

TITLE: Donald and Bessie MacNeil collection

DATE RANGE: 1882-1894

CALL NUMBER: MS 1039

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: .5 linear ft. (1 box)

PROVENANCE: Donated by Ruth Barton, granddaughter of the Macneils, in 1991.

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CREDIT LINE: Macneil collection, MS 1039, Arizona Historical Society-Tucson

PROCESSED BY: Rose Byrne in December 1991.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE: Donald and Bessie Macneil were married in Tombstone on March 5, 1884 at the home of Bessie's parents, Adela C. Pridham and George R. Pridham. Donald was of high social standing and employed by one of Tombstone's most solid firms.

The Macneils moved to Los Angeles, California soon after their marriage, and may have returned to Tombstone a few years later.

The Cochise Hardware & Trading Company may have been the successor to earlier general merchandise stores in Tombstone. The 1883-1884 Arizona Business Directory lists Tasker, Pridham & Company, a general merchandise store on Fifth and Allen. The 1884 Gazetteer and Business Directory lists a general store under the name Pridham, Macneil, and Moore. A personal card of Donald's lists Macneil, Moore & Company in Tombstone. The 1905-1906 Arizona Business Directory lists none of these business names, including Cochise Hardware & Trading Company.

According to her granddaughter, Bessie was the writer of a letter to the Tombstone Prospector in 1893 signed only "non-suffragist." In it she argues that women have enough work to do and should be able to depend on their husbands and sons to enact good laws, adding that voting rights would bring with it other responsibilities, from running for office to jury duty, which would unduly add to women's already considerable burdens.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE: This collection contains personal and business material of Donald and Bessie MacNeil, arranged in five series.

Series I: Personal Correspondence, consists of one folder of letters between Bessie and Donald before their marriage.

Series II: Business Correspondence, consists of one folder of incoming letters to Donald Macneil concerning the Cochise Hardware & Trading Company in Tombstone. Macneil was a large stockholder in the company, living in Los Angeles at least between 1888 and 1890. Business associates write him about general business conditions, sale of stocks, and the physical

condition of the store building. Correspondents include Frank Moore, J.V. Vickers, C.W. Blinn, R.L. Craig, Perry Wildman, F.C. Howes and F.B. Alderson.

Series III: Personal Financial Records, consists of one folder of photocopies of life insurance policies and receipts taken out by Donald Macneil with Bessie Macneil as beneficiary.

Series IV: Business Financial Records, consists of three folders all concerning the Cochise Hardware and Trading Company. Includes Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, stock certificates, ledger sheets, and a declaration of merchandise sold to Co. Admor de la Aduana in Sonora, Mexico.

Series V: Printed Material, consists of five folders including the Macneil’s marriage certificate, dance cards and invitations, newspaper clippings, and photographs of the Cochise Hardware & Trading Company and portraits of the Macneils.

CONTAINER LIST:

Box	Folder	Description	Dates
1	1	Series I: Personal Correspondence - Bessie and Donald Macneil letters (33 items)	1882-1883
	2	Series II: Business Correspondence - Letters (38 items)	1888-1890
	3	Series III: Personal Financial Records - Life insurance policies and receipts (photocopies)	1885-1890
	4	Series IV: Business Financial Records - Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, stock certificates	1884-1887
	5	Ledger sheets	1888-1894
	6	Declaration of merchandise to Sonora Mining Company (in Spanish)	1888
	7	Series V: Printed Material - Marriage certificate of Donald and Bessie Macneil	1884
	8	Dance cards, invitations, postcard drawing of store	ca. 1884
	9	Newspaper clippings, party and wedding announcements, “Non-suffragist” letter by Bessie Macneil	1884, 1893
	10	Miscellaneous envelopes	1888-1890
	11	Photographs, portrait of Donald Macneil, Cochise Hardware and Trading Company exterior	ca. 1930s, 1888