

# Steffen Heinrich Aggens diary, 1852-1870

## Overview of the Collection

<b>Creator</b>	Aggens, Steffen Heinrich, 1834-1888
<b>Title</b>	Steffen Heinrich Aggens diary
<b>Dates</b>	1852-1870 (inclusive) 1852 1870
<b>Quantity</b>	1 volume
<b>Collection Number</b>	Mss 260
<b>Summary</b>	The goldfield diary of Steffen Heinrich Aggens begins with his departure from Germany in 1852 and charts his travels to New York and San Francisco and then through the goldfields of California, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana through 1868. Aggens and his brother, Adam, try to make their fortune as independent miners using simple equipment.
<b>Repository</b>	<a href="#">University of Montana, Mansfield Library, Archives and Special Collections</a> 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 <a href="mailto:library.archives@umontana.edu">library.archives@umontana.edu</a>
<b>Access Restrictions</b>	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.
<b>Additional Reference Guides</b>	Finding aid in the repository.
<b>Languages</b>	German

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## Historical Note

Steffen Heinrich Aggens was from the Baltic island of Wyk auf Fohr, Holstein, Germany. He left the country from Bremerhaven on April 16, 1852, with his brother, Adam. They landed in New York and by 1853 entered the port at San Francisco, California. They followed new strikes through the goldfields of California, Oregon, and Idaho, and spent the winter of 1864 in Salt Lake City, Utah. In the spring of 1865 the Aggens brothers were headed for Virginia City in the Montana Territory.

By 1870 Aggens had returned to Germany where he married Mathilde Sophie Paulsen. They traveled to the United States, joining relatives in Illinois in 1871. Over the subsequent years they had four children between Michigan and Helena, Montana where they settled in 1878. Steffen Heinrich owned a ranch north of Helena at the time of his death in 1888 when he was hit by a train as he drove his loaded grain wagon across Northern Pacific railway tracks.

## Content Description

Steffen Heinrich Aggens' diary is written in German and begins with his departure from Germany in 1852, describing his travels to New York and San Francisco and then through the goldfields of California, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana. Aggens and his brother, Adam, try to make their fortune as independent miners using simple equipment. The diary ends in 1868.

## Use of the Collection

### Alternative Forms Available

Also available on microfilm.

### Restrictions on Use

Researchers are responsible for using in accordance with 17 U.S.C. and any other applicable statutes.

### Preferred Citation

[Name of document or photograph number], Steffen Heinrich Aggens Diary, Archives and Special Collections, Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library, The University of Montana-Missoula.

## Administrative Information

### Related Materials

Historian William E. Farr translated many entries of the Aggens diary beginning in March 1865, when Aggens arrived in Montana and ending in December 1868 when he arrived in Hamburg. The Farr article featuring the translations is "Germans in Montana Gold Camps: Two Views" in *Montana: The Magazine of Western History* Volume 32, Number 4, Autumn 1982.

### Acquisition Information

Gift of Henry Yaeger through William Farr, 1979.

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## Names and Subjects

### Subject Terms :

Germans -- West (U.S.)  
Gold miners -- California -- Diaries  
Gold miners -- Idaho -- Diaries  
Gold miners -- Montana -- Diaries  
Gold miners -- Oregon -- Diaries

### Geographical Names :

California -- Gold discoveries  
Montana -- Emigration and immigration -- History -- 19th century

Salt Lake City (Utah)  
Virginia City (Mont.)  
**Form or Genre Terms :**  
Diaries

## Names and Subjects

Finding aid prepared by MarcEdit  
2009



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