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**ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

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**MS 0013**  
**Allison family**  
**Papers, 1875-1968**

## **DESCRIPTION**

This collection pertains to the activities of the Allison family in Southern Arizona from 1875 to 1968. The Allison family had a number of businesses, including a land development business and a mining company. The collection is particularly valuable for its information on water rights and water use in the Santa Cruz Valley.

2 Boxes, 1 linear ft.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

The collection consists of two boxes of manuscript material arranged in series with series one consisting of miscellaneous business correspondence to and from the Allison Brothers, George Allison and Frank and Warren Allison. The letters relate primarily to water rights in the Santa Cruz Valley, the Tom Reed Gold Mine, the Allison Mining Company, Allison family life at Salero Camp and the Fox Theater. Series two consists of legal documents including contracts, mining claims, property records, water rights location notices, and family records. Financial records, including tax records, a customer account ledger, bills and receipts constitute series three. Series four contains a manuscript by Warren Allison, a biographical sketch by George Allison and additional biographical materials, printed material such as clippings, a program of the Silver Jubilee of Catholic Bishop Daniel J. Gercke, and a share of stock in the Saturday Morning Musical Club. One map is also present.

## **ACQUISITION**

Unknown.

## **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 the staff of the Arizona Historical Society. It was updated by Nancy Siner in March 2009.

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

In 1874 George Allison brought his wife, Mary Jane, their sons, Warren, Frank, Julius and Charles, and a daughter, Kate, with 5000 head of sheep from California to Arizona. They ferried across the Colorado River at Yuma and traveled up the Gila to Tucson, arriving there in late February 1875. By March they had moved south to Calabazas where they bought land and built an adobe house at the junction of the Sonoita and Santa Cruz Rivers. They also built a general store which served the mining camps of Lochiel, Harshaw, Washington Camp and Mowry. They did well for a few years, then the sheep business failed and Julius and Charles Allison both died in a malaria epidemic. The family then moved, first to the mining camp of Salero where they again opened a general store, then to Mowry Camp, then to Harshaw where they opened a butcher shop. From Harshaw they moved to Tucson where, in 1881, they opened a store on Convent, and soon after, another one on Court.

After settling in Tucson, the family began to deal in real estate in and around Tucson. They acquired water rights, opened canals and developed land for agricultural and business use. Warren Allison located 500 acres of land, dug a canal, built a flour mill and called it Flowing Wells Ranch, now a part of the city of Tucson. Later, he obtained right-of-way to bring a canal across Indian land to extend their farming operations with the Valley Ranch. On these two ranches the Allison's raised thousands of tons of alfalfa, hay, watermelons, and cantaloupes. After selling the ranches, the Allison brother formed the Allison Mining Company, which eventually became part of the Tom Reed Company. Frank Allison married Nellie Fryer from Patagonia. They had no children. Warren Allison married Francesca Suastegui of Ures, Sonora. Francesca died in 1918, Warren in 1940. Frank died in Tucson in 1944, his wife Nellie in 1956.

## Box and Folder Listing

### Box 1

#### Series 1: Correspondence, Incoming and Outgoing, 1898-1935

- f.1 Letters from wholesale lumber dealers, 1898-1899  
Miscellaneous business correspondence received  
Letter regarding claims of the City of Tucson to water rights on Allison land, 1905  
Notification that water right has been filed and recorded, 1916
- f.2 Miscellaneous business correspondence received, 1904-1923  
Letter regarding land and water rights along Santa Cruz River and near Tohono O'odham Reservation, 1904  
Letter regarding purchases of land and water rights in Tucson, 1912  
Letters regarding production reports of the Tom Reed Mine, 1927  
Letter regarding purchase of land from Merced and Flores, 1923
- f.3 Letters from Frank Allison to his nieces, Hilda Allison Kinney, Julia Allison Ripley, and Mrs. Frances Thompson, mostly regarding property management, including that of the Fox Theater, 1933-1935
- f.4 Letter describing the Allison family business and living conditions at Salero Camp  
Letter regarding membership in the Arizona Pioneer Historical Society, 1933
- f.5 Letter regarding lease of unidentified building, 1929  
Letter regarding lease on property, northwest corner of Stone and Congress, 1952
- f.6 Letters to Hilda Allison Kinney from lawyers and CPAs regarding Allison owned property leased by Diamos, 1952-1968
- f.7 Letters to and from Juan Corrales in Spanish, c. 1888-1889

#### Series 2: Legal documents, 1870-1967

- f.8 Contract between Frank and Warren Allison not to co-sign or endorse notes while their partner ship existed
- f.9 Mining claims, Fresno Mining District, 1902-1923
- f.10 Mining claims, Papago Indian Reservation claim null and void, 1962
- f.11 Mining deeds from Baboquivari and Coyote Mining Districts; notice of assessment work, Coyote Mining District; prospectus, Gold Bar Mining Company, 1909-1941
- f.12 Property records, Allison/Carrillo agreements, leases, deeds, 1870-1913
- f.13 Property records, Allison/Diamos leases, sales contracts, 1919-1955
- f.14 Property records, Indian land, conveyances at San Xavier, 1908-1911
- f.15 Property records, Miscellaneous agreements, sales, deeds, 1891-1971
- f.16 Water rights location notices: Fresno Mining District, 1895; Allison Canal, 1915
- f.17 Water rights location notices, quit claim deed for Santa Cruz River, 1895-1923
- f.18 Affidavits concerning the history of the Tucson Water Company
- f.19 Allison family records: certificates of birth, baptism, marriage, death and burial
- f.20 Allison family papers: insurance policies (fire, life, auto, liability), 1958-1972
- f.21 Inventory of the estate of Francesca Allison
- f.22 Inventory of household goods at the sale of the Warren Allison home
- f.23 Specifications of material and labor for construction of Allison family dwelling
- f.24 Authentication of Burato shawl donated to AHS; copy of AHS gift acknowledgement, 1958; 1967

**Box 2****Series 3: Financial and tax documents, 1895-1987**

- f.25 Customer accounts ledger, 1902-1911
- f.26 Family tax records, 1909-1968
- f.27 Allison family mortgage payment records, 1966-1969
- f.28 Miscellaneous bank forms, notice of stockholder's meeting, 1912-1961
- f.29 Bills and receipts, 1895-1987

**Series 4: Biographical and printed material**

- f.30 "Pioneer Days in Arizona," a manuscript by Warren Allison  
Biographical sketch by George Allison  
Copies of Plaza of the Pioneers biographical forms as told to Elvira Odom
- f.31 Program of the Silver Jubilee of Daniel J. Gercke, Bishop of Tucson, 1926  
Share of stock in the Saturday Morning Musical Club, 1953  
Diploma, Hilda Allison, 1928  
Clippings about the Allison mine from the Tucson Citizen, June 16, 1972, and the  
Southern Arizona Bank, n.d.
- f.32 Maps, hand drawn, T14S R13E
- f.33 Miscellaneous lists in ledger book