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**MS 238  
EARP FAMILY  
PAPERS, 1879-1991****DESCRIPTION**

This collection consists chiefly of published articles but also some correspondence and legal documents dealing with the Earp family members and events in Tombstone, AZ. in the early 1880s. There is biographical information on Wyatt, Morgan, Warren, and Virgil Earp along with family descendants.

1 Box, .5 linear feet

**ACQUISITION**

No identified provenance for this collection is known. However it appears that different individuals have contributed various portions including Ken Hufford and Philip J. Rasch.

**ACCESS**

Original restricted; photocopy and translation available for patron use.

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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**

The collection was originally processed at the Historical Society and reviewed by William Tackenberg under the supervision of Riva Dean in November 1997.

**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

Wyatt Berry Stapp Earp (Mar. 19, 1848 – Jan. 13, 1929) was born at Monmouth, Illinois and moved extensively with his parent's family in the Midwest and West Coast. In 1875 he was named to the police force in Wichita, Kansas and by 1876 joining to Dodge City police force as a deputy city marshal. In 1879 he left Dodge for Las Vegas, New Mexico and on to Tombstone, Arizona. October 15, 1881 was his first confirmed law enforcement position in Tombstone. Along with his brothers Virgil, Morgan, and Doc Holliday he participated in the OK Corral shootout on October 26, 1881, killing Tom and Frank McLaury and Billy Clanton. Virgil Earp was seriously wounded December 28 and Morgan was killed from ambush March 18, 1882. The Earp party left Arizona in April journeying to Colorado, Oklahoma, and Oakland California. Wyatt Earp participated in the Klondike gold rush in 1898, settled in Los Angeles in 1906, and died there in 1929.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

This collection consists chiefly of magazine and newspaper articles about the Earps as well as photocopies of correspondence, a few legal documents, and a typescript of a musical. There are photocopies of correspondence, 1920-1929, between Wyatt Earp, William S. Hart and John H. Flood about Flood's manuscript of Wyatt Earp's reminiscences. The originals of these letters can be found in the William S. Hart papers at the Seaver Center, Natural History Museum of Los Angeles.

There are three original legal documents in the collection; two documents relate to Virgil Earp as Chief of Police and concern an application of W.P. Shrewsbury for a writ of habeas corpus. The original is an affidavit by James Earp that he saw John Ringo, an escaped prisoner, in January 1882. There is also a 1971 typescript entitled "Earp! A Musical Play in Two Acts" by Norman J. Fedder. The remainder of the collection is published articles about the Earps.