

WITHERELL, W.F. COLLECTION - MSS 54

Records: 1878-1884
1 Box, .25 cu. ft.

Biographical Note

W. F. Witherell (1841-1893) originally came to Arizona in 1865, hoping that the warm climate would speed his recovery from a spinal injury. He became involved as a surveyor in the construction of early roads and canals and was appointed as Surveyor General for Arizona. He later became a mining engineer, and was involved in numerous mining enterprises in the late 1870's at Tombstone, Arivaca, Cerro Colorado and elsewhere. He served as president of the Arivaca Milling and Commercial Co., and as Superintendent of Mines in Arizona for the Arizona Gold and Silver Mining Company and the Black Bear Copper Mining Company.

Scope & Content

This collection contains correspondence and documents related to mining and to Witherell's businesses, including cancelled checks, vouchers and a time book. Also included are two booklets on gold and silver mining in 1878, including one which was written by Witherell.

Description

BOX 1

- Folder 1 Pamphlets - Arizona As A Silver Country by W. F. Witherell and Gold and Silver of Arizona, 1878
- Folder 2 Cancelled checks, vouchers, receipts and telegrams, 1878 - 1883
- Folder 3 Time book from Black Bear Mining Co. and notebook from Arivaca Milling & Mining Co., 1881-1883
- Folder 4 Correspondence, 1882-83. Detailed calendar follows. (photocopies from letterpress book)

Kris Darnall
July 14, 1992

W.T. WITHERELL CORRESPONDENCE 1882-1883

- Oct. 12, 1882
Pg 34 Witherell as Superintendent of Black Bear Copper Co. to Ben Williams, Superintendent of Copper Queen Mining Co. re: proceeds of Black Bear Co.
- Nov. 14, 1882
Pg. 48-9 Witherell to Williams re: coke shipped to Bisbee. Witherell as Superintendent of Prompter Gold and Silver Mining Co., Tombstone
- Jan. 10, 1883
Pg. 92-5 Witherell to? "I have a good copper property at Bisbee...adjoins "Silver Age" there."
- Jan. 13, 1883
Pg. 101-2 Witherell to Samuel Kimberly of Chicago. Cutting a ledge north of Bisbee, previously owned by Mormons "I have the Copper Age."
- May 21, 1883
Pg. 197-9 Witherell to J.K. and W.C. Hamilton re: copper property. 100' shaft, 35' wide vein; ore ready for the smelter; wishes to form a partnership to develop property; "In 30 days I'm confident I can show sufficient ore to pay for the property and to pay for the smelting plant..."
- May 22, 1883
Pg. 200 Witherell to Rankin Brayton & Co. of San Francisco. Send cost information on copper smelting plant.
- May 23, 1883
Pg. 204-6 Witherell to Hamilton. Two claims cost \$65,000. Requests money. Enumerates costs and steps to carry out development. (incomplete)
- May 23, 1883
Pg. 208 Witherell to Gardner re: purchase of mining property in the San Francisco Mountains. Possibility of trade vs. cash transaction.
- May 29, 1883
Pg. 216 Witherell to H.W. Chester re: plant at Black Bear Co.
- May 31, 1883
Pg. 222 Witherell to Rankin Brayton & Co. Will wait 160 days before ordering plant.
- Pg. 241—43 Illegible
- July 2, 1883
Pg. 263-64 Witherell to J.D. Powers re: copper near Gila River and possible sale "But I would not attempt to get the money put up during the summer months for the reason that Capitalists who are able to make that kind of an investment leave the city during the hot weather and do not care to take up new enterprises in country still hotter than it is here."

Witherell Correspondence, p.2

- July 13, 1883
Pg. 270 Witherell to Rankin Brayton & Co. Ready for smelter and specs; order via Picacho Station.
- July 13, 1883
Pg. 271-72 Witherell to H. W. Chester. Need \$50,000 to set plant and everything at Black Bear Camp in operation. Over \$50,000 of ore in sight.
- July 17, 1883
Pg. 278-83 Witherell to H.G. Billings. Mexican labor \$2.50 to haul goods across San Pedro River.
- July 19, 1883 Witherell to H.G. Billings re: investment in Black Bear Copper Co.
- Nov. 25, 1883 Witherell to A. Springer re: bank overdraft (on Black Bear Copper Mining Co. letterhead)