

**TITLE:** Sarah S. Valencia Collection

**DATE RANGE:** 1800s - 1985

**CALL NUMBER:** MS 1467

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 4 linear ft (8 boxes, 4 oversize)

**PROVENANCE:** Donated by Virginia Sutphin, 2007, Sarah Valencia's niece

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**RESTRICTION:** This collection is unrestricted.

**CREDIT LINE:** Sarah S. Valencia Collection, MS 1467, Arizona Historical Society - Tucson

**PROCESSED BY:** Lizeth Zepeda, October 2013

**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE:** Sarah Soto Valencia (her name is also spelled Sara in various places), was a Mexican-American Tucson native born May 4, 1908 and died August 23, 2007 at 99 years old. Her nickname was Sally, and based on her writings and published materials in her collection she seemed to be a very religious person. She worked as a counselor, and through correspondence, it is known that she did her counseling in tribal land, although it does not say where or for how long. She was married for a short time with Enrique "Henry" Parra, and they did not have children. Her mother was Carmen Soto Valencia and was born August 2, 1888 and died October 15, 1941. Her father was Clemente Valencia, Sr., he was born on August 2, 1888 and died April 28, 1962. One of his occupations was as a plumber for Julien & Company. He also worked for the police department as a plainclothesman raiding corn liquor stills during prohibition in Tucson. For the longer part of his life, from February 1, 1912 - March 1, 1937, he worked at the Southern Pacific Railroad. Both her parents were born in Tucson, Arizona and married September of 1906.

Sarah had two brothers, Joseph Valencia and Clemente Valencia, Jr.. Joseph was her half-brother (her father's child from first marriage) and was in the U.S. Army. His profession after the army was a welder. He married a woman named Tillie and had two children, Eva and Virginia. After he married he moved to Los Angeles, California. Clemente, Jr. was Sarah's biological brother and worked at the Southern Pacific Railroad as a train inspector. He was the first man to work with the computers at the Southern Pacific Railroad. He married Ernestina and had five children; Marielena, Willie, Clemente, Carmen and Joey. He also lived in California.

Carmen's Soto Valencia's parents were Anastacio Soto and Juana Herrera, they were married July 29, 1887. Juanita was born on December 8, 1868 in Guaymas, Mexico and died giving birth on November 15, 1911. Her parents were Jesus Herreras and Carmen Muños. Anastacio was born in Fuaje, Mexico, on January 22, 1850 to Francisca

Sinogui and Juan Soto. At the age of seven he was taken in by an American Indian tribe and was raised by the chief, after his parents were killed. He spoke seven American Indian dialects and Spanish. In his 20s he left the tribe, and worked for the government as a wagon driver for with an Oxen from California, New Mexico, and California transporting gold bricks. He died May 28, 1939.

Clemente Valencia, Sr.'s parents were Alcario Valencia born in Barcelona, Spain and Rita Padilla born in San Miguel, Sonora, Mexico. Alcario was a rancher in Johnson, Arizona and had Clemente, Sr., Jesus, Antonio, Francisco, and Eloise. Sarah's aunts were seamstresses, and all moved to California as well, with the exception of Clemente, Sr. Alcario died December 6, 1911 and Rita died November 1, 1913.

**HISTORICAL NOTE:** The Southern Pacific Railroad Company was established in 1865. This railroad was significant because it was one of the first in connection with others to provide railroad services in the Southwest to all over the United States and Canada. This railroad service provided a substantial amount of jobs all over the United States but more specifically, Tucson. Both Sarah Valencia's father and brother Clemente, Jr. worked for the Southern Pacific Railroad.

The passing of the 18th United States Amendment was to reinforce the prohibition of alcoholic beverages. This flourished a business to sell alcoholic beverages underground. These businesses were called speakeasies and they sold alcohol created of corn liquor. Clemente Valencia, Sr. was one of the plainclothesman that would go undercover to these speakeasies and catch them in the act.

In her possessions, Sarah had a certificate from *American Flag House and Betsy Ross Memorial Association*. From 1889 - 1935 people were given certificates for donating 10 cents to restoration and preservation of Betsy Ross' home. Betsy Ross' contribution to United States history was for creating the American flag. Also included in the collection are *Certificate of Election* and *Certificate of Nomination* from the State of Arizona, Pima County, for Frank G. Robles who served as member of the House of Representatives in 1947 & 1948.

**SCOPE AND CONTENT:** The Sarah S. Valencia Collection has intergenerational personal documents, correspondence, friends and family photographs, and artifacts such as; a handkerchief, poem in a napkin and a banner from Tucson, Arizona but also has information related to the family in Mexico, and California. The collection organized into three different series; Series I: Personal Papers, Series II: Correspondence Series III: Photographs & Oversized Portraits and Series IV: Fragile.

**Series I – Personal Papers:** contains personal documents. The documents include a list of family relations, Sara Valencia's driver's license, Henry Parra's I.D. photograph and account book, Affidavit of Registration, birth certificates documents from Immigration Services for Clemente, Sr. in 1931, receipts from 1926-1961, funeral guest book for Carmen Soto Valencia and Clemente Valencia, Sr, in addition to obituaries and family histories. Included in this series are also homeopathic publications, prayer books that she used and certificates. This series is arranged by format and thereunder chronologically by date.

**Series II – Correspondence:** includes correspondence in both English and Spanish belonging to Sarah Valencia, and her parents dating as back as the 1800s-1960s and arranged chronologically by date. These correspondences include personal letters, postcards, cards, and get-well-soon cards for Sarah Valencia during the 1960s.

