Overview of the Collection

Title Hamilton, Ballinger, Davidson, Bunnell, McAfee, and Weesner Family Papers
Dates 1764-1998
1764 1998
Quantity 13.5 linear feet
Collection Number Collection 2488, MtBC, us (collection)
Summary The Hamilton, Ballinger, Davidson, Bunnell, McAfee, and Weesner Papers consists of correspondence, personal documents, estate documents, research, and literary productions assembled by various members of the families, including Florence Ballinger Hamilton, Paul Ballinger Davidson, PhD, Marie Bunnell Davidson, Jane Davidson Schultz Klockman, and Esther Lee Davidson Engstrom. Materials of interest include Civil War, World War I, and World War II correspondence. Of further interest are two journals relating to Yellowstone National Park, materials from Dr. Davidson's fellowship at the Mellon Institute and his papermaking materials.
Repository Montana State University Library, Merrill G. Burlingame Special Collections
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
spcoll@www.lib.montana.edu
Access Restrictions This collection is open for research.
Additional Reference Guides An alternative form of this finding aid can be found at http://www.lib.montana.edu/collect/spcoll/findaid/2488.html
Languages English
Sponsor Funding for encoding this finding aid was provided by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities

Historical Note

The family members highlighted in this collection are James McClellan Hamilton (1861-1940), Florence Ballinger Hamilton (1873-1970), John Lawson Bunnell (1860-1936), Esther Clorinda Weesner Bunnell
The James McClellan Hamilton family settled in the Gallatin Valley in 1889, where Mr. Hamilton engaged in educational work. Hamilton was very devoted to Montana education, serving in various capacities for the next fifty-plus years, including serving a term as President of Montana State College (later MSU) (ca. 1904-1919), and Dean of Men at Montana State College (MSU) (ca. 1919-1940). Florence Ballinger Hamilton taught at Montana State College (ca. 1900-1918) prior to her marriage to Dean Hamilton. After her marriage, she was active in the community and supportive in her role as spouse of a college president. The John Lawson Bunnell and his wife Esther Clorinda Weesner Bunnell moved to Montana in 1900. The Bunnell family engaged in ranching after moving to the Gallatin Valley in 1913. Wells Seaman Davidson and Lucy "Lulu" Ballinger Davidson took up residence in Bozeman, Montana circa 1896. The Davidson's were active in the community. He served as president of the Gallatin Trust and Savings bank (circa 1921-1934), prior to her marriage she taught school in Livingston; in addition, Lucy was a charter member of the Bozeman Woman's Club. Paul Ballinger Davidson, PhD (son of Mr. and Mrs. Wells S. Davison) and his wife Marie Bunnell Davidson (daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John L. Bunnell) returned to Bozeman, Montana in 1963 after living in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania for 35 years. Dr. Davidson held several patents related to papermaking and held a research fellowship at the Mellon Institute of Industrial Research. Davidson's fellowship was sponsored by the Strathmore Paper Company, his research helped to develop sizing of papers, art papers, and glues. Marie served as a teacher in home economics in Choteau, Montana, was co-owner of a tea-room in Lexington, Kentucky, as well as performed duties as a devoted helpmate and parent.

Content Description

The Hamilton, Ballinger, Davidson, Bunnell, McAfee, and Weesner papers were assembled by various members of the families, including Florence Ballinger Hamilton, Paul Ballinger Davidson, PhD, Marie Bunnell Davidson, Jane Davidson Schultz Klockman, and Esther Lee Davidson Engstrom. The material has been divided up into five series pertaining to correspondence, literary productions, financial and legal documents, Dr. Davidson's fellowship at the Mellon Institute and his papermaking materials, as well as the family's Photographs. Materials of interest include Civil War, World War I, and World War II correspondence. Of further interest are two journals relating to Yellowstone National Park. The materials contain correspondence, news paper clippings, scrapbooks, memory and autograph books, and so on that transmitted information across the country and back pertaining to local social and family matters in such locations as Montana, New York, Pennsylvania, Germany, Illinois, Indiana, Colorado, Missouri, Wisconsin, Washington D.C., Minnesota, Alabama, West Virginia, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Washington, Michigan, South Carolina, California, Oregon, Ohio, Tennessee, and Idaho. This series contains the oversized materials that have been separated from the series, the separation is denoted by an asterisk (*) next to the folder from which material was removed. A duplicate notation of an asterisk (**) refers to the photographs relating to the Mellon Institute Fellowship of Dr. Paul B. Davidson that have been included within the photograph series in box 32 folder 4. More information on the separations may be found listed under series 6 boxes 33 to 37.

