

PC 040

Jesse Washington Ellison (1841-1934)

Photograph Collection

DESCRIPTION

Family photographs of Colonel Jesse W. Ellison including Ellison family members, their friends, and their ranch in Gila County, Arizona.

1 Box, .25 linear ft.

ACQUISITION

Donated by Philip Smith in 1973.

RELATED MATERIAL

Ansel Lewis papers, MS 0434

ACCESS

There are no restrictions on access to this collection.

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 Aubrey Carrier, intern, in March 2001.

ARRANGEMENT

Topical

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Born in Brazos County, Texas, in 1841, Jesse Washington Ellison was a pioneer Arizona cattleman who established the “Q” Ranch east of Young, AZ, in 1885. After participating in wars against the Kiowas and Comanches, he fought for the Confederacy throughout the U.S. Civil War, and also served as a Texas Ranger. In 1864 he married Susan Melvina Smith in Corryell County, Texas, and they had nine children, Pearl, Helen (nicknamed “Duette” or “Duett”), Lena, Rose, Minnie, Sarah, Mattie, Jesse Travis, and Denie.

The Ellisons arrived in Arizona in 1885, and established the “Q” Ranch at the Mogollon Rim. In 1904, daughter Duette Ellison married George W. P. Hunt, the Arizona’s first governor after statehood. Jesse’s son, Pearl, was killed by Apaches along with his wife and children in 1895; another daughter, Susan Helena “Lena” Ellison, overcame a sickly childhood to become a schoolteacher, postmistress, doctor, and amateur photographer; and grandson, Glenn “Slim” Ellison, a rancher, author and artist, published three books based on his experiences as a cowboy in territorial Arizona.

Ellison sold the “Q” Ranch in 1915 and moved to Phoenix to be closer to his daughter Duette and her husband, Governor Hunt. Colonel Ellison died in 1934 and was laid to rest with his wife Susan, daughter Duette, and son-in-law Governor Hunt in the funerary pyramid in Papago Park, Phoenix.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection is comprised of black-and-white photographs of the family and friends of Colonel Jesse Ellison. Most of the photographs are copy prints but there are also some originals. Much of the subject matter deals with everyday life on “Q” Ranch, including numerous images of cattle branding, horse riding, and cowhands herding cattle across the pastures. The collection also contains photographs of the “OW” and “Flying V” ranches, the Arrastra mine, Phoenix and Roosevelt Dam circa 1910, and an Arizona road circa 1912.

Individual family members include Jesse Ellison; son Pearl Ellison; daughters Duette, Denie, and Lena; grandson Glenn “Slim” Ellison; and friends, Al Sieber, R.B. Sims, the Campbells, and other relations and family acquaintances. The Colonel’s love of bear-hunting is reflected in several shots of him, along with other family members, posing proudly next to the bears and other game animals that they caught and killed over the years. There is an image of Duette Ellison with shotgun and bear as well as two girls wearing gun belts with ammunition (f.1). The collection includes numerous photographs of a Cibecue Apache tribe that lived near “Q” Ranch, featuring images of various Apache men, women, and children; and Alchesay, tribal medicine men Bosnic Lupe and John Dazen.

There are many turn of the century images of family life including picnics, a woman reading, children, dolls and a tea set, and July 4, 1900 outdoor celebration including a piano, and girls feeding a bottle to a lamb (f.1).

BOX AND FOLDER LIST

Box 1

- f.1 Jesse Ellison family
- f.2 Glenn "Slim" Ellison
- f.3 Lena Ellison
- f.4 Pearl Ellison family
- f.5 G. W. P. Hunt family
- f.6 Al Sieber at old well on Q Ranch
- f.7 R. B. Sims, including group at "Snake Pit" at state prison
- f.8 Ranch life – cowboys, branding, feeding lamb, hunting trophies
- f.9 Ranch life – landscapes, cattle, animals, saddles on fence (including a few small panoramas)
- f.10 Ranch life – Q Ranch – hunters, cowboys, hog slaughter
- f.11 Ranches – Flying V, OW, etc. – goats, chuck wagon meal
- f.12 Apache Indians
- f.13 Walpi (one view)
- f.14 Navajo weaver
- f.15 Phoenix, Arizona
- f.16 Roosevelt Dam, 1910
- f.17 Roads and cars, 1912
- f.18 Mine arrasta
- f.19 Miscellaneous