
ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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MS 1140
TOMBSTONE-WELLS FARGO MUSEUM
Papers, 1881-1960s (bulk: 1881-1920)

DESCRIPTION

Miscellaneous items from the City of Tombstone that had been held at the Tombstone Wells Fargo Museum. When the museum was auctioned off in 1986, some items were purchased by the Historical Society. The assortment of materials includes photographs of mines as well as unidentified portraits and postcards, including Mexican Revolution postcards. The mining photographs include numbered photographs by photographer GEHM (name unknown) of mines around Bisbee in the fall of 1906. The mines included are Shattuck, Saginaw, Denn-Arizona and others. The papers include pages cut from a City of Tombstone Warrant Book for 1881, showing salaries paid to Virgil and Warren Earp. Includes record of business licenses issued by the City of Tombstone for 1888-1890. Some business records from a C. E. Frederick of Tombstone and a ledger book for groceries in Crittenden in 1889-1890.

1 Box, .5 linear ft.

HISTORICAL NOTE

The City of Tombstone was founded in 1879 based on a mining strike. Starting as a tent city, Tombstone was one of the largest cities in the west by the late 1881. Though famous for its lawlessness, it also had a large cultural element with an opera house. At that time, it had a population of 15,000. When the mines became unworkable due to flooding, the city quickly got smaller and by 1890, it was nearly gone. Known as the "town too tough to die," it was also the county seat for Cochise County from 1881 to 1929.

ACQUISITION

Purchased from Auctioneers in 1986.

ACCESS

Due to their fragile condition, some of the items in the collection are restricted. Photocopies or copy prints are available for public use.

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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 Riva Dean in July 1999.

Box and Folder List

- f. 1 Photographs : Identified Cochise County Mines
- f. 2 Photographs : Unidentified Mines
- f. 3 Photographs : Portraits
- f. 4 Photographs : Unidentified Portraits, ca. 1920s-60s
- f. 5 Photographs : Mexican Revolution Postcards
- f. 6 Photographs : Postcard Portraits
- f. 7 City of Tombstone - Warrants Paid, 1881
- f. 8 City of Tombstone - Record of Licenses Issued, 1888-1890
- f. 9 City of Tombstone - City Licenses & Receipts, 1880-1894
- f. 10 Trustees Official Record of Claimants & Claims Filed with the Trustee, 1901-1910
- f. 11 Ledger Book, Groceries, 1889-1890 (Crittenden)
- f. 12 Receipt for C. B. Tarbell (Grave & Casket for John Marden), 1909
- f. 13 C. E. Frederick - Receipt Book, 1901
- f. 14 C. E. Frederick - Correspondence, 1954-1955