



Guide to the Tonopah Mining Company Records

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Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	Tonopah Mining Company
Title:	Tonopah Mining Company Records
ID:	MS-00752
Date [inclusive]:	1901 to 1941
Physical Description:	3.02 Cubic Feet (7 boxes, 1 flat file)
Physical Description:	6.08 Linear Feet
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The Tonopah Mining Company Records derive from the office of the company's general manager in Tonopah, Nevada and consist of documents directly generated by its mining and milling operations from 1901 through 1941. The collection includes daily work reports, assay reports and certificates, employee time cards, invoices and receipts for mining equipment and supplies, monthly stores reports, and the company's numerous insurance policies. Several of the company's annual reports, including an original typescript copy of the 1907 annual report, are included in the collection. Additionally, select records from the company's subsidiary, Desert Power and Mill Company, as well as the Tonopah and Goldfield Railroad, which include overcharge claims, freight and repair bills, and delivery receipts are included in the collection.

Preferred Citation

Tonopah Mining Company Records, 1901-1941. MS-00752. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Historical Background

The Tonopah Mining Company was incorporated on July 12, 1901 in Delaware by a group of Pennsylvania businessmen headed by J. H. Whiteman, who bought six claims covering 160 acres

from Jim Butler, who had first discovered silver in Tonopah, Nevada in 1900. The company made more than \$48 million between 1902 and 1948, and between 1901 and 1910 the company accounted for over sixty percent of the Tonopah's total production. The company maintained their mining operations office in Tonopah under the management of Charles Miller, but the business office was located in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where the corporate records were maintained and the annual meetings held. Like many mining companies in Tonopah and Goldfield, the Tonopah Mining Company was controlled and managed by eastern financiers and industrialists. In 1902, the company began extensive development, and formed several subsidiary companies. The company's original narrow gauge railroad connecting to the Carson and Colorado Railroad was extended and made regular gauge to Goldfield in 1905; it was then known as the Tonopah and Goldfield Railroad. In 1906, the subsidiary Desert Power and Mill Company constructed a stamp silver mill in the neighboring town of Millers, Nevada, with its own steam-powered electric generator to process the company's ore as well as the ore from other nearby mining companies. After 1910 when production in Tonopah began to wane, the company began exploration and development of metal mines in Colorado, Canada, and Nicaragua, most of which proved of limited success. Like many of the area's mines, the company ceased development work during and in the immediate aftermath of World War I with only small returns through the 1920s. There was a brief recovery in the 1930s with the rise of gold and silver prices, but by World War II reduced tonnage, increased costs, and lower values of the ore, caused most of the Tonopah mines to close. In 1947, the Tonopah and Goldfield Railroad was abandoned. In 1956, the Tonopah Mining Company filed for bankruptcy and was dissolved.

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Scope and Contents Note

The Tonopah Mining Company Records derive from the office of the company's general manager in Tonopah, Nevada and consist of documents directly generated by its mining and milling operations from 1901 through 1941. The collection includes daily work reports, assay reports and certificates on the tonnage and value of the ore, employee time cards, invoices and receipts for mining equipment and supplies, monthly stores reports, and the company's numerous insurance policies. Additionally, there is a series of the company's annual reports, including an original typescript copy of the 1907 annual report that contains original 8x10 photographic prints of the mining property, buildings, and interiors that were reproduced in the published report. Maps of mineral and ore zones, main stopes, and mine equipment as also in the collection. There are also select records from the company's subsidiary Desert Power and Mill Company, as well as the Tonopah and Goldfield Railroad, which include overcharge claims, freight and repair bills, and delivery receipts. These records document the activity and production of one of the largest mining companies in Tonopah, Nevada during its most productive period.

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Arrangement

Materials are arranged by subject.

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Administrative Information

Access Note

Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

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Acquisition Note

Materials were received periodically from 2013 to 2014; accession numbers 2013-20 and 2015-49. In 2021, materials were purchased from Vigilante Rare Documents; accession number 2021-039.

Processing Note

Collection was processed in 2015 by Joyce Moore. In 2019, as part of an archival backlog elimination project, Sarah Jones revised the collection description to bring it into compliance with current professional standards. In 2021, Tammi Kim processed the 2021 addition and updated the finding aid in ArchivesSpace.

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Related Materials

Related Collections

The following resource may provide additional information related to the materials in this collection:

Tonopah-Goldfield Mining Photograph Collection, 1901-1905. PH-00023. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Names and Subjects

- Mining -- Nevada
- Mining districts -- Nevada
- Tonopah (Nev.)
- photographs

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Containers
American Smelting and Refining Company: invoices, 1906	box 01
Jim Butler Mining Company: daily cash reports, 1907 June	box 01
Tonopah Divide Mining Company: invoices, 1920-1923, 1928 Physical Description: 3 Files	box 01
Western Ore Purchasing Company: weight and moisture certificates, 1906	box 02
Insurance policies, various mines, 1907-1912 Physical Description: 3 Files	box 02 box 07
Weigher's cards, 1901-1905	box 02
Tonopah Mining Company: daily assay reports, 1912-1913 Physical Description: 2 Files	box 01
Tonopah Mining Company: daily mine reports, 1906-1907 Physical Description: 2 Files	box 01
Tonopah Mining Company: storekeeper requisitions and emergency purchase receipts, 1914-1915, 1923	box 02

Tonopah Mining Company: insurance certificate, 1907 January-1908 January	box 02
Tonopah Mining Company: annual reports, 1907-1929 Physical Description: 5 Files	box 02
Tonopah Mining Company: annual reports, 1939 to 1941	box 04
Tonopah Mining Company: monthly stores report, 1908-1911	box 07
Tonopah Mining Company: detail of assaying expense by month, 1908 March-1909 February	box 07
Tonopah Mining Company: "No Trespassing" sign, undated	box 07
Desert Power and Mill Company: property leases, 1904, 1914-1916	box 03
Desert Power and Mill Company: assay certificates, 1907-1908 Physical Description: 3 Files	box 03
Desert Power and Mill Company: assay certificates, 1915-1916 Physical Description: 3 Files	box 03
Desert Power and Mill Company: bullion assay certificates, 1907-1908	box 03
Desert Power and Mill Company: monthly stores report, 1911	box 07
Esmeralda Power Company: monthly stores reports, 1907-1911	box 07
Esmeralda Power Company: inventory, 1911 February 28 Physical Description: 2 Items	box 07
Tonopah and Goldfield Railroad: overcharge claims and correspondence, 1906-1912 Physical Description: 6 Files	box 04
Tonopah and Goldfield Railroad: overcharge cover sheets, 1910-1912	box 04
Tonopah and Goldfield Railroad: delivery receipts, 1905-1906	box 04
Tonopah and Goldfield Railroad: freight bills, 1904-1907	box 04
Time checks, 1907-1917	box 05
Time checks, 1918-1920	box 06
List of ores placed in storage at Millers, Nevada, 1908 June 03	box 07
Map No. 3 Wagner Azurite Copper Co.: detailed topography, 1913 June	flat file 08
Map No. 5 Wagner Azurite Copper Co.: showing workings and equipment, 1913 June	flat file 08
Map No. 12 Portion of Simon Mine: showing main stopes, tonnage blocked, and possible ore zones, undated	flat file 08
Mining districts of Mineral County, Nevada, undated	

flat file
08

Survey and Assays: L. B. Spencer & Co. Civil and Mining Engineers, U.S.
Mineral Services, Mina, Nevada, sign, undated

flat file
08

Unidentified survey maps, undated
Physical Description: 2 Items

flat file
08