
ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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MS 0844
WARNER, SOLOMON 1811-1899
Family Papers, 1857-1951

DESCRIPTION

Solomon Warner in 1856 was the first American business trader to permanently occupy Tucson and sell American goods. This collection reflects correspondence to and from his family, business transactions, receipts of purchases, and general commercial interests from the time of his arrival until he sold his dry goods store and mill near the end of the 1880s. In addition to the Solomon Warner materials, additional documents reflect later correspondence and commercial activities of relatives. Ledger books depict items purchased for and from the Warner store in the late 1860s and 1870s.

8 Boxes, 3.5 linear feet

ACQUISITION

The date at which the original collection was acquired at the Historical Society is unknown however Elva Warner Taylor made an additional donation in 1977 and additional materials were donated in 2014 by Kevin M. Warner. Includes former MS 802.

ACCESS

There are no restrictions on access to this collection.

COPYRIGHT

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

PROCESSING

The collection was originally processed at the Historical Society in 1981 by Mary Irvine Macleish and reviewed in November 1998 by William Tackenberg. MS 802 was integrated into this collection in January of 2016.

ARRANGEMENT

The collection has been arranged into four series: Personal and Family Correspondence; Business Records and Receipts; Personal Items and Photos; and Business Ledgers and Records.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Solomon Warner was born on February 8, 1811, at Warnersville, New York. He went west initially working on river boats and barges on the Mississippi River and participated in the Gold Rush to California in 1849 and spent two years in Panama. Returning to California Warner proceeded to Yuma on the Arizona border in 1855. While there he participated in the laying of building foundations at the fort and general construction. Through a partnership with George F. Hooper in 1856 he brought 13 mules loaded with American goods into Tucson to establish one of the first stores featuring American goods in the town. His store was located just outside the west gate of the walled “city” of Tucson on March 10, 1856. Warner’s commercial arrival symbolized the expanding commercial interests of the United States in the Southwest. No longer would trade be directed from Mexico but would increasingly be oriented along an east-west line linking California and the East.

Warner was involved in merchandising, farming, grain milling, freighting, and ranching in the Tucson and Sonora areas for the remainder of his life. His business success was interrupted by the American Civil War in 1862 when Cpt. Hunter of the Confederate forces occupied Tucson, confiscated Warner’s store goods, and demanded that Warner either join up or get out of town. Warner left Tucson to Santa Cruz, Sonora, Mexico where he married a Sonoran widow with a 16-year-old daughter, Eulalia. Warner returned to Tucson after the War and reestablished his business. In 1870 he was severely wounded by three shots in an Apache ambush south of Tucson. He was brought to Tucson where he recovered but retained a crippled arm for the remainder of his life.

In 1875 Warner constructed the Mission Flouring Mills at the base of Sentinel Peak (A Mountain) and milled wheat and corn raised in the local area along both sides of the Santa Cruz River. Although his flour mill proved less rewarding than anticipated his other commercial interests were more successful. He maintained contact with Mexican traders and was able to import trade goods from Europe through Guaymas, Sonora, and Mexico into the Arizona area. Warner developed a considerable trade with the United States Army as the government opened new forts and posts in the southern portion of the Territory. Warner abandoned his water-powered mill by 1886 due to repeated flooding on the Santa Cruz which wiped out his dams and runs coupled with the disappearance of water-holding vegetation from overgrazing in the area.

During the last ten years of his life, Warner led a very quiet life pursuing the development of a perpetual motion machine. He died on November 13, 1899.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Solomon Warner in 1856 was the first American business trader to permanently occupy Tucson and sell American goods. This collection reflects correspondence to and from his family, business transactions, receipts of purchases, and general commercial interests from the time of his arrival until he sold his dry goods store and mill near the end of the 1880s. In addition to Solomon Warner's materials, additional documents reflect later correspondence and commercial activities of relatives. Ledger books depict items purchased at the Warner store in the late 1860s and 1870s.

