

# Guide to the Carroll T. Hobart Papers

WA MSS S-2396



by Diana Smith

February 2001

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## 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-2396

**CREATOR:** Hobart, Carroll T.

**TITLE:** Carroll T. Hobart papers

**DATES:** 1871-1904

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 7.31 linear feet (11 boxes) + 2 broadside folders

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The papers document Carroll T. Hobart's involvement in the Yellowstone Park Improvement Company and the Northern Pacific Railroad through correspondence, photographs, printed material, and documents. The correspondence consists mostly of Hobart's business correspondence. Principal correspondents include his wife Alice, his contractor brother Charles F. Hobart, and T. F. Oakes and Robert Harris of the Northern Pacific Railroad. The photographs include images of Yellowstone National Park by F. Jay Haynes, William Henry Jackson, and Carleton Watkins, in stereographs, cabinet cards and unmounted albumen prints. The papers also include documents and financial papers relating to the Yellowstone Park Improvement Company and the Northern Pacific Railroad, two pen-and-ink maps, one of them a plat map of Cinnabar, Montana, and two office journals from 1881-1882.

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

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## 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.hobart>.

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](mailto:beinecke.images@yale.edu).

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

b.      box  
f.      folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from William Reese Company on the Frederick W. & Carrie S. Beinecke Fund for Western Americana, 1987.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Box 11: Restricted fragile material. Reference surrogates have been substituted in the main files. For further information consult the appropriate curator.

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### Conditions Governing Use

The Carroll T. Hobart Papers are 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.

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### Preferred Citation

Carroll T. Hobart Papers. Yale Collection of Western Americana, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

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## CARROLL T. HOBART

Carroll T. Hobart was a Northern Pacific Railroad Superintendent and manager of the Yellowstone Park Improvement Company early in the history of commercial enterprises in Yellowstone Park. Hobart had served as a railroad superintendent for at least ten years when he was made Superintendent of the Yellowstone Park Branch of the Northern Pacific Railroad in 1881. Shortly after this he formed an improvement company with two other men, Henry F. Douglas, a merchant of Fort Yates, Dakota Territory, and Rufus Hatch, a New York banker.

The company sought from the federal government a monopoly to construct roadways and build hotels in Yellowstone Park, but no monopoly was granted, and in 1883 a modified agreement was reached with the Secretary of the Interior. Rufus Hatch, the principal financial backer, never supplied the necessary capital, and Hobart, acting as general manager of the company, built the National Hotel at Mammoth Hot Springs largely on credit. Yellowstone Park Superintendents charged him with exploiting park resources: contracting with local hunters for wild meat to feed his workmen and later hotel guests, as well as cutting timber for his sawmill without authorization. The hotel lost money its first summer of operation (1883), and during the winter of 1883-1884 carpenters staged a strike for their wages. When creditors began demanding money, Rufus Hatch, in New Jersey, sought the appointment of a receiver without his partners' knowledge. In turn, Hobart and Douglas obtained a receiver in the Wyoming courts. This receiver, George B. Hulme, eventually won control of the company's assets.

After the summer of 1884 proved to be another losing season, Hulme leased the hotel to Hobart for \$1 in 1885. Hobart thereupon made the hotel a money-making operation which thrived. The Yellowstone Park Improvement Company was later sold to an agent of the Northern Pacific Railroad Company.

Carroll was married to Alice M. Hobart, and they had at least one son. In 1898 he was engaged in the location and construction of a government road in the Argentine Republic.

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## Scope and Contents

The papers document Carroll T. Hobart's involvement with Yellowstone National Park through correspondence, photographs, printed material and documents. The collection consists of four series: *Correspondence*, *Photographs*, *Printed Material*, and *Other Papers*, and spans the dates 1871-1904.

[Series I, \*Correspondence\*](#), consists primarily of business correspondence, including incoming letters and drafts of outgoing letters. The series has been arranged chronologically. The earliest correspondence is in the form of a letterpress copybook for the years 1871-1872. There are approximately 500 letterpress copies of outgoing letters and reports sent by Hobart while Superintendent of the Minnesota Division of the Northern Pacific Railroad. The letters concern supplies, reports of work on the line, and other construction matters. The remainder of the correspondence, in the form of individual letters, dates from 1881 through 1898. These letters largely concern his work as manager of the Yellowstone National Park Improvement Company. The nearly twenty letters to his wife are full of detail about his work, and thirty-five letters from his brother Charles describe daily events at the hotel, including the carpenter strike in the winter of 1883-1884. Other correspondents include T. F. Oakes and Robert Harris of the Northern Pacific Railroad, and Henry M. Teller, Secretary of the Interior. A letter from Rufus Hatch to Hobart dated July 3, 188[-] contains a letter of introduction to Henry Ward Beecher. There are very few personal letters; three of them are from Carroll's mother in Appleton, Wisconsin, two of which are undated, the other is dated March 1886. Typescript transcripts of the correspondence are in four folders at the end of the series; these transcripts were made by an unidentified person, and have not been checked against the correspondence. They are accompanied by photocopies of documents, financial papers, and printed material, arranged in chronological order.

