

Edward Earl Bennett Papers, 1900-1970

Overview of the Collection

Creator	Bennett, Edward Earl, 1892-1970
Title	Edward Earl Bennett Papers
Dates	1900-1970 (inclusive) 1900 1970
Quantity	5.0 linear feet, (9 boxes and one oversize box)
Collection Number	Mss 493
Summary	Edward E. Bennett was a history professor at the University of Montana. The collection contains his personal and professional papers and documents his education, early career, teaching at the University, and community activities. It also contains a few materials related to his wife.
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 creating this finding aid was provided through a grant awarded by the National Historic Publications and Records Commission. Funding for encoding this finding aid was provided through a grant awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Biographical Note

Edward Earl Bennett was born October 29, 1892 in Stafford, Kansas. He received a B.A. from the University of Kansas in 1916, and an M.A. (1923) and Ph.D (1925) from the University of Wisconsin. For five years he taught political science and history in Sterling, Kansas, high school; he was then principal of high schools in St. John and Hutchinson, Kansas. From 1922 to 1924 he was an assistant in history at the University of Wisconsin, specializing in American colonial history, but also worked on the history of the western United States. While a fellow at the Wisconsin Historical Society, he prepared a calendar of the Draper collection. In 1928, he did research at the Pennsylvania Historical Society library on Parliament in the American colonies.

He came to the University of Montana as an instructor in 1925 and retired as a professor in 1961 due to poor health. He taught both American and European history and for many years taught courses in Montana history and government. After retirement, he continued to teach U.S. history through the university's correspondence course program. His publications included *The Congregational Church in Missoula, 1891-1966; a chronological sketch*, prepared for the congregation's seventy-fifth anniversary; and *One hundred years of Masonic history, 1868-1968*. He also wrote and regularly updated the article on the state of Montana for the *Encyclopedia Britannica Book of the Year*. He was a member of the American and Wisconsin Historical Societies, Phi Delta Kappa national education fraternity, Theta Chi social fraternity, Kiwanis, and the University Congregational Church. He was a master of Missoula Masonic Lodge 13. He also collected maps.

In 1921, he was married to Linda McCoy, a 1915 graduate of the Colorado College who taught in high schools before coming to Montana. They had one son, Hal. Bennett died June 16, 1970.

Content Description

This collection contains Bennett's personal and professional papers and documents his education, early career, teaching at the University, and community activities. It also contains a few materials related to his wife, Linda M. Bennett. The collection includes Bennett's diaries, which offer close detail about his later years; correspondence, which includes personal exchanges and those related to his university service; research and writing, from his graduate work through later productions; and materials related to his teaching duties. There are many resources related to his service to the Theta Chi fraternity at Montana State University (The University of Montana), the University Congregational Church, and the Missoula Masonic Lodge No. 13. Materials from Mrs. Bennett relate to community activities and her education. There are also photographs of Dr. Bennett and of prominent Missoulians.

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 or photograph number], Edward Earl Bennett Papers, Archives and Special Collections, Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library, The University of Montana-Missoula.

Administrative Information

Arrangement

The collection is arranged in nine series:

Series I: Biographical/Personal, 4 folders, and 1 oversize box, 1916-1969

Series II: Diaries, 1.0 linear foot, 1907-1970

Series III: Correspondence, 4 folders, 1902-1969

Series IV: Research and Writings, 0.5 linear feet, 1923-1952

Series V: University of Montana, 0.75 linear feet, 1921-1966

Series VI: Clippings, 0.25 linear feet, 1921-1969

Series VII: Community Activities, 0.75 linear feet, 1920-1969

Series VIII: Linda M. Bennett, 3 folders and oversize, 1915-1947

Series IX: Photographs, 10 items, circa 1920s

Series X: Florence M. Johnson, 1 item, 1900-1904

Acquisition Information

Date and source of acquisition unknown.

Processing Note

The original processors separated some materials from the collection, arranged it, numbered the collection UM 11, and produced a finding aid. In 2004, the collection was renumbered Mss 493, substantially rearranged and fully described. Two boxes of gradebooks were removed from the collection and destroyed.