Merchandise accounts reflect purchases at the Warner store of Tucson in the early territorial period. In addition to Tucson Warner operated a small store in Mexico after being run out of the city by Confederate forces in 1862. A number of files (especially file #19) reflect information on this Santa Cruz, Sonora, Mexico location. Additional files also highlight supplies and correspondence delivered to military posts and forts in the southern Arizona area including Forts Buchanan, Lowell, Crittenden, Yuma, Camps Grant, and Walker. Tucson accounts include references to Zeckendorf, Ochoa, Tully, and McLean among others.

The collection contains information on Warner's Mission Flouring Mills including construction, water supply coordination, and receipts. The correspondence reflects planning for the various ditches and water construction projects to furnish the mill with power. Charts record information on the construction of the east ditch including grades, heights, and other statistical notations. Receipts include supplies purchased by the mill and flour delivered to Zeckendorf Bros., Tully, Ochoa Co., and W M C. Davis.

In addition to materials on Solomon Warner, other documents reflect the activities of later Warner family members. Dry goods accounts of Frank Massoletti for an establishment operated in Benson, Arizona in 1906-1910 are included. Miscellaneous stock papers, land leases, loan requests, and business receipts are present for John and Josefina Warner, Albert Warner, Dolores Dominquez, and Josefina O. Solomon.

Many of the documents are in extremely poor condition reflecting damage through water, insects, and possibly fire. Most of the fragile papers have been placed in mylar coverings for added protection. The ledger books are very brittle and also suffer from water and insect damage and must be handled with care.

Series I: Personal and Family Correspondence, 1864-1944 (Box 1) Covers Warner's correspondence with family as well as business communications. Letters in the collection depict communications to various military forts in southern Arizona and requests for mining information regarding a mining dispute. Principal mining correspondents include the Department of Interior and the U.S. Surveyor-General's Office with reference to the Santa Tomas Mine near Tucson. Documents and correspondence reflecting damages caused by Apache depredations are also included.

Series II: Business Records and Receipts, 1857-1945 (Box 1, 2, and 3) Entails Warner's dry goods store accounts from Tucson and Santa Cruz. The Mission Flouring Mills records depict mill construction, receipts for processed corn and wheat, and general supplies ordered by Warner. Later documents highlight activities of other Warner family members including Frank Massoletti's dry goods store accounts from Benson Arizona and various loan, tax, and receipts from family members.

Series III: Personal Items and Photos, (Box 3 and 4) A scrapbook with 1910 newspaper articles on a proposed Arizona constitution as well as two of Warner's old school books (one in Spanish) are included. Two ledger books contain reminiscences by Warner from the 1862 period. A single folder (#62) of photos provided through Josefina Warner depicts various family members and children.

Series IV: Business Ledgers and Records, 1864-1919 (Box 4, 5, 6, and 7) Ledger depicts supplies purchased and dispatched from Warner's businesses between 1862 and 1882. Later documents reflect business accounts of Frank Massoletti, Albert Warner, and bar accounts from the 1875 period, which may or may not belong to Solomon Warner. All the ledgers are in extremely poor condition suffering from water and insect damage.

BOX AND FOLDER LISTING

Box 1

Series I: Personal and Family Correspondence, 1860-1944

f.1	Correspondence With Friends and Relations	1871-1876
f.2	Undated Correspondence	
f.3	Business Correspondence	1864-1881
f.4-6	Personal Correspondence of John Solomon Warner	1871-1933
f.7	Business Camps and Forts in Arizona	1860-1886
f.8	Claims for Apache Depredations	1890-1892
f.9	Civil War Claims	1880-1890
f.10	Genealogy-Solomon Warner Family	1977
f.11	Mines and Mining	1874-1890
f.12	Personal Correspondence to Albert Warner Sr.	1934-1944
f.13	Personal and Loan Company Correspondence to Josefina Warner	1923-1944
f.14	Personal Correspondence to Solomon O. Warner	1923-1944

Series II: Business Records and Receipts, 1857-1951

f.15	Business Bar Accounts	1866
f.16	Blacksmith Accounts	187? -1880
f.17	Court Cases	1866-1880
f.18	Dry Goods: Accounts	1860-1869
f.19	Dry Goods: Sonora, Santa Cruz Store	1863-1869
f.20	Dry Goods: Receipts	1880-1886
f.21	Dry Goods: Accounts "A-Z"	1870-1876
f.22	Dry Goods: Account: Belknap, Thomas	1873-1876

