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**ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

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**MS 0231  
DUFFEN, WILLIAM A.  
Papers, 1877-1961**

**DESCRIPTION**

Collection consists of five distinct sections unrelated to each other. Correspondence is present with business associates of S. D. Gromer relating to mines, mining equipment, and real estate purchases in 1916-1917. Correspondence is also present for John J. O'Dowd as chairman for the county National Recovery Act for 1933 and deals with compliance to NRS codes and guidelines on wages, hours, and prices. Student manuscripts and handbooks reflect William A. Duffen's teacher experience at Catalina High School, 1955-1961. An additional folder contains campaign posters, voting ballots, and literature of Duffen's unsuccessful 1950 election campaign. Finally, story manuscripts by W. S. Bartlett highlight his years in western Texas and New Mexico as a frontier cowboy and Army scout. The final series contains material collected by Duffen including Jacobs banking materials from 1877-1880.

4 Boxes 2 linear feet

**ACQUISITION**

Gift from William A. Duffen between 1956 and 1961.

**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, Archives Department.

**PROCESSING**

The collection was originally processed at the Historical Society and reviewed in 1999 by William Tackenberg.

**ARRANGEMENT**

Five Series: 1/Duffen Materials, 1950-1961, 2/Gromer Correspondence, 1916-1917, 3/National Recovery Board, 1933, 4/Bartlett Materials, 1924/1939, 5/Handwritten draft manuscripts, 6/Materials collected by Duffen, 1877-1945

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

William A. Duffen came to Arizona in 1932 and received a degree from the University of Arizona in 1935. He later completed a Masters degree in Anthropology in 1936. By 1940 Duffen moved to Baltimore, Maryland and worked for the Glenn L. Martin Aircraft Company until 1945. Returning to Tucson he taught school at Catalina High School until his retirement in 1974. In 1950 Duffen ran unsuccessfully for a U.S. Representative seat from Arizona.

William S. Bartlett was a Confederate veteran and Texas Indian fighter and lived in Tucson since 1896. Bartlett was born in 1851 at Lovington, VA and was a direct descendant of Josiah Bartlett of New Hampshire, signer of the Declaration of independence. During the Civil War he carried Confederate dispatches for Gen. Robert E. Lee and after Appomattox went to school at Princeton University. He moved to western Texas and carried dispatches, and performing scouting duties for the Army. Bartlett lived in Texas until 1888 when he moved to New Mexico and settled in Hermosa. Writing stories about his exciting live on the frontier Bartlett published in 1937, *My Foot's In the Stirrup.*” He died Mar. 8, 1938.

John J. O’Dowd was a prominent business and civic leader of Tucson for over fifty years. O’Dowd was born in Chillicothe, MO and after schooling moved his family to Tucson in 1910. Initially he worked with the Southern Pacific Railroad and Arizona Eastern Railroad until 1916. After leaving the railroads O’Dowd worked in a law office and was admitted to the Arizona State Bar Association in 1924. He founded the Tucson Title Insurance Co. in 1920. He was a charter member of the Sunshine Climate Club and served as its president in 1933 and 1934. In 1934 he was president of the Arizona State Chamber of Commerce. O’Dowd was also affiliated with Home Owners Loan Corp. and county director for the National Recovery Act. From 1946 to 1964 he was a member of the Tucson Gas and Electric board of directors and for many years served with other civic and community organizations. He died October 24, 1971.

S. D. Gromer was a bookkeeper for the Tucson Realty and Trust Bank of Tucson until 1923 when his name disappears from the Tucson city directories. From the documents of the collection he maintained interests in mining property and assisted others in the procurement of businesses and mining equipment.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection is really a composite of five parts, none of which relate to each other. The first ten folders deal directly with William Duffen with two manuscripts written by him on the Earp-Clanton gun fight in Tombstone and a paper dealing with mines and mining operations in New Spain. The remaining folders reflect Duffen's teaching at Catalina High School with student papers on aspects of Arizona history and school handbooks for 1955-1956. One folder contains campaign materials from his 1950 unsuccessful election attempt for U.S. House of Representatives.

The remainder of the collection consists of materials, probably collected by Duffen, on several individuals relating to Arizona history. Correspondence of S. D. Gromer concerns activities associated with mining interests and real estate in 1916-1917. Discussion centers around procurement of earth-moving equipment for the mines including the use of steam shovels, "rock plow scrapers," drag line scrapers, and an "excavating machine" some of which were ordered from Fulton Engine Works of San Francisco. Correspondents include the New Venture Gold Placer Mining Co. of Tucson, J. L. McDowell of Cripple Creek, Colorado, and Alfred Elliott near Casa Grande.

