

# Rodney Wallace Page Family Papers, 1881-1927

## Overview of the Collection

<b>Creator</b>	Page, Rodney Wallace
<b>Title</b>	Rodney Wallace Page Family Papers
<b>Dates</b>	1881-1927 1881 1927
<b>Quantity</b>	1 folder
<b>Collection Number</b>	Collection 2545, MtBC, us (collection)
<b>Summary</b>	The Rodney W. Page Papers consist of letters and legal documents. Most of the letters were written in 1881-1882, correspondents include Rodney and his wife, Sarah, their son, Arthur, Rodney's daughter, Elvira, and her daughter Mary. These letters describe family news, local weather conditions, religious admonishments, the state of affairs in Montana, preparations for the family's move to the territory, as well as farming and ranching activities in Madison County. The legal documents discuss the sale and management of cattle.
<b>Repository</b>	<a href="#">Montana State University Library, Merrill G. Burlingame Special Collections</a> Montana State University-Bozeman Library Merrill G Burlingame Special Collections P.O. Box 173320 Bozeman, MT 59717-3320 Telephone: 406-994-4242 Fax: 406-994-2851 <a href="mailto:spcoll@www.lib.montana.edu">spcoll@www.lib.montana.edu</a>
<b>Access Restrictions</b>	This collection is open for research.
<b>Languages</b>	English

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## Biographical Note

Rodney Wallace Page was born in 1838, one of five children born to Wallace and Nancy Bonnie Page. His siblings were Elvira Page (1833-1914), Robert Wallace Page (1834-1913), Elmina Page (1836-1910) and James Madison Page (1839-1924). Sometime prior to 1864, Rodney married Sarah Peters and the couple had seven children: Evelyn (1864-1946), Arthur (1865-1958), Elvira (1867-1937), Alta (1868-1924), Ida (1870-1914), Ernest (1873-1964) and Edward (1875-1945). As Rodney worked as a surveyor in Osceola County, Michigan, his siblings began a family migration to Madison County, Montana, the first arrival being James Madison Page in 1866, followed by Robert Wallace Page in 1879 and Elmina Page in 1880. Rodney's eldest son, Arthur, had also removed before his father embarked to Montana and worked for his uncle James on his homestead. In 1882 Rodney left Michigan to join his brother James on a surveying expedition to Yellowstone National Park. Rodney's wife Sarah, along with the rest of the children and Rodney's widowed sister Elvira, joined them all shortly thereafter. Rodney eventually established his own homestead in the Twin Bridges area and continued to work as

a land surveyor. Rodney's second daughter, Elvira, eventually married Harry Redfield, an employee of her father. Their daughter was Mary Redfield, whose publications and manuscripts can be found in [Collection 336](#), the Mary Redfield Lindsey Papers. Rodney Wallace Page died in Santa Clara, California in 1915, and his wife Sarah died there in 1916.

## Content Description

The Rodney W. Page papers consist of letters and legal documents. Most of the letters were written in 1881-82 by Rodney and his wife, Sarah, from Osceola County, Michigan, to their son, Arthur, in Montana Territory. These letters describe family news, local weather conditions, religious admonishments, and questions regarding the state of affairs in Montana and the preparations for the family's move to the territory. Additional letters by Rodney's daughter, Elvira, to her daughter Mary, describe some farming and ranching activities in Madison County, Montana along with family news. Two legal documents complete the collection. These items concern the sale and management of cattle by Rodney in the early twentieth century. The documents in this collection have been individually calendared.

## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Letters and legal documents created or collected by the family of Rodney W. Page were donated to Montana State University by his descendants Orrie Page, of Lebanon, Oregon, Janice M. Hewitt and Laurence Page on August 4, 2011.