Administrative Information

Arrangement

Series 1: Correspondence, 1764-1991
Series 2: Literary productions, 1867-1988
Series 3: Financial and Legal Documents, 1854-1971
Series 4: Mellon Institute Fellowship and papermaking materials, 1935-1971
Series 5: Photographs, circa 1850-1998

Acquisition Information

Correspondence, personal documents, estate documents, research, and literary productions pertaining to the Hamilton, Ballinger, Davidson, Bunnell, McAfee, and Weesner families were donated by Jane Davidson Schultz Klockman and Esther Lee Davidson Engstrom in the fall of 2006.

Processing Note

This collection was processed 2007 August 21

Detailed Description of the Collection

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container(s)</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tr>
<td>Box 1-3</td>
<td>Series 1: Correspondence</td>
<td>1764-1991</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Letters created or collected by Paul Ballinger Davidson, PhD and Marie Bunnell Davidson pertaining mostly to family and personal matters. Included are letters from Julia A. Reed, Jane "Grammy" Hardcastle Ballinger, Isaac "Ike" Hardcastle of the 32nd Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment, Merrill Smith Ballinger, Jenny Hardcastle, Irma "Babe" Davidson, Ella "Olla" Grote, Wells Seaman Davidson, Lucien L. Benepe, Julia Ballinger Henry, Esther Clorinda Weesner Bunnell, Brunette "Nettie" Ballinger, Lucy "Lulu" "Tat" Ballinger Davidson, Paul "Pogy" Ballinger Davidson, PhD, Marie "Bunny" Bunnell Davidson, Esther Lee Davidson Engstrom, Jane Davidson Schultz Klockman, Ella Jane Hardcastle, Basil Weesner, Mathew Densmore "Denny" Gruse, Florence "Torny" Ballinger Hamilton, Tim M. Babcock Governor of Montana, and Senator Mike Mansfield. Letters were written from various locations in Montana, New York, Pennsylvania, Germany, Illinois, Indiana, Colorado, Missouri, Wisconsin, Washington D.C., Minnesota, Alabama, West Virginia, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Washington, Michigan, South Carolina, California, Oregon, Ohio, Tennessee, and Idaho. Included are: an 1850 letter from Achilles Ballinger from Sacramento, California, letters from Isaac Hardcastle of the 32nd Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment while serving in the Civil War, Lucien L. Benepe while serving in World War I, Basil Weesner and M. D.
"Denny" Gruse while serving in World War II, Tim M. Babcock
Governor of Montana honoring Paul Ballinger Davidson as an
"outstanding Montanan", as well as Senator Mike Mansfield
congratulating Florence "Torny" Ballinger Hamilton on
her 96th and 97th birthdays, her contributions to the state,
the 7th anniversary of Hillcrest's opening, and paying his
condolences to Paul Ballinger Davidson and Kenyon Talcott on
Florence's death. The correspondence has been arranged in a
chronological order.

