

Rankin Family Papers, 1888-1946

Overview of the Collection

Creator	Rankin family
Title	Rankin Family Papers
Dates	1888-1946 (inclusive) 1888 1946
Quantity	3.0 linear feet
Collection Number	Mss 280 (collection)
Summary	The Rankins were a Missoula, Montana, family with a mill business. The collection includes a broad range of John Rankin's financial records, 1888-1906; speeches and clippings of Jeannette Rankin from 1916-1941, her 1940 congressional campaign, and a <i>Report of International Congress of Women</i> , 1919; and Wellington Rankin's 1946 campaign and two Montana Supreme Court cases, 1925 and 1941, in which he served, respectively, as attorney for the plaintiff and attorney for the defendant.
Repository	University of Montana, Mansfield Library, Archives and Special Collections Archives and Special Collections Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library University of Montana 32 Campus Dr. #9936 59812-9936 Missoula, MT Telephone: 406-243-2053 Fax: 406-243-4067 library.archives@umontana.edu
Access Restrictions	Researchers must use collection in accordance with the policies of Archives and Special Collections, the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library, and The University of Montana--Missoula.
Languages	English
Sponsor	Funding for encoding this finding aid was provided through a grant awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Biographical Note

John Rankin, the son of Scottish immigrant Hugh Rankin, was born in Apin, Ontario, Canada in 1841. He was the fourth born of seven sons and four daughters. John Rankin was reared on his father's frontier farm, with little in the way of formal education.

In the fall of 1870, John Rankin moved to Missoula, Montana, and was on his way to being a successful Montana landowner, lumberman, and politician when he married Olive Pickering in 1879. Together, they had six children. After his initial success in the mill business, he became involved in contracting and was instrumental in the construction of Missoula's first stone building, as well as the town's first

bridges. In 1891 the Rankin block was erected on East Front Street in Missoula. Following a short illness, John Rankin died in May 3, 1904 of tick fever.

Jeannette Rankin, the eldest daughter of John and Olive Rankin, was born in 1880 and achieved international recognition for her work as a pacifist, particularly in her efforts to keep the United States out of World War II. Jeannette Rankin was prominent suffragette and the first woman to serve in the United States Congress. She died in 1973.

Wellington Rankin, John and Olive Rankin's only son, was born in September, 1884. A front page obituary in the *Missoulian* touted Wellington Rankin as a millionaire and listed his accomplishments as a lawyer, politician, and rancher. He died in June, 1966.

Content Description

The collection includes a broad range of John Rankin's financial records, 1888-1906; speeches and clippings of Jeannette Rankin from 1916-1941, her 1940 congressional run, and a *Report of International Congress of Women*, 1919; and Wellington Rankin's 1946 campaign and two Montana Supreme Court cases, 1925 and 1941, in which he served, respectively, as attorney for the plaintiff and attorney for the defendant.

Use of the Collection

Restrictions on Use

Researchers are responsible for using in accordance with 17 U.S.C. and any other applicable statutes. Copyright not transferred to The University of Montana.

Preferred Citation

[Name of document], Rankin Family Papers, Archives and Special Collections, Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library, The University of Montana--Missoula.

Administrative Information

Arrangement

The collection is divided into three series:

Series I: John Rankin, 2.5 linear feet, 1888-1905

Series II: Wellington Rankin, 0.2 linear feet, 1925-1941

Series III: Jeannette Rankin, 0.3 linear feet, 1916-1941

Custodial History

The materials in this collection remained in the possession of the Rankin Family until donation to the Mansfield Library.

Acquisition Information

Gift of Jeannette Rankin, date unknown.

Processing Note

The actions of the original processors are unknown. In 2000, the collection was re-described.

Related Materials

The Montana Historical Society holds a substantial collection of Wellington Rankin's papers. Jeannette Rankin's papers are at the Schlessinger Library at Radcliffe College.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I: John Rankin , 1888-1905

2.5 linear feet

This series includes some financial records from Rankin's most notable endeavors such as the Rankin Block, the Rankin House, and lumber mills in Missoula. Those records pertain to day-to-day operating expenses and income. Two larger ledgers give a broader overview of Rankin's financial matters. Wherever possible the records have been arranged chronologically but gaps do exist.

