

TITLE: John A. Rockfellow Photograph Collection

DATE RANGE: 1880 through 1930's

CALL NUMBER: PC 112

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 1 box, 6 inches

PROVENANCE: Unknown.

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CREDIT LINE: Arizona Historical Society, PC 112 – John A. Rockfellow Collection.

PROCESSED BY: Charles Herner, date unknown. Transcribed into electronic format by Mary Flynn, 2014.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE: John A. Rockfellow was born in Mt. Morris, New York on January 30, 1858. After a visit to the family home from Major William Powell, the noted western explorer, Rockfellow decided to go to Arizona Territory. Rockfellow arrived in early 1878 with his friend, Bill Hartt.

The young men began working at the McCracken silver mine in Mohave County, but just months after arriving, word spread of the great mineral strike in Tombstone. Rockfellow and Hartt joined many others heading south to find fortune. On their way, they made a small silver strike of their own in the Hualapai Mountains.

During the trek south they met John C. Fremont, the famed explorer and presidential candidate, who had just been appointed territorial governor. In Tucson, they watched the break-up of an attempted lynching at the city jail. Rockfellow and Hartt began to operate the Devil's Catch Mine in the Santa Rita Mountains, but Rockfellow soon left to work for Pete Kitchen, owner of a ranch.

Rockfellow arrived in Tombstone in 1881 when the town was in the throes of boom times. He stayed for a year, then returned to Tucson and began a partnership with Walter Servoss. The two acted as guides for easterners looking for mining sites. In 1883, Rockfellow decided to become a rancher, buying land in the Cochise Stronghold in the Dragoon Mountains, starting the NY Ranch.

This was at the height of the Apache Wars and Rockfellow found his ranch the target of raids by the Apaches. Once, he acted as a guide for cavalry troops in pursuit of the Indian raiders.

In 1890, Rockfellow became the principal of Tombstone's schools. In 1895, he became a mathematics instructor at the University of Arizona, in Tucson. He held several public posts. He was county surveyor and school superintendent of Cochise County as well as a justice of the peace and a cattle inspector in Willcox.

In 1890, Rockfellow married Flora McNair. They were married for forty-seven years and had three children. Rockfellow's sister, Anne Graham Rockfellow, was an early female architect. She followed her brother in coming to Arizona and helped design a number of buildings in Tucson.

In later years, Rockfellow wrote a memoir, "The Log of an Arizona Trailblazer". After the death of his wife, he moved to California to live with his son. John A. Rockfellow died in Los Angeles in 1947 at the age of 89.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE: Collection consists of images of J.A. Rockfellow, friends and family members, and places in which he lived or visited. It is likely that most were taken between 1880 and the 1930's.

CONTAINER LIST:

Box	Folder	Description	Dates
1	1	J.A. Rockfellow & Family	Undated
	2	Friends	Undated
	3	Walter E. Sevross	Undated
	4	Cochise County	Undated
	5	Cochise Stronghold	Undated
	6	Mexico	Undated
	7	Ranches & Ranching – NY Ranch	Undated
	8	Russellville, Ariz.	Undated
	9	Tombstone	Undated
	10	Tucson	Undated
	11	Willcox	Undated
	12	Cyanotypes	Undated
	13	Indians	Undated
	14	"A Little of Arizona"	Undated
	15	Misc.	Undated