

Raymond A. Mentzer Research Papers, 1974-1979

Overview of the Collection

Creator	Mentzer, Raymond A.
Title	Raymond A. Mentzer Research Papers
Dates	1974-1979 1974 1979
Quantity	1.2 linear feet
Collection Number	Collection 2428, MtBC, us (collection)
Summary	The Raymond A. Mentzer Research Papers consist of photocopied journal articles, transcripts of interviews, copies of published and unpublished papers, and newspaper articles on the history and physical descriptions of 19th century forts in Montana. Other items include photocopies of the 1880 census and official government documents of the Department of the Army pertaining to Montana forts, copy photographs of the original forts and soldiers, hand-drawn maps, diagrams and plans, copy slides of Camp Baker, Fort Logan, Fort Ida Thoroughman, Fort Howie and Fort Maginnis portraying surveys of the physical locations and remaining structures of these forts in the 1970s. The primary concentration of this research is the location, layouts and structural content of the original forts and their conditions at the time of the research; however there is also substantial information on the social and military experiences of the soldiers assigned to Montana forts during the active period of the 1860s -1890s including the era of the Indian Wars.
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 asc@montana.libanswers.com
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/2428.html
Languages	English
Sponsor	Funding for encoding this finding aid was provided by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities

Biographical Note

Raymond A. Mentzer, Jr. was born in Pittsburgh PA on September 20, 1945. He was married in 1968 and has two children. He received his AB in European History from Fordham University in 1967; he earned his M.A. from the University of Wisconsin, Madison in 1970 and his PhD from the University of Wisconsin, Madison in 1973. He was an Assistant Professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison from 1973-78. He became an Associate Professor in History at Montana State University in 1978. He was an American Council of Learned Society fellow from 1975-76 and a fellow of the National Endowment of Humanities 1981-82. Memberships include the AHA; Renaissance Society of America; and the Society of French History Studies. His research concentrated on French Protestantism and French legal history. He is the author of *Heresy Proceedings in Languedoc, 1500-1560* (1983) and *Blood and Belief: Family Survival and Confessional Identity among the Provincial Huguenot Nobility* (1994). He also authored numerous papers in assorted professional journals. He is now retired from Montana State University.

Content Description

The papers consist of photocopied journal articles, transcripts of interviews, copies of published and unpublished papers, and newspaper articles on the history and physical descriptions of 19th century forts in Montana. Photocopies of the 1880 census and official government documents of the Department of the Army pertaining to Montana forts including: legal proceedings, medical records and letters sent to and from various forts to their departments, photocopied maps, plans and drawings of physical structures of forts of Montana. Posts described are Fort Assiniboine, Camp Baker (Fort Baker)/Fort Logan, Fort C.F. Smith, Fort Custer, Fort Ellis, Fort Keogh, Fort Maginnis, Fort Missoula and Fort Shaw. Copy photographs of the original forts and soldiers, hand-drawn maps, diagrams and plans are complimented by both original slides by Raymond A. Mentzer and Lawrence C. Heberle and copy slides of Camp Baker, Fort Logan, Fort Ida Thoroughman, Fort Howie and Fort Maginnis portraying surveys of the physical locations and remaining structures of these forts in the 1970s. The primary concentration of this research is the location, layouts and structural content of the original forts and their conditions at the time of the research; however there is also substantial information on the social and military experiences of the soldiers assigned to Montana forts during the active period of the 1860s -1890s including the era of the Indian Wars. Some original 1970 pamphlets and newspaper clippings are included, but most of the material is photocopied or transcribed. Correspondence about the disposition of the buildings at Fort Maginnis; photocopied bibliographies and inventories, and handwritten research notes by Raymond Mentzer are included.

Administrative Information

Arrangement

Series 1 Fort Assinniboine research

Series 2 Camp Baker/Fort Logan research

Series 3 Fort C.F. Smith research

Series 4 Fort Custer research

Series 5 Fort Ellis research

Series 6 Fort Keogh research

Series 7 Fort Lewis research

Series 8 Fort Maginnis research

Series 9 Fort Missoula research

Series 10 Fort Shaw research

Series 11 Miscellaneous research notes and materials

Series 12 Fort research photographs

Series 13 Microfilm records

Acquisition Information

Research materials and notes, microfilm and photo slides on research of Montana Military Installations were donated to Special Collections on June 8, 2001 by Ray Mentzer. The research was conducted in the early 1970s for the Bicentennial History Project while Mentzer was a member of the 50th Military History Detachment of the U.S. Army Reserve.

