

Alfred Atkinson Correspondence Files, 1914-1940

Overview of the Collection

Creator	Montana State College. Office of the President.
Title	Alfred Atkinson Correspondence Files
Dates	1914-1940 1914 1940
Quantity	14.4 linear feet
Collection Number	Accession 00001, MtBC, us (accession)
Summary	<p>The Alfred Atkinson Correspondence Files consist of Montana State College (MSU) President Alfred Atkinson's correspondence for the period 1919 to July 1937. Files may contain enclosures including reports, legal and legislative documents, brochures, newspaper clippings, pamphlets and announcements, etc. related to that correspondence. Major subjects include faculty and faculty issues including tenure, appointments, financial and occupational problems, and organizations; students lives and conditions on campus, their finances, problems created, and their organizations; the alumni including Alumni Association, Collegian and occupations pursued; the University System, Montana Legislature, citizenship statements required of all employees of MSC by House Bill #474 of the Montana State Legislature in 1935; the Federal Government including: appropriations; Depression programs including the National Youth Administration, Works Progress Administration, Civil Works Administration, Federal Emergency Relief Administration and other work relief programs; agricultural and land use agencies including the U.S.D.A.; State, regional and national agricultural organizations and their programs including the Montana Association (Montanans Incorporated), Farm Bureau, Farm Foundation and Farmers Union; schools of Montana and associated programs including High School Week, Future Farmers of America and basketball tournaments; other educational institutions and higher education programs. There are extensive files on instructional programs and problems, planning during the Depression, and financing the University System and its institutions.</p>
Repository	<p>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</p>

Overview of the Collection

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/acc00001.html>

Languages English

Sponsor Funding for encoding this finding aid was provided by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities

Biographical Note

Alfred Atkinson, the 4th president of Montana State College, was born in Seaforth, Ontario, Canada and graduated from the Ontario Agricultural College, received his B.S. at Iowa State College in 1904 and his M.S. at Cornell in 1912. He arrived at MSC in 1904 as an instructor in agronomy and a member of the Experiment Station staff, was appointed a professor of agronomy in 1905 and was appointed to the presidency in 1919. He was president for 18 years which encompassed many changes at the college, in the state and nationally. Of these changes and challenges, finances, the Depression, instructional programs including improving the engineering departments and projects in the agricultural community are addressed extensively. He also served as Federal Food Administrator for Montana, 1919-1921 during the Hoover administration. In 1937, he left to become President of the University of Arizona. He served in that capacity for 10 years. He died May 16, 1958 in Arizona at the age of 78.

Content Description

Correspondence files of President Alfred Atkinson's Administration at Montana State College (MSU) include all correspondence for the period 1919 to July 1937 with the exception of material from the following files that were missing: College correspondence 1927/28, 1928/29 and 1928/30; general correspondence 1928/29, 1929/30 and 1930/31; and annual reports of administrative and educational departments which were removed at some time prior to 1989. Files may contain enclosures including reports, legal and legislative documents, brochures, newspaper clippings, pamphlets and announcements, etc. related to that correspondence. The collection has been arranged into 13 series and accompanying sub-series in the original order of the files which were received from the president's office by the archives department of the library. There is an original inventory and index in the accession file. An updated index with file citations containing all subjects, individuals and locations mentioned is included in the finding aid. Major correspondents and/or subjects are: the Chancellor's Office and State Board of Education; Land Grant College Association; Academic and Administrative departments and divisions of MSU including Experiment Stations and Extension Service; faculty and faculty issues including tenure, appointments, financial and occupational problems, and organizations; students lives and conditions on campus, their finances, problems created, and their organizations; the alumni including Alumni Association, Collegian and occupations pursued; the University System, Governors of Montana, Montana Legislature, citizenship statements required of all employees of MSC by House Bill #474 of the Montana State Legislature in 1935; the Federal Government including: appropriations; Depression programs including the National Youth Administration, Works Progress Administration, Civil Works Administration, Federal Emergency Relief Administration and other work relief programs; agricultural and land use agencies including the U.S.D.A.; State, regional and