4-14
Series 2: Literary productions
Literary productions pertaining to Paul Ballinger Davidson,
Marie Bunnell Davidson, Wells Seaman Davidson, James
McClellan Hamilton, Jane Davidson Schultz Klockman,
Florence Ballinger Hamilton, Merrill G. Burlingame, R. R.
Renne, Frances Lynn Turpin, among others. The series
comprises a collection of magazine articles and clippings,
magazines, newsletters, community literature, published
materials, manuscripts, papers and essays, speeches, journals
and reminiscences, music ribbons, drawings, and posters.
It also includes poetry, educational paperwork, fraternity
paperwork, membership cards, and certificates, dancing cards
and labels, telegrams, notes and lists, post and greeting cards,
postcards, and literature dealing with World War I.
Magazine articles and clippings in the series pertain to a variety
of subjects ranging from political and government information
to social information, to poetry and stories, to household
improvement and arts and crafts, to antiques, etc. Texts in the
series include a book by Merrill G. Burlingame of the history
of Montana State College (MSU), a manuscript by James M.
Hamilton regarding the history of Montana in regards to the
Lewis and Clark expedition, and several essays by Wells S.
Davidson relating to financial matters. The series includes
two unpublished journals; the first by Florence B. Hamilton,
and the second by Frances L. Turpin. Both journals relate
to their respective journeys through Yellowstone National
Park; Hamilton's trip transpired in 1883, and Turpin traveled
in 1895. The artwork includes a likeness of President George
Washington. The literary productions have been arranged by
subject types. This series contains the oversized materials that
have been separated from the series, the separation is denoted
by an asterisk (*) next to the folder from which material was
removed. More information on the separations may be found
listed under series 6 boxes 33 to 37.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container(s)</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14-16</td>
<td>Series 3: Financial and Legal Documents</td>
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<td>Financial and legal documents pertaining to the estates of John Lawson Bunnell and Esther Clorinda Weesner Bunnell, Paul Ballinger Davidson, PhD and Marie Bunnell Davidson, Wells Seaman Davidson and Lucy &quot;Lulu&quot; Ballinger Davidson, Emma Grote Davidson, and James McClellan Hamilton and Florence &quot;Torny&quot; Ballinger Hamilton. The material has been arranged alphabetically by last name of the individual's estate, within each estate the documents have been ordered chronologically. John Lawson Bunnell and Esther Clorinda Weesner Bunnell documents. Miscellaneous personal and estate documents for John Lawson Bunnell and Esther Clorinda Weesner Bunnell; these documents also pertain to Esther Elizabeth Bunnell. The documents detail financial dealings (for instance real estate, stock holdings, bonds, payment receipts, tax returns, and so on) of Mr. Bunnell, his wife Clorinda, and daughter Esther. Paul Ballinger Davidson, PhD and Marie Bunnell Davidson documents. Miscellaneous personal and estate documents for Paul Ballinger Davidson; these documents also pertain to Marie B. Davidson, and Lucy &quot;Lulu&quot; Ballinger Davidson. The documents detail financial dealings (for example real estate, stock holdings, bonds, payment receipts, and more) of Dr. Davidson, his wife Marie, and mother Lucy. The documents include information about Dr. Davidson's career (civil service commission, fellowship with the Mellon Institute). The documents entail information regarding the death and burial of Dr. Davidson's father, Wells S. Davidson, as well as his mother Lucy. Lucy Ballinger Davidson and Wells S. Davidson documents. Miscellaneous personal and estate documents for Lucy &quot;Lulu&quot; Ballinger Davidson and Wells S. Davidson. The documents entail Mrs. Davidson's duties and accountability as executrix of her husband Wells' estate. The documents contain the financial dealings (for instance real estate, stock holdings, annuities, bills, payment receipts, and so forth) pertaining to Mrs. Davidson's estate. Information in the documents detail joint financial holdings between Mrs. Davidson and her son Dr. Paul Ballinger Davidson (stock, real estate, plus more). The documents also include information pertaining to Dr. Paul Davidson's accountability for his mother's estate upon her death. Emma Grote Davidson personal and estate documents. Miscellaneous personal and estate documents for Emma Grote Davidson. The documents detail financial deals (for instance real estate, stock holdings, insurance information, and payment receipts) of Mrs. Davidson. Florence Ballinger Hamilton personal and estate documents. Miscellaneous personal and estate documents for James McClellan Hamilton and Florence Ballinger Hamilton. The documents include financial statements from Gallatin Trust and Savings Bank.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Container(s)</td>
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<td>detailing living expenses, medical expenses, estate fees, and funeral expenses. The documents contain information relating to Mrs. Hamilton's stock holdings, as well as information relating to Dr. Paul Ballinger Davidson's duties as executor of her estate. The documents also encompass assorted court documents pertaining to Mrs. Hamilton's estate.</td>
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<tr>
<td>16-18</td>
<td>Series 4: Mellon Institute Fellowship and Papermaking materials</td>
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<td>Materials pertaining to Dr. Paul Ballinger Davidson's fellowship at the Mellon Institute in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Information covered within the series includes correspondence, patents, magazine articles, magazines, articles written by Dr. Davidson for the Mellon Institute News, published materials, Photographs**, and paper samples collected and made by Dr. Davidson relating to the papermaking process. This series contains the oversized materials that have been separated from the series, the separation is denoted by an asterisk (*) next to the folder from which material was removed. A duplicate notation of an asterisk (**) refers to the photographs relating to the Mellon Institute Fellowship of Dr. Paul B. Davidson that have been included within the photograph series in box 32 folder 4. More information on the separations may be found listed under series 6 boxes 33 to 37. The materials have been ordered by subject type and within each type, chronologically when it was appropriate.</td>
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<tr>
<td>19-37</td>
<td>Series 5: Photographs</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Individual photographs and photographic albums pertaining to the Hamilton, Ballinger, Davidson, Bunnell, McAfee, and Weesner families through direct lineage, indirect lineage, or friendship. The series has been arranged according to photographic type: formal individual portraits, formal group portraits, informal snapshots of individuals, informal snapshots of groups, snapshot images of miscellaneous scenery, and informal photographs of items of importance to the family. The photographs have been individually numbered from 1 through 1,615 and have been arranged as follows: individual portraits (alphabetically arranged by subject's name), 1-404; group formal portraits of females, 405-436; group formal portraits of males, 437-446; group formal portraits of males and females, 447-476; informal snapshots, 477-1,306; miscellaneous scenery and items, 1,307-1,520; additional photographs added after the initial identification and arrangement, 1,521-1,615. Many photographs which were unidentified during the initial processing of this collection have been subsequently marked by the donor. This series contains oversized images and materials separated from the previous series, the separation from the</td>
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earlier series is denoted by an asterisk (*) next to the folder from which material was removed. A duplicate notation of an asterisk (**) refers to the photographs relating to the Mellon Institute Fellowship of Dr. Paul B. Davidson that have been included within the photograph series in box 32 folder 4.

