

# Raymond A. Mentzer Research Papers, 1974-1979

## Overview of the Collection

|                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Creator</b>                     | Mentzer, Raymond A.  |
| <b>Title</b>                       | Raymond A. Mentzer Research Papers   |
| <b>Dates</b>                       | 1974-1979<br>1974 1979   |
| <b>Quantity</b>                    | 1.2 linear feet  |
| <b>Collection Number</b>           | Collection 2428, MtBC, us (collection)   |
| <b>Summary</b>                     | The Raymond A. Mentzer Research Papers consist of photocopied journal articles, transcripts of interviews, copies of published and unpublished papers, and newspaper articles on the history and physical descriptions of 19th century forts in Montana. Other items include photocopies of the 1880 census and official government documents of the Department of the Army pertaining to Montana forts, copy photographs of the original forts and soldiers, hand-drawn maps, diagrams and plans, copy slides of Camp Baker, Fort Logan, Fort Ida Thoroughman, Fort Howie and Fort Maginnis portraying surveys of the physical locations and remaining structures of these forts in the 1970s. The primary concentration of this research is the location, layouts and structural content of the original forts and their conditions at the time of the research; however there is also substantial information on the social and military experiences of the soldiers assigned to Montana forts during the active period of the 1860s -1890s including the era of the Indian Wars. |
| <b>Repository</b>                  | <a href="#">Montana State University Library, Merrill G. Burlingame Special Collections</a><br>Montana State University-Bozeman Library<br>Merrill G Burlingame Special Collections<br>P.O. Box 173320<br>Bozeman, MT<br>59717-3320<br>Telephone: 406-994-4242<br>Fax: 406-994-2851<br><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>Additional Reference Guides</b> | An alternative form of this finding aid can be found at <a href="http://www.lib.montana.edu/collect/spcoll/findaid/2428.html">http://www.lib.montana.edu/collect/spcoll/findaid/2428.html</a>  |
| <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

Raymond A. Mentzer, Jr. was born in Pittsburgh PA on September 20, 1945. He was married in 1968 and has two children. He received his AB in European History from Fordham University in 1967; he earned his M.A. from the University of Wisconsin, Madison in 1970 and his PhD from the University of Wisconsin, Madison in 1973. He was an Assistant Professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison from 1973-78. He became an Associate Professor in History at Montana State University in 1978. He was an American Council of Learned Society fellow from 1975-76 and a fellow of the National Endowment of Humanities 1981-82. Memberships include the AHA; Renaissance Society of America; and the Society of French History Studies. His research concentrated on French Protestantism and French legal history. He is the author of *Heresy Proceedings in Languedoc, 1500-1560* (1983) and *Blood and Belief: Family Survival and Confessional Identity among the Provincial Huguenot Nobility* (1994). He also authored numerous papers in assorted professional journals. He is now retired from Montana State University.

# Content Description

The papers consist of photocopied journal articles, transcripts of interviews, copies of published and unpublished papers, and newspaper articles on the history and physical descriptions of 19th century forts in Montana. Photocopies of the 1880 census and official government documents of the Department of the Army pertaining to Montana forts including: legal proceedings, medical records and letters sent to and from various forts to their departments, photocopied maps, plans and drawings of physical structures of forts of Montana. Posts described are Fort Assiniboine, Camp Baker (Fort Baker)/Fort Logan, Fort C.F. Smith, Fort Custer, Fort Ellis, Fort Keogh, Fort Maginnis, Fort Missoula and Fort Shaw. Copy photographs of the original forts and soldiers, hand-drawn maps, diagrams and plans are complimented by both original slides by Raymond A. Mentzer and Lawrence C. Heberle and copy slides of Camp Baker, Fort Logan, Fort Ida Thoroughman, Fort Howie and Fort Maginnis portraying surveys of the physical locations and remaining structures of these forts in the 1970s. The primary concentration of this research is the location, layouts and structural content of the original forts and their conditions at the time of the research; however there is also substantial information on the social and military experiences of the soldiers assigned to Montana forts during the active period of the 1860s -1890s including the era of the Indian Wars. Some original 1970 pamphlets and newspaper clippings are included, but most of the material is photocopied or transcribed. Correspondence about the disposition of the buildings at Fort Maginnis; photocopied bibliographies and inventories, and handwritten research notes by Raymond Mentzer are included.

# Administrative Information

## Arrangement

Series 1 Fort Assinniboine research

Series 2 Camp Baker/Fort Logan research

Series 3 Fort C.F. Smith research

Series 4 Fort Custer research

Series 5 Fort Ellis research

Series 6 Fort Keogh research

Series 7 Fort Lewis research

Series 8 Fort Maginnis research

Series 9 Fort Missoula research

Series 10 Fort Shaw research

Series 11 Miscellaneous research notes and materials

Series 12 Fort research photographs

Series 13 Microfilm records

## Acquisition Information

Research materials and notes, microfilm and photo slides on research of Montana Military Installations were donated to Special Collections on June 8, 2001 by Ray Mentzer. The research was conducted in the early 1970s for the Bicentennial History Project while Mentzer was a member of the 50th Military History Detachment of the U.S. Army Reserve.