national agricultural organizations and their programs including the Montana Association (Montanans Incorporated), Farm Bureau, Farm Foundation and Farmers Union; schools of Montana and associated programs including High School Week, Future Farmers of America and basketball tournaments; other educational institutions and higher education programs; Alfred Atkinson's correspondence with or about noted Montanans and educators including E. L. Currier, W. M. Cobleigh, E. C. Elliott, F. B. Linfield, R. R. Renne, A. M. Ryon and M. L. Wilson. There are extensive files on instructional programs and problems, planning during the Depression, and financing the University System and its institutions. Two names of the institution are present: College of Agriculture and Mechanical Arts and Montana State College (which Atkinson preferred). Within the educational units, they are called divisions at some points and colleges at others reflecting the developing infrastructure of the institution.

Administrative Information

Arrangement

Series 1: Montana University System, 1914-1937 (starts with collections subject index)

Series 2: Montana State College (MSC), general files, 1919-1938

Series 3: Administration: operations and problems, 1918-1937

Sub-series 1: Finance and budget, 1918-1937

Sub-series 2: Physical plant - buildings, campus and services, 1919-1937

Sub-series 3: Publications, publicity and public relations, 1920-1937

sub-series 4: U.S. work relief programs on campus, 1933-1937

Series 4: Faculty, 1919-1937

Series 5: Students, 1919-1937

Series 6: Alumni, 1921-1937

Series 7: Academic Divisions, Colleges and Departments, 1914-1940

Sub-series 1: Division of Agriculture and associated departments, 1914-1937

Sub-series 2: Division of Engineering and associated departments, 1919-1937

Sub-series 3: General Division, 1931-1937

Sub-series 4: Division of Household and Industrial Arts and associated departments, 1920-1937

Sub-series 5: Division of Science and associated departments, 1919-1937

Sub-series 6: General Education departments, 1919-1937

Series 8: Activities in instruction and associated problems, 1919-1937

Series 9: Research, 1926-1936

Series 10: Conferences and Conventions held on campus, 1916-1937

Series 11: Correspondence related to non University System schools and institutions, 1919-1936

Series 12: Correspondence related to national, state and regional problems, 1919-1940

Series 13: Miscellaneous personal correspondence and papers of President Atkinson, 1919-1937

Sub-series 1: Correspondence related to Montanans and ex-Montanans

Sub-series 2: Miscellaneous Alfred Atkinson correspondence and associated papers, 1919-1936

Sub-series 3: Alfred Atkinson - M.L. Wilson correspondence and related Wilson materials, 1919-1937

Acquisition Information

Correspondence files of President Alfred Atkinson sent to the library archives were assigned accession number 00001 on January 29, 1973.

Processing Note

This collection was processed 2009 May 14

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series 1: Montana University System, 1914-1937

Box1-2

University System files include correspondence on general and administrative matters with assorted participants in Montana educational development and Montana State College President Atkinson. Files may contain enclosures including reports, legal and legislative documents, brochures, newspaper clippings, pamphlets and announcements, etc. related to that correspondence.

Series 2: Montana State College (MSC), general files, 1919-1937

Box2-3

The Montana State College general correspondence files include administrative organization; advisory councils and committees; reports on education, duties and policies; progress reports and proposed future plans; special reports on services; questionnaires, historical items, traditions; accreditation/scholarship reports and stationery related to the name to be used. As in all series, enclosures of many types may be present.

Series 3: MSC Administration: operations and problems, 1918-1937

Files on the operations and problems of the Atkinson Administration have been organized into 4 sub-series by the major emphasis in each. Some files may not fit into a sub-series, but were retained in their original order: these include the bookstore, records management, labor and employees committee, library, Registrar and Vice- President files. The four sub-series are: finance and budget; physical plant - buildings, campus and services; publications, publicity and public relations; and U.S. work relief programs on campus. As in all series, enclosures of many types may be present.

