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**ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY****949 East Second Street  
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**MS 863****WILEY, JOSEPH LEE, 1863-1947  
PAPERS, 1884-1942 (bulk: 1894-1930)****DESCRIPTION**

The collection consists of political and personal correspondence including letters from Carl Hayden, Marcus A. Smith, George W. P. Hunt, Sidney P. Osborn, and Henry R. Ashurst. It also includes materials on elections and Democratic party meetings; the first Arizona Legislature roll call sheets, 1912; rules of the State Senate; items regarding his murder trial and other legal matters; licenses to run a roulette game on West Congress St. in Tucson; financial records; and items related to membership in several fraternal organizations. The collection also contains photos of Wiley and his relatives, as well as several unidentified individual and group portraits.

1 Box, .5 linear feet. 1 outside item - Certificate of Office for AOOGBC (fraternal order)

**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

Joseph Lee Wiley was a railroad man with Southern Pacific, as well as a professional gambler. He was born in Fairmont, West Virginia in 1863 and arrived in Tucson in 1884. Wiley became active in Arizona politics, initiating correspondence with several high ranking politicians, and eventually serving as Sergeant of Arms in the State Senate in 1912. Wiley was also involved in several scandals, and was tried along with Ramon Salazar and Thomas Johns, former Pima County deputies, for the murder of Mrs. Josephine Welsh Bates in 1916. He was convicted of 2<sup>nd</sup> degree murder and sentenced to 10-15 years in prison, but never served jail time. Wiley died in Tucson on January 27, 1947.

**ACQUISITION**

This collection was donated by Mrs. Honorene M. Parker in 1959.

**ACCESS**

There are no restrictions on access to this collection.

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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**

This collection was processed by Christa Gush under the supervision of Riva Dean in February 1998.