

Examples of collections and resources about Montana Politics and Politicians held at Archives & Special Collections at the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library

Note: Links are provided from (most) 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; many smaller collections documenting politics and politicians in Montana are also held by Archives & Special Collections.

Papers of Individuals

Judi Chapman Papers (1963-1999), Mss 641, 12.7 linear feet

Chapman served as an assistant to United States Representative Pat Williams of Montana's 1st Congressional District from 1979-1991. In this role she dealt primarily with issues of women's equality and Native American interests.

Joseph M. Dixon Papers (1772-1944), Mss 55, 70 linear feet

Joseph Moore Dixon moved to Missoula in 1891. He was elected to the Montana House of Representatives in 1900 and elected to the U. S. House in 1902. While in the House, he introduced and passed the bill that opened the Flathead Indian Reservation to white settlement. He served in the U. S. Senate from 1906 to 1912. In the Senate he was chairman of the Committee to Examine Branches of the Civil Service and served on the Committee on the Conservation of Natural Resources. He was chairman of the National Progressive Convention in 1912, leading Roosevelt's "Bull Moose Party." Dixon served as Montana's governor from 1921-1925. In 1929, he was appointed First Assistant Secretary of the Interior. In 1930, he became vitally involved with a project to develop water power on the Flathead Indian Reservation, with its accompanying complex network of water rights. This collection contains a large portion of his personal and professional correspondence files, legal documents, financial records, campaign/political materials, photographs, and personal effects. [Dixon's gubernatorial papers are at the Montana Historical Society].

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. Originally from Minnesota, James Fergus moved to Montana in 1862. In 1865, he moved his family to the Last Chance Gulch, which is present day Helena. There he was involved in ranching and was elected two terms as county commissioner and one term in the territorial House of Representatives. James Fergus continued his political career when he was elected as a delegate to the 1884 Constitutional Convention and to the Territorial Council, where he was instrumental in the creation of Fergus County. In 1895, James Fergus and Andrew Fergus continued to expand their business operation and created a family corporation named Fergus Livestock and Land Company, which grew to be one of biggest ranching operations in central Montana. 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.

Juliet Gregory Papers (1925-1991), Mss 192, 2.5 linear feet

Gregory was the first woman mayor of Missoula, Montana, and was also active in the Montana Republican Party. The collection consists of general correspondence between Gregory and the many organizations in which she was involved.

Paul G. Hatfield Papers (1977-2000), Mss 77, 33.25 linear feet

This collection contains the papers Paul Hatfield generated and collected while serving in the U.S. Senate (1977-1978) and as a Federal judge for the U.S. District Court in Montana. Materials include biographical records, correspondence, legislative and judicial documents, news releases, speeches, research materials, campaign memorabilia, memorials, and a copy of Hatfield's official Senate portrait.

Maggie Smith Hathaway Papers (1893-1954), Mss 224, 1 linear foot

Hathaway was one of the first two women to serve in the Montana legislature. She worked in education and child welfare in Montana. The collection contains scrapbooks and the manuscript for a book, *Maggie and Montana*, written by Harold Tascher.

Frank Bird Linderman Memorial Collection (1885-2005), 14.5 linear feet + 10 oversized boxes and 81 objects

This collection represents the productive and collective efforts of Frank Linderman and his many careers as writer, politician, assayer, and Native American ally and ethnographer. Linderman served in the Montana state legislature in the 1903 and 1905 sessions. From 1905 to 1907 he was Montana's Assistant Secretary of State. He ran for the U.S. Congress in 1916 and 1918; in 1924 he ran for the U.S. Senate against Thomas J. Walsh. He was instrumental in founding the Rocky Boy's Reservation for Montana's Cree and Chippewa. He was adopted into three tribes: the Blackfeet, the Cree, and the Crow. The correspondence and photographs in this collection are especially extensive and represent his many friends and acquaintances.

Mike Mansfield Papers (1903-1990), Mss 65, 2450 linear feet

Mansfield, a Democrat, was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1942 and served five terms as representative of Montana's 1st District. In October 1951, he was appointed by President Truman as a delegate to the United Nations Sixth Session in Paris. He was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1952 and re-elected in 1958, 1964 and 1970. In 1958, President Eisenhower appointed Mansfield as United States Delegate to the 13th General Assembly of the United Nations. In November and December 1962, he undertook a foreign policy assignment to West Berlin and Southeast Asia for President Kennedy, and took a similar assignment for President Nixon in 1965. He visited the People's Republic of China with the Senate Minority Leader in 1972 on invitation from Premier Chou-En-Lai. In December 1974 and September 1976, he again visited China at the invitation of their government. Mansfield's responsibility and prestige steadily increased through his tenure in Congress. He became Assistant Majority Leader (Majority Whip) of the Senate in January 1957, and served in that capacity until 1961, when he was elected Majority Leader of the Senate. He held that position until he retired from the Senate in 1977- longer than any other Majority Leader in the history of the U.S. Senate. President Jimmy Carter appointed Mansfield Ambassador to Japan in 1977, he was reappointed by Ronald Reagan and he served in that position until 1988. Through all of his work he remained very close to the people and concerns of Montana, and was notorious for his close contact with citizens around the state. The collection consists of Mansfield's professional papers through his time representing the state of Montana, as well as a selection of items from his years as Ambassador to Japan. The collection includes legislative materials, correspondence, campaign materials, bills introduced, speeches, audio, video, film, photographs, memorabilia, and art objects. [Note: the official ambassadorial papers are with the records of the State Department in the National Archives.]

John Melcher Papers (1969-1988), approximately 770 linear feet

Melcher began his public service as an alderman on the Forsyth City Council and subsequently was elected Mayor of the town three times. In 1960 he was elected state representative for Rosebud County, followed by election to the Montana Senate in 1962 for a four year term. He was again elected to the Montana House in 1968. In 1969, Melcher was elected to the U. S. House of Representatives by winning a special election to fill a vacancy and served until January 3, 1977. He was elected to the U. S. Senate in 1976 and served until January 1989. In both the House and the Senate, Melcher was noted for his interest in agriculture, protection of public lands, notably Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management lands, and animal welfare and animal health protections. He served on the Agriculture and the Interior committees of the House, and on the Agriculture, Energy, and Natural Resources committees of the Senate. He was the chairman of the Special Committee on Aging and the Indian Affairs

Committee. This collection includes legislative materials, correspondence, campaign materials and other professional papers.

James E. Murray Papers (1934-1961), Mss 91, 483 linear feet

Murray became active in Democratic Party politics in Butte. He was elected to the U. S. Senate in 1934 and served until his retirement from office in 1960. During his time in the Senate Murray served as chairman of the Committee on Education and Labor; co-chairman of the Joint Committee on Labor-Management Relations; chairman of the Committee on Labor and Public Welfare; and as a member of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs. The bulk of the collection consists of general correspondence; other material includes legislative files, speeches and writings, clippings, film, and photographs.

Harry T. Northey Papers (1929-1976), Mss 694, 2.0 linear feet

As a Republican, Northey served terms in the Montana House of Representatives and Montana Senate from 1963 to 1974. Notable areas of legislative interest include air pollution control, predator protection, education, and the debate on a state sales tax.

Don Oberdorfer's Mansfield Biography Research Papers (1918-2003), Mss 590, 13.5 linear feet

Oberdorfer wrote the book *Senator Mansfield: The Extraordinary Life of a Great American Statesman and Diplomat* (Smithsonian Books, 2003). The collection includes summaries of Oberdorfer's conversations with Mansfield's family, colleagues, and friends and some drafts of chapters from Oberdorfer's book. Manuscript drafts and writings related to the book are filed with the research materials. The collection also features twenty-one taped interviews Don Oberdorfer conducted with Mike Mansfield between 1998 and 2001.

Arnold Olsen Papers (1956-1972), Mss 201, 116 linear feet

This collection contains the papers Democrat Arnold Olsen generated and collected while serving as U.S. Representative (1960-1970) for the western Montana Congressional District, along with a few other materials unrelated to his congressional service. During his ten-year career in the House of Representatives Olsen served on the Public Works Committee, the Post Office and Civil Service Committee, and was the Chairman of the Postal Rates Subcommittee. Materials include incoming and outgoing correspondence, legislative documents, official news releases, campaign materials, speeches, awards, certificates, gifts, and photographs.

Charles N. Pray Papers (1878-1963), Mss 175, 36.5 linear feet

Charles Pray was a Montana attorney who served in U.S. House of Representatives from 1906-1912. During his time in Congress, Pray authored and secured passage of many bills providing relief to Montana homesteaders, including the Three Year Homestead Act. Other notable bills authored by Pray include a measure for the establishment of a mine rescue service throughout the United States, and a bill to establish Glacier National Park. The collection contains such items as campaign materials from early Montana political campaigns, copies of speeches and bills introduced by Pray and others during Pray's time in Congress, and a series of newspaper articles from early Montana elections.

Diane Sands Papers (1964-2000), Mss 505, 10 linear feet

The collection primarily contains the papers of women's organizations and women's movements that Diane Sands, an activist in Montana, was associated with from the 1970s to the 1990s. The collection includes papers of the Women's Resource Center, the Missoula Chapter of the National Organization for Women, the Montana Pro-Choice Coalition, and the Women's Lobbyist Fund as well as papers related to the development and history of the Women's Studies department at the University of Montana. The collection also contains materials related to the women's liberation movement of the 1960s and 1970s. Sands was elected to the Montana House in 2006 from Missoula's District 95.

Leland H. Schoonover Papers (1945-1979), Mss 129, 9.0 linear feet

Schoonover was a Polson, Montana, school teacher and Montana state legislator who was very active in the local and state education community, civic organizations, and state and regional conservation efforts. In 1960, he

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became one of the first teachers granted leave to serve in the Montana state legislature. He was elected senator from Lake County as a Democrat and served in the 1961 and 1963 sessions. He was later elected to two terms in the Montana House of Representatives, where he served on the Montana Legislative Council, Subcommittee on Pesticides.

Richard Gardner Shoup Papers (1968-1974), Mss 198, 96 linear feet

This collection contains the papers Richard Shoup generated and collected while serving in the U.S. House of Representatives (1971-1975) for the western Montana congressional district. Materials include incoming and outgoing correspondence, legislative documents, official news releases, speeches, campaign materials, films, newspaper clippings, and photographs. Correspondence and legislation documents are particularly insightful regarding his efforts regarding military policies in light of the Vietnam War, political reforms following the Watergate break-in scandal, and the impact federal land and natural resource policies have on rural communities. Additionally, materials reveal Shoup's involvement in efforts to further develop energy resources in the American west and to promote Montana agricultural products through "accuracy in labeling" regulations for meat.

Lucile Speer Papers (1911-1972), Mss 585, 3.75 linear feet

The collection contains materials from Lucile Speer's career at The University of Montana, and her involvement in the Montana Farmer-Labor Institute, the Eugene McCarthy Campaign, and the Montana Constitutional Convention of 1972.

Pat Williams Papers (1979-1997), Mss 239, 87.5 linear feet

Pat Williams was in the U. S. House of Representatives for Montana from 1979 to 1997. This collection consists of the materials generated and collected by Williams' office during his eighteen years in office. Significant subjects include wilderness legislation, education, Native American issues, libraries, the National Endowments for the Arts and Humanities, labor issues, and the environment.

Oral History Collections

Bob Brown Oral History Interviews, OH 396, 70 interviews

From 2005-2010, former Montana congressman Bob Brown conducted oral history interviews with a variety of political figures in Montana. The interviewees ranged from state legislators, lobbyists, attorneys and journalists, to Montana Constitutional Convention delegates and officials in administrative and financial branches of the Montana State government. A few highlights within the topics are Montana and the Anaconda Company, the recurring sales tax referendum, mining, elections, deregulation, and the legislative process over time.