[Series II, \*Photographs\*](#), is organized by photographer into six subseries: F. Jay Haynes, Keystone View Company, H.C. Phillips, W.H. Jackson & Co., Carleton Watkins, and Unidentified. The views are predominantly of Yellowstone National Park at the time Hobart worked there and also include portraits of Carroll Hobart and his family. The twenty-two Haynes photographs include eight stereocards from the Yellowstone National Park series, several mounted photographs (17.4 x 25 cm.) from different photographic series, and a mounted photograph entitled "Conductors' Excursion to the National Park, June 1885." The forty-two Jackson photographs (some of them duplicates) are mounted and unmounted albumen photographs, including two photographs measuring 16.5 x 27 cm. The forty-six Watkins photographs include mounted albumen photographs from Watkins' New Boudoir Series, and unmounted albumen photographs from Watkins' New Series.

[Series III, \*Printed Material\*](#), is organized by format into five subseries: Books, Catalogs, Pamphlets, Periodicals, and Other Printed Material. Within each subseries, the materials are arranged alphabetically by author or title. [Series IV, \*Other Papers\*](#), consists of documents, financial papers, maps, and other papers. These include two folders of documents and financial papers relating to the Yellowstone National Park Improvement Company, and the Northern Pacific Railroad Company; a file of bills and receipts for both personal and professional expenses; two pen-and-ink maps, one of Fracl Township in Yellowstone National Park, and the other an 1883 plat of the town of Cinnabar, Montana; and two office journals covering 1881-1882 containing information on his work on the Northern Pacific Railroad in North Dakota.

[Oversize](#) consists of materials from Series II, III, and IV, and is arranged in box order.

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## Collection Contents

### Series I: Correspondence, 1871-1898

1.42 linear feet (2 boxes)

Series I, *Correspondence*, is arranged chronologically.

b. 1, f. 1	Letterpress copybook	1871-72
b. 2, f. 2	Correspondence	1881-82
b. 2, f. 3-5	Correspondence	1883
b. 2, f. 6-12	Correspondence	1884
b. 2, f. 13-15	Correspondence	1885
b. 2, f. 16-17	Correspondence	1886
b. 2, f. 18	Correspondence	1887-88
b. 2, f. 19	Correspondence	1889-98
b. 2, f. 20	Correspondence	n.d.
b. 2, f. 21-24	Typescript transcripts of the correspondence Accompanied by photocopies of documents, financial papers, and printed material, arranged in chronological order	n.d.

**Series II: Photographs, [1881]-1904***1.83 linear feet (4 boxes)*

Series II, *Photographs*, is organized into six subseries: F. Jay Haynes, Keystone View Company, H.C. Phillips, W.H. Jackson & Co., Carleton Watkins, and Unidentified.

**HAYNES, F. JAY**

b. 3, f. 25	Yellowstone National Park. 8 mounted stereocards, 10 x 17.8 cm. Six photographs numbered: 1031, [1401?], 1460, 1946, 1954, 1977	
b. 3, f. 26	Cabinet Series of Noted Indian Chiefs and Northern Pacific Views illustrating the Yellowstone National Park. Two cabinet card photographs, 10 x 15.8 cm. on mounts 10.8 x 16.4 cm.	n.d.
b. 3, f. 27	Conductor's Excursion to the National Park, June 1885. One mounted photograph, 14.9 x 22.6 cm. on mount 17.3 x 24.8 cm.	n.d.
b. 3, f. 28	Northern Pacific Views. Yellowstone National Park. Four mounted photographs, 16.1 x 23 cm. on mounts 17.4 x 24.9 cm.	n.d.
b. 3, f. 29	Yellowstone National Park. Three mounted photographs, 23.1 x 16.2 cm. on mounts 25 x 17.4 cm.	n.d.
b. 3, f. 30	Portraits of [Carroll T. Hobart?] and James O. Hobart. Four cabinet card photographs, 14.9 x 9.9 cm. on mounts 16.5 x 19.8 cm. and smaller	[1881 or 82?]

