

Guide to the Collection of Licenses and Tax Receipts for Businesses in Montana Territory

WA MSS S-4310



Sarah Lerner and Stephanie Bredbenner

February 2024

P. O. Box 208330
New Haven, CT 06520-8330
(203) 432-2977
beinecke.library@yale.edu
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	3
Requesting Instructions	3
Administrative Information	4
Immediate Source of Acquisition	4
Conditions Governing Access	4
Conditions Governing Access	4
Preferred Citation	4
Processing Information	4
Scope and Contents	4
Arrangement	5
Collection Contents	6
Series I: Business licenses, 1865 January 9-1880	6
Series II: Tax receipts, 1865 July 31-1867 October 28	8
Series III: 2022 addition, 1865-1867	9
Business licenses, 1865-1867	9
Tax receipts, 1865	10
Selected Search Terms	11

Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
P. O. Box 208330
New Haven, CT 06520-8330
(203) 432-2977
beinecke.library@yale.edu
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

CALL NUMBER: WA MSS S-4310

TITLE: Collection of licenses and tax receipts for businesses in Montana Territory

DATES: 1865-1880

BULK DATES: 1865-1867

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 3.92 linear feet (8 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English (Latin script)

SUMMARY: Circa 3,500 printed licenses and circa 700 printed tax receipts, completed in manuscript, issued to businesses and individuals in Montana Territory, 1865-1880. Among the types of business represented are assayers, attorneys, billiard tables, brewers, butchers, dance houses, doctors, gambling houses and saloons, hotels, inns and taverns, merchants, ranchmen, saloons, and theaters. Other businesses include auctioneers, bankers, branding houses, jewelers, and liverys and stables. Towns represented include Blackfoot, Butte City, Deer Lodge, Fort Benton, German Gulch, Gold Creek, Henderson Gulch, Jefferson City, Lincoln Gulch, McClellan Gulch, Pacific City, and Virginia City (among others). At least six of the licenses were issued to female entrepreneurs. Two licenses were issued to Kate Sands of Virginia City, who operated a saloon and dance house in 1865-1866. Another dance house proprietor was Mary Miller of Central, whose license was for the duration of two days, from 1865 September 19 to 20. Three other female saloon proprietors are represented by licenses in the collection: Nancy Williams and Hattie Peters of Virginia City and Florence Bennett of Blackfoot.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.mtlicenses>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.mtlicenses>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to beinecke.images@yale.edu.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from Nick Aretakis Americana on the William Robertson Coe Fund No. 3, 2019. Purchased from William Reese Co. on the William Robertson Coe Fund No. 3, 2022.

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Access

The Collection of Licenses and Tax Receipts for Businesses in Montana Territory is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

Preferred Citation

Collection of Licenses and Tax Receipts for Businesses in Montana Territory. Yale Collection of Western Americana, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Processing Information

Collections are processed to a variety of levels, depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived research value, the availability of staff, competing priorities, and whether or not further accruals are expected. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

These materials have been arranged and described according to national and local standards. For more information, please refer to the Beinecke Manuscript Unit Processing Manual.

Scope and Contents

Circa 3,500 printed licenses and circa 700 printed tax receipts, completed in manuscript, issued to businesses and individuals in Montana Territory, 1865-1880. Among the types of business represented are assayers, attorneys, billiard tables, brewers, butchers, dance houses, doctors, gambling houses and saloons, hotels, inns and taverns, merchants, ranchmen, saloons, and theaters. Other businesses include auctioneers, bankers, branding houses, jewelers, and liveries and stables. Towns represented include Blackfoot, Butte City, Deer Lodge, Fort Benton, German Gulch, Gold Creek, Henderson Gulch, Jefferson City, Lincoln Gulch, McClellan Gulch, Pacific City, and Virginia City (among others).

At least six of the licenses were issued to female entrepreneurs. Two licenses were issued to Kate Sands of Virginia City, who operated a saloon and dance house in 1865-1866. Another dance house proprietor was Mary Miller of Central, whose license was for the duration of two days, from 1865 September 19 to 20. Three other female saloon proprietors are represented by licenses in the collection: Nancy Williams and Hattie Peters of Virginia City and Florence Bennett of Blackfoot.

Arrangement

Organized into three series: I. Business Licenses, 1865-1867. II. Tax Receipts, 1865-1880. III. 2022 Addition, 1865-1867.

Collection Contents

Series I: Business licenses, 1865 January 9-1880

Circa 1,025 printed licenses for businesses and individuals in Montana Territory including assayers, attorneys, brewers, butchers, dance houses, doctors, gambling houses and saloons, hotels, inns and taverns, merchants, ranchers, saloons, and theaters. Other licenses document auctioneers, jewelers, bankers, liveries and stables, branding houses, and other establishments, occupations, or trades. Circa 525 miscellaneous licenses note the individual to whom the license was issued, its duration, the fee, the locality, and the name of the collector--they do not, however, record a specific occupation or trade.

Included is a booklet of licenses exclusively for businesses and individuals in Fort Benton.

