

# George R. Safley Papers, 1895-1915

## Overview of the Collection

<b>Creator</b>	Safley, George R.
<b>Title</b>	George R. Safley Papers
<b>Dates</b>	1895-1915 1895 1915
<b>Quantity</b>	.8 linear feet and 1 volume
<b>Collection Number</b>	Collection 2004, MtBC, us (collection)
<b>Summary</b>	The George R. Safley Papers consist mainly of canceled checks and check registers from his numerous business endeavors, but the bulk deals with his undertaking business. One unique item included in his undertaking papers is his cause of death book from 1904-1906. Other papers include his ledger from the furniture store and undertaking business, his farm lease and corresponding papers, a fire insurance policy for the Globe Theatre, a letter from his brother-in-law, Charles T. Shearer, regarding the farmland, and a letter from King Motor Car Company.
<b>Repository</b>	<a href="#">Montana State University Library, Merrill G. Burlingame Special Collections</a> 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 <a href="https://www.lib.montana.edu/archives/contact-form/">https://www.lib.montana.edu/archives/contact-form/</a>
<b>Access Restrictions</b>	This collection is open for research.
<b>Languages</b>	English
<b>Sponsor</b>	Funding for encoding this finding aid was provided by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities

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## Biographical Note

George R. Safley (1855-circa 1923) was born in Iowa to a native Scottish father. Safley journeyed to Montana in 1890 on his honeymoon and liked it so much he decided to stay. A man of great ambition, Safley often ran several businesses at one time. His longest running career was that of undertaker and licensed embalmer which also included custom picture framing. In addition to his undertaking business, Safley ran a furniture store, which he operated until 1907. He was also interested in farming and ranching, owning 660 acres in Gallatin Country which he devoted to growing grain. Safley also help establish and was vice-president and later president of the Manhattan Home State Bank. One of his shorter lived business ventures was the Globe Theatre, which was located in the same building as his undertaking business. Safley was also an organizer of the Gallatin Valley Electric Railroad and was a member of several Bozeman organizations. As a staunch Republican, he was elected to the eleventh state legislature that is noted for contributing to the creation of Glacier National Park. Safley sold his

undertaking business in 1915, but continued on as president of the Home State Bank. His date of death is unknown.

## Content Description

The Safley papers consist mainly of canceled checks and check registers from his numerous business endeavors, but the bulk deals with his undertaking business. One unique item included in his undertaking papers is his cause of death book from 1904-1906. In it, he lists not only the cause of death, but also the age, gender, occupation, and place of birth of the deceased. Other papers include his ledger from the furniture store and undertaking business, his farm lease and corresponding papers, a fire insurance policy for the Globe Theatre, a letter from his brother-in-law, Charles T. Shearer, regarding the farmland, and a letter from King Motor Car Company. The collection has been arranged in topically labeled folders.

## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Business papers created or collected by George R. Safley were donated to Special Collections by in October 1973.

### Processing Note

This collection was processed 2009 March 17

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## Detailed Description of the Collection

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
1/1	Business Correspondence	1913-1915
1/2	Embalming business papers and cause of death book	1904-1915
1/3	Miscellaneous Bozeman business receipts	
1/4	Commercial Bank statements	1905-1914
1/5	Home State Bank statements	1912-1913
1/6	Deeds and insurance contracts	
1/7	Blank business forms	

Container(s)	Description	Dates
<b>Box</b>		
2	Check book stubs from Home State and Commercial Bank accounts	1895-1915
2	Ledger	1910-1915
<b>Volume</b>		
1	Daily cash journal	March 1, 1906- March 31, 1915

## Names and Subjects

### Subject Terms :

Businessmen-Montana-Bozeman  
 Furniture industry and trade-Montana-Bozeman  
 Theaters-Montana-Bozeman  
 Undertakers and undertaking-Montana-Bozeman

### Personal Names :

Shearer, Charles T. -Correspondence

### Corporate Names :

Globe Theatre (Bozeman, Mont.)  
 King Motor Car Company (Detroit, Mich.)

### Form or Genre Terms :

Business records-Montana-Bozeman  
 Death records-Montana-Bozeman  
 Financial records-Montana-Bozeman  
 Registers of births, etc. -Montana-Bozeman

Kim Allen Scott, 2009