**KEYSTONE VIEW COMPANY**

b. 3, f. 31	13581. Rocky Mountain Divide, Yellowstone National Park, Wyo., U.S.A. One mounted stereocard, 8.9 x 17.8 cm. Copyright 1904 by B.L. Singley	1904
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**PHILLIPS, H. C.**

b. 3, f. 32	Family portrait of Carroll T., Alice and James Hobart. One cabinet card photograph, 14.3 x 10.3 cm. on mount 16.5 x 10.8 cm.	[1884 or 85?]
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**W.H. JACKSON & CO.**

b. 3, f. 33	Photographs of Rocky Mountain Scenery, Denver, Colorado. 7 mounted photographs, 10.5 x 16.7 cm. on mounts 11.5 x 17.8 cm. Photographs numbered: 4009, 4024, [4029?], 4033, 4034, 4053, 4057	n.d.
b. 4, f. 34	Photographs of Rocky Mountain Scenery, Denver, Colorado. 29 unmounted photographs, 16.4 x 10.1 cm. Photographs numbered: 4006 (2), 4008 (2), 4009 (2), 4012 (2), 4017 (2), 4018, 4036, 4041 (2), 4044 (2), 4060, 4052 (2), 4053 (2), 4056, 4060 (2), 4064, 4065. Two images unnumbered, and a duplicate	n.d.
	Photographs of Rocky Mountain Scenery, Denver, Colorado. 1 unmounted matted photograph. 16.5 x 27 cm. Stored in: Oversize, box 9, folder 74 Photograph numbered 3053	n.d.
b. 5, f. 35	Stereocards of Boiling Springs. Two mounted stereocards, 10 x 17.8 cm. Photographs numbered: 3977, 3994	n.d.

## W.H. JACKSON &amp; CO. (continued)

	Summit Basins, Mammoth Hot Springs. 1 unmounted matted photograph. 16.6 x 26.5 cm. Stored in: Oversize, box 9, folder 75	n.d.
b. 5, f. 36	Yellowstone National Park. Two mounted photographs, 10.4 x 16.6 cm. on mounts 11.4 x 17.8 cm. Photographs numbered 4006, 4066	n.d.
WATKINS, CARLETON		
b. 5, f. 37-38	Watkins' New Boudoir Series, Yo Semite, Pacific Coast, Yellowstone Park, &c. 15 mounted photographs, 12.1 x 20.9 cm. on mounts 13.8 x 21.5 cm. Photographs numbered: D219, D221, D222, D224, D225, D227, D229, D230, D231 (2), D234, D235, D237, D240, D241	n.d.
b. 6, f. 39	Watkins New Series. 27 unmounted photographs, 11.9 x 19.5 cm. Photographs numbered: D219-228, D230-235, D237 (2), D239-240 (2), D241-242, D244, D246-248	n.d.
	Watkins New Series. 4 unmounted matted photographs. 38 x 53.3 cm. Stored in: Oversize, box 9, folder 76 Photographs numbered S101, S103, S108, S114	n.d.
UNIDENTIFIED		
b. 6, f. 40	Group portrait, people unidentified. One mounted photograph, 6.7 x 9.7 cm. on mount 8.9 x 11.4 cm.	n.d.



**Series III: Printed Material, 1880-1884***0.42 linear feet (1 box)*

Series III, *Printed Material*, is organized into five subseries: Books, Catalogs, Pamphlets, Periodicals, and Other Printed Material. Within each subseries, they are arranged alphabetically by author or title.

**BOOKS**

b. 7, f. 41	Haupt, Herman, Jr. <i>The Yellowstone National Park</i> . New York and Philadelphia: J. M. Stoddart	c1883
b. 7, f. 42	<i>Yellowstone National Park. 1882-'84</i> . Bound volume of government documents relating to Yellowstone	[1884]

