

Will Croft Barnes Collection-MSS 3

4 boxes, 2.0 cu. ft.

1897-1936

Biographical Note

Will Croft Barnes (1858-1936) came to Arizona in 1880 as a telegrapher at Fort Apache, and won the Congressional Medal of Honor in 1881 for escaping to get help when the fort was under siege. In 1883 he left the army and became a successful cattle rancher, after which he served on the Livestock Sanitary Board for 11 years. Barnes also served in the Territorial Legislature as a delegate from Apache County. He introduced the bill which created Navajo County in 1895 and has been referred to since as the “father of Navajo County.”

In 1907 Barnes joined the U.S. Forest Service and held the position of Chief of Grazing until 1928. He successfully increased cooperation between cattlemen and the Forest Service, and was instrumental in improving management of timber, grazing and water resources.

After retiring from the Forest Service, Barnes spent 3 years with the U.S. Board of Geographic Names and authored a number of books, including Arizona Place Names. Barnes wrote until his death in 1936. He was buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

Scope and Content

The collection consists primarily of biographical material and small manuscripts on topics in Arizona history. Also included are reviews of Barnes’ publications, information on the dedication of Barnes Field House, and some miscellaneous items. 63 photographs are catalogued separately as the Will Barnes Photograph Collection.

Box 1 Biographical Information

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| Folder 1 | Will C. Barnes- biographical information |
| 2 | Edith Talbot (Mrs. Will C.) Barnes-biographical information |
| 3 | Edith Barnes scrapbook |
| 4 | Talbot-Barnes bridal book. Wedding memorabilia |

Box 2 Scrapbooks

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| Folder 1 | Biographical scrapbook |
| 2 | Barnes Field House dedication-scrapbook
Fort Huachuca Pictorial Story, 1958 |
| 3 | Scrapbook of Barnes’ U.S. Forest Service career, presented to him by colleagues when he retired |
| 4 | Book reviews of Barnes’ publications |

Box 3
Manuscripts

- Folder 1 Apache squaws as irrigation engineers
- 2 Blood of Kings
- 3 Bury my Son in the Battle
- 4 Congressional Medal of Honor
- 5 Dick's Forgetfulness
- 6 Father Eusebio Francisco Kino
- 7 Kit Carson's Calling Card
- 8 Lost, Strayed or Stolen
- 9 A Man, a Girl, and Some Hooks
- 10 The Meteor Crater
- 11 Carlos Montezuma
- 12 Carlos Montezuma
- 13 Pet Brownie
- 14 This Here Man's War
- 15 BAR Stories
- 16 The Black Canyon Stage
- 17 Camels
- 18 Pleasant Valley War
- 19 Rattlesnakes
- 20 Our Thanksgiving Turkey
- 21 Wild Horses
- 22 In the Apache Country
- 23 The Story of the Range
- 24 Herds in the San Simon Valley

Box 4
Miscellaneous

- Folder 1 Poetry by Will C. Barnes
- 2 Armed Forces Day Program, 1955
- 3 Cattle Growers Assn. of New Mexico-Certificate of Brand
- 4 Playbill of Doris Theater
- 5 Sheet Music. "Across the Big Divide"; "The Dying Cowboy"

Kris Darnall
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