
ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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MS 1090
Forsyth family
Papers, 1867-1989 (bulk 1885-1965)

DESCRIPTION

Correspondence, military discharge and appointment documents, reminiscences, family history, research materials, and photographs document the Forsyth and Wylie families in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and Nacozari, Mexico, including family members' military service in the Indian Wars and with the Rough Riders.

7 boxes, 5.5 linear ft.

Rare: 1 box, .25 linear ft.

ACQUISITION

Jean Hughes, daughter of Harvey Forsyth, donated the collection in July 1991.

TRANSFERS

Two panoramas, of Ft. Bayard and Santa Rita, N.M., were transferred to the Panorama Collection.

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 processed by Kim Frontz, January 1998.

ARRANGEMENT

The collection is arranged in four series: Wylie family papers, 1884-1969. Forsyth family papers, 1869-1989. Research materials, 1912-1984. Photographs, 1867-1979.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

John Wylie was born in Fayetteville, Indiana in 1856; he enlisted in the United States Army at the age of 16, served until 1890, and returned in 1898 to serve as a member of Roosevelt's Rough Riders in the Spanish-American War. In 1891, he married Buelah Rolshouse, daughter of Jane "Jennie" Forsyth and Robert Rolshouse. John and Buelah Wylie had one

son, Howard W. Wylie. John Wylie served three terms as Arizona State Representative and two terms as State Senator from Cochise County in the 1920s. He died in 1932.

Howard Wilson Wylie was born in 1893 in Louisiana, the son of John and Buelah Wylie. He worked as office manager, auditor, and purchasing agent for various mining companies and the federal government. He served with the American Red Cross during World War I. From 1921 to 1925, he worked for the Moctezuma Copper Company in Nacozari, Sonora, Mexico. Howard married Ruth Pelton in 1923, and was an active member of the Elks in Phoenix, Arizona until his death in 1969.

Thomas Hall Forsyth was born in 1843, the son of Thomas Hall and Isabella Forsyth. He had one sister, Jane "Jennie" Forsyth Rolshouse. Thomas served as a drummer boy in the Civil War, then enlisted in Troop M, Fourth Cavalry and was later appointed Commissary Sergeant. In November 1876, he was wounded in an engagement with the Sioux Indians and was awarded a Medal of Honor for that service. He married Mary Elizabeth Strickland in 1870 and they had eleven children, including George "Harvey" Alexander Forsyth. In 1900, he retired from the military and engaged in ranching near Silver City, New Mexico. He died in 1908.

Harvey Forsyth, son of Thomas and Mary Elizabeth Forsyth, was born in 1885. He served in the Spanish-American War. Upon his return, he attended A & M College, and was employed by the Santa Rita Mining Company. From 1909 to 1950, he worked for the Chino Mining Company in Santa Rita, New Mexico. He married Lillian Jackson and they had three children, including Jean Forsyth Hughes who collected these materials. Harvey served on the Santa Rita School Board, the State Budget Commission, and the New Mexico Board of Regents. He died in 1971.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Correspondence, research materials, military appointments and discharge documents, family history, reminiscences, and photographs concerning the Forsyth and Wylie families, family member's military service, New Mexico forts, and the Mission Library in Tucson, Ariz. The materials relating to John Wylie encompass military documents including his discharge from service with the Rough Riders, soldier's handbooks (1884 and 1890) which list the equipment and clothing he was issued, and personal and biographical material. There is a photograph of John Wylie as State Senator in 1925, and a photograph of a Rough Riders reunion dinner about 1922. Howard Wylie's materials include biographical material in addition to photographs of family, friends, and Douglas, Arizona (1910-1930), Nacozari, Sonora, Mexico (1920s), and annual group photographs of the Phoenix Elks Lodge (1952-1967).

The papers of Thomas Forsyth are chiefly related to his military service and include testimonials for him from various army officers; reminiscences of a hunt with Jim Bridger and their encounter with Lakota Indians; a poem about Gen. Custer; and photographs of soldiers and their families at Fort Davis about 1900. There are also reminiscences from his wife, Mary Elizabeth. Materials of Harvey Forsyth focus on Fort Bayard, N.M. and Santa Rita, N.M. including photographs of baseball teams, mining operations, and town views. Correspondence about Bear Moore and Ben Lilly includes letters from J. Frank Dobie about a related story. Also present is research on New Mexico forts and Ft. Bowie and Ft. Huachuca, Arizona, and reports on the development of the Mission Library in Tucson, Ariz.

There is also a pencil drawing of Fort Lyons, Colorado, 1867 (f.68). Other photographs include daguerreotypes, tintypes and other images of family members.