**CATALOGS**

b. 7, f. 43	<i>American Iron Works. Jones &amp; Laughlins, Chicago, Manufacturers of American and Clair Bar, Hoop, Sheet and Plate Iron, Bridge Iron...</i> [Chicago]	1881 Feb
b. 7, f. 44	<i>Ames Manufacturing Co. Price List and Illustrated Catalogue of Wrought Iron Pipe and Fittings for Steam, Gas and Water, Tubing, Casing and Boiler Flues, Brass Goods, Rig Irons, Drilling Tools and Supplies, for Oil or Artesian Wells.</i> Titusville, PA.: Morning Herald Print	1880
b. 7, f. 45	<i>Catalogue of Oshkosh Carriage Co. Successor to Oshkosh &amp; Goodfellow, Buggies and Farmers' Spring Wagons, Oshkosh, Wis. 1883-84.</i>	[1883]
b. 7, f. 46	<i>Price List. E. Moneuse, 128 South 5th Avenue, Patentee of the Revolving Grates, and Manufacturer of French Cooking Ranges, Broilers, Hot Water Carving Tables, Coffee, Tea, and Water Urns, Also Copper, Tin and Iron Cooking Utensils for Hotels, Restaurants, Steamers, Public and Religious Institutions and Private Dwellings.</i> New York: Press of Mitchell A. C. Levy	1882 Jan
b. 7, f. 47	<i>S.H. &amp; E.Y. Moore, Agents for Providence Tool Company, Reading Bolt and Nut Works...and Other Manufacturers of Heavy Hardware, Railway Supplies, Ship Chandlery Hardware, Etc. and Manufacturers of 'Climax' Barn Door Hangers, Moore's Differential Pulley Blocks, Moore's Freight Car Hangers and Rollers, Etc.</i> [Chicago]	1882
b. 7, f. 48	<i>To Mechanics. Facts and Suggestions Regarding the Right Choice and Right Use of Solid Emery Wheels, and Emery Grinding Machinery. From the Tanite Co., Stroudsburg, Monroe Co., Pa.</i> New York: John Polhemus	c1882
b. 7, f. 49	<i>The United States Electric Lighting Company.</i> New York: Press of J.W. Pratt	[1883]

**PAMPHLETS**

b. 7, f. 50	<i>Billings. The Agricultural Stock Raising and Mining Centre of the Yellowstone Valley. The Bonanza Town on the Whole Line of the Northern Pacific Railroad.</i> New York: E. Wells Sackett & Rankin, Steam Book and Job Printers	1882
b. 7, f. 51	<i>For Sale 108,000 Acres of Timber and Iron Lands Including a Delightful Summer Resort on Projected and Near Constructed Rail Roads.</i>	n.d.
b. 7, f. 52	<i>H.R. 7595. In the Senate of the United States... An Act Making appropriations for sundry civil expenses of the government for the fiscal year ending June thirtieth, eighteen hundred and eighty-four, and for other purposes.</i> [Washington: Government Printing Office]	[1883]

## PAMPHLETS (continued)

b. 7, f. 53	<i>H.R. 7380. In the Senate of the United States... An Act Making appropriations for sundry civil expenses of the Government for the fiscal year ending June thirtieth, eighteen hundred and eighty-five, and for other purposes.</i> [Washington: Government Printing Office] [1884]	
b. 7, f. 54	<i>In the Senate of the United States. ... Mr. Sawyer, from the Committee on Railroads, submitted the following Report...</i> Senate Report No. 239. [Washington: Government Printing Office]	1884
b. 7, f. 55	<i>Land and Farming in North Dakota on the Northern Pacific Railroad.</i> Manchester: T. Sowler & Co. Printers ... Reprinted by the Pioneer Press Co. St. Paul, Minn.	n.d.
b. 7, f. 56	<i>Manual of Telegraphy and Description of Instruments Adapted for Use on Private Telegraph Lines.</i> New York: J.H. Bunnell & Co.	1883
b. 7, f. 57	<i>Montana: Its Climate, Soil, Scenery, Resources and Industries. Its Advantages for General Farming, Cattle Raising, Wool Growing, Mining, and Other Occupations.</i> New York: Published at the Office of the "The Northwest"	1883
b. 7, f. 58	<i>North Dakota. Its Development and Resources. Being a Statement submitted to the Committee on Territories of the two Houses of Congress in January, 1882.</i> Washington, D.C.: National Republican Printing House	1882
b. 7, f. 59	<i>Report of the Governor of Wyoming, Made to the Secretary of the Interior.</i> 1883. Washington: Government Printing Office	1883
b. 7, f. 60	<i>The Yellowstone National Park Improvement Company. Charter, By-Laws, and List of Officers and Directors.</i>	1883
PERIODICALS		
b. 7, f. 61	<i>Congressional Record.</i> Vol. 15, No. 130. Washington	1884 May 28
	<i>The Helena Era.</i> Vol. 1, No. 5. Helena, Montana Stored in: Oversize, box 10, folder 77	1883 Aug 25
	<i>Northwestern Presbyterian.</i> Vol I, Nos. 36-40. Minneapolis and St. Paul Stored in: Oversize, box 10, folders 78-80 Two copies of No. 40	1885 Aug-Sep
OTHER PRINTED MATERIAL		
	Strum, G. P. <i>Montana Territory.</i> Map "compiled from the official Records of the General Land Office and other sources" Stored in: Oversize broadside folder 85	1883
b. 7, f. 62	Clippings	[1882]-83, n.d.
b. 7, f. 63	Business cards	n.d.

