Overview of the Collection

Creator  Chesnut, V. K. (Victor King), 1867-1938
Title  Victor K. Chesnut Papers
Dates  1903-1922
       1903 1922
Quantity  .2 linear feet
Collection Number  Collection 1268, MtBC, us (collection)
Summary  The Victor K. Chesnut Papers consist of Letters, diary transcripts and research notes pertaining to the 1869 Cook-Folsom expedition into Yellowstone National Park.
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  Original materials in folders 1 through 7 are restricted due to fragility. Researchers should use the photocopies of the same material in folders 11-17.
Languages  English
Sponsor  Funding for encoding this finding aid was provided by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities

Biographical Note

Victor King Chesnut was born in Nevada City, California on June 28, 1867. He attended high school in Oakland, California and college at the University of California, the University of Chicago, and George Washington University specializing in chemistry and botany. He worked for the Bureau of Plant Industry, U.S. Department of Agriculture from 1894-1904, and as a professor of chemistry and geology at Montana Agricultural College (Montana State University) from 1904-1907. Following his work in Montana Chesnut relocated to Washington, DC where he finished his career working in a variety of positions for the USDA. He retired in 1933 and died in August, 1938.

Content Description

Letters, diary transcripts and research notes pertaining to the 1869 Cook-Folsom expedition into Yellowstone National Park were gathered or created by Chesnut during his employment at Bozeman Montana (1904-1907) and Washington, D.C. (1921-1922). In 1904, Chesnut met Charles W. Cook, an elderly farmer living in White Sulphur Springs, Montana. Cook, along with David E. Folsom and William...
Peterson, had explored the Yellowstone National Park region in 1869 and recorded their journey in a joint "diary" which had appeared in edited form several times during the intervening years. Cook gave Chesnut his original manuscript version of the diary from which Chesnut prepared a typed transcript. The typed transcript was then submitted by Chesnut to David E. Folsom of Diamond City, Montana, for his correction. In 1921, Chesnut was contacted by Oscar Mueller, a Lewistown, Montana attorney and son-in-law of Charles Cook requesting the return of the original manuscript version. Chesnut no longer had the original but provided a copy of the transcript then in his possession. The Chesnut papers include the 1904 transcript of the Cook-Folsom expedition diary prepared by Chesnut and corrected by David E. Folsom; letters written in 1921 and 1922 from Oscar Mueller, Horace Albright, and Stephen Mather all pertaining to the diary or to a planned appearance of Charles Cook at a celebration at Yellowstone National Park; a copy of the 1894 publication of the expedition diary as edited by Nathaniel Langford and corrected by David E. Folsom; miscellaneous research notes.

Use of the Collection

Restrictions on Use

Original materials in folders 1 through 7 are restricted due to fragility. Researchers should use the photocopies of the same material in folders 11-17.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Letters, diary transcripts, and research notes collected or created by Victor King Chesnut were donated to Special Collections in 1979.

Processing Note

This collection was processed 2009 May 27

Detailed Description of the Collection

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container(s)</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<td>Letters; Authors include Oscar Mueller, Horace Albright, J. E. Haynes, and Stephen Mather</td>
<td>1921-1923</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/2</td>
<td>Diary transcript</td>
<td>1904</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/3</td>
<td>Folsom correction note</td>
<td>1904</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/4</td>
<td>Photograph of original draft page</td>
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Victor K. Chesnut Papers, 1903-1922
http://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/ark:/80444/xv84603
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<td>Partial diary transcripts</td>
<td>1922</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/6</td>
<td>Chesnut research notes</td>
<td>circa 1922</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/7</td>
<td>Langford pamphlet</td>
<td>1894</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/8</td>
<td>&quot;Death Gulch,&quot; reprinted from Science, N.D., Vol 19, 485: 632-34</td>
<td>April 15, 1904</td>
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<td>1/9</td>
<td>Haynes' Bulletin</td>
<td>1922, 1924</td>
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<td>1/10</td>
<td>Fergus County Argus</td>
<td>1921</td>
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<td>1/11</td>
<td>Letters (photocopies)</td>
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**Names and Subjects**

**Subject Terms:**
Explorers-Yellowstone National Park-Diaries

**Personal Names:**
Albright, Horace M. (Horace Marden), 1890-1987-Correspondence

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Mather, Stephen Tyng, 1867-1930-Correspondence
Mueller, Oscar O., 1877-1964-Correspondence

**Geographical Names** :
Yellowstone National Park

**Form or Genre Terms** :
Diaries-Yellowstone National Park

**Other Creators** :

- Personal Names :
  - Cook, Charles W., 1839-1927 (creator)
  - Folsom, David E (creator)
  - Langford, Nathaniel Pitt, 1832-1911 (creator)

Kim Allen Scott, 2009

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