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**ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

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**MS 861**  
**WILBUR, REUBEN AUGUSTUS, 1840-1882**  
**WILBUR PAPERS, 1879-1921**

**DESCRIPTION**

The collection contains one file containing correspondence between Wilbur and the U. S. Department of Indian affairs concerning his salary and storage of personal effects while he was agent to the "Papagos." There is also a one page typewritten "Biography of Dr. R. A. Wilbur" by an unknown author in 1950. Some of the letters are original, handwritten letters and others are typewritten carbons to Dr. Wilbur.

1 Box, .25 linear feet

**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

Reuben Augustus Wilbur was born in Taunton, Massachusetts in 1840. He was the eldest son of Reuben Alden Wibur and Mary Strange Wilbur. He graduated from Harvard Medical School in 1863 and practiced medicine in Taunton for two years. After becoming interested in mining, he arrived in Arizona in 1866 and was appointed physician for the "Cerro Colorado Mining Company" that had started to operate the mine fifty miles southwest of Tucson, which is how he became a pioneer physician in Tucson. In 1870, he was appointed physician for the Pima and Maricopa Indians and then in 1871 for the Papago Indians also. He was later appointed the first Papago Indian Agent and he started the San Xavier Indian Reservation continuing as agent until 1875. During his residence in Pima County he became interested in mines and ranching. After becoming ill, he returned to Massachusetts for medical treatment where he contracted pneumonia and died in 1882.

**ACQUISITION**

Provenance is unknown.

**ACCESS**

There are no restrictions on this collection.

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**PROCESSING**

The collection was processed by Riva Dean, Library/Archives Co-Manager in May 1997.