



FINDING AID

HENDERSON-ASH FAMILY PAPERS

1873-2002(bulk dates: 1885-1905)

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HISTORY

For a detailed history of G. L. Henderson and his family see Whittlesey, Lee. *Storytelling in Yellowstone: Horse and Buggy Tour Guides* (2007) and Goss, Robert V. "Yellowstone's First General Store: A Legacy of Jennie Henderson and Her Family," *Yellowstone Science* 13.2 (Spring 2005): 16-28.

1882-Henderson appointed assistant superintendent of Yellowstone National Park.

1882 May-Henderson and daughters, Helen L. "Nellie", Barbara G. "Lillie", Jennie H., and Mary Rosetta, arrive in Yellowstone.

1882 July-Barbara appointed post mistress of Yellowstone.

1883-Barbara and Jennie sell tourist curios at the Post Office.

1884-Jennie appointed post mistress.

1885-Henderson publishes Yellowstone Park Manual and Guide.

1885 June-Henderson loses position as assistant superintendent.

1885-Henderson family constructs Cottage Hotel. Walter and Helen named as proprietors.

1885 December-Cottage Hotel opens.

1886-Jennie loses post mistress appointment to Marion Baronett.

1886-Jennie elopes with John Dewing.

1887 Nov.-Helen marries Charles Stuart.

1888-Jennie appointed post mistress, sells curios under name of Post Office Store.

1888-Walter marries Eva Fitzgerald.

1888-Henderson hires daughter Helen as park interpreter (1st female park interpreter).

1889-Mary named assistant postmaster.

1889 May-Henderson sells Cottage Hotel to Yellowstone Park Association; hired by YPA as congressional lobbyist. Continues as park interpreter.

1889-Walter and Eva operate Firehole Hotel, Helen and Charles operate Cottage Hotel for YPA.

1891-Henderson establishes home in Chula Vista, California, and begins spending winters there.

1892-Mary marries Henry Klamer.

1893-Jennie divorces Dewing.

1893 June-Jennie marries George Ash.

1895-Jennie awarded 10 year lease to build a store, post office, and residence at Mammoth.

1897-Henry Klamer takes over store at Old Faithful, Henderson works there for the summer.

1898-Barbara marries Alexander Lyall.

1899-Henderson works at the Wonderland Post Office.

1900-Jennie takes over as postmaster from George.

1900 June-George Ash dies in Salt Lake City from extended illness.

1902-store renamed Yellowstone Park Tourist Supplies.

1905 August-Jennie's lease renewed for 10 years.

1905 Nov. 14-Henderson dies in Chula Vista, California.

1906 Jan.-Jennie resigns as postmistress, recommends Alexander Lyall.

1906 Feb.-Lyall appointed postmaster, joins store operation under J. H. Ash & Co.

1908-Jennie retires to California, store taken over by Lyall and Walter (Lyall & Henderson).

1913-George Whittaker takes over from Lyall & Henderson.

1914 August-Henry Klamer passes away.

1915 June-Charles Hamilton purchases Klamer's Store at Old Faithful.

1929-Charles Stuart passes away.

1936-Helen Henderson Stuart passes away.

1941-Barbara Henderson Lyall passes away.

1947-Jennie Henderson Ash passes away.

1948-Mary Henderson Klamer passes away.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

HENDERSON-ASH FAMILY PAPERS 1873-2002 (bulk dates: 1885-1905)

CATALOG NUMBER YELL 144942

VOLUME 2.5 LF

DESCRIPTION Business records, correspondence, biographical materials, writings, and ephemera of the G. L. Henderson family, early employees and concessioners of Yellowstone National Park.

The collection consists of records pertaining to G. L. Henderson and his family including his son and daughter-in-law, Walter J. and Eva Fitzgerald, as well as daughters and sons-in-law, Jennie and George Ash, Mary and Henry Klamer, and Barbara and Alexander Lyall. The records consist of biographical and genealogical materials, business records, correspondence, writings, and ephemera.

The biographical and genealogical materials detail the history and familial relationships of the Henderson and Fitzgerald families. Business records include records documenting the creation, construction, and management of the Cottage Hotel and Cottage Hotel Association as well as its sale to the Yellowstone Park Association (YPA) and Henderson's subsequent employment by the YPA as a lobbyist. There are also records of Henderson's employment as assistant superintendent of the Park, including the earliest known register of park visitors, weather logs, and a few copies of memoranda and correspondence. Other family members were employed at various times as postmaster and post office records include logs of certified mail and deliveries.

