

PC 0114
Roskruge, George James, 1845-1928
Photograph Collection, ca. 1875-1900 (bulk 1890-1900)

DESCRIPTION

Photographs, including Kodak card prints and cyanotypes, taken by Roskruge mostly while on surveying expeditions in southern Arizona in the 1890s.

2 boxes, 1 linear ft.

Rare: 2 boxes, 1 linear ft.

RELATED MATERIAL

Related material in the George Roskruge Manuscript Collection at MS 0697, as well as the Beppie Culin Collection, MS 1085.

ACQUISITION

These materials were donated by Mr. and Mrs. George J. Roskruge and their niece, Beppie Culin, between 1928 and 1989.

ACCESS

There are no restrictions on access to this collection. Some original materials are housed in Rare but copies are present in the general collection for public viewing.

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 reprocessed by Kim Frontz, December 1997.

ARRANGEMENT

The collection is arranged in three series: People, ca. 1875-1900. Ranches, homes, and transportation, ca. 1885-1895. Survey expeditions, ca. 1885-1900.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

George James Roskruge, pioneer Arizona surveyor, was born in 1845 in Cornwall, England. He arrived in Arizona in 1872. He initially worked as a cook and packer for Omar H. Case, U.S. deputy surveyor, assisting him as chainman. During 1874, he worked with U.S. deputy surveyor C.B. Foster and later prepared the maps and field notes. This led to the position of chief draughtsman in the office of John Wasson, the Surveyor General of Arizona. In 1880, Roskruge was appointed U.S. deputy land and mineral surveyor; he later served four years as Pima County surveyor and three years as City Engineer of Tucson, and in 1893 was appointed chief clerk in the U.S. Surveyor General's office. He served as U.S. Surveyor General from 1896 to 1897.

In May 1896, Roskruge married Lena Wood, daughter of Probate Judge John S. Wood. He died in Tucson on July 27, 1928.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection includes original card prints, copy prints and cyanotypes from George Roskruge's survey work in Southern Arizona in the 1890s. Some of the photographs depict survey markers, surveyors and their equipment but there is also a lot of photographs of the people he encountered, depicting ranching and mining activity, and forms of transportation. Many of the people and places are not identified but the photographs present an overview of turn-of-the-century rural life.

For example, there is a small group of photographs of a Tohono O'odham woman, white man, and children at a corral; the man and woman appear to be milking a cow (f.11). There are also a few photographs of Yaqui and Apache groups. A photograph is present of a cowboy branding a calf. Many forms of transportation are depicted including carts and carriages, wagons, covered wagons (f.16), pack mules (f.15), and a stage coach (f.28). Photographs of the San Francisco River show a horse and wagon team crossing the river while photographs of the Santa Cruz River show flooding, homes along the bank, and a boy on a horse crossing the river.

There are photographs present from surveys of the San Rafael del Valle land grant, the Babocomari land grant, the Buena Vista land grant, an irrigation ditch, and Sabino Canyon. These include landscape views, surveyors at work, ranch houses, and people. Mining surveys include the Salero-El Plomo Mine in Santa Cruz County. These photographs include mines, buildings, pack mules carrying ore, miners, and two men bathing in a stream. The unidentified mining photographs include a series of a miner camped by a stream with his gold pan in hand as well as ore cars, a smelter, and a water flume.

There are photographs of surveyors' camps, miners camps, and family picnics. A few photographs show Tucson homes and businesses including Fitzgerald's quarry, Clifton, Ariz. homes and businesses, and the Mission buildings of Tumacacori and Guevavi. There are several portraits of George Roskruge and exterior and interior views of his surveyors' office.

Box and Folder List

Series 1: People, ca. 1875-1900

Box 1

- f.1 George Roskruge and family, 1875-1900
- f.2 George Roskruge home, 318 E. 13th St.
- f.3 Surveyors office, interior and exterior

- f.4 Gen. Jack Pershing (speaking at U of A)
- f.5 Men – Unidentified
- f.6 Women – Unidentified
- f.7 Families and groups – Unidentified
- f.8 Children – Unidentified
- f.9 School group – Unidentified

- f.10 Apache Indians
- f.11 Tohono O’odham Indians
- f.12 Yaqui Indians

- f.13 Cowboys – unidentified
- f.14 Camping and picnics – unidentified

Series 2: Ranches, homes and transportation, ca. 1885-1895

- f.15 Pack mules and burros
- f.16 Transportation – Horses, carriages, wagons
- f.17 Ranches and homes - Unidentified

- f.18 Tucson, Ariz. – Buildings and homes
- f.19 Tucson, Ariz. – Fitzgerald’s Quarry
- f.20 Clifton, Ariz. – Buildings and homes

- f.21 Missions – Tumacacori and Guevavi
- f.22 Cemeteries and grave markers
- f.23 Cacti

Series 3: Survey expeditions, ca. 1885-1900

Box 2

- f.24 Surveyors and their equipment – Unidentified locations
- f.25 Survey markers and surveyors

Land Grants

- f.26-29 San Rafael del Valle land grant – Surveyors, Views, Ranches, People
- f.30 Buena Vista land grant surveying
- f.31 Babocomari land grant surveying

Box 2 (Continued)

Misc.

- f.32 Irrigation ditch surveying
- f.33 Sabino Canyon surveying
- f.34 Santa Cruz River (including flooding)
- f.35 San Francisco River

Mining

- f.36-38 Salero-El Plumo Mine – Mines and buildings, Views, Surveying
- f.39 Mining – unidentified

- f.40 Arizona landscapes – Unidentified
- f.41 Misc. landscapes – Identified (Coyote Mountain, Baboquivari Peak, Walnut Gulch)