## Processing Note

This collection was processed 2009 April 21

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## Detailed Description of the Collection

| Container(s) | Description  |
|--------------|--|
| Box          |  |
| 1            | Series 1: Fort Assinniboine research<br>Photocopies of maps, official documents, unpublished papers, newspaper articles, and excerpts of articles pertaining to Ft. Assinniboine.  |
| 1            | Series 2: Camp Baker/Fort Logan research<br>Photocopies of maps, official government letters, reports, and documents, locations, newspaper articles, unpublished papers, pertaining to Camp Baker/ Ft. Logan. Oversize materials retained in separate file have been indicated with an asterisk (*). |
| 1            | Series 3: Fort C.F. Smith research<br>Photocopies of unpublished papers and newspaper articles pertaining to Ft. C.F. Smith.   |
| 1            | Series 4: Fort Custer research   |

| Container(s) | Description  |
|--------------|--|
|              | Photocopies of unpublished papers, newspaper articles and physical plans pertaining to Ft. Custer.   |
| 1            | Series 5: Fort Ellis research<br>Photocopies of maps; official government correspondence, documents and reports; unpublished papers; newspaper articles; and reminiscences pertaining to Ft. Ellis. Oversize material retained in separate file (*).   |
| 2            | Series 6: Fort Keogh research<br>Photocopies of official government reports, maps and newspaper articles pertaining to Ft. Keogh.  |
| 2            | Series 7: Fort Lewis research<br>Photocopies of unpublished papers and map pertaining to Ft. Lewis.  |
| 2            | Series 8: Fort Maginnis research<br>Photocopies of maps, descriptions of buildings, architectural styles, equipment, plans, official documents, newspaper article, articles, unpublished papers and oral history pertaining to Ft. Maginnis. Correspondence on disposition of buildings. Monument proposal pamphlet. Oversize material retained in separate file (*).  |
| 2            | Series 9: Fort Missoula research<br>Photocopies of unpublished paper, bibliography and article on Fort Missoula. Hand-drawn map and pamphlet.  |
| 2            | Series 10: Fort Shaw research<br>Photocopies of unpublished papers, newspaper articles and bibliography of Fort Shaw.  |
| 3            | Series 11: Miscellaneous research notes and materials<br>Assorted research materials including: photocopies of unpublished papers; journal articles; maps, newspaper clippings; bibliographies; official documents pertaining to soldier's lifestyles and disciplinary actions; physical descriptions of various forts in Montana in the 19th century. Oversize materials retained in separate file (*).   |
| 4            | Series 12: Fort research photographs<br>Copy photographs from the US Army Military History Institute, National Archives, Bureau of Land Management and slide copies from the Montana Historical Society of selected forts in Montana in the 19th century including buildings, interiors and soldiers. Copies of aerial photos of fort site. Original slides taken by Raymond Mentzer and Lawrence Heberle showing surveys of fort sites and existing buildings in the mid 1970s. |

| Container(s) | Description   |
|--------------|---|
| 5-9          | Series 13: Microfilm records from the National Archives and original holdings of the Newberry Library, Chicago Illinois<br>Microfilm copies pertaining to correspondence, medical histories, courts martial, circulars and rosters for various Montana Forts in the 19th century. |

## Names and Subjects

### Subject Terms :

American Revolution Bicentennial, 1776-1976-Montana  
 Fortification-Montana-History  
 Fortification-Montana-Photographs  
 Frontier and pioneer life-Montana  
 Indians of North America-Wars-Montana  
 Military historians-Montana  
 Soldiers-Montana

### Corporate Names :

Montana State University--Bozeman-Faculty  
 United States-Army-Military life  
 United States-Army-History

### Geographical Names :

Camp Baker (Mont.)  
 Fort Assiniboine (Hill County, Mont.)-History  
 Fort C.F. Smith (Mont.)-History  
 Fort Custer (Mont.)-History  
 Fort Ellis (Mont.)-History  
 Fort Howie (Mont.)  
 Fort Ida Thoroughman (Mont.)  
 Fort Keogh (Mont.)-History  
 Fort Logan (Mont. : Fort)-History  
 Fort Maginnis (Mont.)-History  
 Fort Missoula (Mont.)-History  
 Fort Shaw (Mont. : Fort)-History  
 Montana-History, Military-19th century

### Form or Genre Terms :

Maps-Montana  
 Photographs-Montana

### Other Creators :

#### Personal Names :

Heberle, Lawrence S.  
 (creator)

Kim Allen Scott, 2009