
ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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MS 444

**Loring, George Edwin (1854-1932)
Papers, 1875-1961 (bulk: 1875-1878)**

DESCRIPTION

In 1876, George E. Loring traveled from Boston, Massachusetts to Arizona with the Boston Party and the Arizona Colonization Company. He settled in Phoenix where he worked as an Indian Trader, Wells Fargo and Co. agent, and watchmaker. His letters to his family from his trip to Arizona (including stage stations in Colorado, New Mexico and Arizona) and from Prescott, Yuma, Maricopa Wells, Tucson and Phoenix describe conditions in 1876-1878. Also includes manuscripts concerning Arizona Pioneers collected by George's son, Madison.

1 Box, .5 linear ft.

ACQUISITION

Donated by Madison and Gladys Loring from 1955 to 1970.

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 preliminarily processed by Todd Mills in 1979; the finding aid was completed in May 1999 by Riva Dean.

ARRANGEMENT

By Format

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

George Edwin Loring (1854-1932) was a watchmaker by trade and came to Arizona in February 1876 with the Arizona Colonization Company. The Arizona Colonization Company was formed in Boston following a series of newspaper articles in the Boston newspapers gathered together a group of young men to migrate to Arizona. After leaving Boston in early 1876, the group took the railroad to La Junta, Colorado and from there they traveled by mule team through Southern Colorado, Northern New Mexico and Northeastern Arizona. The stopping point of the party was Flagstaff, which they established, but stayed as a group for only a short period of time before disbanding and going their separate ways. Loring went to Prescott and from there to Phoenix where he settled. His wife and baby joined him in September 1876 and he remained in business in Phoenix for about forty years, engaging in watch repair, Wells-Fargo Express Agent, and Indian Basket & Pottery Dealer (among other occupations).

Madison R. Loring (1878-1964), George's son, was born in Phoenix and was the first Phoenix native to graduate from Phoenix High School. He later served as postmaster of Prescott, before moving to Los Angeles, where he was employed by the Internal Revenue Service.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The significant portion of the collection are the letters written by George Loring from Arizona back to his family in Massachusetts. His letters provide a good description of the Arizona Colonization Company from the viewpoint of one of the young men on his way to Arizona for a new experience. Included are letters George Loring received from his brother Frank, his parents, and his wife, Aggie. The letters are significant for their long descriptions of travel conditions along the way to Arizona, as well as conditions in various cities, including Phoenix. His descriptions of Arizona include the physical conditions as well as social and business activities. He describes doing business in Phoenix and Florence.

The collection was donated by Madison Loring and his wife, Gladys, who added comments in pencil on the original letters. Included in the collection are biographical sketches written by Madison Loring on Arizona pioneers. Apparently, when the biographical materials originally came in, some were added to the collection and others were scattered into AHS biographical files. There is no full listing for those files. Some correspondence between Madison Loring and the Historical Society that had been placed in the collection was transferred to AHS archives in 1979.

BOX AND FOLDER LIST

Box 1

- f. 1-5 Correspondence, 1875-1878
- f. 6 Transcripts of Correspondence
- f. 7 Miscellany
- f. 8 Transcripts of Boston Newspaper articles on Arizona Colony, 1875-76
- f. 9 Biography: Daisy Belle Clifford
- f. 10 Biography: Rufus Farrington
- f. 11 Biography: Ida Fitzgerald
- f. 12 Ida Fitzgerald: Biography of Plummer Jefferis
- f. 13 Biography: Earle R. Forest
- f. 14 Biography: Daniel Hatz
- f. 15 Biography: Frederick Loring
- f. 16 Biography: George Loring
- f. 17 Biography: Maude Ludlow
- f. 18 Biography: Neil B. McCarthy
- f. 19 Biography: Fred C. Moore
- f. 20 Biography: J. M. W. Moore
- f. 21 Ralph Murphy "I Was There When the Fort Was Built"
- f. 22 Biography: William John Murphy
- f. 23 John Sweeney, "History of Phoenix School System," 1872-1937
- f. 24 Biography: Oscar Wager
- f. 25 Biography: John W. Wentworth
- f. 26 Biography: Bernard Zachau
- f. 27 Certificates from Harvard College for Frederick Loring (copies), 1876