Names and Subjects

**Subject Terms :**
- College presidents' spouses-Montana-Bozeman
- College presidents-Montana-Bozeman
- Deans (Education)-Montana-Bozeman
- Papermaking
- Ranching-Montana
- Universities and colleges-Montana-Bozeman
- Women-Montana
- World War, 1914-1918-Personal narratives, American
- World War, 1939-1945-Personal narratives, American

**Corporate Names :**
- Mellon Institute of Industrial Research
- Montana State College-History
- Montana State College-Presidents

**Family Names :**
- Bellinger family
- Bunnell family
- Davidson family
- Hamilton family
- McAfee family

**Geographical Names :**
- Bozeman (Mont.)-Social life and customs
- Bozeman (Mont.)-History
- United States-History-Civil War, 1861-1865-Personal narratives
- Yellowstone National Park

**Form or Genre Terms :**
- Autograph albums
- Clippings-Montana
- Family papers-Montana
- Photographs-Montana
- Scrapbooks-Montana

**Other Creators :**

**Personal Names :**
- Bunnell, Esther Clorinda Weesner, 1871-1957 (creator)
- Bunnell, John Lawson, 1860-1936 (creator)
- Davidson, Lucy Ballinger, 1870-1952 (creator)
Davidson, Marie Bunnell, 1895-1980  
(creator)  
Davidson, Paul Ballinger, 1896-1988  
(creator)  
Davidson, Wells Seaman, 1864-1941  
(creator)  
Hamilton, Frances Ballinger, 1873-1970  
(creator)  
Hamilton, James McClellan, 1861-1940  
(creator)  
**Family Names:**  
Ballinger family  
(creator)  
Bunnell family  
(creator)  
Davidson family  
(creator)  
Hamilton family  
(creator)  
McAfee family  
(creator)  
Weesner family  
(creator)  

Kim Allen Scott, 2007