

**MS 0697**

**Roskruge, George James, 1845-1928  
Papers, 1872-1928 (bulk 1872-1900)**

**DESCRIPTION**

Biographical material, financial documents, correspondence, land documents, survey notes and diagrams, and maps relating to the personal life of Roskruge and his survey work in Tucson and southeastern Arizona chiefly from 1872 to 1900.

4 boxes, 1 outside item, 3.25 linear ft.

**ACQUISITION**

The collection was donated by Mr. and Mrs. George Roskruge and their niece, Beppie Culin from 1926 to 1933, 1956, and 1989.

**RELATED MATERIALS**

Additional materials related to this collection: Roskruge Photograph Collection; MS 1083 (Related to Logan City, Arizona); MS 1085 (Related to the Roskruge/Culin families); and MS 1086 (Research about Roskruge's photography).

**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 Kim Frontz, December 1997.

**ARRANGEMENT**

The collection is arranged in two series: Personal materials, 1872-1928. Surveys and other business materials, 1872-1918.

**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, Roskrue 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, Roskrue married Lena Wood, daughter of Probate Judge John S. Wood. Roskrue also served as president of the Tucson Board of Education, as a member of the Board of Regents of the University of Arizona, and was the first president of the Association of Civil Engineers of Arizona. He is known as the father of Masonry in Arizona due to his active involvement with that organization. He was accurate with a rifle and was the National Rifle Association Secretary for Arizona. He died in Tucson on July 27, 1928.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

Survey notes and diagrams, maps, newspaper clippings, reminiscences, genealogy, financial and land documents relating to both Roskrue's personal interests in family history, masonry activities, and rifle association activities as well as to his surveying work in Tucson and southeastern Arizona.

The survey work materials will mainly be of interest to persons with an engineering background. These include the 1872 field notes of the survey of the City of Tucson, survey notes for Santa Cruz water storage from 1891 to 1892, mine surveys of the Warren Mining District of Cochise County, and road surveys for the Santa Catalina Mountains and the Santa Cruz Valley. Survey notebooks and a map related to the San Rafael de Valle land grant and notebooks for mine surveys including the Copper Queen Mine in Bisbee, Arizona are also present. There is correspondence with Charles Von Erxleben, a fellow surveyor, and correspondence about two land boundary disputes involving conflicts with Pedro Aguirre and James Finley. Land documents include indentures for land in the Village of Tucson to Leopold Wolf, 1872.

There are township maps showing land ownership for scattered townships including 11S to 22S, 13 E to 16E, most in the Tucson area.

Personal materials include certificates and awards, reminiscences, correspondence, genealogy, and research notes on Arizona history. There are also notes by Roskrue concerning entries in George Hand's diaries. There are various materials from Arizona masonry groups including Glendale, Arizona Masonic lodge minute book, guest book, and treasurer's book, 1896 to 1897.

## **BOX AND FOLDER LIST**

### **Series 1: Personal materials, 1872-1928**

#### **Box 1**

- f.1 Biographical materials, ca. 1890-1928
- f.2-3 Reminiscences, ca. 1925
- f.4 Genealogical material, n.d.
- f.5 Personal correspondence, 1912-1928

- f.6 Personal misc.
- f.7 Associations/memberships
- f.8 Associations/memberships – Rifle Assn., 1912-1928
- f.9-12 Associations/memberships – Masons, 1884-1928
- f.13 Health course and other booklets, 1905-1910

## **Box 2**

- f.14 Research notes – Arizona history, n.d.
- f.15 Research notes re: George Hand's diary, n.d.
- f.16 Financial documents, 1882-1925
- f.17 Collection of Jacobs Co. grocery orders, bank drafts, 1872-1894
- f.18 Newspaper clippings about Roskrue, 1925-1928

## **Series 2: Surveys and other business materials, 1872-1918**

- f.19 Correspondence – Surveyor General's Office, 1881-1901
- f.20 Correspondence – City Surveyor (Tucson), 1886-1893
- f.21 Correspondence – Land matters, 1892-1902
- f.22 Correspondence – Boundary disputes, 1886, 1896
- f.23 Correspondence with Charles Von Erxleben, surveyor, 1896-1904
- f.24 Legal documents re: land, 1872-1894
- f.25 Survey work – City of Tucson, 1872-1890  
(Includes Fields Notes of the Survey of the City of Tucson)
- f.26 Survey work – Helvetia District (notes), ca. 1900
- f.27 Survey work – Roads (Catalina, Santa Cruz Valley), 1885
- f.28 Survey work – Railroad survey, 1902
- f.29 Survey work – Mines (Warren Mining District, Cochise Co.), 1899

## **Box 3**

- f.30 Survey notebooks, 1881-1900
- f.31 Survey work – Misc., n.d.
- f.32 Survey manual of instruction, 1895
- f.33 Wells Fargo & Co. receipt book, 1911-1918

## **Box 4 (Oversize)**

- f.34 Certificates, awards and page from family bible
- f.35 Oversize surveys, notes and diagrams
- f.36 Oversize survey field notes – Santa Cruz Water Storage, 1891-1892
- f.37 Handdrawn maps – Southeastern Arizona
- f.38 Township maps showing land ownership (Tucson area)

## **Outside Item**

Rolled map – mining survey Helvetia District