

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

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
<b>Creator:</b>	Wingfield, George
<b>Creator:</b>	Tonopah Divide Mining Company
<b>Title:</b>	George Wingfield Records on the Tonopah Divide Mining Company and Other Holdings
<b>ID:</b>	MS-00787
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1916-1945
<b>Physical Description:</b>	9.35 Linear Feet (12 boxes)
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
<b>Abstract:</b>	The George Wingfield Records on the Tonopah Divide Mining Company and Other Holdings (1916-1945) document some 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, 1916-1945. MS-00787. Special Collections, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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## Historical Note

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The Tonopah Divide district was four and one-half 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 bonanza strike in Tonopah, but it was not until late 1917, when high-grade silver was discovered in a worked-out gold vein, that the Divide district experienced a real boom, albeit a short-lived one. By 1920 the Divide mines had closed, casualties of 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 Brougher, to purchase the failed Tonopah Divide Mining Company. In 1912, Wingfield sold his interest in the mining company to Brougher

when it seemed unlikely that the Divide mines would ever be profitable. When silver was later discovered in the company's mine, Brougher 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 the operations of all its mines to leasers who continued to produce small amounts of ore through the late 1940's. The Tonopah Divide Mining Company continues to own and lease its properties in the Divide district.

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## Scope and Contents Note

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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 Brougher's Tonopah mining companies, incorporated in 1912 and operated until 1927.

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## Arrangement

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Material is arranged alphabetically.

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## Administrative Information

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### Access Note

Collection is open for research.

### Publication Rights

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### Acquisition Note

Collection was assembled from two acquisitions: 2015-49, 2015-111.

### Processing Note

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

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## Related Materials

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### Related Collections

Tonopah Divide Mining Company Payroll ledgers (1919-1924) are at the Beineke Library, Yale University and an unprocessed collection of correspondence and records at the Central Nevada Historical Society.

Goldfield Consolidated Mining Company Records, 1904-1930, MS-00744. Special Collections, 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), 1919-1955	box 01
Correspondence, invoices, receipts, payrolls, 1919 March and April	box 01
Goldfield Deep Mines Company correspondence, stockholders, prospectus, proxy cards for annual meeting, 1918-1922, 1932-1934	box 01
Goldfield News and Daily/Weekly Tribune (Esmeralda County Printing Company) subscription renewal notices, receipts, invoices, 1926-1928	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 (Tonopah Mining b4)	box 02
Tonopah Divide Mining Company employee time sheets, 1922-1923	box 03-04
Tonopah Divide Mining Company ore shipment ledger sheets, Tonopah Belmont Development Company, 1921, 1923	box 05
Tonopah Divide Mining Company, Brougner Divide Mining Company stock ledger sheets, cash ledger, 1919-1924	box 06
Tonopah Banking Corporation bank statements, 1927-1929 (Tonopah Mining b1)	box 07
Tonopah Banking Corporation canceled checks, 1917-1920, 1924, 1927-1928 (Tonopah Mining Company b7)	box 08
Tonopah Gold Mountain Mining Company (Tonopah Divide Mining Company) stock ledger, 1902-1905	box 09
Monarch Pittsburgh Mining Company stock ledger, 1916-1918	box 10

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Monarch Pittsburgh Mining Company register of expenses, 1919-1931	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	box 12

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