Examples of collections and resources supporting research about Montana Settlers and Early Businesses

held at Archives & Special Collections at the Mansfield Library, University of Montana-Missoula

Note: In most cases links are provided from the titles of collections to the guides to those collections. The collections themselves are not digitized and therefore are not yet available online. This list is not comprehensive.

Papers of Individuals and Families

**Steffen Heinrich Aggens Diary (1852-1870), Mss 280, 1 diary**
The goldfield diary of Steffen Heinrich Aggens begins with his departure from Germany in 1852 and charts his travels to New York and San Francisco and then through the goldfields of California, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana through 1868. Aggens and his brother, Adam, try to make their fortune as independent miners using simple equipment.

**William Leonard Albrecht Papers (1880-1968), Mss 50, 71 linear feet**
This collection contains correspondence, financial, legal, organizational, promotional, and photographic records generated or collected by William Leonard Albrecht with particular emphasis on the Albrecht Furniture Company, the first and one of the most distinguished furniture stores in Great Falls, Montana.

**Audra Arnold Browman Papers (1908-1999), Mss 468, 21.5 linear feet**
This collection includes two different groups of papers, one portion related to noted local historian Audra Browman's research about Missoula, Montana, and northwestern Montana, and the other related to her work with the League of Women Voters of Missoula, Montana and community, city, and state political issues. A card file and subject file maintained by Browman is of particular use to researchers interested in Missoula history prior to 1900.

**Conrad, Campbell and Stanford Family Papers (1818-1968), Mss 185, 147.25 linear feet**
The Conrad, Campbell, and Stanford Family Papers are an extensive collection of correspondence, business records, and objects from four generations of a very prominent family in Montana. The collection encompasses a broad range of topics, from immigration to travel journals, taxidermy to buffalo herds, and from the Kalispell Red Cross to the Conrad Bank. The papers tell a fascinating story of desperate poverty and enormous wealth intertwined with the history of Montana. Among the first families to settle in Montana, the Conrads, Campbells, and Stanfords played a prominent role in the history of banking and the establishment of towns in the western half of the state.

**Marcus Daly Family Papers (1883-1996), Mss 619, 89.2 linear feet**
The collection contains family papers and records related to the business investments of Marcus Daly of Montana, copper magnate, businessman, and politician. The collection primarily consists of family estate papers and business records of the Bitterroot Stock Farm from the 1880s to 1990s. Also included are records of the Republican Ditch Company (1883-1901) which was organized in 1883 in Corvallis, Montana, to furnish water for an irrigation ditch in the Bitterroot Valley; the Hamilton Flour Mill Company (1898-1917); the Valley Mercantile Company (1908-1935); and many other Bitterroot-area companies founded, owned or co-owned by Daly.

**William H. H. and Emma Dickinson Papers (1823-1908), Mss 255, 0.25 linear feet**
William H.H. and Emma Dickinson were early residents of Missoula, Montana. The collection contains a Dickinson family genealogy, Mr. Dickinson's Civil War diary and a later autobiographical account based on the diary, Mrs. Dickinson's reminiscence of early Missoula and early photographs of Missoula.
James R. Dilworth Papers (1861-1939), Mss 08, 0.25 linear feet
Dilworth was a cattleman who directed a cattle drive from The Dalles, Oregon, to Miles City, Montana, in 1881-1882. The collection consists mostly of his correspondence back to his wife during that drive.

Matthew Eccles Reminiscence (1948), Mss 826, 1 item
Hand-written reminiscence of the life of Matthew Eccles, a Flathead County, Montana, resident. The reminiscence covers his early years of homesteading and farming with his brother, John, between 1886 and 1894.

James Fergus Family Papers (1834-1967), Mss 10, 10.6 linear feet
The collection consists of family papers and business records of James Fergus, rancher, businessman, political figure and pioneer of Armells, Montana, and papers of his son Andrew Fergus. The collection also contains papers of Pamela Dillin Fergus and her family, as well as correspondence of the families of the Fergus daughters including the Gilpatrick, Hamilton and Maury families. Materials consist of correspondence, financial and legal papers, business records, photos, and ephemera. The collection represents the social, political, and economic conditions of ranchers, families, businessmen and early pioneers of Montana from the 1850s to the 1920s. Additional correspondence from Andrew Fergus is available in collection Mss 635.

