

INVENTORY:
WILLIAM Z. COZENS
COLLECTION NO. 166

THE COLORADO HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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Processed by Cabell Breckinridge

INVENTORY: WILLIAM. Z. COZENS

INTRODUCTION

William Z. Cozens was born July 2, 1830, in Longueil, Upper Canada, which is now part of Ontario. He came to the Pikes Peak region of Colorado in 1859, and later that year became the first sheriff of Gregory Gulch, Colorado, which became the towns of Central City and Black Hawk. From 1860-1867 he served as sheriff of Gilpin County. During his term as sheriff Cozens was noted for his skill in the handling of dangerous outlaws and his commitment to defending them from angry mobs.

On December 30, 1859, Cozens married Mary York of Enniskillen, Ireland.

In 1865, Cozens was ordered by Governor Elbert of Colorado to raise a militia of sixty men for eighty days to protect the U.S. Mail and freight on trains from the Indians. His commission as Captain of the 1st Colorado Militia Company C lasted from February 14 to April 29, 1865. In 1874 he was made a deputy U.S. Marshall.

In 1872, Cozens established the Cozens Ranch, a way station for stage coaches, where he lived until his death on January 17, 1904.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The collection contains correspondence (1865-1889); receipts (1860-1872); land deeds; certificates of appointments and terminations; bond agreements, mittimus and other legal documents; and military documents including orders and an account book.

Cozens was a powerful force for law and order in a period when respect for the law was at a low point. His personal strength and ability as a lawman helped maintain some level of peace in Central City during its wildest days and established Cozens as one of its prominent citizens.

PROVENANCE:

The collection was donated on September 19, 1929, by William Cozens, son of William Z. Cozens.

INVENTORY;

- FF 1: Correspondence 2/3/1865-9/18/1873
- FF 2: Correspondence 11/5/1873-5/16/1889, also n.d.
- FF 3: Typescripts of correspondence from N.Z. Cozens to W.Z. Cozens 5/25/1870-4/21/1876 (bound)
- FF 4: Receipts 5/24/1862-10/21/1867 (bound)
- FF 5: Receipts 5/30/1860-10/25/1872, also n.d.
- FF 6: Lands deeded to W.Z. Cozens 9/15/18 59-5/17/1866
- FF 7: Lands deeded to N.Z. Cozens and James Lee 4/30/64-3/5/65
- FF 8: Mortgage 6/17/1861
- FF 9: Certificates of Appointments and Terminations 6/10/1860-7/26/1876
- FF 10: Mittimuses 12/14/1861-10/23/1866
- FF 11: Bond Agreements 9/3/1860-5/3/1867
- FF 12: Sheriff's Deeds and Certificates 3/27/1861-9/10/1886
- FF 13: Pardons and Release Orders 11/18/1860-11/6/1866
- FF 14: Warrants 12/9/1873 and 4/27/1874
- FF 15: Miscellaneous Sheriff Documents 7/28/1862-10/1/1867, also n.d.
- FF 16: Military Orders 2/22/1865-4/28/1865
- FF 17: Company C. Account Book (Colorado Militia) 1865
- FF 18: Stock Certificate, Mary York 12/20/1859
- FF 19: Flyer, Check (6/13/1865), and Table of Distances