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**ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**949 East Second Street  
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**MS 984  
SHAW, WILLIAM, 1831-****DESCRIPTION**

The collection consists of a one 231-page bound, handwritten manuscript of *A Short Sketch of the Life of William Shaw or "Cherokee Bill" a Name Given him by the Indians in California in the year 1852, while mining for Gold. Together with Some of the Hardships of a Life on the Plains and Great Sandy Deserts and Among the Indians. Also of the Camp Life and his Return to the States.* It was written between 1897 and 1901. The collection also contains a bound typescript of the manuscript. The narrative covers his childhood in Iowa, his life on the plains and an overland journey to California. Much of the narrative describes his mining activities in California and Colorado.

1 box, .25 linear feet

**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

All that is known of him comes from these reminiscences. He was born in 1831 in Iowa. In the Spring of 1852, he decided to try his luck in the far west. Without telling his family, he left on his journey in April. After 137 days, they reached California, where he tried mining. He briefly describes other aspects of his life and his various enterprises. He settled in Albia (?) and he married in 1855 (still married to the unnamed woman in 1901) and had children. He also describes his commitment to the church. It is not known when he died.

**ACQUISITION**

The collection was a gift from W. J. Holliday to the Society in 1945.

**ACCESS**

There are no restrictions on this collection.

**COPYRIGHT**

Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be addressed to the Arizona Historical Society.

**PROCESSING**

The finding aid was completed in 1997 by Riva Dean, Library/Archives Co-Manager.