

AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

Manuscript Collections

<p>Name of collection:</p> <p>Stanley, David Sloane, Diary, 1853-1854</p>	<p>Location:</p> <p>Misc. mss. boxes "S"</p>
<p>Size of collection:</p> <p>1 folder, 1 item (37 pp.)</p>	<p>N.U.C.M.C. number:</p> <p>N.A.</p>
<p>Finding aids:</p> <p>For an autobiography, see D.S. Stanley, <u>Personal Memoirs of Major-General D.S. Stanley</u> (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1917)</p>	
<p>Source of collection:</p> <p>Gift of Lillie Stanley Rumbough, 1935</p>	
<p>Collection Description:</p> <p>David Sloane Stanley (1828-1902) of Ohio, studied medicine and practiced briefly as a country doctor before entering West Point in 1848. After graduation, Stanley served as lieutenant with the 2nd Dragoons on a mission from Fort Smith, Arkansas to San Diego, California to survey potential routes for a Pacific railroad. During the Civil War, he was appointed Major General of the Regular Army of Volunteers and Chief of Cavalry in the U.S. Army of the Tennessee.</p> <p>Lt. Stanley's diary, a mimeograph copy of typescript,* is a detailed record of his overland command from Arkansas to California, 1853-1854, and includes his observations on topography, geology, the difficulties of wagon travel, life in encampments, unruly soldiers, water shortages, problems with finding guides, and the frequent loss of mules from starvation and overwork. There are rich descriptions of scenery and the Indian tribes of the region (e.g., the Zuni villages of Arizona, and the Navajo, Delaware, Mojave, and Comanche tribes), their attitudes, appearance, housing, food, and battles with smallpox.</p> <p>Lt. Stanley also refers to stampedes, hunting, travel through the snowy Rockies, life among the residents in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and the small settlement along the trail, and the appearance of the California coast from the ship which returned him home.</p> <p>* original lost</p>	

22 March 1977