



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

Title: Fennell Family Papers

Creator: Fennell Family

Dates: 1890's-1990's

Quantity: 3 linear feet

System of Arrangement:

Series 1: Cecil G. Fennell

Series 2: Geraldine (Gerry) Fennell Eliot

Series 3: Ledgers, Record Books, Warranty Deed

Abstract: The Fennell Family Papers reflect the personal and business lives of mining engineer Cecil G. Fennell and his family. Cecil, native of England, developed many mining projects throughout the United States. The collection includes correspondence, photographs, business records including ledgers and journals, relating to Mr. Fennell and his family, especially his daughter, Geraldine (Gerry), who was a four-term Arizona State Representative and successful realtor.

Identification: SHM MS-44

Language and Scripts of the Materials: English

Biographical History

Cecil G. Fennell (1872-1958) was born in Chislehurst, Kent, England and came to America at the age of 18. Seven years later he settled in Prescott, Arizona area. He was an early mining entrepreneur in Prescott, Mayer, and Humboldt. He developed and managed Gladstone and McCabe gold mines. There he gained the nickname "the Duke of McCabe." Fennell started the Val Verde Copper Smelter in 1899, which he sold in 1906. He left the smelter to become Vice President of Traylor Engineering Works in Allentown, PA. He traveled widely in the U.S., including Alaska, as an independent consulting mining engineer. From 1935-1953 he developed silver-lead-zinc mines (one was named "Conjecture") in the Pend Oreille region of Idaho. They were sold to Federal Uranium Co.



Fennell married Grace Reeve of Greenville, TN on May 17, 1897. He and Grace lived at and managed various mining projects throughout the U.S., returning to Phoenix in 1951 after he had a stroke. They had two sons, Gordon and Ernest, and one daughter, Geraldine “Gerry,” who later became Mrs. William C. Eliot). During their time in Arizona, they became friends of Senator Henry F. Ashurst (one of the first of two senators of Arizona) and Sharlot Hall. Fennell died January 26, 1958 and was buried at Greenwood Cemetery in Phoenix. Grace died in 1970.

His daughter, Geraldine “Gerry” (Fennell) Eliot (1900-1997), created a portion of the Fennell Family Papers. She served as a four-term Arizona State Representative from 1957-1964. Gerry became a successful realtor, and her husband William C. Eliot was the first full-time Phoenix City Attorney. She was part owner of the Chino Hacienda Ranch located northwest of Paulden, Arizona, out Big Chino Road (previously known as the Tabosa Ranch, L-Bar-K Ranch, or the Mable Evans Ranch). She sold this ranch to Lew and Patty King, who later developed it into residential property and renamed it the Lew King Ranchettes.

Scope and Content Note

The Fennell Family Records consists of correspondence, photographs, ledgers, journals, a diary, notes, appraisals, and real estate information which span the 1890’s through the late 1990’s. These encompass the lives of both Cecil G. Fennell and his daughter, Geraldine “Gerry” (Fennell) Eliot. Of note, there is correspondence between Cecil and Moses Bonsall Hazeltine (then President of the Bank of Arizona). There is a series which details a ranch part-owned by Gerry, and its sale to Lew and Patty King.

Restrictions

None

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use

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Related Archival Materials & Subjects

Personal Name(s)

Eliot, Geraldine Fennell
Fennell, Cecil G.
Fennell, Grace Amy Reeve
King, Lew

Corporate Name(s)

Gerry Eliot Realty
Gladstone Gold Mine
Humboldt Smelter
Mabel Evans Ranch
McCabe Gold Mine
Lew King Ranchettes
Val Verde Copper Smelter

Geographic Name(s)

[Dewey-Humboldt \(Ariz.\)](#)
[Mayer \(Ariz.\)](#)
[Paulden \(Ariz.\)](#)
[Prescott \(Ariz.\)](#)

Subject(s)

[Mines and mineral resources](#)
[Ranching.](#)
[Commercial real estate.](#)

Related Collections

In addition to the family collection, information on Grace Reeve Fennell (wife of Cecil), who is commemorated in the Sharlot Hall Museum Territorial Women's Rose Garden, can be found in RGC-MS-39. Also, their daughter Geraldine Fennell Eliot narrated an oral history, which can be found on Oral History Tapes 941 and 942, and other information can be found in the Geraldine Fennell Surname vertical file. Lastly, a map of the Gold Bar Mine was donated by Elizabeth E. Langdon (daughter of Geraldine Fennell Eliot), see map 191.