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box		
4-8	Subseries 1: Finance and budget Correspondence in this sub-series concerns administrative accounting and purchasing; general financial matters; bond, mill levy and tax information; legislative materials on financing and appropriations; institutional and departmental budget requests; Federal appropriations and related files; several studies of financial costs; and gifts, loans and donations.	1918-1937
8-9	Subseries 2: Physical plant - buildings, campus and services This sub-series includes files on the infrastructure of the College including buildings; the campus grounds; services, maintenance and uses. Enclosures of many types may be present. After the general correspondence the files are arranged alphabetically.	1919-1937
9	Subseries 3: Publications, publicity and public relations Files on promoting the college including exhibitions and radio, community programs and publicity handouts. Enclosures of many types may be present.	1920-1937
9-10	Subseries 4: U.S. work relief programs on campus Files on the Civil Works Administration, Federal Emergency Relief Administration, National Youth Administration and Works Progress Administration programs for students and non-students included. Also includes the Vice- President's file. As with other series, enclosures of many types may be present.	1933-1937

Series 4: Faculty, 1919-1937

Box10-12

This series includes the correspondence and enclosure papers related to faculty, professional and personal life and problems. Files may contain enclosures including reports, documents, brochures, newspaper clippings, pamphlets, announcements and articles, etc. related to that correspondence. The files are arranged alphabetically followed by two faculty organizations files.

Series 5: Students, 1919-1937

Box12-14

Correspondence files concerning students were organized into seven areas that covered: general topics and the correspondence with Deans of Men and Women, financing, health and housing, organizations, problems, student publications, and miscellaneous other topics. Files may contain enclosures including reports, documents, brochures, newspaper clippings, pamphlets announcements and articles, etc. related to that correspondence.

Series 6: Alumni files, 1921-1937

Box14

Correspondence related to alumni and College matters. Files may contain enclosures including brochures, newspaper clippings, pamphlets and announcements related to that correspondence.

Series 7: Academic Divisions, Colleges and Departments, 1914-1940

Included in this series are the general correspondence with divisions of the College and their attached departments which is arranged into six sub-series reflecting the organization of the institution with some exceptions (the units do not match exactly any of the catalogs issued from 1919-1937, but the order of the files has been maintained) Files may contain enclosures including reports, documents, brochures, newspaper clippings, pamphlets and announcements, etc. related to that correspondence.

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box		
15-17	Subseries 1: Division of Agriculture and associated departments Division of Agriculture including seven departments and the Extension Service and Experiment Stations. Files include general correspondence and special programs or projects. As with other series, enclosures of many types may be present.	1914-1937
17-18	Subseries 2: Division of Engineering and associated departments Correspondence and papers related to the Engineering Division and its seven departments. As with other series, enclosures of many types may be present.	1919-1937
18	Subseries 3: The General Division The General Division consisted of two-year courses with options toward four-year degrees. Enclosures may be present.	1931-1937
18	Subseries 4: Division of Household and Industrial Arts Correspondence of the Division of Household and Industrial Arts, its various departments and associated programs. As with other series, enclosures of many types may be present.	1920-1937
19-20	Subseries 5: Division of Science and associated departments The Division of Science correspondence includes its departments (an extensive correspondence about athletics in the Physical Education Department is present), programs and governmental partners in research. Files may contain enclosures including reports, documents, brochures,	1919-1937

Container(s)	Description	Dates
	newspaper clippings, pamphlets, articles and announcements, etc. related to that correspondence.	
20-22	Subseries 6: General education departments General education departments not assigned to a division: their correspondence, programs and projects. Files may contain enclosures including reports, documents, brochures, newspaper clippings, pamphlets, articles and announcements, etc. related to the correspondence.	1919-1937

Series 8: Activities in instruction and associated problems, 1919-1937

Box22-25

Correspondence on all facets of instruction, its problems and programs, and special instruction related events originating on campus are included in this series. Included are commencement, student entertainments, scholarship and scholastic awards, special short courses of study, special dates and miscellaneous subjects related to academic college events. Files may contain enclosures including reports, documents, brochures, newspaper clippings, pamphlets, articles and announcements, etc. related to that correspondence. After the instruction files, the files are arranged alphabetically by subject.

