
ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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MS 0396
Royal B. Stratton
Manuscript

DESCRIPTION

Typescript extracts of Royal B. Stratton's book, "Captivity of the Oatman Girls", possibly compiled for Frank Jordan by Edith Kitt of the Arizona Historical Society.

1 Box, .25 linear ft.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Frank Jordan came to Arizona from Texas in 1884 and established a cattle ranch near the Salt River area with his father. After about a year he sold his stock and bought 160 acres west of Phoenix to farm oat hay. He married Maude in 1899 and they had two children. They moved to Tucson in 1904 and Mr. Jordan became superintendent of Flowing Wells Ranch. In 1910 they moved to Oatman to take over Maude's father's homestead. They returned to Tucson in 1918.

The massacre of the Oatman family happened near the Gila River, near what is known today at Oatman, Arizona. A band of Apaches ambushed the Oatman's and killed six family members. One brother, Lorenzo, was left for dead, but later rescued by white pioneers traveling through Yuma. Olive and Mary Ann Oatman were made slaves by the Apaches, who tattooed their faces. The two girls were eventually sold to the Mojave Indians. Mary Ann subsequently died, and Olive was rescued five years later.

ACQUISITION

Donated by Frank W. Jordan in 1959

ACCESS

There are no restrictions on access to this collection.

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PROCESSING

The collection was processed by Nancy Siner in July 2009.