
ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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PC049
Fort Bowie (Ariz.)
Photograph Collection, 1862-1894, 1926-1972

DESCRIPTION

A small collection of photographs of Fort Bowie and its troops, in the 1880s, but there are also images of ruins from 1926 to 1972.

1 Box, 0.25 linear ft.

ACQUISITION

The photographs in the collection were donated by various people as well as copied from other institutions. Primary donors were Mrs. Robert French, Mrs. Robert Lance, and J. P. Widney.

RELATED MATERIAL

MS 1030 Natalie Beaumont Forsyth papers, and the Schneider papers (MS 0715) contain additional materials from J. P. Widney.

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. Many images in this collection belong to other institutions and are provided for research only. Patrons will need to request reproduction from the appropriate institution.

PROCESSING

The collection was processed by Aubrey Carrier, intern, in April 2001.

ARRANGEMENT

Topical and chronological

HISTORICAL NOTE

Fort Bowie was one of several United States military posts created after the Mexican War for the purpose of providing jurisdiction in the territory acquired from the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. Named in honor of Colonel George W. Bowie, the fort was established July 27, 1862, at Apache Pass in the Chiricahua Mountains. In addition to subduing Native American tribes in the area, Fort Bowie troops were actively involved in the pursuit of Geronimo, who was temporarily held at the garrison after his final surrender in 1886. After this, Native American hostilities became less of an issue, and the fort gradually fell into disuse. It was abandoned October 17, 1894.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection consists of black-and-white photographs of Fort Bowie, both in its heyday and after it fell into disrepair. There are several landscape shots of the Fort's layout, and a few interior shots of an officers' residence. The collection contains two photographs of Apache scouts; group shots of military officers including Colonel Eugene B. Beaumont, Brig. Gen. Nelson Miles, Capt. H. W. Lawton, Dr. Leonard Wood, and Major Thomas McGregor; several pictures of Beaumont's son-in-law, Gen. George A. Forsyth; and one photograph of Geronimo and Nachez. There are several photographs of troop formations of the 4th Cavalry. Other subjects of interest include a few views of military camps in New Mexico including a camp on the Gila River, New Mexico of the 4th Cavalry, Companies E, F, H, and M, and 13th Infantry, Co. D.; a military skirmish near Fort Bowie in 1893; a distant view of the captured Geronimo and his band leaving Fort Bowie as prisoners of war for San Antonio, Texas; and an oversize map of Fort Bowie. Finally, the collection documents Fort Bowie's decline with images of its increasingly deteriorating ruins, from the 1920s to the 1970s.