

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]:	1901-1929
Physical Description:	3.51 Cubic Feet (5 boxes, 1 oversized box, 2 flat files)
Physical Description:	8.18 Linear Feet
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The Tonopah Mining Company Records (1901-1929) contain assay certificates and assay reports, daily mine reports, time check cards, employee payroll cards, insurance policies, canceled bank checks, leases, and invoices reflecting the company's activities in Nevada. Also included are claims and correspondence against the Tonopah and Goldfield Railroad, as well as freight bills and paid receipts.

Preferred Citation

Tonopah Mining Company Records, 1901-1929. MS-00752. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Historical Note

Tonopah Mining Company was incorporated on July 12, 1901 in the State of Delaware by a group of Philadelphia, 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, for \$336,000. The company made more than \$48 million between 1902 and 1948, and between 1901 and 1910 the company accounted for over 60% of the Tonopah District's total production. The company maintained their mining operations office in Tonopah under the management of Charles Miller, but the business office was in Philadelphia 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 subsidiary companies were quickly formed. 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 100-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 mines and 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 the First World War 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 Two 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 in the Court of Chancery of the State of Delaware and was dissolved.

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Scope and Contents Note

The records derive from the office of the company's General Manager in Tonopah and consist of documents directly generated by its mining and milling operations from 1901 through 1929, the bulk dating from 1904-1916. Of most interest and detail are the daily reports of the work in the mines, daily assay reports and certificates on the tonnage and value of the ore, employee time-check cards that record names, occupations, shifts and hours worked, invoices and receipts for mining equipment and supplies, monthly stores reports, and the company's insurance policies. There is also a series of the company's annual reports from 1907, 1909-11, 1915-1923, with the original typescript copy of the 1907 annual report which includes a series of the original 8x10 photographic prints produced by local photographer E. W. Smith of the mining property, buildings, workings and interiors that were reproduced in the published report, and a set of maps of the mines identifying the various mineral and ore bodies. The records from the subsidiary Desert Power and Mill Company comprise primarily assay reports, and the Tonopah and Goldfield Railroad records include overcharge claims, freight and repair bills, and delivery receipts. These records together document the activity and production of one the richest silver mines in the country, and largest mining companies in Nevada, during its most productive period. In the region's most prosperous period the Tonopah Mining Company's only rival was George Wingfield's Goldfield Consolidated Mines Company.

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Arrangement

Materials are arranged alphabetically within each box.

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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.

Processing Note

Collection was processed in 2015 by Joyce Moore. In 2018, as part of an archival backlog elimination project, Sarah Jones revised the collection description to bring it into compliance with current professional standards.

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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.)

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Containers
American Smelting and Refining Company invoices, 1906	box 01
Blank stationery, miscellaneous, undated	box 01
Mizpah and Silver Top Mines daily assay reports, 1912-1913 Physical Description: 2 Files	box 01
Mizpah and Silver Top Mines daily mine reports, 1907	box 01
Desert Power and Mill Company	
Assay certificates, 1907-1908 Physical Description: 2 Files	box 01
Assay certificates, 1915 Physical Description: 3 Files	box 01
Assay certificates, 1916	box 01
Bullion assays, 1907-1908	
Lease, 1914 September 1	box 01
Invoices, various mines, 1904-1916, undated	box 01
Invoices, various mines, 1920-1923, 1928 Physical Description: 3 Files	box 01
Jim Butler Mining Company daily cash reports, 1907 June	box 01
Annual reports, 1907, 1909-1911, 1915-1923	box 02
Miscellaneous notes, undated	box 02
Desert Power and Mill Company property leases, 1904, 1914-1916	box 02
Insurance certificate for the Tonopah Mining Company, 1907 January-1908 January	box 02
Storekeeper requisitions and emergency purchases for Tonopah Mining Company, 1914-1915, 1923	box 02
Weigher's cards, 1901-1905	box 02
Western Ore Purchasing Company Weight and Moisture Certificates, 1906	box 02
Tonopah and Goldfield Railroad	
Overcharge claims and correspondence, 1910-1912	box 03
Overcharge cover sheets, 1911-1912	box 03

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Delivery receipts, 1905-1906	box 03
Freight bills, 1904-1907	box 03
Repair bills, 1907-1908	box 03
Time checks, 1907-1920	box 04
Time checks, 1922-1923	box 05
Insurance policies, various mines, 1907-1912	oversized box 06
Desert Power and Mill Company assay expenses, 1909 February	flat file 07
Labor and supplies used by the Tonopah Mining Company, 1908 June	flat file 07
Esmeralda Power Company inventory, 1911 February	flat file 07
Esmeralda Power Company monthly stores reports, 1907-1908	flat file 07
Desert Power and Mill Company monthly stores report, 1911	flat file 07
List of ores placed in storage at Millers, Nevada, 1908 June 3	flat file 07
"No Trespassing" sign, undated	flat file 07
Survey maps and sign advertising survey services, 1910s-1920s	flat file 08