Box 2

f.23	Dry Goods: Employees of S. Warner Accounts	1871-1872
f.24	Dry Goods: Account – Fish, E.N.	1867-1871
f.25	Dry Goods: Account – Goldberg, I.	1868-1871
f.26	Dry Goods: Account – Lord & Williams	1868-1876
f.27	Dry Goods: Accounts – Military Camps and Forts	1863-1869
f.28	Dry Goods: McLean Estate	1868-1869
f.29-30	Dry Goods Promissory Notes	1859-1872

f.31	Dry Goods: San Francisco Accounts	1870-1882
f.32	Dry Goods: Tully & Ochoa Accounts	1879-1884
f.33	Dry Goods: Zeckenborf	1869-1886
f.34	Dry Goods: Miscellaneous	1880, undated
f.35	Land Acquisition	1857-1876
f.36	Land Acquisition	1879-1888
f.37	Flour Mill: Water Supply	1874-1884
f.38	Flour Mill: Ditch (Tail Race) Water Supply	1872-1879
f.39	Flour Mill: Construction	1872-1875
f.40-a	Flour Mill: Receipts	1874-1886

Box 3

f.41	Flour Mill: Water Supply Irrigation	1883-1884
f.42	Mine Mill Site	1873-1893
f.43	Public Administration	1871
f.44	Taxes	1866-1890
f.45	U.S. Government Indian Claims	1889-1893
f.46	John Solomon Papers School Reports, Tax Forms, Receipts	1872-1875
f.47	Elva Warner Taylor Papers Albert Warner Bank Statements, School Reports School Commencement Announcement	1931-1951 1931-1937
f.48	John and Josefina Warner-Court Records, Receipts Western Union Message	1916-1940
f.49	John S. Warner Jr.-Receipts and Driver's Registration	1937-1941
f.50	Josefina O. Warner-Business Receipts	1931-1941
f.51	Solomon O. Warner-Receipts and Loan Forms	1929-1942
f.52	Solomon O. Warner-Hand Written Notes In Spanish	
f.53	Albert Warner, Josefina O. Solomon-Land Lease, Stock Papers, Insurance Receipts	1930-1945
f.54	Dolores Dominquez-Loan Application	1934
f.55	Miscellaneous Papers After 1900	
f.56-57	Dry Goods: Accounts – Books of Frank Massoletti Benson, Arizona	1906-1910

Series III: Personal Items and Photos

f.58	Scrapbook – Arizona State Constitution News Clippings	1910
f.59-60	Biographical Material – Reminiscences	1862?

Box 4

f.61	Warner School Books	
f.62	Photographs From Josefina Warner	

Series IV: Business Ledgers and Records, 1862-1919

f.63	Dry Goods: Ledger #1, daybook	1864-1866
f.64	Dry Goods: Ledger #2, daybook	1864-1866
f.65	Dry Goods: Ledger #3, daybook, Santa Cruz	1866-1876
f.66	Dry Goods: Ledger #4, daybook	1864-1872
f.67	Dry Goods: Ledger #5, daybook	1867-1868
Box 5		
f.68	Dry Goods: Ledger #6, general ledger	1867
f.69	Dry Goods: Ledger #7, daybook	1877
Box 6		
f.70	Dry Goods: Ledger #8, mill accounts	1868
f.71	Dry Goods: Ledger #9, mill daybook	1877
f.72	Dry Goods: Ledger #10, daybook	1862-1866
f.73	Dry Goods: Ledger #11, general ledger	1877-1882
Box 7		
f.74	Dry Goods: Ledger #12, daybook	1863-1877
f.75	Court Papers – Court Case 1875 George M. Newson	1875
f.76	Business Accounts – Frank Massoletti	1903-1910
Box 8		
f.77	Business Papers – Albert Warner	19??
f.78	Business Papers – Bar Accounts	1875
f.79	Business Ledger	1919