Arranged alphabetically by business type. The number in parentheses following each file title indicates the number of licenses present for that business type.

b. 1, f. 1	Assayers (6)	1865 May 9-1866 April 9
b. 1, f. 2	Attorneys (7)	1865 June 13-1867 November 2
b. 1, f. 3	Billiard tables (21)	1865 June 27-1867 October 1
b. 1, f. 4	Brewers (13)	1865 July 15-1867 October 20
b. 1, f. 5	Butchers (86)	1865 January 9-1867 October 26
b. 1, f. 6	Dance houses (11)	1865 June 14-1866 September 24
b. 1, f. 7	Doctors (16)	1865 May 13-1867 October 17
b. 1, f. 8	Gambling houses and saloons (12)	1865 May 11-1866 August 13
b. 1, f. 9	Hotels (19)	1865 October 14-1867 October 3
b. 1, f. 10	Inns and taverns (26)	1865 May 11-1867 February 6
b. 1, f. 11	Merchants (64)	1865 May 1-1867 October 5

b. 1, f. 12	Ranchers (11)	1865 May 10-1866 September 6
b. 1, f. 13	Saloons (73)	1865 May 11-1867 October 31
b. 1, f. 14	Theaters (14)	1866 March 7- July 30
b. 1, f. 15	Other (79)	1865 May 8-1867 October 19
b. 2, f. 16-26	Miscellaneous (circa 525)	1866-1867
b. 2, f. 27	License booklet for Fort Benton	1880

Series II: Tax receipts, 1865 July 31-1867 October 28

Circa 700 printed tax receipts for businesses in Montana Territory. The receipts bear the name and locality of the person to whom they were issued; the name of the collector; the assessed value of the property; the amount of tax in four categories: territorial, county, poor, and school; and a space for interest charged.

Arranged chronologically.

b. 3, f. 28-43

Tax receipts

1865 July
31-1867 October
28

Series III: 2022 addition, 1865–1867*2.09 linear feet (5 boxes)*

Circa 2,500 business licenses and 2 tax receipts from Montana Territory, 1865-1867. Businesses documented include attorneys, butchers, saloons, merchants, retail liquor dealers, photographers, ranchers, jewelers, toll roads, barbers, a sleight of hand artist, and "dance girls."

From the collection of Norm Moore. Purchased from William Reese Co. on the William Robertson Coe Fund No. 3, 2022.

Arranged into two subseries: I. Business Licenses, 1865-1867. II. Tax Receipts, 1865.

Business licenses		1865–1867
Arranged alphabetically by business type. The number in parentheses following each file title indicates the number of licenses present for that business type. Licenses without an occupation and bound license booklets are filed at the end of the series.		
b. 4, f. 1	Attorneys and lawyers (9)	1865–1867
b. 4, f. 2	Auctioneers (19)	1865–1867
b. 4, f. 3	Bankers (7)	1865–1867
b. 4, f. 4	Billiard halls and billiard tables (18)	1865–1867
b. 4, f. 5	Boarding houses (55)	1865–1867
b. 4, f. 6	Brewers (16)	1865–1867
b. 4, f. 7	Butchers (41)	1865–1867
b. 4, f. 8	Corrals, hay yards, and stables (52)	1865–1867
b. 4, f. 9	Dance houses (7)	1865–1867
b. 4, f. 10	Dentists (5)	1865–1867
b. 4, f. 11-12	Gambling houses and saloons (182)	1865–1867
b. 5, f. 1	Gambling houses and saloons (continued)	1865–1867
b. 5, f. 2	Hotels (16)	1865–1867
b. 5, f. 3	Inns and taverns (30)	1865–1867
b. 5, f. 4-6	Merchants (326)	1865–1867
b. 6, f. 1-2	Merchants (continued)	1865–1867
b. 6, f. 3	Peddlers (61)	1865–1867
b. 6, f. 4	Photographers and picture galleries (4)	1865–1867
b. 6, f. 5	Physicians (2)	1865–1867
b. 6, f. 6	Ranchers (28)	1865–1867
b. 6, f. 7	Restaurants (7)	1865–1867

Business licenses (continued)

b. 6, f. 8-10	Retail liquor dealers (165)	1865-1867
b. 7, f. 1	Theaters (4)	1865-1867
b. 7, f. 2-3	Other occupations (104)	1865-1867
b. 7, f. 4	No occupation - Chouteau County	1865-1867
b. 7, f. 5-8	No occupation - Deer Lodge County	1865-1867
b. 7, f. 9	No occupation - Edgerton County	1865-1867
b. 8, f. 1-2	No occupation - Jefferson County	1865-1867
b. 8, f. 3	No occupation - Madison County	1865-1867
b. 8, f. 4	No occupation - Meagher County	1865-1867
b. 8, f. 5	No occupation - no county	1865-1867
b. 8, f. 6	License booklet for Chouteau County	1865-1867
b. 8, f. 7-9	License booklet for Deer Lodge County	1865-1867
b. 8, f. 10	License booklets for Meagher County	1865-1867
b. 8, f. 11	License booklets, no county	1865-1867
	Tax receipts	1865
b. 8, f. 12	Tax receipts (2)	1865

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

Business enterprises -- Montana
Property tax -- Montana
Taxation -- Montana
Women -- West (U.S.)

Geographic Names

Butte (Mont.)
Deer Lodge (Mont.)
Fort Benton (Mont.)
Goldcreek (Mont.)
Lincoln (Mont.)
Montana -- Economic conditions -- 19th century
Montana Territory
Virginia City (Mont.)

Genres / Formats

Licenses
Receipts (financial records)

Acquired From

Nick Aretakis Americana , bookseller
William Reese Co.