #2 – Ernest Becker and schoolchildren	1929-1937
	49	Photograph album #3 – Camping	1911-1912
	50	Photograph album #4 – Travel (possibly California)	ca. 1910
	51	Photograph album #5 – Camping	ca. 1895-1912
	52	Photograph album #6 – Facsimile (actors & actresses, Homrighausen family and Gustav Becker children)	ca. 1890-1910
	53	Photograph album #6 (photo numbers A-I)	
	54	Photograph album #6 (photo numbers J-R)	
	55	Photograph album #6 (photo numbers S-Z, Aa-Ac)	