



Sharlot Hall Museum Library and Archives
415 West Gurley Street
Prescott, AZ 86301
www.sharlot.org

Title: A. F. Banta Papers

Creator: Albert Franklin Banta

Dates: 1890-1924, 1969

Quantity: .75 linear feet (1 box, 1 ½ size box)

System of Arrangement:

- Series 1: Biographical and Autobiographical Accounts
- Series 2: Historical Research Notes and Correspondence
- Series 3: Publications and Related Correspondence
- Series 4: Political correspondence
- Series 5: Personal Correspondence and Records

Abstract: Alfred Franklin Banta was an Arizona pioneer who served as an Indian Scout, mail carrier, postmaster, miner and newspaperman. He served on the Territorial Legislature under the name "Charles Franklin" and played a critical role in the creation of Apache County. He founded the *Arizona Miner* newspaper in Prescott and established the *St. John's Observer* in St. John's Arizona. The collection contains records for his various roles as well as financial and personal papers. There is a rich collection of correspondence regarding many historical facts in Arizona's history.

Identification: SHM MS-9

Language and Scripts of the Materials: English

Biographical History

Albert Franklin Banta (1843-1921) was born in Warwick County, Indiana on 18 Dec 1843 to John F. & Phydalia (Fuqua) Banta. Banta was married, though the name of his wife is unknown, and the couple had a daughter named Mildred. He was an Arizona pioneer who was involved in a number of endeavors, serving as an Indian Scout, mail carrier and postmaster, miner, and newspaperman. He arrived in Arizona in 1863 with the Governor's party, and served on the Territorial Legislature under the name "Charles Franklin." He served in the 11th session of the territorial legislature, and is credited with



serving a critical role in the creation of Apache County. Banta founded the *Arizona Miner* in Prescott, and established the *St. John's Observer* in St. John's, Arizona. He passed away at the Arizona Pioneer's Home in Prescott on 21 Jun 1924. He is buried at the Arizona Pioneer Home cemetery.

Scope and Content Note

Collection contains records of A.F. Banta in his roles as an Arizona Pioneer, member of territorial legislature, newspaperman, researcher, and writer. It also contains some of his personal and financial records, as well as accounts of his life. It also includes correspondence and writings regarding many historical facts in Arizona's history.

Restrictions

None

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use

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Related Archival Materials & Subjects

Personal Name(s)

Banta, Alfred Franklin

Barth, Sol

Brown, Herbert

Dudley, Ralph B

Duffield, Major Milton B.

Hardy, W. H.

Marion, John H.

Murphy, F. M.

Murphy, N. O.

[Stoddard, Isaac Taft](#)

Swilling, Captain John W.



Corporate Name(s)

Adams Gold Mining Company
Arizona Pioneer's Association
[Arizona Pioneers' Historical Society](#)
[Arizona Republic \(Phoenix, Ariz.\)](#)
[Arizona Territorial Prison](#)

Geographic Name(s)

[Saint Johns \(Ariz.\)](#)
[Prescott \(Ariz.\)](#)

Subject(s)

[Arizona Pioneers' Home](#)
[Newspapers.](#)
[Indian scouts](#)
Arizona Territorial Legislature

Related Materials:

A.F. Banta Vertical File
Alfred Franklin Banta: Arizona Pioneer, by Alfred Franklin Banta, 92 BAN.

Administrative Information

Accession Number – 1928.002

Custodial History

Accruals: Note if any more accruals are coming or if accruals happened to the collection.

Description Control

This collection was processed by Libby Coyner and LaDawn Dalton using *Describing Archives: a Content Standard* in 2010 and 2014.



Container List

Title: A.F. Banta Collection - MS-9

Dates: 1890-1898, 1916, 1919, undated

Series Scope & Content: Series consists of Banta’s personal accounts of traveling to Arizona with the Governor’s Party in 1863, as well as his autobiography. It contains transcripts of Banta biographies published in newspapers.

Series 1: Biographical and Autobiographical Accounts		
Box/Folder	File/Item Description	Date(s)
1/1	A.F. Banta Biographies, some transcribed from newspapers	1890-98, 1969
1/2	A.F. Banta Autobiography	1916
1/3	A.F. Banta Autobiography	undated
1/4	Banta’s Account of 1863 Expedition – Walker Diggings, Fort Wingate, Major Willis	undated
1/5	Personal and Political Chronology	1919

Title: A.F. Banta Collection - MS-9

Dates: 1917-1923

Series Scope & Content: Series consists of Banta’s notes surrounding his historical research on Arizona subjects, as well as correspondence with others sorting our historical disputes.

Series 2: Historical Research Notes and Correspondence		
Box/Folder	File/Item Description	Date(s)
1/6	Correspondence regarding historical topics, Sol Barth, Arizona Pioneer’s Association, Ralph B. Dudley, Arizona Pioneers Historical Society	1917-1923
1/7	Continuing Correspondence and Research notes regarding Thomas Gates	1919
1/8	Personal notes	Undated
1/9	Assorted, unpublished writings	Undated



Title: A.F. Banta Collection - MS-9

Dates: 1889-1924

Series Scope & Content: Publication correspondence including Sharlot Hall and Isaac Taft Stoddard.

Series 3: Publications and Related Correspondence		
Box/Folder	File/Item Description	Date(s)
1/10	Banta's correspondence regarding publications—W. H. Hardy, F. M. Murphy, N.O. Murphy, Office of the Governor (Phoenix), Territorial Prison of Arizona, Herbert Brown, Isaac Taft Stoddard, Sharlot Hall, Arizona Republic	1889-1910
1/11	Banta Newspaper Publications	1893-1924
1/12	The Lure of Gold and a Message to Garcia	1911
1/13	Banta correspondence regarding publications	1911
1/14	Banta correspondence regarding his publications	1918-1924
1/15	Writings regarding John H. Marion, Major Milton B. Duffield and Captain John W. Swilling	1919
1/16	Biographical and character sketch of John Swilling	Undated

Title: A.F. Banta Collection - MS-9

Dates: 1902, 1907, 1911-1920

Series Scope & Content: Series consists of Banta's correspondence with political figures with regard to his role on the Territorial Legislature, and with regard to other subjects. Additionally, it contains correspondence about his interest in being named Superintendent of the Pioneer's Home. Names in the series include Lorenzo Hubbell of the Hubbell Trading Post, Arizona Senator Henry Ashurst, and Governor Thomas Campbell.

Series 4: Political correspondence		
Box/Folder	File/Item Description	Date(s)
1/17	Political Correspondence	1902, 1907
1/18	Political Correspondence	1911-1916
1/19	Correspondence re: Banta's request to serve as Superintendent of the Pioneer's Home	1917
2/1	Political Correspondence	1917-1920
2/2	Banta's Application for Yavapai County Elector	undated



Title: A.F. Banta Collection - MS-9

Dates: 1901-1903, 1910-1911, 1915-1924

Series Scope & Content: Series consists of an assortment of Banta's personal materials, ranging from letters to his daughter to financial records surrounding his investments.

Series 5: Personal Correspondence and Records		
Box/Folder	File/Item Description	Date(s)
2/3	Letters from Banta's daughter, Mildred	1901-1903
2/4	Correspondence re: observations of planets at Lick Observatory, University of California	1910
2/5	Financial Records	1911, 1923
2/6	Personal Correspondence	1915-24
2/7	Correspondence re: Banta's stock in Ralph Dudley's Arkansas Interests	1923-24
2/8	Stock Information: Adams Gold Mining Company, Oil Companies	1924
2/9	Photograph and negative (formerly PO 2426)	Unknown