Cornelius Hedges Papers (1864-1865), Mss 373, 3 items
The first diary includes daily entries from April 20, 1864 until July 12, 1864. It begins with him leaving Iowa for Idaho. This part of the diary covers his daily experiences on the westward journey. The second part of the diary describes his experiences working in the gold mines upon his arrival in Virginia City in July 1864. Daily entries from July 12 to Dec. 31, 1864 include the daily work of mining, the cold, and business deals. The collection also includes excerpts from his manuscript entitled "Reminiscences of Early Days in Helena" covering Hedges' experiences just after leaving Virginia City for the mining prospects at Helena's Last Chance Gulch in January 1865.

Kohrs Family Papers (1852-1952), Mss 73, 7 reels microfilm
The Kohrs family were ranchers in the Deer Lodge Valley, Montana. The collection consists of ranching records, financial records, correspondence, pedigrees, published and unpublished manuscripts, butcher shop records, investment records, legal records, maps, and photographs. [Original papers are at the Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site in Deer Lodge.]

Corwin M. Lee Diaries (1865-1872), Mss 409, 0.2 linear feet
The collection contains the original two-volume diary of Corwin M. Lee, 1865-1872. Volume one spans Lee's experiences with the Sawyers Expedition, in addition to his settlement in Diamond City and Musselshell, Montana, 1865-1868. Volume two spans Lee's experiences in Montana around Musselshell, Montana and his travels in the region, including hunting and trapping expeditions, and skirmishes with Native Americans.

Linebarger Family Papers (1877-1945), Mss 281, 2.0 linear feet
This collection includes a broad range of correspondence and informal financial records for early Montana settler David H. Linebarger, as well as correspondence and laundry account records for his wife, Dora Linebarger.

Napton Family Papers (1825-1901), Mss 452, 3 reels microfilm
William Barclay Napton was an attorney in Missouri. His sons Thomas and Wellington were early Montana settlers. This collection includes an edited typescript of William Barclay Napton's personal journal between the years 1825 and 1883, and legal documents generated by or administrated by Thomas L. Napton and Wellington Napton during their years of Montana residence.
Isaac Schultz Letters (1884-1931), Mss 391, 0.2 linear feet
In 1883, Isaac Schultz and his brother, Alfred, invested in a sheep ranch, the Custer Creek Ranch, near Miles City, Montana. The sheep business prospered until the severe winter of 1886-87 when Isaac Schultz lost much of his flock and was forced to sell the remainder and find new work. The collection includes twenty-two letters between Isaac Schultz and his brother, Alfred, from Miles City, Montana, dated 1884 to 1887.

Sherburne Family Papers (1823-1962), Mss 67, 90 linear feet
This collection includes correspondence, financial, legal, organizational, photographic, and audio records generated or collected by Joseph Herbert Sherburne and his extended family, with particular representation from the family's business enterprises along the Northern Rocky Mountain Front Range and the Blackfeet Indian Reservation during the early twentieth century. An additional six linear feet of Sherburne family materials, acquired after the original 90 linear foot collection, were processed as Mss 638; a guide is available here.

Francis Lyman Worden Papers 1852-1940, Mss 21, 19.25 linear feet
Francis Lyman Worden was a founder and prominent businessman of Missoula, Montana. This collection includes personal, biographical, correspondence, financial, and legal records generated or collected by Francis L. Worden, Worden family and friends, employees of Worden and Company, and associates of Worden family businesses prior to 1900.

