

George Henry Church MSS 114

The collection is named after George Henry Church (1830-1884) but there is little direct information about him apart from a photocopy of a biography appearing in *History of Colorado* by S.J. Clarke, 1918 (see volume three, pages 721-725).

Church was born in Rochester, New York on 11 December 1830. In 1861 he moved to Colorado where he bought mines at Spanish Bar above Idaho Springs. His mining venture failed so interest turned to ranching in the area of Mount Vernon Canyon.

The Overland Stage Company selected his place as a station so he developed housing for travelers while continuing ranching operations. He secured water rights and constructed an irrigation ditch enabling him to successfully plant wheat on the uplands of Colorado. He is credited as being the first man in the state to do this.

In 1861 he married Sarah Henderson Miller and two years later they had a son named Frank. Church continued his ranching and farming operations until his death on 7 January 1918.

Collection Contents:

The collection contains typed reminiscences authored by his wife Sarah and their son Frank. In addition there is an account ledger dated 1864-1867 [?].

- FF 1 "Recollections of My Trip Across the Plains in 1861"
by Mrs. George H. Church. Nineteen pages, no date.
- FF 2 "Recollections of My Trip Across the Plains" Second copy
- FF 3 "Church's Ranch, Dec. 1913" by Mrs. George H. Church.
Three pages, no date.
- FF 4 "Colorado and Early Happenings" by Frank Church.
One page (2 copies), no date.
- FF 5 "Snow Storm of 1913 at Church's Ranch" no author, no date.
- FF 6 Sales and Account Ledger 1964-1867 [?]