
ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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MS 78

**BLAKE, WILLIAM PHIPPS, 1826-1910
PAPERS, 1847-1910**

DESCRIPTION

The bulk of the collection contains 320 diaries kept by William Phipps Blake from 1850 to 1910. The diaries document Blake's extensive travels and scientific work throughout the United States and Europe, especially Arizona and the Southwest, including the Pacific railroad expedition of 1853. Contains many pencil and ink sketches. Accompanied by some correspondence, last will and other material.

4 Boxes, 3.5 linear feet

ACQUISITION

Donated by Dr. Joseph H. Blake in 1935.

ACCESS

Use microfilm 633.1-633.5.

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Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be addressed to the Arizona Historical Society, Tucson, Library/Archives Department.

PROCESSING

The collection was processed by John Selby in August 1979; the finding aid was completed by Riva Dean in September 1997.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

William Phipps Blake, geologist, mining engineer and educator, was born in New York in 1826. He graduated from Yale in 1853 with training in geology, chemistry and mineralogy. From 1853-1856, he joined the Williamson Party with the U. S. Army Corps of Topographical Engineers as a mineralogist-geologist to examine a route for the railroad from the Mississippi to the Pacific. From 1856 to 1859, he investigated the mining regions of North Carolina. From 1861-63, he was employed as a mining engineer by the Japanese government in the company of Raphael Pumpelly. He was appointed mineralogist of the California State Board of Agriculture and professor of mineralogy and geology at the College of California in Berkeley (later UC-Berkeley).

In 1867, he was appointed commissioner for California to the Paris Exposition and edited the six volumes of reports of the U. S. Commissioners. He worked as Chief of Scientific Corps of the U. S. to Santo Domingo and then as commissioner of the U. S. to the Vienna Exposition. He worked on numerous mining surveys through Europe and the West (including Arizona, Texas, New Mexico, California, Utah, Nevada and Montana). In 1895, he became professor of geology and mining at the University of Arizona. He was also Arizona Territorial mineralogist and geologist. He died in 1910.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The bulk of the collection consists of 320 diaries documenting Blake's travels and scientific work throughout the United States and Europe. The diaries have each been given a volume number (v. 1-320) and are arranged chronologically. There are also eight folders in box 4 containing business papers, correspondence, notes and printed material and one folder of manuscripts; the folders have been given volume numbers of 321-328.

Blake's diaries are mostly technical and cover the bearings of mines, technical surveys and assay reports. The description of mines often have drawings and technical illustrations. The diaries include detailed observations on mining ventures near Castle Dome, the Ehrenberg-La Paz freighting road, Vulture Mine, Tumacacori and San Xavier Missions, Ajo, Tombstone and Tucson. The diaries also cover Blake's observations and drawings on his travels.

Chronologically, the diaries cover travels in the following areas:

1847-53	Mid-Atlantic States, Southern States
1853-56	Pacific Railroad Expedition (California, Fort Yuma, etc.)
1857	Texas, New Mexico, Kansas
1858	New York, New Jersey
1859	New York, Massachusetts
1860	Connecticut, New York, Georgia
1861-63	California, Nevada
1864	California, Arizona (Castle Dome, La Paz)
1865	New York to Panama, California
1866	Sonora, California, Nevada
1867	Europe
1868-73	New York, Europe
1874	Utah, California
1875	New York
1877	Washington

1878-79	Colorado, Utah, Montana
1879-80	Arizona (Vulture Mine, Wickenburg), California, Utah
1882	Sonora, Arizona (Tombstone, Silver King)
1883	New York, Arizona, California
1884-86	California, Arizona, Montana, Utah
1887-89	Arizona, California, England
1890-91	Chicago, St. Louis, Mexico
1892-93	Colorado, Arizona, Canada
1894-95	New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Arizona (Tucson), Sonora, Wisconsin, California
1896	Arizona, Colorado
1900-1910	Primarily Arizona

BOX AND FOLDER LIST - Use Microfilm #633-1-633.5

Box 1	Vols. 1-85	Diaries, 1847-1867
Box 2	Vols. 86-195	Diaries, 1867-1886
Box 3	Vols. 196-295	Diaries, 1886-1906
Box 4	Vols. 296-320	Diaries, 1906-1913
Box 4		
Folders	Vol. 321	Business Papers, one photograph
	Vol. 322	Correspondence
	Vol. 323	Business Papers
	Vol. 324	Correspondence
	Vol. 325	Business Papers
	Vol. 326	Notes/Printed Material
	Vol. 327	Correspondence
	Vol. 328	Manuscripts