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
1/1	Rankin House Rules and Miscellaneous Financial	1891-1892
1/2	Rankin Hotel Block Laundry Records	1902-1905
1/3	Grant Creek Mill Financial Records	1904
1/4	Mill Day Book	1888-1889
1/5	Register for Rankin Block	1891-1992
1/6	Rankin House Room Book No. 1	1892
1/7	Rankin House Room Book No. 2	1892-1893
1/8	Rankin House Room Book No. 3	1893
1/9	Rankin House Room Book No. 4	1893-1894

Container(s)	Description	Dates
OS1/1	Rankin House Room Book No. 5	1894-1895
2/1	Rankin House Room Book No. 6	1894-1895
2/2	Rankin House Room Book No. 7	1895
OS1/2	Rankin House Room Book	1896-1897
2/3	Rankin House Room Book	1898-1899
2/4	Day Book	1900-1901
2/5	Day Book	1901-1902
3/1	Day Book	1902-1906
3/2	Florence Steam Laundry Day Book	1902
3/3	Order Book	1900-1902
3/4	Ledger	1892-1893
3/5	Ledger	1893-1895
OS1/3	Ledger	1897-1902
OS2/1	Ledger	1903-1904

Series II: Wellington Rankin , 1925-1941

0.2 linear feet

This series includes the trial transcript for the 1925 Montana Supreme Court personal injury case of plaintiff, Velma H. Riggs, vs. defendant, Lew Webb. Wellington Rankin served as the attorney for plaintiff, Riggs. The series also includes the 1946 Montana Supreme Court decision in the case of A.E. Cramer vs. The Montana State Board of Food Distributors. Wellington Rankin served as an attorney for the defendants. The records of Wellington Rankin's 1948 congressional run include a pamphlet stating his platform and a copy of a speech by Senator Dan W. Maddox endorsing Rankin's candidacy.

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
4/1	Velma H. Riggs v. Lew Webb, Montana Supreme Court	1925

Container(s)	Description	Dates
4/2	A.E. Cramer v. Montana State Board of Food Distribution, Montana Supreme Court	1941
4/3	Wellington Rankin, Campaign	1948

Series III: Jeannette Rankin , 1916-1941

0.3 linear feet

This series includes a speech made by Jeannette Rankin on women's suffrage, excerpts from other Rankin speeches regarding *Measures Touching the Interest of the People of Montana*, a radio address on *Women and Democracy* by Rankin, and other speeches discussing defense issues. The series also includes additional miscellaneous material relating to Jeannette Rankin's 1940 congressional run. *The Report of the International Congress of Women*, which took place in Zurich in 1919, lists Jeannette Rankin as a delegate from the United States. This volume has sections in English, French, and German.

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
4/4	Speeches and Clippings	1916-1941
4/5	Jeannette Rankin, Congressional Run	1940
4/6	<i>Report of International Congress of Women, Zurich</i>	1919

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms :

Elections--Montana
 Scottish Americans--Montana
 Women in politics--Montana

Personal Names :

Rankin family

Corporate Names :

Montana. Supreme Court
 United States. Congress. House--Elections, 1940
 United States. Congress. Senate--Elections, 1946
 Women's International League for Peace and Freedom Congress

Geographical Names :

Montana--Politics and government--20th century
 United States--Politics and government--1933-1953

Form or Genre Terms :

Business records--Montana--Missoula

Family papers--Montana

Occupations :

Businessmen--Montana--Missoula

Lawyers--Montana

Suffragists--United States

Women legislators--United States

Women pacifists--United States

Other Creators :

Personal Names :

Rankin, Jeannette, 1880-1973

Rankin, John

Rankin, Wellington Duncan, 1884-1966

Finding aid prepared by Teresa Hamann
2000



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