Records of Businesses and Organizations

Anaconda Forest Products Company (1890-1971), Mss 57, 534.5 linear feet
This collection includes records of the Anaconda Forest Products Company and 16 subsidiary divisions owned, operated, or directly associated with the Bonner, Montana-based logging and lumber processing company. Materials in this collection consist of incoming and outgoing correspondence, financial records, legal documents, personnel records, annual reports, company publications, photographs, 16-millimeter film, maps, and blueprints. The collection includes particularly extensive correspondence series from principal company officials and division managers as well as bound volumes of financial transactions for the company's mill and retail operations.

Big Blackfoot Milling Company (1882-1899), Mss 246, 47 volumes
The 47-volume collection contains minutes, organizational and financial records of the Montana Improvement Company, 1882-1892, and financial records, 1882-1899, of the various sub-groups which were predecessor and successor businesses of the that corporation: Spokane Falls Lumber Company; W. H. Hammond; Eddy, Hammond and Company; Missoula Mercantile Company; and the Big Blackfoot Milling Company. The records are incomplete, but provide a detailed record of A. B. Hammond, his associates, and their business activities in and around Missoula.

Catholic Church Book of Baptisms / Functions, Helena, Hellgate, and Frenchtown, Montana (1866-1907), Mss 24, 1 item and 1 reel microfilm
The collection consists of a facsimile of one two-part item, a book that records baptisms, confirmations, marriages, and deaths in Helena, Hellgate, and Frenchtown, Montana, between 1866 and 1907. Death records include cause of death, gender, age, and (often) country of origin; baptisms note whether the subject is an infant or adult. All records to 1899 are in Latin; records are in English after that date. Most entries are signed by the Jesuit brother that made them. Coverage is by no means complete in the Helena book; there are numerous missing pages. The Missoula book is complete. The microfilm contains both volumes.

Collins Land Company Records (1898-1951), Mss 63, 45.5 linear feet
This collection contains correspondence, financial, legal, promotional, and organizational records generated by the Collins Land Company as well as government publications regarding federal public lands and business records from three other Collins family enterprises. The Collins Land Company was based in Helena, Montana, and bought and sold public lands.
**First National Bank of Missoula Records (1866-1965), Mss 107, 28.0 linear feet**
The First National Bank was organized in 1873 in Missoula, Montana, under the name Missoula National Bank. The bank was one of the first businesses in Missoula, and one of the first banks in Montana Territory. This collection contains financial, organizational, correspondence, promotional, and reference materials generated by the First National Bank of Missoula and a small sample of financial records from the Missoula Trust and Savings Bank. Collection materials significantly document Missoula's early economic history, the town's foundational business relationships, the ebb and flow of western Montana economic development from the late nineteenth century through the early twentieth century, the impacts of national procedural/regulatory changes upon rural banks, and daily operations at the Missoula institution.

**Mercantile and General Store Ledgers**
Archives & Special Collections holds a number of ledgers from western Montana mercantiles and general stores, including the Arlee Mercantile, Beckwith Mercantile, Demers Mercantile (St. Ignatius), F. A. Davey Ledgers (Garnet), Featherman Mercantile (Drummond and New Chicago), Isdell Mercantile (Pony), Lincoln Jones’ Trading Company (near Ronan), Marchesseau and Valiton (Butte City), Yegen, Talmage and Company (Red Lodge).

**Western Montana National Bank Records (1889-1969), Mss 111, 17 linear feet**
The Western Montana National Bank was an early Missoula, Montana, bank. This collection primarily consists of large bound bank ledgers with a small set of loose bank documents.

**Photograph Collections**

**Edward H. Boos Photographs (ca. 1900-1908), Mss 346, 305 images**
This collection includes 305 glass plate and modern film negatives and prints created by Edward H. Boos between 1900 and 1908. This photographic collection constitutes one of the most extensive and detailed visual records of the Missoula, Mission, and Flathead valleys at the beginning of the 20th Century. Note: a more recent donation includes pre-1900 Boos photographs, including images from 1897 when Boos accompanied the U.S. Army 25th Infantry Bicycle Corps on its experimental overland trip from Fort Missoula to St. Louis, Missouri. This collection is numbered Mss 672 and a guide is available here.