**Series IV: Other Papers, 1872-1889***0.42 linear feet (1 box)*

Series IV, *Other Papers*, is organized into four subseries: Documents, Financial Papers, Maps and Drawings, and Other Materials.

**DOCUMENTS**

b. 8, f. 64	Contracts and deeds for land in Brainerd, Minnesota; Gallatin County, Montana; and Park County, Montana Also stored in: Oversize, box 10, folder 81	1872-89
b. 8, f. 65	Yellowstone National Park Improvement Company documents and financial papers Also stored in: Oversize, box 10, folder 82	1882-85, n.d.
b. 8, f. 66	Petitions to and receipts from Northern Pacific Rail Road Company	1883-89, n.d.

**FINANCIAL PAPERS**

b. 8, f. 67	Bills and receipts	1872-87, n.d.
b. 8, f. 68	Check register	1884-86

**MAPS AND DRAWINGS**

	"Frac1 Township. No. 9 South Range No. 8 East of the Principal Meridian Montana. Yellowstone National Park." Pen-and-ink plat map Stored in: Oversize, box 10, folder 83	n.d.
	Jackson, Charles E. Schematic for a pile trestle. Pen-and-ink and wash Stored in: Oversize, box 10, folder 84	n.d.
	"Plat of the Town of Cinnabar, Gallatin County, M.T. Terminus of the N.P. Park Branch." Pen-and-ink plat map Stored in: Oversize broadside folder 86	1883

**OTHER MATERIALS**

b. 8, f. 69	List of unidentified lots	n.d.
b. 8, f. 70	Office journal	1881
b. 8, f. 71	Office journal	1882
b. 8, f. 72	Itinerary of a European trip	1887 May 20
b. 8, f. 73	Dried flower	n.d.

**Oversize***3.01 linear feet (2 boxes)*

Oversize consists of materials from Series II, III, and IV, and is arranged in box order.

b. 9, f. 74	Photographs of Rocky Mountain Scenery, Denver, Colorado. 1 unmounted matted photograph. 16.5 x 27 cm. (in Series II)	
b. 9, f. 75	Summit Basins, Mammoth Hot Springs. 1 unmounted matted photograph. 16.6 x 26.5 cm. (in Series II)	n.d.
b. 9, f. 76	Watkins New Series. 4 unmounted matted photographs. 38 x 53.3 cm. (in Series II)	
b. 10, f. 77	<i>The Helena Era</i> . Vol. 1, No. 5. Helena, Montana (in Series III)	1883 Aug 25
b. 10, f. 78-80	<i>Northwestern Presbyterian</i> . Vol I, Nos. 36-40. Minneapolis and St. Paul (in Series III)	1885 Aug-Sep
b. 10, f. 81	Deeds (in Series IV)	1872-89
b. 10, f. 82	Yellowstone National Park Improvement Company documents and financial papers (in Series IV)	1882-85, n.d.
b. 10, f. 83	"Frac1 Township. No. 9 South Range No. 8 East of the Principal Meridian Montana. Yellowstone National Park." Pen-and-ink plat map (in Series IV)	n.d.
b. 10, f. 84	Jackson, Charles E. Schematic for a pile trestle. Pen-and-ink and wash (in Series IV)	n.d.
b. bsd, folder 85	Strum, G. P. <i>Montana Territory</i> . Map "compiled from the official Records of the General Land Office and other sources" (in Series III)	1883
b. bsd, folder 86	"Plat of the Town of Cinnabar, Gallatin County, M.T. Terminus of the N.P. Park Branch." Pen-and-ink plat map (in Series IV)	1883

## **Restricted Fragile Papers**

*0.21 linear feet (1 box)*

Restricted fragile material. Reference surrogates have been substituted in the main files. For further information consult the appropriate curator.

b. 11, f. 87

Box 2, folders 10 and 12

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## 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.

### Geographic Names

Cinnabar (Mont.) -- Maps  
Yellowstone National Park -- History  
Yellowstone National Park -- Pictorial works

### Genres / Formats

Albumen prints  
Cabinet photographs  
Maps (documents)  
Photographic prints  
Plats  
Stereographs

### Names

Harris, Robert, 1830-1894  
Hobart, Alice  
Hobart, Carroll T.  
Hobart, Charles F.  
Oakes, Thomas F.

### Corporate Bodies

Northern Pacific Railroad Company  
Yellowstone Park Improvement Company

### Contributors

Hobart, Carroll T.  
Haynes, F. Jay (Frank Jay), 1853-1921  
Jackson, William Henry, 1843-1942  
Watkins, Carleton E., 1829-1916