Correspondence covers similar topics of business as well as materials from the military administrators of the Park and the Northern Pacific Railroad. There are also a few pieces of family correspondence. All of the writings were authored by G. L. Henderson and include poems, essays, and news articles. The main focus of these writings is the attractions of the Park, including the thermal features and amenities for visitors. Ephemera were likely collected by several family members, although G. L. is evident as both collector and subject. These items range from advertising cards, blank letterhead, and envelopes to published reports, maps, and news clippings compiled into scrapbooks.

Broad themes documented by the collection include the early civilian administration of the Park, the transition to military oversight, and the administrative and poaching problems that led to the change. Also documented are the earliest activities to cater to tourists including G. L.'s role in developing Park interpretation, marketing and boosterism, and the beginnings of commercial services via concessioners. The role of national politics is evident throughout the collection, particularly the ongoing conflict of conservation versus economic development.

In addition to topics concerning Yellowstone National Park, there are a few items pertaining to the Henderson family's life prior to moving west. The records provide documentation of a literary society in Levy, Minnesota, as well as an attempt at communal living organized as the Clemont Home and Produce Company in Postville, Iowa.

ORGANIZATION

The collection is organized into five series:

- I. Genealogical and biographical materials
- II. Business records
- III. Correspondence
- IV. Writings
- V. Printed materials

PROVENANCE

Gift of George L. H. Ash, 1956-1964. Additional materials gift of Jim Henderson, 2003. The collection was received prior to the establishment of an archives. As a result, the materials were separated to the library and museum collections and treated as individual objects. Over the years, several of the items were transferred between the units several times, sometimes losing their provenance. Every effort was made to locate all missing components and reconstitute the original collection. Since the inventories varied, it is possible a few items donated by George Ash were not found during this process. However, the only item known to be missing is a Yellowstone Park Courier newspaper dated May 12, 1904. In a few instances, it is uncertain if the exact copy of a publication was located, although a copy of the correct title and date has been included.

RESTRICTIONS

NO

*ASSOCIATED
MATERIALS*

Commercial stereograph images and postcards not specific to the family, Yellowstone National Park Museum Collections

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

I. Biographical and genealogical materials, 1888-2002

Arranged by format.

This series contains materials detailing the Henderson and Fitzgerald family histories including photocopies of reminiscences, obituaries, biographical histories, news clippings, vital records, and photographs. The bulk of the materials were photocopied, and sometimes annotated, ca. 2000. To avoid confusion, the folders are labeled with the original date, which best describes the contents. There are also a few items created by the current generation of Henderson, Ash, Klamer, Lyall, and Fitzgerald families.

II. Business records, 1873-1909

Arranged chronologically.

This series consists of ledgers, legal documents, and other administrative records pertaining to the family's many official appointments and businesses. Government employment includes G. L. Henderson's role as assistant superintendent, which is documented through copies of correspondence and memoranda as well as listings of weather data and visitors to the Park. Other government work includes postmaster appointments for George and Jennie Ash, Henry Klamer, and Alexander Lyall. Post Office records include certified mail and delivery logs.

Family business includes curio sales in the Post Office and the construction and management of the Cottage Hotel, via the Cottage Hotel Association. Records documenting these enterprises includes a guest register and accounts, laborer contracts and accounts, building plans, and articles of agreement. Once the hotel is sold to the Yellowstone Park Association, there are records documenting Henderson's employment as a lobbyist in Washington, D.C. as well as a few records detailing Klamer's relationship as a vendor to the YPA.

Intermingled with the business records are more literary endeavors including poems, essays, and other writings, primarily by G. L. Henderson. Several ledgers contain multiple topics, written by multiple authors. When possible, the known or likely author is identified.

III. Correspondence, 1882-1911

Arranged by correspondent and then chronologically.

