

Ash Family Papers, circa 1971

Overview of the Collection

Creator	McElfresh, Beth
Title	Ash Family Papers
Dates	circa 1971 1971 1971
Quantity	1 reel microfilm
Collection Number	Collection 0996, MtBC, us (collection)
Summary	The Ash Family Papers consist of typed manuscripts created by Beth McElfresh and her sisters Joy and Jessie. They describe ranching experiences and life near Baker, Montana, along with memories of their father and mother, Frank and Mary Ash. Also included are a number of family photographs.
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 spcoll@www.lib.montana.edu
Access Restrictions	This collection is open for research.
Languages	English

Biographical Note

Elisabeth "Beth" Ash McElfresh (1888-1982) was one of three daughters of Mary Hedgepeth Ash. Their stepfather, Frank L. Ash, moved the family to southwest North Dakota in 1902 where he operated a sheep ranch. Beth married Waitman Wiley "Scout" McElfresh in 1905, and served as a chuckwagon cook for cattle and sheep herds in Wyoming, Montana, and the Dakotas and the couple lived on a ranch near Baker Montana. When her husband died in 1948, Beth joined her sisters at her mother's home in Sheridan, Wyoming, where she published her *Chuckwagon Cookbook* (Denver: Sage Press, 1960). She, along with her sisters, Jessie Ash Shenenfelt and Joy Ash, wrote a number of reminiscences and newspaper articles regarding their family's history in North Dakota and eastern Montana around the turn of the nineteenth century.

Content Description

The microfilmed Ash family papers consist of typed manuscripts created by Beth McElfresh and her sisters Joy and Jessie. They describe ranching experiences and life near Baker, Montana, along with memories of their father and mother, Frank and Mary Ash. Also included are a number of family

photographs. Most of this material was subsequently published in *O'Fallon Flashbacks* (Baker, Montana: O'Fallon Historical Society, 1975), pp. 187-192.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Original typed reminiscences and family photographs donated by Elizabeth Ash McElfresh to the O'Fallon Historical Museum of Baker, Montana were loaned to Special Collections for copying through the efforts of Sara Kerr of Baker in 1971. The materials were returned to the museum after they were microfilmed.

Processing Note

This collection was processed 2017 January 11

Names and Subjects

Kim Allen Scott, 2017