

**MS 0698**  
**RUGGLES, LEVI, 1824-1889**  
**PAPERS, 1872-1884**

**DESCRIPTION**

The collection contains a small amount of correspondence describing life in Florence in the 1870s. There are two original documents appointing Ruggles as registrar of the U. S. Land Office, 1877, one signed by U. S. Grant and the other by Rutherford B. Hayes. The collection includes an account book from Ruggles' store, 1883-84 and an autograph book of Flora Ruggles (the daughter of Levi and his wife Cynthia (Tharp) Ruggles), a small amount of poetry and a biographical file, including a photograph showing births from the family bible.

1 Box, .25 linear feet

**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

Levi Ruggles, known as the "father of Florence, Arizona," was born in Ohio in 1824. He was married to Cynthia (Tharp) Ruggles. He became a carpenter and joined the State militia, remaining in the service until 1866. In 1866, he was appointed Indian Agent in Arizona for the Pimas, Papago, Maricopa and a few small bands of Apaches, an office he held until 1869. He moved to what is now Florence in 1868 and began laying out the town site. He later served as both register and receiver of the U. S. Land Office, merchant, justice of the peace, school board trustee, Pinal County treasurer and representative to the Territorial Legislature. He died in Florence in 1889.

**ACQUISITION**

Most of the collection was donated by Walter W. Fox, grandson of Levi Ruggles in 1961 with a small portion donated by Mrs. May Fox Pomeroy, granddaughter of Ruggles, in 1963.

**ACCESS**

There are no restrictions on access to this collection.

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Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be addressed to the Arizona Historical Society, Tucson, Library/Archives Department.

**PROCESSING**

The collection was processed by Riva Dean in October 1997.