Letters sent and received by members of the family including G. L. Henderson, Walter J. Henderson, Helen L. Henderson, and Henry Klamer. Topics include government activities including the administration of Superintendent Conger and subsequent actions by the military administration of the Park. There are also letters pertaining to the activities of the Yellowstone

Park Association and Klamer's Store including various leases and legislation. Finally, there is a letter, apparently collected by G. L. Henderson, written by Montana Territory Governor Crosby concerning the protection of game and the administration of the Park. Correspondents include various officials in the Department of the Interior, the U. S. Army, the Northern Pacific Railroad, and the Yellowstone Park Association.

IV. Writings, 1885-1900 and undated

Arranged alphabetically by title.

Series IV: Writings consist of news articles, essays, and poems written by G. L. Henderson and published in newspapers and by Henderson. The main topic is the Park and includes discussions of the thermal features, history and development, special events and visitors, and news items. Much of the writing was intended to promote the Park and encourage visitors. There are also a few items meant to sway political opinion as well as a bit of reminiscence in the later materials.

The series contains a mix of handwritten drafts, original publications, and photocopies. It is unclear if the photocopies were made from original clippings collected by the family or if the copies were collected by the Park and added at a later date. There may also be a few news clippings authored by Henderson in the scrapbooks contained in Series V: Printed Materials.

V. Printed materials, 1882-1906

Arranged alphabetically by format.

This series is comprised of ephemera materials collected by G. L. Henderson and, perhaps, other members of his family. It includes marketing materials such as advertising cards, blank letterhead, brochures, envelopes, handbills, and menus for the family businesses such as the Cottage Hotel and Henderson's lectures. There are also materials pertaining to the Wylie Camping Company, the Yellowstone Park Association, and individuals. Printed materials such as government reports, Superintendent's reports, and news clippings are also contained in this series. There is also a piece of sheet music and two maps of the Park.

A few of the items include notations or signatures by G. L. Henderson. Other materials do not have a clear provenance, although all were donated by George Ash and can be considered part of the family's memorabilia.

CONTAINER LIST

BOX 1

Series Nbr	Series Title
01	<i>Biographical and genealogical materials, 1888-2002</i>
File Nbr	Title
01	reminiscences by Henderson & Kerr, 1901-1927 Letters written by G. L. Henderson (1901), J. A. Henderson (1917), and Charles M. Kerr (1927) detailing Henderson family genealogy and describing life in Scotland and Iowa. Photocopies and/or typed copies.
02	obituaries & histories, Henderson & Fitzgerald, 1905-1998 Obituaries and biographical histories for G. L. Henderson, David B. Henderson, A. C. Henderson, and the Fitzgerald family. Photocopies.
03	photographs & marriage license (photocopies), 1888-ca. 1900 Marriage license (photocopy) for Walter J. Henderson and Eva L. Fitzgerald, 1888, and color photocopies of two photographs--a group shot of the Henderson and Fitzgerald siblings (ca. 1888) and a portrait of Selick Madison Fitzgerald (ca. 1900?).
04	newsletter & photograph, 1998-2002 Henderson family annual newsletter (1998) and photograph of Henderson descendents visiting Yellowstone National Park (2002).

Series Nbr	Series Title
02	<i>Business records, 1873-1909</i>
File Nbr	Title
05	copybook-tourist register-meeting ledger, Henderson, 1873-1884 This bound ledger was used by G. L. Henderson to record a variety of activities over time: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • writings on "Sociology" and "Dynamical Sociology," for the literary society of Levy, Minnesota, 1873; • minutes of meetings for the Clemont Home and Produce Company, a "commune" or shared living arrangement between the A. C. and G. L. Henderson families, Postville, Iowa, 1879; • poems and essays, [although some appear to be titled and hint at other authors the sources were not located in WorldCat or Google Books and may be original to Henderson, others with Yellowstone themes seem quite likely to be Henderson's writings], ca. 1875-ca. 1885; • copies of letters sent: Col. P. W. Norris, 1883, Mrs. Hannah Burke Phillip Horton, 1883? • a diary entry for June 1, 1883, describing problems with Superintendent Conger;

BOX 1 (CONT'D)

