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, mittimuses 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 9/15/1859-5/17/1866

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 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: Warrents 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