

**MsSc 135**

**Richard Urquhart Goode, diaries. 2 v.**

**Abstract**

Richard U. Goode, a topographer with the Northern Transcontinental Survey, participated in a survey of portions of Chelan, Kittitas, Yakima and Walla Walla counties in central Washington territory, from May through November 1883.

**Biography**

Richard U. Goode was born in Bedford, VA in 1838. He studied at the University of Virginia, after which he joined the Engineering Corps of the U.S. Army in 1878. He left the Army to become a topographer with the U.S. Geological Survey in 1879. From 1882 to 1884 he was attached to the Northern Transcontinental Survey under Raphael Pumpelly. In 1889, Goode was appointed geographer for the U.S.G.S., and had special charge of surveys in the Pacific Coast states of California, Oregon, and Washington. He died in 1903.

**Scope and content**

The collection consists of two volumes of diaries kept during Goode's 1883 participation in the Northern Transcontinental Survey in central Washington territory. Upon Goode's departure from Virginia, his fiancée decided to not correspond with him while he was away on the survey. So that she would understand what he was doing, Goode determined to keep a diary, which she could read upon his return.

The diaries are full of description about the country he was surveying, the pleasures and hardships of camp life, and the difficulties of the survey. In them he describes, among other things, ascending Mt. Stuart in Kittitas county without benefit of climbing gear or ropes, the harrowing experience of a stage coach ride in western Montana, the cooking abilities of their Chinese cook, and his theory of evolution. Throughout the volumes there is great detail.

There is a typed transcription of the diary, which will be made available to researchers for routine research. The original diaries are fragile.

**Inclusive dates:** 1 April 1883-2 November 1883

**Restrictions:** Limited use of original diaries

**Volume:** 2 v.

**Accession number:** 1999.60

<b>Box</b>	<b>folder</b>	<b>content</b>
1	1	Diary, transcription. 1 April 1883-1 July 1883
1	2	Diary, transcription. 8 July 1883-2 November 1883

1	3	Diary. 1 April 1883-12 May 1883
1	4	Diary. 13 May 1883-2 November 1883
1	5	Letter, 1 October 1888 from National Geographic Society.