

# Campbell Family Papers, 1836-1899

## Overview of the Collection

<b>Creator</b>	Campbell family
<b>Title</b>	Campbell Family Papers
<b>Dates</b>	1836-1899 1836 1899
<b>Quantity</b>	2 folders
<b>Collection Number</b>	Collection 325, MtBC, us (collection)
<b>Summary</b>	The Campbell Family Papers includes several letters, legal documents, and promissory notes spanning 1836 to 1899. Topics discussed include Campbell's plans to move west, a flood at Gallatin City, a sympathetic account of the Nez Perce pursuit and the writer's friend, Looking Glass, as well as a description of the death of Fannie Campbell's mother.
<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
<b>Sponsor</b>	Funding for encoding this finding aid was provided by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities

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## Biographical Note

"Major" James B. Campbell was born on October 15, 1799 in Tennessee. He moved to Illinois in 1825 and worked as a clerk prior to launching a business career in the new settlement of Chicago. Campbell invested in real estate and became wealthy, although some financial setbacks eventually influenced him to move to Missouri in 1852. In 1863 he traveled to Bannack, Montana Territory, and afterwards claimed land near the three forks of the Missouri River at Gallatin City. He engaged in ranching and operated a mercantile business there until his death on January 3, 1873. Campbell married Sarah A. Kain in 1831 and the couple had seven children, including a son, Gurdon Campbell and daughters Fannie and Anna. The two girls, the youngest of the Campbell children, arrived in Montana after their parents via a Missouri River steamboat in 1865. Fannie eventually took over the operation of her father's ranch and Gurdon was concerned with operating the mercantile business at Gallatin City.

## Content Description

The Campbell family papers are positive photocopies of original documents. The collection includes four business related letters written to James B. Campbell from New York, Michigan, Washington D.C. and Virginia City, Montana Territory from 1836 to 1868; one letter from James B. Campbell to A. J. Jackson of Galena, Illinois, written from St. Charles, Missouri in 1862 which discusses Campbell's plans to move west; an 1873 letter from Gurdon Campbell to his mother describing a flood at Gallatin City; an unsigned 1877 letter, possibly from Gurdon Campbell to his sister Fannie, with a remarkably sympathetic account of the Nez Perce pursuit and the writer's friend, Looking Glass; two letters from Rebecca Jackson of Galena, Illinois to Fannie Campbell describing the death of her mother, Sarah Campbell. A single folder of legal documents and promissory notes pertaining to the Campbell family dated from 1867 to 1899 complete the collection.

## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Original letters and legal documents created or collected by the James B. Campbell family were loaned to Montana State University for copying by Mrs. Thelma Dunbar Multz, Three Forks, Montana, on April 23, 1965. The originals were returned to the donor, and their present location is unknown. These photocopies were reported to the National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections in 1979 and assigned control number 79-638.

### Processing Note

This collection was processed 2010 June 25

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## Names and Subjects

#### **Subject Terms :**

Floods-Montana-Gallatin City  
Frontier and pioneer life-Montana-Gallatin City  
Merchants-Montana-Gallatin City  
Nez Percé Indians-Wars, 1877  
Ranchers-Montana-Gallatin City

#### **Personal Names :**

Campbell, James B., 1799-1873-Correspondence  
Campbell, Sarah A. Kain  
Campbell, Fannie-Correspondence  
Campbell, Gurdon-Correspondence  
Jackson, Alex, b. ca. 1815-Correspondence  
Jackson, Rebecca, b. ca. 1820-Correspondence  
Looking Glass

#### **Family Names :**

Campbell family

#### **Geographical Names :**

Gallatin City (Mont.)

#### **Form or Genre Terms :**

Family papers-Montana-Gallatin City

Kim Allen Scott, 2010

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<http://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/ark:/80444/xv38525>