### Processing Note

This collection was processed 2011 August 11

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## Detailed Description of the Collection

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Folder-item		
1/1	Ida Page, Hersey, Michigan, letter to Rodney Wallace Page Family news; school studies; addendum to Arthur Page expressing her loneliness and asking him to write	September 3, 1881
1/2	Rodney Wallace Page and Sarah Peters Page, Hersey, Michigan, letter to Arthur Page Family news; mentions smallpox in Osceola County; questions about Montana homestead site regarding river location and proximity of potential neighbors; religious admonishments	December 11, 1881

Container(s)	Description	Dates
1/3	Sarah Peters Page, Hersey, Michigan, letter to Arthur Page Family news; mentions hearing from James and his satisfaction with Arthur's work; religious admonishments; asks if Arthur would consider coming back to Michigan to live	December 18, 1881
1/4	Rodney Wallace Page, Hersey, Michigan, letter to Arthur Page Mentions receiving a letter from Arthur and James; asks that logs be hauled to prepare a home site in Montana; religious admonishments	January 17, 1882
1/5	Sarah Peters Page, Hersey, Michigan, letter to Arthur Page Mentions receiving two letters from Arthur; family news and farm matters in Michigan; asks about the Montana home site and any potential Indian problems	January 19, 1882
1/6	Sarah Peters Page, Hersey, Michigan, letter to Arthur Page General admonishments of religion	January 23, 1882
1/7	Rodney Wallace Page and Sarah Peters Page, Hersey, Michigan, letter to Arthur Page Family news and local travels in Michigan; notes anxiousness of sons to go to Montana; mentions recently published book on the life of President James A. Garfield	January 31, 1882
1/8	Rodney Wallace Page and Sarah Peters Page, Climax, Michigan, letter to Arthur Page Visiting relatives in area; mentions being in a hurry to get to the Beaverhead Valley in Montana; asks how the ranch looks; religious admonishments	March 5, 1882
1/9	Rodney Wallace Page, Pageville, Montana, memorandum of agreement with E. B. Page Agreement to share the offspring of cattle, with proper identification information for twelve head	April 2, 1900
1/10	Harry Redfield and Elvira Page Redfield, Pageville, Montana, letter to Ida Page Mentions regret over Charlie's sickness; family news; housekeeping details; mentions accident suffered by Harry; regret over Charlie's failure to finish a contract due to illness	September 5, 1905
1/11	Rodney Wallace Page, bill of sale to Parson Brothers, Wibaux, Montana Details sale of fifty head of cattle	October 14, 1914

Container(s)	Description	Dates
1/12	Sarah Peters Page, Santa Clara, California, letter to Elvira Page Redfield [handwritten transcription]Health matters; family news	January 1916
1/13	Elvira Page Redfield, Twin Bridges, Montana, letter to Mary Redfield Family news; local weather conditions; raising turkeys; making butter; managing sheep	June 4, 1925
1/14	Elvira Page Redfield, Whitehall, Montana, letter to Mary Redfield Family news; illnesses; threshing; household chores; hunting	April 1926
1/15	Elvira Page Redfield, Whitehall, Montana, letter to Mary Redfield Family news; dental work; weather	September 25, 1927

## Names and Subjects

### Subject Terms :

Agriculture -- Montana -- Madison County  
 Families -- Michigan -- Osceola County  
 Families -- Montana -- Madison County  
 Frontier and pioneer life -- Montana -- Madison County  
 Ranching -- Montana -- Madison County

### Personal Names :

Lindsey, Mary Redfield, 1892-1972 -- Correspondence  
 Page, Arthur, 1865-1958 -- Correspondence  
 Page, Rodney Wallace, 1838-1915 -- Correspondence  
 Page, Sarah Peters, d. 1916 -- Correspondence  
 Redfield, Elvira Page, 1867-1937 -- Correspondence

### Family Names :

Page family -- Archives

### Geographical Names :

Madison County (Mont.) -- History -- 19th century  
 Osceola County (Mich.) -- History -- 19th century  
 Twin Bridges (Mont.)

### Form or Genre Terms :

amily papers -- Montana -- Madison County  
 Family papers -- Michigan -- Osceola County

### Other Creators :

#### Family Names :

Page family

Kim Allen Scott, 2011

