



Guide to the George Wingfield Records on the Tonopah Divide Mining Company and Other Holdings

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**University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special
Collections and Archives.**

Box 457010

4505 S. Maryland Parkway

Las Vegas, Nevada 89154-7010

special.collections@unlv.edu

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Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	Wingfield, George, 1876-1959
Creator:	Brougher Divide Mining Company (Tonopah, Nev.)
Title:	George Wingfield Records on the Tonopah Divide Mining Company and Other Holdings
ID:	MS-00787
Date [inclusive]:	1902 to 1955
Physical Description:	10.35 Cubic Feet (12 boxes)
Physical Description:	9.35 Linear Feet
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The George Wingfield Records on the Tonopah Divide Mining Company and Other Holdings (1902-1955) document some of George Wingfield's business interests and holdings, including the <i>Goldfield News and Weekly Tribune</i> , the Tonopah Banking Company, the Tonopah Divide Mining Company, and other mining operations. Materials include invoices, receipts, voucher records, correspondence, assay certificates, meeting minutes, legal papers, and ledgers of stocks and accounts.

Preferred Citation

George Wingfield Records on the Tonopah Divide Mining Company and Other Holdings, 1902-1955. MS-00787. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Historical Background

The Tonopah Divide mining district was just over four miles south of the town of Tonopah, Nevada and was originally known as Gold Mountain. Sporadic mining had taken place there since 1901 after Jim Butler made his initial strike in Tonopah, but it was not until late 1917, when high-grade

silver was discovered in a gold vein, that the Divide district experienced a real boom, albeit a short-lived one. By 1920, the Divide mines closed, due to falling silver prices and labor unrest. George Wingfield (1876-1959), who had already made his fortune by shrewd speculation and mining management in Goldfield, Nevada, joined an old Tonopah associate, H. Cal Brouger, to purchase the failed Tonopah Divide Mining Company. In 1912, Wingfield sold his interest in the mining company to Brouger when it seemed unlikely that the Divide mines would ever be profitable. When silver was later discovered in the company's mine, Brouger invited Wingfield to buy in; Wingfield provided the necessary capital to develop the mine from his re-capitalized Tonopah Banking Corporation. In just two years the Divide Company's mines produced \$1.4 million, and Wingfield made millions more from the sale of the soaring stock. In late 1919, rather than give in to renewed labor demands, Wingfield, who had already shut down his operations in Goldfield, closed his Tonopah mines, which were already producing diminishing returns. As a consequence the bottom fell out of the market for Divide stock and with it, investments and profits in Tonopah mining. In 1926, the Tonopah Divide Mining Company turned over operations of all its mines to leasers who continued to produce small amounts of ore through the late 1940s.

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Scope and Contents Note

The collection primarily documents George Wingfield's later (post-1918) mining companies and interests in the Tonopah Divide District (formerly known as Gold Mountain just south of the town of Tonopah, Nevada) and in Goldfield, Nevada, which were not part of his Goldfield Consolidated Mines Company. The most substantial set of records are from the Tonopah Divide Mining Company, Wingfield's short-lived but highly productive consolidation of silver mines in the Tonopah Divide District that briefly boomed between 1918 and 1920 after high-grade silver was accidentally discovered in a worked-out gold vein. These records include a comprehensive set of assay and shipment reports from the local processing mills, which document the daily tonnage and value of ore being produced in what were the most productive silver mines in the United States at the time. There are also company correspondence and payroll accounts. The collection also contains records from a number of later Goldfield, Nevada mines and companies (the most important being the Goldfield Deep Mines Company), many of which were under the management of Wingfield's chief mining engineer A. I. D'Arcy, who also served as president of the Tonopah Divide Mining Company.

Two of Wingfield's non-mining companies, the Tonopah Banking Corporation (bank statements) and the Goldfield News and Weekly Tribune (subscription cards, receipts and invoices) are also represented in the collection. Corporate records include an accounts ledger, expense register, and loose stock ledger sheets for these various Wingfield companies, which had been maintained and bound together and an early (1902-05) stock ledger from the Tonopah Gold Mountain Mining Co. (the predecessor of the Tonopah Divide Mining Company). . The collection also contains expense

accounts and a stock ledger from the Monarch Pittsburgh Mining Company, one of Cal Brougner's Tonopah mining companies, incorporated in 1912 and operated until 1927.

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Arrangement

Material is arranged alphabetically.

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Administrative Information

Access Note

Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

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Acquisition Note

Collection was collected by University Libraries Special Collections and Archives; accession numbers 2015-49 and, 2015-111.

Processing Note

Material was processed in 2015 by Joyce Moore. Collection was described by Peter Michel.

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Related Materials

Related Collections

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

Goldfield Consolidated Mining Company Records, 1904-1930, MS-00744. 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.)
 - Mining -- Esmeralda County (Nev.)
 - Mining - Nye County (Nev)
-

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Containers
Assay Certificates/settlement sheets (McNamara Mining and Milling, Tonopah Belmont Development Company), 1919 to 1955	box 01
Correspondence, invoices, receipts, payrolls, 1919 March to 1919 April	box 01
Goldfield Deep Mines Company correspondence, stockholders, prospectus, proxy cards for annual meeting, 1918 to 1934	box 01
Goldfield News and Daily/Weekly Tribune (Esmeralda County Printing Company) subscription renewal notices, receipts, invoices, 1926 to 1928	box 01
Miscellaneous mining companies correspondence, invoices, receipts; St. Ives; Goldfield Kiwanas; Reorganized Crackerjack; Goldfield Consolidated Mining and Transportation; Goldfield Publishing; Goldfield Development Company, undated	box 01
Montezuma Club, Masonic lodge, undated	box 01
Forward Mining Development Company, Denver, Patrick Investment Company correspondence, prospectuses, undated	box 01
Tonopah Divide Mining Company returned mail, notice to stockholders, 1945	box 02
Tonopah Divide Mining Company employee time sheets, 1922-1923	box 03 box 04
Tonopah Divide Mining Company ore shipment ledger sheets, Tonopah Belmont Development Company, 1921 to 1923	oversized box 05
Tonopah Divide Mining Company, Brougner Divide Mining Company stock ledger sheets, cash ledger, 1919-1924	oversized box 06
Tonopah Banking Corporation bank statements, 1927 to 1929	

	oversized box 07
Tonopah Banking Corporation canceled checks, 1917 to 1928	box 08
Tonopah Gold Mountain Mining Company (Tonopah Divide Mining Company) stock ledger, 1902 to 1905	box 09
Monarch Pittsburgh Mining Company stock ledger, 1916 to 1918	box 10
Monarch Pittsburgh Mining Company register of expenses, 1919 to 1931	box 10
Accounts ledger: Goldfield Deep Mines; Re-Organized Crackerjack; Goldfield May Queen Mining Companies; Esmeralda County Publishing (Goldfield News and Weekly Tribune), undated	box 11
Sandstorm-Kendall Mining Company cash book, voucher record, undated	oversized box 12