Separated Materials

During original processing the following materials were separated: 1939 yearbook, Billings Polytechnic Insitute; dance programs; post cards; and badges. Nine photographs were separated to the photograph collection, and two tokens were transferred to the Historical Museum at Fort Missoula.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I: Biographical/Personal, 1916-1969

4 folders and 1 oversize box

This series contains Bennett's personal financial, school, and legal records, which document primarily his school and teaching career. There are materials from both his time teaching high school and that at Montana State University (The University of Montana).

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
1/1	School records	1920-1925
1/2	State income taxes	1933-1960

Container(s)	Description	Dates
1/3	Teaching contracts	1917-1944
1/4	Certificates	1916-1969
100S	Certificates	1916-1925

Series II: Diaries, 1907-1970

1.0 linear foot

This series contains diaries that Bennett kept quite regularly throughout his life, beginning when he was fifteen years old and ending two days before his death. The earliest diary contains mostly quotations and notes relating to school work. Later diaries contain brief notes on daily events, expenses, and addresses of friends and family. Beginning with the 1954 volume, the entries become daily and offer considerable detail of his daily life, including bills, travels, medical appointments, and visitors.

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
1/5		1907, 1938
1/6		1939
1/7		1940
1/8		1941
1/9		1942
1/10		1943
1/11		1944
1/12		1945
1/13		1946
1/14		1947
1/15		1948
1/16		1949

Container(s)	Description	Dates
1/17		1950
1/18		1951
1/19		1952
1/20		1953
1/21		1954
2/1		1955
2/2		1956
2/3		1957
2/4		1958
2/5		1959
2/6		1960
2/7		1961
2/8		1962
2/9		1963-1964
2/10		1965
2/11		1954-1957
2/12		1959-1962
3/1		1963-1966
3/2		1967-1970

Series III: Correspondence, 1902-1969

4 folders

This series contains Bennett's personal and professional correspondence. The earliest letters are to his wife-to-be, Linda McCoy; they carried on a consistent correspondence both before and during

Edward Earl Bennett Papers, 1900-1970

<http://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/ark:/80444/xv75586>

their marriage. There are also numerous exchanges concerning his employment as a high school teacher. Later exchanges focus on his service at Montana State University (The University of Montana), publications, and various aspects of his community service.

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
3/3		1902-1926
3/4		1926-1939
3/5		1934-1958
3/6		1958-1969

Series IV: Research and Writings, 1923-1952

0.5 linear feet

This series contains Bennett's research and writings, beginning with his 1923 M.A. thesis, his 1925 Ph.D thesis, his 1928 Draper fellowship work, and continuing with his book reviews and work for the *World Book Encyclopedia*. It also contains materials that were apparently used for his research on the early history of Montana and the West, and materials for his work for *Historical Abstracts*.

The series is arranged in two subseries: Subseries 1: Research Subseries 2: Writings

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Subseries 1: Research		undated
Box/Folder		
4/1	Diary of Mrs. F.L. Ainsworth	undated
4/2	Diary of Nellie G. Fletcher	undated
4/3	Pioneer Lumbering in Montana A.M. Holter	undated
Subseries 2: Writings		1923-1952
Box/Folder		
4/4	"Parliament and the English African Companies, 1663-1713"	[1928]
4/5	"Parliament and the English African Companies, 1663-1713"	[1928]

Container(s)	Description	Dates
4/6	"The Story of Montana," <i>World Book Encyclopedia</i>	undated
4/7	<i>Parliamentary Legislation and the American Colonies</i> , M.A. thesis	1923
4/8	<i>Parliament and the Colonies to 1715</i> , Ph.D thesis, draft 1	[1924-1925]
4/9	<i>Parliament and the Colonies to 1715</i> , Ph.D thesis, draft 2	[1924-1925]
4/10	<i>Parliament and the Colonies to 1715</i> , Ph.D thesis, draft 3	[1924-1925]
4/11	<i>Parliament and the Colonies to 1715</i> , Ph.D thesis, final draft	1925
4/12	Book reviews	1940-1952
	Historical Abstracts	1929-1930

Series V: University of Montana, 1921-1966

0.75 linear feet

This series contains the bulk of Bennett's papers that relate to his service to Montana State University (The University of Montana). It is divided into three subseries: Committees, Teaching, and Theta Chi, Beta Epsilon Chapter.