File Nbr	Title
05	<p>copybook-tourist register-meeting ledger, 1873-1884 (CONT'D)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Park tourist record, listing names and residences of visitors, 1883-1885; • inventory and accounts of livestock, vehicles, tack, groceries, dry goods, tobacco, [for Cottage Hotel?], 1886-1887; • articles of agreement for the Cottage Hotel Association, 1888; • script, "The Last P[rof?]", possibly by "Lille" Henderson, ca. 1890? • delivery log, probably for the Post Office, 1883. • Building plans for the Cottage Hotel separated to Oversize storage.
06	<p>Cottage Hotel register-Post Office log-letterbook-weather log, 1882-1886</p> <p>This bound ledger was used by several members of the family to record various activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • weather log detailing temperature, wind, clouds, and precipitation, probably recorded by G. L. Henderson, 1882-1883 • Post Office log of registered mail, 1883 • guest accounts for Cottage Hotel, 1885 • labor log, payroll accounts, receipts for wages, and worker's contracts, [Cottage Hotel?], 1885-1886 • draft text for guide book and mailing list, G. L. Henderson, ca. 1885 • poems, essays, memoranda, probably by G. L. Henderson, 1885-1886 • Accounts for lumber, Montgomery Ward's, and other purchases, author unknown, 1885 • handwriting and English study practice book, Lillie Henderson, ca. 1890 [Lillie often wrote over entries made by others]
07	<p>Cottage Hotel account book, 1886</p> <p>"Office ledger" or account book, Cottage Hotel, 1886. The ledger lists names, possibly of workers, and the amounts debited or credited. Debits included purchases of clothing, food, tobacco, and beer. Credits include work transporting others, related activities such as horseshoeing, and purchases such as tack, which must have been considered a company expense. Includes an alphabetical index of names in the front.</p>
08	<p>deed, contracts, bid request, appointments, 1890-1909</p> <p>Official documents received or collected by members of the family:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • relinquishment of lease on ground under Fountain Hotel by Yellowstone Park Association (1892), • agreement for Henry Klamer to supply meat to the Yellowstone Park Association (1893), • request for bids for teamsters by U. S. Army (1893), • insurance document for Yellowstone Boat Co. with hand-drawn map of company's buildings at Yellowstone Lake (1899), • appointments as postmaster for George Ash, Henry Klamer, Jennie Ash, and Alexander Lyall (1893-1909)

BOX 1 (CONT'D)

File Nbr 09	Title work journal, Henderson, 1890-1893 Daily diary of work-related activities by G. L. Henderson. Includes documentation of letters written and received, conversations with others, meetings of Congressional committees, and invitations. Most of the business conducted pertains to legislation affecting the Park and its concessioners, especially the Yellowstone Park Association, for whom Henderson was acting as lobbyist.
Series Nbr 03	Series Title <i>Correspondence, 1882-1911</i>
File Nbr 10	Title Crosby to Ordway, 1883 Feb. 7 Letter from Montana Territory Governor John Schuyler Crosby to Dakota Territory Governor N. G. Ordway, February 7, 1883, regarding improving protection of Yellowstone National Park and the areas around it from poachers. This is not the letter published in the Congressional Record, although the content is similar.
11	Henderson, G. L., 1884-1905 Correspondence sent and received by G. L. Henderson. Many of the letters are copies of letters sent, although there are a few letters received. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Correspondents: Department of the Interior, Yellowstone Park Association, U. S. Army, Northern Pacific Railroad Co., E. C. Waters, T. F. Oakes, Capt. F. A. Boutell, S. S. McClune, Major Jonathan Pitcher, E. M. Wilson, Charles Gibson, John W. Noble, C. S. Mellen, W. G. Pearce, Helena Independent, the Helena Herald, and the Pioneer Press. • Topics: Henderson's dispute with Superintendent Conger, complaints about soldiers poaching as well as protecting poachers, continuing the boundaries of Camp Sheridan, and a variety of notes about geysers and other thermal features, Henderson's work as a lobbyist for YPA, relationship between the Cottage Hotel Association and the YPA, status of various pieces of legislation, YPA's lease of land at Mammoth Hot Springs, an attempt to gain approval to build roads and a railroad through the Park. • Names mentioned: James A. Clark, George Wakefield, Bill Clark, Montana Representative Thomas H. Carter, Senator Sanders, R. R. Cummings, Captain Bournes, J. G. Riley, T. B. Casey, Ole A. Anderson, Childs & Bach. • Places: Mammoth Hotel, Canyon Hotel, Cottage Hotel, 20th Century Geyser.

