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**ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

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**MS 963**  
**WOOL, JOHN ELLIS, 1784-1869**  
**WOOL PAPERS, 1854-1855**

**DESCRIPTION**

The collection consists of detailed correspondence concerning Wool's activities as head of the Department of the Pacific in 1854. Included is material about an attempted French filibustering expedition into Sonora, Mexico, control of Indians in areas acquired by the United States in the Mexican War and description of military activities against Indians in Oregon, Washington and Utah. There is also a report of Wool's military operations sent to Secretary of War Jefferson Davis on January 29, 1855 and letters from Davis questioning Wool's role in filibustering expeditions. The collection includes handwritten letters (which are in "rare") and a typed transcript.

1 Box, .10 linear feet

**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

John Ellis Wool was born in Newburgh, New York in 1784. He was raised in Troy, New York and worked as a merchant until the War of 1812 broke out. He then raised a company of volunteers in Troy and was commissioned as a captain in the 13<sup>th</sup> Infantry. He was severely wounded at the battle of Queenstown and was promoted a major in 1813. He was made colonel and inspector-general of the army on April 29, 1816 and maintained this grade for many years. On June 1841, he was made brigadier general and had illustrious military service in the War with Mexico. From 1848 to 1853, he commanded the Eastern Military Division and from 1854 to 1857, he commanded the Department of the Pacific. He had some service in the Civil War but because of age and illness, he was retired from active service in 1863. He died in Troy, New York in 1869.

**ACQUISITION**

Donated by W. J. Holliday in 1951.

**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.

**PROCESSING**

The collection was processed around 1980; the finding aid was completed by Riva Dean, Library/Archives Co-Manager in May 1997.