The Committees subseries contains materials on Bennett's involvement campus and associated committees. The most substantial materials relate to the Montana School of Religion and efforts to establish a department of religious studies on campus in the 1950s. A series of reports on grades across the university contains warnings from administrators on grade inflation in the 1920s through 1940s.

The Teaching subseries contains mostly student papers and lecture notes from courses that Bennett taught in Montana history and government, Canadian history, and U.S. history. There are also substantial materials from the correspondence courses in U.S. history that Bennett taught through the university's correspondence courses after his retirement.

The Theta Chi, Beta Epsilon Chapter subseries contains materials that relate to Bennett's long involvement with this Montana State University (University of Montana) social fraternity. He served on the fraternity's board of directors, and there are many materials relating to the group's efforts to secure a house in Missoula's University District neighborhood. Bennett's Masonic ties were in play here as well. There are also materials from Theta Chi's predecessor, Delta Sigma Lambda, Theta chapter.

Container(s)	Description	Dates
	Subseries 1: Committees	1925-1966

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
5/2	Alumni Association	1961-1965
5/3	Century Club	1960-1966
5/4	Committee on Names for Campus Buildings	1952-1953
5/5	Friends of the Library	1964-1965
5/6	Montana Teachers Retirement System	1939-1941
5/7	Montana School of Religion	1957-1961
5/8	Faculty newsletters	1963
5/9	University pamphlets	undated
5/10	Distribution of grades by department	1925-1947
5/11	Faculty publication lists	1952-1959
Subseries 2: Teaching		1941-1961
Box/Folder		
5/12	Exams	1960-1961
5/13	Term papers for Canadian history	undated
5/14	"Saleesh House" [M. Catherine White?]	undated
5/15	"History of Bitterroot Valley" Marjorie Reynolds	undated
5/16	U.S. History correspondence course	undated
5/17	U.S. History correspondence course	undated
6/1	Canadian history	undated

Container(s)	Description	Dates
6/2	Montana history and government	1941
6/3	Montana history and government	1941
6/4	U.S. History: Civil Rights and Segregation	ca. 1957
6/5	Phi Alpha Theta paper, "The New Verendrye Theory" John W. Smurr	undated
Subseries 3: Theta Chi, Beta Epsilon Chapter		1921-1964
Box/Folder		
6/6	Correspondence	1937-1938
6/7	Correspondence	1937-1945
6/8	Financial records	1937-1938
6/9	Financial records	1938-1942
7/1	Legal documents	1931-1940
7/2	Membership lists	1938-1964
7/3	"Pine Cone," Montana State University (The University of Montana) Beta Epsilon newsletter	1945-1967
7/4	Articles of incorporation	undated
7/5	Theta Chi Bulletin	1938-1939
7/6	The Rattle of Theta Chi	1956-1960
7/7	Delta Sigma Lamda, Theta chapter	1921-1928
7/8	Certificates	1937-1962

Series VI: Clippings, 1921-1969

0.25 linear feet

This series contains newspaper clippings that Bennett collected. There is one file that relates to the McCoy-Bennett wedding, but the others focus mostly on events at Montana State University (The University of Montana), especially the turbulent events of the 1930s and 1940s.

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
7/9	McCoy-Bennett wedding	1921
7/10	Phillip Keeney case	1935-1937
7/11	Paul Phillips case	1937-1940
7/12	Simmons case	1939-1941
7/13	Borden case	1963
7/14	Blouin case	1969
7/15	University of Montana history	undated
7/16	Miscellaneous University/Missoula/Montana	undated
7/17	University of Montana faculty	undated

Series VII: Community Activities, 1920-1969

0.75 linear feet

This series contains materials related to Bennett's community and other non-University activities. It is divided into two subseries.

Subseries 1, General, contains a wide range of materials, including the Missoula County Republican Club, Kiwanis, and the Missoula Rose Society. There are a number of papers from a community group interested in early Montana history.

Subseries 2, Missoula Masonic Lodge No. 13, documents Bennett's long involvement with the Masons. It includes a considerable number of files relating to his 100-year history of the Masons, as well as other materials related to Lodge activities in which he was involved.

