
ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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MS 0144

**CHAFFEE, ADNA ROMANZA, 1842-1914
PAPERS, 1876-1914**

DESCRIPTION

This collection was put together as a personal collection by Chaffee's daughter. Originally donated in three scrapbooks, it was dismantled for preservation purposes, though the order was retained. The collection primarily contains letters by Chaffee to his wife, daughters and others from various military posts where he was stationed. The first folder is a "Summary of his Military Life, 1876-1955." The second contains "Letters to his daughter, Kate Grace Chaffee, 1878-88" which includes the letters posted from Arizona. The third contains "Letters to his family from Fort Duchene, Utah, 1889, China, 1900-1901 and Los Angeles, 1908-1914." Because the letters are primarily to his family, they are personal in nature and do not contain much in the way of military operations. There is some description of the people and posts and that would be of interest to those studying the military in Arizona. The collection also contains photographs of Chaffee and his family and one folder of biographical material.

1 Box, .25 linear feet

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Adna Romanza Chaffee, Army officer, was born in Ohio and entered the army in 1861. He moved through the ranks and was put in command of the San Carlos reservation in Arizona from 1879 to 1880. In 1882, he led the army in the Battle of Big Dry Wash, the last important battle between troops and Apaches in Arizona. He was stationed at Fort McDowell and Fort Huachuca and took part in the 1885-86 Geronimo Campaign. He was then assigned to Fort Wingate, New Mexico and was made Inspector General of the Department of Arizona from 1890-93. He continued his military career in Colorado, Nebraska, Idaho and Cuba, becoming a Colonel in 1899. He commanded the relief contingent in the Box Rebellion in China and was named Major General in 1901. In 1904, he became Lt. General and Chief of Staff. He retired to Los Angeles in 1906 and died in 1914.

ACQUISITION

Donated by Helen Chaffee Elwell, 1958-59.

ACCESS

There are no restrictions on access to this collection.

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PROCESSING

The collection was processed by Riva Dean in October 1997.