
ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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MS 0068

Benedict, Albert Case, 1830-1880

Papers, 1863-1897

DESCRIPTION

Letters, deeds, mining location notices, and an account book relating to Benedict's activities in mining, ranching, and as Pima County Treasurer and Territorial Auditor, chiefly 1863-1880.

1 box, .5 linear ft.

ACQUISITION

Unknown.

ACCESS

There are no restrictions on this collection.

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PROCESSING

The collection was reviewed by William Tackenberg under the supervision of Riva Dean, Library/Archives in October 1997.

ARRANGEMENT

Chronological.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

A member of the Joseph R. Walker expedition to central Arizona in 1863, Benedict later worked as a miner, expressman, proprietor of Tucson's Buckley House hotel, rancher, U.S. Customs Inspector, Pima County Treasurer, 1873 to 1874, Territorial Auditor, 1873 to 1875, and postmaster of the Monument post office, 1876 to 1880. The Walker party was suspected of Confederate activity, therefore Gen. James H. Carleton arranged for Benedict to accompany the expedition and report on their activities.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Letters, a few deeds and mining location notices, and a Territorial Auditor account book are present mostly concerning the Walker prospecting party, Benedict's ranches near Sahuarita and Calabasas, Arizona, postal business, family news, and letters from business associates about mining, Apache Indians, and business transactions. The account book contains expenditures of Arizona Territory for the period 1873 to 1876.

Highlights include letters from Benedict to his cousin, Judge Kirby Benedict of Santa Fe, N.M. regarding the gold discoveries of the Walker Party. Also a letter from Francis H. Goodwin asks for information about an Apache-Papago battle and mentions mining and politics. Letters from John W. Read relate a difficult journey and the need for a notary public at Camp Bowie; and letters from Ed Vanderlip concern the market for butcher cattle in 1879.

There is a document giving Benedict power of attorney to register mining claims in Arizona for James H. Carleton, 1865. A few letters to James Benedict relate to the estate of Pete Kitchen (f.12, 41, 43). James was adopted by Pete and Rosa Kitchen following Albert Benedict's death. Other correspondents include Thomas Childs, R.C. McCormick, Sam Hughes, Hezekiah Brooks, and James A. Moore. Many of the correspondents mention Indian troubles.

There are letters directed to Benedict as County Treasurer transmitting fines or relating to a tax levy (f. 15, 21, 23, 28). Other letters relate to postal business including mail tampering, a mail schedule, a response to a bid for a mail contract, a response about the suitability of the location of the Maricopa Wells post office and stage station, and a letter about keys to the mail bags (f. 5, 7, 18, 19, 24, 30).