Correspondence of John J. O'Dowd reflects the six month period of 1933 when he functioned as the chairman of the Pima County National Recovery Act coordinator. The majority of the correspondence entails letters to local businesses and higher NRA officers in attempting to coordinate prices, wages, and work hours in the community. Principal trouble areas for the NRA program reflected in the correspondence include Standard Oil Company, local barbers, and restaurant owners of the city.

Manuscripts of W. S. Bartlett are present in both draft and typed papers. The handwritten manuscripts are very difficult to read but may reflect drafts for his later book, *My Foot's in the Stirrup* published in 1937. Stories reflect frontier life on the Texas-New Mexico plains where Bartlett functioned as cowboy and chief of scouts for the U.S. Army. All typed documents are undated and are carbon copies.

The final series contains materials collected by Duffen. One folder of banking materials from the Jacobs family lists names of accounts. One list from 1877 lists all accounts which lists 356 names of account holders. The other is a "List of Balances. Agency Pima County Bank, Tombstone October 15/1880." Another folder contains the music of David Murdock, a Tucsonan killed during World War II. The final folder of this series contains information on the Broadmoor and Prince subdivisions in Tucson, including maps, lots and the original deed restrictions.

## BOX AND FOLDER LIST

### Box 1

#### Series 1: Duffen Materials, 1950-1961

- Folder 1: Tucson Public School Handbooks, 1955-1956
- f. 2 Catalina High School Junior Historian's Club, 1960
- f. 3-7 Catalina High School History Papers, 1958-1961
- f. 8 Manuscript #1: "Notes on the Earp-Clanton Feud," N.D.
- f.9 Manuscript #2: "Observations on Mines and Mining in New Spain with Special Reference to Chihuahua and Sonora" N.D.
- f.10 Campaign for U.S. House of Representatives, 1950

#### Series 2: Gromer Correspondence, 1916-1917

- f.11-12 Correspondence, 1916-1917

### Box 2

- f. 13 Correspondence, 1916-1917

#### Series 3: National Recovery Board, 1933

- f. 14 Correspondence Primarily of J. J. O'Dowd, Aug-Dec 1933

#### Series 4: Bartlett Materials, 1924/1939

- f. 15 Bartlett Biographical Materials
- f. 16 Railroad Bills of Lading from Bartlett, 1924
- f.17 Manuscript #1: "Lost Children" (Broadcast on KVOA Radio), 1939
- f.18 Manuscript #2: "The Strike at the Iron Mine and Smelter"
- f.19 Manuscript #3: "El Rio"
- f.20 Manuscript #4: "Tucson" N.D.
- f.21 Manuscript #5: "The Mayos" N.D.
- f.22 Manuscript #6: "The Great Southwest" N.D.
- f.23 Manuscript #7: "How Tom Martin Won His Bride" N.D.
- f.24 Manuscript #8: "The Great Southwest" N.D.
- f.25 Manuscript #9: Rescue of Goodwin Children N.D.
- f.26 Manuscript #10: Poem – "The Panhandle Puncher" N.D.
- f.27 Manuscript #11: Story of W.S. Bartlett as Chief of Scouts (Incomplete manuscript)
- f.28 Manuscript #12: Bronco Billy on Trip to El Paso N.D.
- f.29 Manuscript #13: Cowboy Adventures in Texas N.D.
- f.30 Manuscript #14: Autobiography by W.S. Bartlett N.D.
- f.31 Manuscript #15: Poem – "When the World Was In the Making"

**Series 5: Hand-Written Draft Manuscripts (No Author Identified but Believed to Belong to Bartlett), N.D.**

- f.32 Manuscript #1 Broncho Billy in Texas – 1860s
- f.33 Manuscript #2 Activities as Army Scout

**Box 3**

- f.34 Manuscript #3 “The Clear Fork of the Brazos”
- f.34 Manuscript #4 (Many Missing Pages) Cattle Ranching on Robert’s Ranch
- f.35 Manuscript #5 Lee Family History (Incomplete Manuscript)
- f.36 Manuscript #6 “The Ghost of the Old Spanish Mine”
- f.37 Manuscript #6A “The Ghost of the Old Spanish Mine”
- f.38 Manuscript #7 Cowboy Life in Texas
- f.39 Manuscript #8 (Missing Pages) Broncho Billy Settles in Texas

**Box 4**

- f.40 Manuscript #9 History in Southern Arizona
- f.41 Manuscript #10 “The Old Stage Driver” (?)

**Series 5 : Materials Collected by Duffen, 1877-1945**

- f. 42 Jacobs Banking material, 1877-1880
- f. 43 Music of David Murdock, 1945
- f. 44 Tucson Subdivision Papers, 1945