Processing Note

This collection was processed 2009 April 21

Detailed Description of the Collection

Container(s)	Description
Box	
1	Series 1: Fort Assinniboine research Photocopies of maps, official documents, unpublished papers, newspaper articles, and excerpts of articles pertaining to Ft. Assinniboine.
1	Series 2: Camp Baker/Fort Logan research Photocopies of maps, official government letters, reports, and documents, locations, newspaper articles, unpublished papers, pertaining to Camp Baker/ Ft. Logan. Oversize materials retained in separate file have been indicated with an asterisk (*).
1	Series 3: Fort C.F. Smith research Photocopies of unpublished papers and newspaper articles pertaining to Ft. C.F. Smith.
1	Series 4: Fort Custer research

Container(s)	Description
	Photocopies of unpublished papers, newspaper articles and physical plans pertaining to Ft. Custer.
1	Series 5: Fort Ellis research Photocopies of maps; official government correspondence, documents and reports; unpublished papers; newspaper articles; and reminiscences pertaining to Ft. Ellis. Oversize material retained in separate file (*).
2	Series 6: Fort Keogh research Photocopies of official government reports, maps and newspaper articles pertaining to Ft. Keogh.
2	Series 7: Fort Lewis research Photocopies of unpublished papers and map pertaining to Ft. Lewis.
2	Series 8: Fort Maginnis research Photocopies of maps, descriptions of buildings, architectural styles, equipment, plans, official documents, newspaper article, articles, unpublished papers and oral history pertaining to Ft. Maginnis. Correspondence on disposition of buildings. Monument proposal pamphlet. Oversize material retained in separate file (*).
2	Series 9: Fort Missoula research Photocopies of unpublished paper, bibliography and article on Fort Missoula. Hand-drawn map and pamphlet.
2	Series 10: Fort Shaw research Photocopies of unpublished papers, newspaper articles and bibliography of Fort Shaw.
3	Series 11: Miscellaneous research notes and materials Assorted research materials including: photocopies of unpublished papers; journal articles; maps, newspaper clippings; bibliographies; official documents pertaining to soldier's lifestyles and disciplinary actions; physical descriptions of various forts in Montana in the 19th century. Oversize materials retained in separate file (*).
4	Series 12: Fort research photographs Copy photographs from the US Army Military History Institute, National Archives, Bureau of Land Management and slide copies from the Montana Historical Society of selected forts in Montana in the 19th century including buildings, interiors and soldiers. Copies of aerial photos of fort site. Original slides taken by Raymond Mentzer and Lawrence Heberle showing surveys of fort sites and existing buildings in the mid 1970s.

Container(s)	Description
5-9	Series 13: Microfilm records from the National Archives and original holdings of the Newberry Library, Chicago Illinois Microfilm copies pertaining to correspondence, medical histories, courts martial, circulars and rosters for various Montana Forts in the 19th century.

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms :

American Revolution Bicentennial, 1776-1976-Montana
Fortification-Montana-History
Fortification-Montana-Photographs
Frontier and pioneer life-Montana
Indians of North America-Wars-Montana
Military historians-Montana
Soldiers-Montana

Corporate Names :

Montana State University--Bozeman-Faculty
United States-Army-Military life
United States-Army-History

Geographical Names :

Camp Baker (Mont.)
Fort Assiniboine (Hill County, Mont.)-History
Fort C.F. Smith (Mont.)-History
Fort Custer (Mont.)-History
Fort Ellis (Mont.)-History
Fort Howie (Mont.)
Fort Ida Thoroughman (Mont.)
Fort Keogh (Mont.)-History
Fort Logan (Mont. : Fort)-History
Fort Maginnis (Mont.)-History
Fort Missoula (Mont.)-History
Fort Shaw (Mont. : Fort)-History
Montana-History, Military-19th century

Form or Genre Terms :

Maps-Montana
Photographs-Montana

Other Creators :

Personal Names :

Heberle, Lawrence S.
(creator)

Kim Allen Scott, 2009