

MS 115
John D. Burgess Collection
1911

DESCRIPTION

This small collection consists of two conflicting biographical sketches of Captain Burgess and two small notebooks with mining notes and descriptions. The biographical sketches were drafted earlier at the Historical Society and have conflicts in dates and locations. The larger notebook contains notes from a mining survey, believed to be in Mexico, and describes mineral veins, locations, and prospects for commercial development. One location listed is near Oro Blanco Creek and notes copper and silver veins. Another location is near Cumalar Rancho. An additional page contains a hand drawn map of mining claims in the Santa Rita Mountains. The outside cover is dated 1911. The smaller notebooks only contains 4 pages of notes and mineral listings but does not appear to note locations, dates, or other reference notations.

1 Box, .25 linear ft.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Captain John DeWitt Burgess was a soldier, mining engineer, Indian scout, and early pioneer of Tucson. He was born near Exeter, England May 2, 1847 and came with his family to the United States in 1849. At the age of 15 he ran away from home and enlisted for service in the Civil War. After the War he attended West Point and served with the Seventh Cavalry assigned to Fort Hays, Kansas. Burgess resigned his commission and came to Arizona in 1873. He became involved with mining in the Prescott area. He worked over a period of eight years scouting for the Army with a portion of that time employed by General Crook and was also appointed as storekeeper at Verde Indian Reservation. After 1882 Burgess continued in mining activities as manager of the Table Mountain Copper mines and Saginaw mines near Tucson. Burgess knew Buffalo Bill Cody and went into business with Cody at a mining site near Oracle, AZ in 1913. John DeWitt Burgess died August 1916.

ACQUISITION - Donated by Mrs. Alfred Doneau in 1939

ACCESS - There are no restrictions on access to this collection.

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PROCESSING

The collection was previously processed and reviewed by Dave Tackenberg in August 2008.