
ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**949 East Second Street
Tucson, AZ 85719****Library and Archives
(520) 617-1157****ahsref@azhs.gov**

MS 1074**WARDWELL, WILLIAM LANTERMAN
LETTERS, 1880-1888 (BULK 1885-1886)****Description**

This collection consists of 35 handwritten letters from William Lanterman Wardwell to his parents, the majority of which describe his travels in the Arizona Territory, and 1 self-portrait in pencil. Also included in this collection are five cassette tapes of the letters being read aloud, and one typed transcript of the letters, prepared by Wardwell's niece, Clarissa Wardwell Pell.

2 boxes, 1 linear feet

Acquisition

This collection was donated to the Arizona Historical Society in 1996 by the niece of William L. Wardwell, Clarissa Wardwell Pell.

Access

There are no restrictions on access to this collection.

Copyright

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

Processing

This collection was processed by Mario M. Einaudi, Archivist, July, 1997.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

William Lanterman Wardwell was born in the State of New York, on May 20, 1857. Having completed his studies in medicine, which included studies in Leipzig, Germany, Wardwell traveled to the Southwest to combat the effects of tuberculosis. His travels through the Arizona Territory are well chronicled in the letters he sent home to his parents. Wardwell traveled quite frequently, spending long periods of time at Fort Thomas, Silver King, Tucson and Colorado Springs. He finally settled in Tucson sometime in 1888, and passed away there on March 22, 1889 at the age of 32.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The letters provide a researcher with a unique view of the Arizona Territory, and the Southwest in the mid-1880s. Wardwell writes of the danger of travel, stage robbers, fear of Apache Indian raids, the weather, life in a military camp, impressions of various cities, and more. Three letters from prior to his arrival in the Arizona Territory describe his studies in Leipzig, Germany, in 1880.

The bulk of the letters were written after his arrival in the Arizona Territory in the Fall of 1885, covering an eight-month period from October, 1885 to May, 1886. Also included is an interesting, although incomplete, report from Fort Thomas. The majority of these letters are from Fort Thomas, Silver King and Tucson, with a brief trip to Los Angeles and San Diego. Mr. Wardwell talks of his interest in

ranching and describes his visits with Mr. Hooker at his ranch and the possibility of setting up his own cattle company. He describes his visits to San Carlos Indian reservation, including a detailed description of the system for enrollment of the San Carlos Apaches and what he calls "a war dance." He also includes descriptions of Tucson, with its adobe buildings and narrow streets, and the hilly town of Silver King.

He appears to have been financially supported by his father, although he seems to have acted as a stand in doctor on a few occasions. In one letter from Silver King, dated February 15, 1886, he describes various afflictions and sickness that occurred while he substituted for Dr. Kinnaird, including a tooth pulling incident that is quite humorous. The last letters from Colorado Springs, and Monterey, California, concern his health and his future plans.

Box 1

Letter 1	Leipzig, Germany	Oct. 24, 1880	p. 1
L. 2	Leipzig, Germany	Nov. 8, 1880	p. 4
L. 3	Fort Thomas (A.T.)	Nov. 1, 1885	p. 6
L. 4	Fort Thomas, A.T.	Nov. 5, 1885	p. 10
L. 5	Arizona Territory	Nov. 12, 1885	p. 14
L. 6	Fort Thomas, A.T.	Dec. 21, 1885	p. 19
L. 7	Fort Thomas, A.T.	Dec. 28, 1885	p. 23
L. 8	Fort Grant, A.T.	Jan. 6, 1886	p. 30
L. 9	Silver King, A.T.	Jan. 14, 1886	p. 31
L. 10	Silver King, A.T.	Jan. 23, 1886	p. 36
L. 11	Silver King, A.T.	Jan. 25, 1886	p. 38
L. 12	Silver King, A.T.	Feb. 1, 1886	p. 42
L. 13	Silver King, A.T.	Feb. 7, 1886	p. 45
L. 14	Silver King, A.T.	Feb. 10, 1886	p. 49*
L. 15	Silver King, A.T.	Feb. 15, 1886	p. 50
L. 16	Los Angeles, California	Feb. 25, 1886	p. 55
L. 17	San Diego (California)	Mar. 4, 1886	p. 59
L. 18	Los Angeles, California	Mar. 6, 1886	p. 63
L. 19	Tucson, A.T.	Mar. 11, 1886	p. 65
L. 20	Tucson, A.T.	Mar. 18, 1886	p. 68
L. 21	Tucson, A.T.	Mar. 27, 1886	p. 70
L. 22	Tucson, A.T.	Apr. 4, 1886	p. 74
L. 23	Tucson, A.T.	Apr. 17, 1886	p. 76
L. 24	Tucson, A.T.	Apr. 23, 1886	p. 81
L. 25	Silver King, A.T.	May 4, 1886	p. 85
L. 26	Silver King, A.T.	May 7, 1886	p. 86
L. 27	Colorado Springs, Colo.	Oct. 12, 1886	p. 88
L. 28	Silver King, A.T.	Dec. 28, 1886	p. 89*
L. 29	Colorado Springs, Colo.	Aug. 8, 1887	p. 90
L. 30	Monterey, California	Sept. 25, 1888	p. 92
L. 31	Fort Thomas	n.d.	p. 95

*Transcription only, original letter missing from donated letters.

Box 2

Five cassettes of the letters being read aloud.