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Subseries 1: General		1920-1969
Box/Folder		

Container(s)	Description	Dates
8/1	Alumni Association, University of Kansas	1952-1962
8/2	Author's Club	1946-1947
8/3	Committee for Paradise Dam	1962
8/4	Kiwanis Club of Montana	1956-1966
8/5	Missoula County Republican Club	1936-1966
8/6	Missoula Library Board	1962-1963
8/7	Missoula History	undated
8/8	Papers from Early Montana History Study Group	undated
8/9	Missoula Rose Society	1947
8/10	National Geographic Society	1920-1963
8/11	Phi Delta Kappa, correspondence	1926-1930
8/12	Phi Delta Kappa, membership	1929
8/13	United Givers	1965
8/14	University Congregational Church	1955-1969
8/15	Montana Historical Society	1954-1964
Subseries 2: Missoula Masonic Lodge No. 13		1944-1968
Box/Folder		
8/16	<i>One hundred years of Masonic history, 1868-1968, part 1</i>	[1968]
8/17	<i>One hundred years of Masonic history, 1868-1968, part 2</i>	[1968]
8/18	<i>One hundred years of Masonic history, 1868-1968, part 3</i>	[1968]
8/19	<i>One hundred years of Masonic history, 1868-1968, part 4</i>	[1968]

Container(s)	Description	Dates
8/20	<i>One hundred years of Masonic history, 1868-1968, original copy</i>	[1968]
8/21	<i>One hundred years of Masonic history, 1868-1968, data first 50 years</i>	[1968]
9/1	Correspondence	1944-1968
9/2	Notices of meetings	undated
9/3	Membership list	1963
9/4	Correspondence with George Washington University	1958-1964
9/5	Education and research committee	1951-1959
9/6	DeMolay	1946-1947
9/7	Communication of 20th Degree of Masonry	undated
9/8	Miscellaneous	undated
9/9	Miscellaneous	undated
9/10	Clippings (deaths of members)	1945-1951

Series VIII: Linda M. Bennett, 1915-1947

3 folders and oversize

This series contains materials relating to Linda M. Bennett that document her education and activity in Missoula organizations.

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
9/11	Missoula Branch, Homemakers Department of the National Home Economics Association, minutes	1942
9/12	American Association of University Women	1947
9/13	Certificates	1916-1942

Container(s)	Description	Dates
100S	Certificates	1915

Series IX: Photographs, [circa 1920s]

10 items

This series contains one photograph that includes Bennett, and a group of portraits of prominent early Missoulians.

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
9/14	493(IX):1: [Group that includes Clarence Bennett]	[ca. 1920s]
	95-47 : J.B. Buker, Missoula, Montana	undated
	95-48 : T.M. Pomeroy, Missoula, Montana	undated
	95-49 : John Anderson, Missoula, Montana	undated
	95-50 : Harry A. Lowe, Missoula, Montana	undated
	95-51: Christopher P. Higgins, Missoula, Montana	undated
	95-52: E.W. Spottswood, Missoula, Montana	undated
	95-53: Frank H. Woody, Missoula, Montana	undated
	95-54: Joseph M. Dixon, Missoula, Montana	undated
	95-55 : F.C. Webster, Missoula, Montana	undated
	95-56: 95-56 George T. Slack, Missoula, Montana	undated

Series X: Florence M. Johnson, 1900-1904

1 file

This series contains a diary by Florence M. Johnson. Her connection to the Bennett family is not documented.

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
9/15	Diary	1900-1904

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms :

Congregational churches--Montana--Missoula
 Freemasonry--Montana--Missoula--History
 Greek letter societies--Montana--Missoula
 History--Study and teaching--Montana--Missoula

Corporate Names :

Freemasons. Missoula Lodge No. 13 (Missoula, Mont.)
 Freemasons--Montana--Missoula--History
 Theta Chi. Beta Epsilon Chapter (University of Montana)
 United Church of Christ--Montana--Missoula
 University Congregational Church (Missoula, Mont.)
 University of Montana--Missoula--Faculty

Geographical Names :

Missoula (Mont.)--Church history
 Missoula (Mont.)--Religious life and customs

Form or Genre Terms :

Diaries--Montana--Missoula
 Personal papers--Montana -- Missoula
 Photographs--Montana--Missoula

Occupations :

College teachers--Montana--Missoula
 History teachers--Montana--Missoula

Other Creators :

Personal Names :

Bennett, Linda M.

Finding aid prepared by Jodi Allison-Bunnell
 2004



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