BOX AND FOLDER LIST

SERIES 1: Wylie family papers, 1884-1969

Box 1

John B. Wylie

- f.1 Biographical, 1923-1969
- f.2 Military documents, 1885-1921
- f.3 Soldier's handbooks, 1884, 1890
- f.4 Personal misc., 1882-1914
- f.5 Memberships, 1889-1890
- f.6 Buelah Rolshouse Wylie – Personal misc., 1891-1930

Howard W. Wylie

- f.7 Biographical, 1917-1958
- f.8 Memberships, 1920-1969
- f.9 Notary record book, 1949-1951
- f.10 Personal misc., 1896-1955

SERIES 2: Forsyth family papers, 1869-1989

Thomas H. Forsyth

- f.11 Biographical, 1907-1926
- f.12 Military papers, 1869-1894
- f.13 Military papers (photocopies from National Archives), 1907
- f.14 Military – Testimonials for appt. to Commissary Sergeant, c.1880
- f.15 Military – Testimonials for Medal of Honor, 1876-1891
- f.16 Memberships, 1886-1894
- f.17 Reminiscences and poetry, 1885-1890

Box 2

Thomas H. Forsyth (Continued)

- f.18 Articles about his military service, 1930-1989
- f.19 Reminiscences of Beth Freckman Roosa, 1958
- f.20 Mary Elizabeth Strickland – Personal misc., 1908-1934

Harvey Forsyth

- f.21 Biographical, 1929-1972
- f.22 Correspondence and business records, 1906-1963
- f.23 Reminiscences, ca. 1950s
- f.24 Notes from reminiscences and speeches, ca. 1940-1950
- f.25 Memberships, 1922-1972
- f.26 Printed materials – biographical, 1951-1959
- f.27 Printed materials – Fort Bayard, N.M., 1923-1971
- f.28 Lillian Forsyth – Personal misc., 1961-1972

SERIES 3: Research materials, 1912-1984

Box 2 (continued)

- f.29 Correspondence, 1948-1969
- f.30 Correspondence re: Bear Moore and Ben Lilly, 1940-1964

Box 3

Research materials (Continued)

- f.31 Genealogy charts and documents, ca. 1960s
- f.32 Genealogy – Strickland family, ca. 1960s
- f.33 Photostats of Registers of Enlistment's, 1969
- f.34 Extracts of reminiscences re: Victorio, Apache Chief, 1880, ca. 1931
- f.35 Article re: Forsyth of Belhelvie, 1912
- f.36 Research on Col. George A. Forsyth (no relation), 1961-1973
- f.37 Research on Sioux Wars of 1876, Wyoming, 1956-1957
- f.38 Research on Ft. Bowie and Ft. Huachuca, Ariz., 1958-1972
- f.39 Fort Davis, Tex. historic site designation, 1963-1966
- f.40 Fort Davis, Tex. family reunion, 1966
- f.41 Forts of New Mexico – General, 1958-1964
- f.42 Forts (New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma), 1945-1958
- f.43 Santa Rita, New Mexico historical sketch, ca. 1960s
- f.44 Mission Branch Library Development, Tucson, 1974-1984

SERIES 4: Photographs, ca. 1850-1979

Box 4

Family video – Forsyth memorial or funeral

Photographs

- f.45 Rolshouse, Jennie Forsyth and Robert, 1860s-1930
- f.46 Wylie, Buelah Forsyth, 1890-1939
- f.47 Wylie, John B., 1891-1925
- f.48 Wylie, Howard W. – Childhood and youth, 1892-1920s
- f.49 Wylie, Howard W. – Adulthood, 1930-1969
- f.50 Wylie, Howard W. – Photo album pages, part 1, ca. 1910-1930
- f.51 Wylie, Howard W. – Photo album pages, part 2, ca. 1910-1930
- f.52 Wylie, Howard W. – Photo album pages, part 3, ca. 1910-1930; family friends, Tennessee Military Institute
- f.53 Wylie, Howard W. – Photo album pages, part 4, ca. 1910-1930
Sonora, Mex.
- f.54 Wylie, Howard W. – Photo album pages, part 5, ca. 1910-1930

Box 5

Photographs

- f.55 Wylie, Howard W. – Elks meetings, 1952-1959
- f.56 Wylie, Howard W. – Elks meetings, 1960-1967
- f.57 Forsyth, Isabella, ca. 1850s
- f.58 Forsyth, Thomas, ca. 1870-1900
- f.59 Forsyth, Thomas family, ca. 1870-1960s
- f.60 Forsyth, Harvey, 1909-1969

- f.61 Forsyth, Harvey, Ft. Davis family reunion, 1963
- f.62 New Mexico towns, ca. 1890-1910
- f.63 Santa Rita, N.M. – Mines and mining (1), 1910-1930
- f.64 Santa Rita, N.M. – Mines and mining (2), 1910-1920s
- f.65 Fort Bayard, N.M., 1900-1922
- f.66 Fort Davis, Texas, 1880s-1963
- f.67 Unidentified military groups, ca. 1895-1905
- f.68 Misc., 1867-1940, (Incl. drawing of Ft. Lyons, Co.)
- f.69 Mission Library groundbreaking ceremony, Tucson, ca. 1974

Box 6

Photograph albums

- Album #1 Wylie, Howard– Family, friends, and Douglas, Ariz., 1910s-1920s
- Album #2 Wylie, Howard – Family and friends, 1920s
- Album #3 Wylie, Howard – Family, friends and Nacozari, Mexico, 1920s

Box 7

Oversize materials

Forsyth, Thomas (Oversize)

- f.70 Military appointments (oversize)

Photographs (Oversize)

- f.71 Co. K, 12th Infantry, Ft. Bliss, 1903
- f.72 Santa Rita (N.M.) – Mining and town views