BOX 1 (CONT'D)

File Nbr	Title
11	Henderson, G. L., 1884-1905 (CONT'D) Also included is a petition from Livingston Masonic Lodge No. 32 inviting President Theodore Roosevelt to the cornerstone laying ceremony for the Park's entrance gate (now known as the Roosevelt Arch). <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Signatures: John W. Meldrum, C. W. Melvill, Lansing S. Wells, William Bennet, George Brick, J. H. Ash, S. K. Fishel, J. C. McCartney, C. B. Scott, Lawrence Link, R. W. Hilmer, George R. Pryor, H. E. Klamer, Alexander Lyall, W. A. Hall, George Trischman, and C. G. Brandon.
12	Henderson, G. L., Congressional (published), 1884-1894 Letters and/or testimony to Congress by G. L. Henderson and published as congressional records. Topics include the investigation into Superintendent Conger's administration (1884), support for funds to construct roads and bridges (1890), and legislation to authorize leases for concessioners (1894). The document related to the releases was received by G. L. Henderson, but contains the testimony of his brother David B. Henderson.
13	Henderson, Walter, 1882-1883, 1891 Letters sent and received by Walter J. Henderson. The two earliest letters were sent to his mother and describe the Park, especially the thermal features and geysers, and extended family news. The later letter was sent by the Department of the Interior to Walter and his sister Helen L. Henderson and concerns unpaid rent on their lease in Mammoth Hot Springs.
14	Klamer, Henry, 1896-1899, 1911 Letters to and from H. E. Klamer. The earlier group of letters relates to a lease at the Upper Geyser Basin for his store and post office and includes a query about use of the Green House, formerly owned by the Yellowstone Park Association. The final letter authorizes the taking of timber in order to make building repairs.

BOX 2**Series Nbr**

04

Series Title*Writings, 1885-1900 and undated***File Nbr****01****Title****Haynes' Winter Expedition (typescript), 1887****02****Helena Daily Herald correspondent (photocopy), 1888****03****Song of the Sphinx, undated****04****Thoughts of Old, 1900****05****Wonderland (pg. 36 missing), ca. 1888****06****Yellowstone Park Manual & Guide, 1885 July 1****07****Yellowstone Park Past, Present, and Future, 1891****Series Nbr**

05

Series Title*Printed materials, 1882-1906***File Nbr****08****Title****advertising cards, 1886, 1900, 1910****09****envelopes, 1891-1906 and undated****10****government reports, 1887-1888****11****government reports, Superintendents' reports, 1886-1889, 1899****12****handbills, 1885, 1902****13****letterhead, 1889****14****maps, 1874, 1886**

- Map of a Military Reconnoissance [sic], in North Western Wyoming, 1874

- Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming, Lake sheet, 1886.

15**memorial program, Mrs. H. J. Hoppe, 1894****16****NPRR brochure, 1901****17****scrapbook, ca. 1885-1902**

- News clippings related to Yellowstone National Park. Many articles appear to have been submitted by G. L. Henderson. Topics: visitors to the Park such as the artist Arthur Brown, geologist G. W. Lamplugh, and Calamity Jane; thermal features; and notable events such as a carriage accident and the 1877 Nez Perce War; political articles for or against various Park administrators and concessioners including the Yellowstone Park Association, Secretary of the Interior John Willock Noble, Major Jonathan Pitcher, Charles Gibson, and the Northern Pacific Railroad Co.
- Two handbills: one for a lecture by G. L. Henderson and the other a missing person poster for Edward M. Wilson.
- Menu for the Cottage Hotel.

The clippings and ephemera were affixed with clear tape to plain white paper sometime after the clippings were collected. Whether this was done prior to or after donation is unclear.

BOX 3

Series Nbr **Series Title**
05 *Printed materials, 1882-1906 (CONT'D)*

File Nbr **Title**
01 **scrapbook, 1882-1905**
Also known as the Ash Scrapbook, this volume contains news clippings collected by G. L. Henderson, but most likely compiled into a book by a descendent. Topics: general news of the Park, poetry, place names, thermal features and geography, and visits and visitors to the Park such as Senator Conklin's tour. There is also an obituary for G. L. Henderson.

02 **sheet music, