

A.W. MILES FAMILY COLLECTION
FINDING AID

YELLOWSTONE GATEWAY MUSEUM OF PARK COUNTY
LIVINGSTON, MONTANA
2022

A. W MILES FAMILY COLLECTION

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A. W. MILES FAMILY COLLECTION

PROVENANCE:

Betty Jane Dietz (1981.151) A.W. Miles's granddaughter donated primarily photographs in 1981. Montana State University donated a box of documents in 1998. (Note: Montana State University houses a large collection of A.W. Miles Papers, collection 2367). R.L. Jovick donated a box of documents in 2018. Jim Hunt donated a file box of papers in 2019. A couple of items were found in an attic and donated by Stephen DesNoyer in 2018.

ACCESS:

The collection is open for research. This finding aid can be found at:
<http://yellowstonegatewaymuseum.org/research-your-history/>.

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PREFERRED CITATION:

[Identification of item], A. W. Miles Family Collection, Yellowstone Gateway Museum of Park County.

SIZE:

Number of boxes: 2

Photographic material: 44 photographs

PROCESSED BY:

Ellen Zazzarino

A.W. MILES FAMILY COLLECTION

HISTORICAL NOTE

Arthur Wellington Miles graduated from Wesleyan College in 1878. He taught a term of school. In 1879 he accepted a position as paymaster's clerk in the army. He served for one year in Santa Fe, NM and was then promoted and transferred to Fort Keogh, MT. He witnessed the surrender of Sitting Bull and Rain in the Face during the time when buffalo roamed the plains. After two and half years, A.W. Miles resigned from the Army and began working in the hardware business. In 1882 he and Colonel A. L. Babcock joined to establish the firm Babcock and Miles and opened a store in Clark City, which shortly afterwards became Livingston. He and his partners opened stores in Gardiner, Big Timber and Red Lodge. A.W. Miles was one of the earliest businessmen in Livingston and began focusing his businesses in the town. In 1889 he built the Miles Block, which was destroyed by fire in 1914. He also erected the Post Office Block, which included the Park Hotel. He was the founder of the Garnier –Miles Block and in 1916 completed the Strand Theater. He formed and opened the A.W. Miles Company, which sold dry goods, groceries, clothing and farm implements. He also opened the A.W. Miles Mercantile Co. in Clyde Park. In 1914 he also formed the A.W. Miles Coal and Lumber Company. In 1917 A.W. Miles was the man primarily responsible for the establishment of the Northwestern National Bank of Livingston. He was also president of the Yellowstone Park Camping Company. A. W. Miles formed the Miles Land and Investment Company. A. W. Miles was active in the community and involved with numerous organizations. During the late 1920s, Daniel Miles took control of the companies when A.W. Miles retired to Los Angeles, California.

A. W. Miles served as the first Mayor of Livingston beginning in 1887 and served two terms. In 1905 he was elected to the state senate for four years.

On Dec. 19, 1885 Miles married Idella M. Draper. The couple had four children: Louise Gertrude, Adena Josephine, Perry and Daniel Nelson.

Daniel Miles married Esther Jane Trelvel. They had two children Betty Jane and Author Daniel. Esther Jane Miles died in 1948. Daniel Miles married Elsie Snyder Todd. They had one child, Milo David Miles.

A.W. Miles died in 1933. In 1982 the A.W. Miles Company was dissolved.

A.W. MILES FAMILY COLLECTION

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The A.W. Miles collection contains documents and photographs donated by several different donors including: Betty Jane Dietz (1981.151) A.W. Miles's granddaughter, Montana State (1998.021), R.L. Jovick (2018.065), Jim Hunt (2019.032) and Stephen DesNoyer (2018.0330). Their donations are noted with the corresponding accession number after the listing for each file folder. The collection contains material that document the daily business operations of the A.W. Miles Company, The Miles Lumber and Coal Company and The Miles Land and Investment Company. The papers comprise invoices, financial statements, letters and receipts. The materials document the daily operations and the financial connection between the three businesses.

The collection includes several folders of personal correspondence, finances and membership receipts. The papers documents A. W. Miles activity in the community. The photographs donated by his granddaughter Betty Jane Dietz include images of the family home in Livingston, family members and the businesses.

A.W. MILES FAMILY COLLECTION

SERIES DESCRIPTION

SERIES 1 BUSINESS BOX 1- 2 FF28 1901-1988

The series comprises material that documents the daily business operations of the A.W. Miles Company, The Miles Lumber and Coal Company, and The Miles Land and Investment Company. Materials include correspondence, legal and business documents, insurance and financial records, and papers from the day to day operations.

SERIES 2 PERSONAL BOX 2 1876-1982

The family papers provide insight into the A.W. Miles family daily expenditures and cost of living. The material comprises invoices, receipts, letters, life insurance policies and prescriptions, almost all of the material revolves around A.W. Miles. The series includes one folder from Daniel Miles expenses

SERIES 3 PHOTOGRAPHS 1913-1930

Almost all of the photographs in the series were donated by Betty Jane Dietz, who is A.W. Miles granddaughter. These images provide a glimpse into the family home, downtown Livingston and the business. The series also includes several studio portraits of family members.

A.W. MILES FAMILY COLLECTION CONTAINER LIST

SERIES 1 BUSINESSES

Box 1/WS5F A. W. Miles Company	Dates
FF1 Financial notes on paper and envelopes, memo pad (1997.921.0001)	1901-1940
FF2 Cancelled checks, bank statements, notes, accounts receivable list, list of expenses, lost, gross income, interest paid, depreciation (1998.021.0001)	1912-1939
FF3 Invoices, receipts, vouchers, statements (1998.021.0001)	1914-1918
FF4 National Bank of Montana: cancelled checks (1998.021.0001)	1915
FF5 A-B: invoices, statements (2019.032.0003)	1917
FF6 C-F: invoices, notes, account settlement, freight bill (2019.032.0003)	1917
FF7 H-L: invoices, statements, receipts (2019.032.0003)	1917
FF8 M: invoices, statements (2019.032.0003)	1917
FF9 N-Z: invoices, statements (2019.032.0003)	1917
FF10 Invoices, receipts received (1998.021.0001)	1920-1927, 1967
FF11 Letters, statements, brochures, receipts (2018.065.0001)	1921-1931
FF12 Statements, invoices, price list (2018.065.0001)	1922-1932
FF13 Invoices, receipts, statements (2018.065.0001)	1925-1932
FF14 National Park Bank: cancelled checks (1998.021.0001)	1928-1929
FF15 National Park Bank, First National Bank: statements of condition, financial statements (1998.021.0001)	1928-1932
FF16 B-G: invoices, statements, receipts (2018.065.0001)	ca. 1930-1931
FF17 H-Y: invoices, statements, receipts (2018.065.0001)	ca. 1930-1932
FF18 Assay analysis statements (1998.021.0001)	1934-1961
FF19 Farm Credit Administration, Emergency Crop and Feed Loan Section: letters (2018.065.0001)	Sept. 1934
FF20 Farm and ranch equipment brochures (2018.065.0001)	ca. 1934, not dated
FF21 Order book (half filled with orders) (2018.065.0001)	Dec. 4-31, 1934
FF22 Hardware vouchers ledger (2018.065.0001)	1935

Box 1/WS5F A. W. Miles Company	Dates
FF23 “McCormick Inventory of Repairs on Hand for Cultivators” (2018.065.0001)	1936
FF24 “McCormick Inventory of Repairs on Hand” (2018.065.0001)	1936
FF25 Equipment brochures (2018.065.0001)	ca. 1938
FF26 Vouchers, receipts, statement, stationary (all blank) (1998.021.0001)	not dated
FF27 Customer Suggestion cards, cordial greeting gift cards (all blank) (1998.021.0001)	not dated
FF28 Daily Sales Record (blank) (1998.021.0001)	not dated
FF29 Mailing Shipping labels (blank) (1998.021.0001)	not dated

Box 1/WS5F Miles Land and Investment Company	Dates
FF30 Notes, lists, adding machine printouts (1998.021.0001)	1902-1973
FF31 Insurance invoices, receipts (1998.021.0001)	1908-1938
FF32 Financial notes on empty envelopes, paper (1998.021.0001)	ca. 1909-1922
FF33 Cancelled checks, blank checks, deposit slip (1998.021.0001)	1914-1920s, 1951
FF34 The Livingston Theatre: invoices, list of work, charges (1998.021.0001)	ca. 1916
FF35 List of notes suspended, notes on profits and loss (1998.021.0001)	1920-1936, 1962
FF36 Invoices, receipts, motor vehicle registration (1998.021.0001)	1920-1928
FF37 Coal invoices, brochure (1998.021.0001)	1922-1923
FF38 Statements, invoices (2018.065.0001)	1922-1930
FF39 Invoices, receipts, statements, policy registers, telegram (2018.065.0001)	1922-1931
FF40 Correspondence, statements, invoices, assessment list, tax statements, notes (2081.065.0001)	1923-1930
FF41 Correspondence, grazing permit, receipts, notes, business cards (2018.065.0001)	1924-1929
FF42 Correspondence, statements, brochures, telegrams, agreement (2018.065.0001)	1924-1931
FF43 Invoices, correspondence, statements, account sheets (2018.065.0001)	1924-1932
FF44 Correspondence, statements, receipts, invoices (2018.065.0001)	1925-1930

Box 1/WS5F Miles Land and Investment Company	Dates
FF45 Correspondence, statements, receipts, invoices, brochures (2018.065.0001)	1925-1930
FF46 Northern Pacific freight invoices	1925-1931
FF47 Correspondence, statements, invoices, diagrams, brochure (2018.065.0001)	1925-1930
FF48 Statements, invoices (2018.065.0001)	1927-1932
FF49 Invoices, statements, telegram (2018.065.0001)	1928-1931

Box 2/WS5F Miles Land and Investment Company	Dates
FF1 Livingston Water Works receipts (2018.065.0001)	1928-1931
FF2 Insurance policies invoices (2018.065.0001)	1928-1932
FF3 Policy registers, receipts, statements, letter, notes (2018.065.0001)	1928-1934
FF4 Statements, notes, invoices, receipts (2018.065.0001)	1929-1930
FF5 Northwestern Improvement Company statements (2018.065.0001)	1929-1930
FF6 A-B: statements, invoices, customer account sheets, receipts (2018.065.0001)	ca. 1931
FF7 C-G: statements, invoices, receipts (2018.065.0001)	ca. 1930-1931
FF8 H-L: statements, receipts, invoices, letters (2018.065.0001)	1930-1932
FF9 M: receipts, invoices, statements (2018.065.0001)	1930-1932
FF10 N-P: statements, invoices, receipts (2018.065.0001)	1931
FF11 T-Y: statements, invoices, receipts (2018.065.0001)	ca. 1930-1931
FF12 Northwestern Improvement Co. – Red Lodge Coal, Montana Coal & Iron Co. - Smith Bearcreek Coal: correspondence sent, received (2018.065.0001)	1931
FF13 Invoices, receipts, agreement (1998.021.0001)	1953-1982
FF14 Deposit slips, cancelled checks (1998.021.0001)	1971-1988
FF15 Checks, deposit slips (1998.021.0001)	1981
FF16 Federal tax deposit slips (1998.021.0001)	1982
FF17 Deposit slips, cancelled checks, statement (1998.021.0001)	1982

Box 2/WS5F A. W. Miles Lumber & Coal Company		Dates
FF18	Sales statements, promissory notes (1998.021.0001)	1916-1966
FF19	Notes on profit and loss (1998.021.0001)	1920-1927
FF20	Sales statements (1998.021.0001)	ca. 1922
FF21	Statements, invoices (2018.065.0001)	1922-1932
FF22	Statements of sales to Miles Land and Investment Co. and A.W. Miles Co. (1998.021.0001)	1924, not dated
FF23	Statements, letters (2018.065.0001)	1925-1930
FF24	Statements, invoices (2018.065.0001)	1928-1930
FF25	Statements, invoices, receipts (2018.065.0001)	1928-1932
FF26	Invoices, credit memo, statements (1998.021.0001)	1968-1977
FF27	Cancelled checks, deposit slips (1998.021.0001)	1977-1979
FF28	Blank checks, stationary, statements, envelopes (1998.021.0001)	not dated

SERIES 2 PERSONAL

Box 2/WS5F A. W. Miles and Family Personal		Dates
FF29	Letters, business card, envelope, diary, clipping (2018.033.001, 0003-0006)	ca. 1876-1901
FF30	Correspondence (2018.065.0001)	1925-1931
FF31	Receipts, envelopes with notes, cancelled checks (1998.026.0001)	ca. 1910-1930
FF32	Brochure, invoices, notes, income tax amounts for family members, escrow envelopes (1998.021.0001)	ca. 1910-1945
FF33	Invoices, receipts (2018.065.0001)	1922-1929
FF34	Invoices, receipts, statements (2018.065.0001)	1930
FF35	Invoices, receipts, statements (2018.065.0001)	1931-1932
FF36	Life insurance application forms, invoices, notes, receipts, notices (2018.065.0001)	ca. 1905-1932
FF37	Life insurance policies: letters, receipts, invoices (2018.065.0001)	1925-1932
FF38	Organizations, Events: letters, programs, receipts (2018.065.0001)	1919-1932
FF39	Organizations: receipts (1998.021.0001)	1923-1930

Box 2/ WS5F A. W. Miles and Family Personal	Dates
FF40 Algeria Temple, Knights of Pythias, Livingston Lodge, Woodmen of World Rotary Club. St. Bernard Commandery No. 6 K.T.: receipts, dues notices, meeting notices (2018.065.0001)	1925-1932
FF41 Great Lakes - St. Lawrence Tidewater Association: newsletter, letter (2018.065.0001)	1925-1931
FF42 Gasoline tax: proposed amendments, letter (2018.065.0001)	1928
FF43 Livingston Schools list of boy graduates for 8 th grade, high school (2018.065.0001)	June 1931
FF44 Daniel N. Miles: invoices, receipts, church program (1998.021.0001)	ca. 1924-1982
FF45 Elsie Miles Saunders, Casey Diamond: receipts, invoices (1998.021.0001)	1978-1981
FF46 Miles family: report card, proxy, envelope (1998.021.0001)	1908, 1940, not dated
FF47 A. W. Miles Records, 1882-1997, Montana State University Libraries finding aid (1998.021)	March 1997

SERIES 3 PHOTOGRAPHS

Unidentified young man wearing kepi cap and uniform (torn) (2018.033.0002)	not dated
B. E. Berg and A. W. Miles standing in downtown Livingston with the Strand Theatre building, 108 S. 2nd St., in the background: black and white photo (1981.151.0004)	not dated
Murray Hotel, Skillman Brothers Fur Exchange, and Sharps and Evans Curio Stores sit between 2nd and 3rd Streets facing Park Street, Livingston, MT: black and white photo (1981.151.0005)	not dated
Members of the Miles family at the Emigrant Fish Hatchery, Paradise Valley, left to right: Betty, Bud, George, Dan, Betty Jane, Idella (Mrs. A. W.) Miles, and Jane (Mrs. Dan) Miles: black and white photo (1981.151.0006)	not dated
Miniature golf course in Livingston: black and white photo (1981.151.0007)	not dated
Dining room with the table set - on the back – built-in china closet: black and white photo (1981.151.0008)	not dated
Three men and two women standing in front of a pillared porch – written on back: A. W. Miles, Mrs. A. W. Miles, George Miles (Miles City Banker), Mrs. Millard Olney and Herbert Miles: black and white photo (1981.151.0009)	not dated

