

**TITLE:** The Collection of George Adelbert Brown, 1851-1934

**DATE RANGE:** 1878-1896, 1929-1930

**CALL NUMBER:** MS 105

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 1 box, 0.15 cu. ft

**PROVENANCE:** The collection was donated to Arizona Historical Society by the Estate of George A. Brown in 1934.

**COPYRIGHT:** It is the responsibility of the researcher to determine copyright for all materials.

**RESTRICTIONS:** No restrictions.

**CREDIT LINE:** Arizona Historical Society, MS 105 – George Adelbert Brown Collection

**PROCESSED BY:** Unknown. Finding aid transcribed into electronic format by Mary Flynn in 2014.

**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE:** George Adelbert Brown was born in Norwich, New York in 1851. He had arrived in Arizona by 1870 and was listed in that year's Territorial Census as a saloon keeper in Adamsville. Brown moved to California in the early 1870's and worked for the American Express Company. He returned to Arizona in 1873 as a representative of the Arizona and New Mexico Express Company, a venture supported by Wells Fargo officials. The operation was unsuccessful and Wells Fargo absorbed the failed enterprise.

A mercantile firm owned by Joseph Collingwood was made the Florence representative for Wells Fargo in 1877. Brown was hired as agent in that year. He also worked for Collingwood as a clerk, stage line passenger agent and postal dispatcher.

George Adelbert Brown served as Wells Fargo agent in Florence until 1894. He died in 1934. A detailed biographical sketch of Brown may be found in John and Lillian Theobald, Wells Fargo in Arizona Territory (Tempe: The Arizona Historical Foundation, 1978), pp.127-128.

**SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE:** The collection consists of one box of manuscript material arranged in four series: (1) correspondence, 1878-1896; (2) circulars, 1878-1896; (3) legal documents, 1881-1894, 1930; and (4) manuscripts, 1929.

The collection relates to the life and career of George A. Brown. The contents provide valuable documentation of Wells Fargo's operation in the Southwest.

Series One, correspondence, 1878-1896, relates to George Brown's life and career in territorial Arizona. Personal letters to and from Sidney Randolph DeLong, first mayor of Tucson (1872) and later a member of the mercantile firm of Tully, Ochoa and Company, regard DeLong's default of a substantial debt owed to Brown. Business correspondence with officials of the Wells Fargo Company in San Francisco reflects the operations of the company in Arizona.

Series Two, circulars, 1878-1896, consists of posters, price lists and tariff notices. The posters contain information about rewards offered by the company, new personnel, money orders and shipments of merchandise. The price lists for poultry, produce, lumber and metals were designed to help California producers solicit orders from Arizona. Presumably, the advertised goods would be shipped to Arizona by Wells Fargo. The tariff notices list rates charged for shipment of currency, gold and silver.

Series Three, legal documents, 1881-1894, 1930, consists of contracts and agreements between Brown and Arizona and California businessmen and firms.

Series four, manuscripts, 1929, consists of a copy of a typescript entitled "Reminiscences of George A Brown" written by Edith S. Kitt.

#### **CONTAINER LIST:**

| <b>Box</b> | <b>Folder</b> | <b>Title</b>                       | <b>Dates</b>       |
|------------|---------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>1</b>   | 1             | Correspondence                     | 1878-1896          |
|            | 2             | Circulars                          | 1878-1896          |
|            | 3             | Legal Documents                    | 1883-1894,<br>1930 |
|            | 4             | "Reminiscences of George A. Brown" | 1929               |