Administrative Information

This collection includes items from many various previous collections, the original locations of which are notated on individual folders. Some of this material was previously in Document Box 6, Folder 3, items 1 and 2; Document Box 25, Folder 10; Document Box 32; Document Box 100, Folder 7, items 2 and 3; Document Box 195, item 7; Ledger Shelf 38; Photo Box 59, Folder 4; Photo Box 144, Folders 1 and 2; Photo Box 148, Folder 17. The accession numbers associated with this collection are 92.083; 99.162; and 2000.096. Because of newly discovered family collections, more biographical information may be forthcoming.

Description Control

This collection was processed by Julie Faris using *Describing Archives: a Content Standard (DACs)* in 2015.

Container List

Title: Fennell Family Papers – SHM MS-44

Dates: c. 1890's-1929

Series Scope & Content: This series consists of Cecil G. Fennell's correspondence, family and business negatives and prints, diary, and business records. (Please note - letter from Cecil to Hazeltine mistakenly dated 1/28/1928 instead of 1/28/1929. This is a common dating error in the first month of a new year.)

Series 1: Cecil G. Fennell		
Box/Folder	File/Item Description	Date(s)
1.1	Correspondence	1897, 1899, 1907, 1929
1.2	Fennell Family Negatives and Prints	c. 1890's-1920's
1.3	Cecil Fennell Mining Business Negatives	c. 1890's-1900
1.4	Articles	1896, 1943, 1949, 1955
1.5	Diary and Telegraphic Code Book	c. 1890's-1900's
1.6	Ideal Mining & Development Co.	1906-1909
1.7	Humboldt Smelter	1908
1.8	New York & Westernzinc Company	1910



Title: Fennell Family Papers - SHM MS-44

Dates: 1969-1999

Series Scope & Content: Notes, appraisals, real estate information and prints of ranch property.

Series 2: Geraldine “Gerry” (Fennell) Eliot		
Box/Folder	File/Item Description	Date(s)
1.9	Elizabeth Eliot Langdon’s Notes	c. 1999
1.10	Mabel Evans Ranch Prints	1969, 1970
1.11	Gerry Eliot Realty	1969, 1971
1.12	Mabel Evans Ranch, A.K.A. L-Bar-K Ranch - Appraisals	1964, 1974
1.13	Lew King	1971-1997

Title: Fennell Family Papers - SHM MS-44

Dates: c. 1863-1910

Series Scope & Content: Cecil G. Fennel’s ledgers, record books, letter press book, warranty deed.

Series 3: Ledgers, record books, warranty deed		
Box/Folder	File/Item Description	Date(s)
2.1	Receivables – Gladstone and McCabe Mines	1906-1908
2.2	Payables – Gladstone and McCabe Mines	1906-1907
2.3	Letter press book (correspondence re: Val Verde Copper Co.)	1901-1902
2.4	Journal (meeting minutes, mining claim records, etc.)	1871-1872
2.5	Minutes & resolution – Montauri Gold Company	1897
2.6	“Book 5 of Mines.” Various mining claims.	1876-1877
2.7	Ledger (Sterling Mining Company)	1866
2.8	Notices of various ledges and extentions.	1870-1882
2.9	Survey of Claims (Martinez Mining District). Surveys by Willard Rice, Recorder.	1870-1882
2.10	Hassayampa Mining Claim Records	1863-1865
3.1	Warranty deed – Block 3, East Prescott	1906-1909
3.2	Ledger and documents pertaining to Gladstone & McCabe mines Voucher Report	1906-1910