SERIES 3 PHOTOGRAPHS

A. W. Miles house in summer - now known as the Talcott House: black and white photo (1981.151.0010)	not dated
A W Miles house in the fall, (now known as the Talcott house) written on back - tree planted about time Dan born probably 1913: black and white photo (1981.151.0011)	ca. 1913
Three men and three women sitting around a dining room table written on back Mrs. A W Miles, Mrs. Dan Miles, A W Miles, Edward H Moorman, Mrs. EH Moorman, Dan Miles: black and white photo (1981.151.0012)	not dated
Dining room, written on back - dining room at A.W. Miles home: black and white photo (1981.151.0013)	not dated
Room in a house, written on back - inside the A.W. Miles home - hallway from north: black and white photo (1981.151.0014)	not dated
Mr. and Mrs. A.W. Miles: black and white photo (1981.151.0015)	1930
Skillman Brothers Fur Exchange, and Sharps and Evans Curio Stores, located on Park Street across from the Northern Pacific Railway Depot, Livingston, MT: black and white photo (1981.151.0016)	not dated
A man stands in winter in downtown Livingston at the corner of Callender and 2nd Streets: black and white photo (1981.151.0017)	ca. 1930
Building a new bank building on Callender and 2nd streets - the Library and Ebert Building are in the background: black and white photo (1981.151.0018)	not dated
A. W. Miles Lumber & Coal Co. building: black and white photo (1981.151.0019)	not dated
View of Callender and Main streets and the construction of the First National Park Bank: black and white photo (1981.151.0020)	not dated
Lumber yard with a train box car, noted on a slip of paper the A. W. Miles lumber yard looking west: black and white photo (1981.151.0021)	not dated
Two women standing in front of brick house, noted on paper - Dan Miles home on the corner of Callender and 5th, built 1920 - Betty Miles and Mrs. Dan Miles - Earl Mortimer house next door: black and white photo (1981.151.0022)	not dated
Burned building in Wilsall after the fire that destroyed Keyes Store and Hotel, H F Brink Merc Co & James Stansifer's Barber Shop. Loss estimate was \$75,000: black and white photo (1981.151.0023)	August 1931

SERIES 3 PHOTOGRAPHS

Strand Theater in downtown Livingston, - written on paper - The Strand advertised 100% talking movies "Our Screen Talks": black and white photo (1981.151.0024) not dated

People working on a building site, written on back - building Holbrook J D Miles house (Geo. son) in the background: black and white photo (1981.151.0025) not dated

Burned building on a street in Wilsall with car parked in front: black and white photo (1981.151.0026) 1931

Street in Wilsall with a burned building: black and white photo (1981.151.0027) 1931

Hamburger stand with three people standing, the sign reads - Refresh yourself 5 cents Hamburgers 10 cents, noted on back: Pigger Lewis Parrish, Vernon Lewis. On corner of Lewis & Second: black and white photo (1981.151.0028)

Bridge on Second Street crossing to Miles Park - Sign above bridge "Miles Park City Camp Grounds": black and white photo (1981.151.0029) not dated

Winter scene at the Talcott house at the time that A W Miles owned it: black and white photo (1981.151.0030) not dated

Room inside the Talcott house, noted on paper - Miles home from the north entrance: black and white photo (1981.151.0031) not dated

Construction of Holbrook Church: black and white photo (1981.151.0032) not dated

Home Auto Garage on 2nd St. Livingston, MT: black and white photo (1981.151.0033) not dated

Daniel N. Miles standing next to a rope swing: black and white photo (1981.151.0034) not dated

Group of men in front of the BPOE 246 Livingston Lodge on Lewis Street: black and white photo (1981.151.0035) not dated

"Monster captive black whale" exhibition sitting just beyond the railroad tracks. on the back is written "A. W. Miles": black and white photo (1981.151.0036) not dated

Postcard of a train engine #4002 and a coal car sitting on the tracks next to the Depot in Livingston, MT. The maller engine weighs 350 tons. Sax & Fryer Co., Livingston, MT, is stamped on the back. (1981.151.0037) not dated

Elk in Gardiner, MT: black and white photo (1981.151.0038) not dated

Group of men standing in front of the Park Hotel: black and white photo (1981.151.0039) not dated

SERIES 3 PHOTOGRAPHS

- Eva Garnier standing at the rear of a parade float with Order of Moose sign, moose heads, and American flags: black and white photo (1981.151.0040) not dated
- A.W. Miles Family studio portraits: 7 black and white photos (1981.151.0042) not dated
- Canyon Camp, Yellowstone Park, Mrs. Sara E. Morse, Matron (1978.151.0023) 1917
- A.W. Miles and Mr. Warbeck, who was lost on the Titanic, Camp Roosevelt (1979.230.0004) reproduced 1934