Series 9: Research, 1926-1936

Box26

Files exclusively devoted to research. As with other series, enclosures of many types may be present.

Series 10: Conferences and conventions held on campus, 1916-1937

Box26-27

Correspondence related to conferences and conventions held on campus extensively covering High School Week. Files may contain enclosures including reports, documents, brochures, newspaper clippings, pamphlets and announcements, etc. related to that correspondence.

Series 11: Non University System educational institutions, 1919-1936

Box27

Correspondence with schools and educational institutions not within the University System in relation to mutual issues and interests. Enclosures including reports, documents, brochures, newspaper clippings, pamphlets and announcements, etc. may be present.

Series 12: Correspondence related to national, state and regional problems, 1919-1940

Box28-35

These files were received in alphabetical order by subject. Numerous diverse problems, organizations, institutions and constituencies are represented. Files may contain enclosures including reports, documents, brochures, newspaper clippings, pamphlets, articles and announcements, etc. related to that correspondence.

Series 13: Miscellaneous personal papers of President Atkinson, 1919-1937

This series is organized in three sub-series. It contains assorted correspondence and personal papers which are not necessarily related to college administration matters. Enclosures may be present to support the correspondence.

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box		
35	Subseries 1: Correspondence related to Montanans and ex-Montanans Files of correspondence between or about issues concerning a variety of Montanans. Files are grouped alphabetically by name.	
35	Subseries 2: Miscellaneous Alfred Atkinson correspondence and papers Correspondence and papers which may include reports, announcements and memorabilia of Alfred Atkinson's presidency of Montana State College.	1919-1936
35-36	Subseries 3: Alfred Atkinson-M.L. Wilson Correspondence and materials	1919-1937

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms :

Agricultural experiment stations-Montana
 Agricultural extension work-Montana
 Agriculture and state-Montana
 Agriculture-Montana-Societies, etc
 Basketball-Tournaments-Montana
 Canadian Americans-Montana-Bozeman
 College presidents-Montana-Bozeman
 Depressions-1929-Montana
 Education-Montana
 Federal aid to education-Montana
 Governors-Montana
 Higher education and state-Montana
 New Deal, 1933-1939-Montana
 Schools-Montana

Youth-Montana-Societies and clubs

Personal Names :

Cobleigh, William Merriam, b. 1872

Currier, E. L. (Edwin Lovejoy), b. 1887

Elliott, Edward C. (Edward Charles), 1874-1960

Linfield, Frederick Bloomfield, 1866-1948

Renne, Roland Roger, 1905-

Ryon, Augustus M

Wilson, M. L. (Milburn Lincoln), 1885-1969

Corporate Names :

Association of Land-Grant Colleges and Universities

Future Farmers of America

Montana Agricultural Experiment Station

Montana Extension Service in Agriculture and Home Economics

Montana Farm Bureau Federation

Montana Farmers Union

Montana State College-Alumni and alumnae

Montana State College-Administration

Montana State College-Presidents

Montana State College-Students

Montana-Legislative Assembly

Montanans, Inc

State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts (Montana)-Administration

State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts (Montana)-Alumni and alumnae

State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts (Montana)-Presidents

State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts (Montana)-Students

United States-Dept. of Agriculture

United States-Federal Civil Works Administration

United States-Federal Emergency Relief Administration

United States-National Youth Administration

United States-Works Progress Administration

University of Montana (System)

Geographical Names :

Montana-Economic conditions-20th century

Other Creators :

Personal Names :

Atkinson, Alfred, 1879-1958

(creator)

Corporate Names :

State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts (Montana)-Office of the President.

(creator)

Kim Allen Scott, 2009