

Charles Debrille Poston Collection-MSS 44

2 Boxes, .75 cu. ft.

Biographical Note

Charles Debrille Poston was born in Kentucky in 1825 and came West in 1854 to explore silver mining opportunities in the Gadsden Purchase. He became partner in several mining companies, and was one of the founders of Colorado City, now Yuma, Arizona. Poston worked for years to gain territorial status for Arizona and visited Washington D.C. regularly to lobby legislators directly. Once Arizona became a territory, Poston was named Superintendent of Indian Affairs, and in 1864 he became Arizona's first delegate to the U.S. Congress. Following his Congressional term, he remained in Washington, D.C., practiced law, and worked occasionally on projects for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In 1873, Poston returned to Arizona, where he held various appointed offices. In 1884 he organized the Society of Arizona Pioneers, which later became the Arizona Pioneer Historical Society. Poston died in 1902. In 1925 a monument to Poston was erected atop Poston Butte in Florence, AZ. He later was reburied there.

Because he was instrumental in making Arizona a U.S. Territory and contributed to its growth as an explorer, miner, entrepreneur and government official, Charles Debrille Poston is now often referred to as the "Father of Arizona."

Scope and Content

This collection consists of copies of correspondence, journals and business documents of Charles D. Poston, as well as biographical information. Also included in the collection are modern newsclippings about the Poston family silver, correspondence regarding exhibition of the Poston inkwell, and research correspondence by Bert Fireman as Curator of the Arizona Collection, Arizona State University.

Box 1

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| Folder 1 | Biographical information |
| Folder 2 | Diary, 1850- 1895. Typewritten copy of diary housed at Sharlot Hall Museum, Prescott. Also photograph of diary. |
| Folder 3 | Journal, 1847-1850. Typewritten copy. |
| Folder 4 | Letter from Poston to Adolph Sutro. 1894 |
| Folder 5 | Poston on Irrigation (manuscript - author unknown, n.d.) |

Box 1 Continued

- Folder 6 Appointment as Indian Agent
- Folder 7 Christmas recollections, 1896. Typewritten copy of Poston's manuscript
- Folder 8 Letters to W.H. Wetherell, 1878
- Folder 9 Journal, June-Aug, 1861 (photocopy)
- Folder 10 Sale of Arivaca mine and ranch to Roswell Ripley, 1869
Photo of Poston's Arizona Mining Company stock certificates
- Folder 11 Arizona Sugar Company. Articles of Incorporation, 1892
- Folder 12 Deeds (photocopies)
Photograph of deed to Colorado City land
- Folder 13 Correspondence re: exhibition of Poston Inkwell, 1959
- Folder 14 Society of Arizona Pioneers original membership list, 1884 (photograph)
- Folder 15 Poston Family Silver - newsclippings
- Folder 16 Research Correspondence: Bert Fireman, 1959-1962
- Folder 17 Miscellaneous Poston clippings, correspondence
- Folder 18 Letters and proceedings concerning Poston while serving as Arizona Indian Agent, 1864 (photocopies)

Box 2

Original Poston journal, June- Aug 1861 (Photocopy in Box 1 Folder 9)