**Series III – Photographs & Portraits:** have photographs of multiple generations living in Arizona and in various parts of California. Subjects based on photographs with Sarah Valencia, her parents, and portraits of adults, children, and groups arrange the photographs. Celebrations that are photographed include First Holy Communions, weddings, and graduations. Also incorporated are various photograph albums and oversize portrait, including: Joseph’s army portrait, Sarah’s grandparent’s wedding, her mother as a child and various family members. The dates range from the mid-1800s – 1985 and are arranged as so.

**Series IV Fragile Items:** has fragile documents, and artifacts such as a handkerchief and a banner. One fragile item is a State of Arizona Pima County Voting Registration Form of Anastacio Soto from the 1920s. Also is an oversized certificate of membership for Sarah to the *American Flag House and Betsy Ross Memorial Association*. There was also a *Certificate of Election* for Frank G. Robles, who was a State Representative in Pima County, Arizona. Finally, there is a napkin with a love poem of heartbreak in Spanish written by Henry Parra to Sarah.

**CONTAINER LIST:**

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Dates</b>
<b>1</b>	1	<b>Personal Papers:</b> Sarah Valencia	1908-1947
	2	<b>Personal Papers:</b> Valencia & Soto – Family History	Undated
	3	<b>Personal Papers:</b> Clemente Valencia, Sr.	Undated
	4	<b>Personal Papers:</b> Henry M. Parra	1926
	5	<b>Personal Papers:</b> Receipts	1926-1961
	6	<b>Personal Papers:</b> Funeral Guest Book of Carmen Soto Valencia & Clemente Valencia, Sr.	1941 - 1962
	7	<b>Personal Papers:</b> Family Obituaries	1911-1962
	8	<b>Personal Papers:</b> Owned Publications	1940s
	9	<b>Personal Papers:</b> Certificates	1946-1970
<b>2</b>	1	<b>Correspondence:</b> Personal Letters	Early 1900s
	2	<b>Correspondence:</b> Personal Letters	1920s
	3	<b>Correspondence:</b> Personal Letters	1930s
	4	<b>Correspondence:</b> Personal Letters	1940s
	5	<b>Correspondence:</b> Personal Letters	Undated
	6	<b>Correspondence:</b> Cards & Postcards	1913-1960

	7	<b>Correspondence:</b> Get Well Soon Cards 1 of 2	1959- April 1960
	8	<b>Correspondence:</b> Poetry & Songs	Undated
<b>3</b>	1	<b>Photographs &amp; Portraits:</b> Sarah Valencia	1908-1946
	2	<b>Photographs &amp; Portraits:</b> Sarah Valencia and Company	1917-1947
	3	<b>Photographs &amp; Portraits:</b> Clemente Valencia Sr. & Carmen Soto Valencia	1932-1937
	4	<b>Photographs &amp; Portraits:</b> Individual portraits of adults	1915-1985
	5	<b>Photographs &amp; Portraits:</b> Adult group pictures	1800s-1947
	6	<b>Photographs &amp; Portraits:</b> Photographs of adults with children	1926-1960
	7	<b>Photographs &amp; Portraits:</b> Photographs of Children	1926-1960
	8	<b>Photographs &amp; Portraits:</b> Pictures of children in First Holy Communion	1936
	9	<b>Photographs &amp; Portraits:</b> Scenery Photographs	1800s-1958
<b>4</b>	1	<b>Photographs &amp; Portraits:</b> Photocopies of photographs in album	1800s-1968
	2	<b>Photographs &amp; Portraits:</b> Original photographs from previous photocopies.	1800s-1968
	3	<b>Photographs &amp; Portraits:</b> Framed photographs & copies of frames - Adults	1926-1959
	4	<b>Photographs &amp; Portraits:</b> Framed photographs & copies of frames Children – 1 of 2	1926-1959
	5	<b>Photographs &amp; Portraits:</b> Framed photographs & copies of frames Children – 2 of 2	1926-1959
	6	<b>Photographs &amp; Portraits:</b> Photographic Negatives	Undated
<b>5</b>		<b>Photographs &amp; Portrait:</b> Intergenerational Photograph Album	1800s-1937
<b>6</b>		<b>Photographs &amp; Portrait:</b> Carmen Soto Valencia (Framed)	Undated
		<b>Photographs &amp; Portraits:</b> Joseph Valencia – Child (Framed)	Undated
		<b>Photograph &amp; Portraits:</b> Joseph Valencia –Adult (Framed)	Undated
		<b>Photographs &amp; Portraits:</b> Ernestina & Ygnacio Marquez (Framed)	1947

		<b>Photographs &amp; Portraits:</b> Helen Valencia (Framed)	1956
<b>7</b>		<b>Photographs &amp; Portraits:</b> Carmen Soto Valencia	1800s
		<b>Photographs &amp; Portraits:</b> Joseph Valencia's in U.S. Army	Undated
		<b>Photographs &amp; Portraits:</b> Julia	1800s
		<b>Photographs &amp; Portraits:</b> Wedding of Juanita Herrera and Anastacio Soto	1887
		<b>Photographs &amp; Portraits:</b> Carmen Soto Valencia and Margarita Soto	1891
		<b>Photographs &amp; Portraits:</b> Anastacio Soto and Juana Herrera	1800s
<b>8</b>		<b>Fragile Items:</b> Cloth Banner with the name "Carmen"	Undated
		<b>Fragile Items:</b> Document – State Arizona Pima County Voting Registration form of Anastacio Soto	1920
		<b>Fragile Items:</b> Love Poem in Napkin	Undated
		<b>Fragile Items:</b> Handkerchief with "To my mother"	Undated
		<b>Fragile Items:</b> Membership Certificate for Sarah Valencia	1920?
		<b>Fragile Items:</b> Certificate of Election State of Arizona for Frank G. Robles	1948