
ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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PC 048

Forbes, Robert Humphrey, 1867-1968

Photograph collection, 1882-1961 (bulk 1894-1928)

DESCRIPTION

Photographs, mostly taken by Forbes, represent his interest in Arizona historical sites and his work on various agricultural projects. Some are of Arizona and Mexico but most were taken in Egypt, French West Africa, and Haiti. Highlights include University of Arizona classrooms, labs, and experimental farm work, taken by J. W. Toumey, ca. 1895-1905; ranches and stage station ruins, and Roosevelt Dam construction.

8 boxes, 4 linear ft.

ACQUISITION

Donated by Robert Forbes.

ACCESS

There are no restrictions on access to this collection.

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PROCESSING

Kim Frontz prepared this finding aid in September 2010.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Educator, researcher and legislator; Robert Forbes was director of the Agricultural Experiment Station at the University of Arizona and dean of the College of Agriculture. In 1918, he began thirteen years of work as agricultural consultant for the British government in Egypt, later working on crop research in French West Africa and Haiti. From 1938 to 1952, he served in the Arizona state legislature.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Some photographs depict Forbes, his homes, family and friends while the majority is his documentation of his work in agriculture and interest in historical sites. There are images of the University of Arizona classrooms, labs, library and museum taken by J. W. Toumey, ca. 1895-1905.

Historical interests are represented with photographs of Col. C. E. Cooley, the Baboquivari Mountains, and ranches including McCleary's Camp, Thanolite (Pima) , Empire Ranch, Chenowiths (San Simon), Jaeger (Yuma), Reventon and Potrero (Pete Kitchens), Gandara (Calabasas), Canoa, Old Soporí, etc. There are composite photographs of Arizona legislators of the House of Representatives from 1938 to 1952.

Other images show giant trees, University of Arizona experimental farms in Yuma and Mesa including cotton, hay, harvesting, tractors and wagons. Also present are images of Tohono O'odham women harvesting fruit, Fresno (1933), Tule Tank, Cibicue including school children, and Roosevelt Dam construction. There are also images of stage station ruins at Dragoon, Camino del Diablo, Picacho and Canoa, and images of Tubac, and Tucson military plaza showing an adobe building of the early military camp.

In addition to agriculture, images of Egypt, French West Africa and Haiti are interesting for the many images of food processing, lifestyles, and customs depicted as well as view of monuments such as the Sphinx. An item level listing is available.

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- f. 3 Forbes' Family Portraits
- f. 4 Forbes' family - out-of-state
- f. 5 Portraits - Friends and colleagues

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- f. 7 Baboquivari Mt.
- f. 8 Casa Grande Ruins
- f. 9 Colorado River Near Yuma
- f. 10 Forts
- f. 11 Homes and Ranches
- f. 12 Legislatures - group - 14th to 20th legislatures
- f. 13 Mines and Mining
- f. 14 Miscellaneous Scenes
- f. 15 Pennington Family Homes
- f. 16 Roosevelt Dam
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- f. 29 Mexico-Missions
- f. 30 Mexico-Places-Altar Area
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f. 35 Color Photographs - Family and miscellaneous

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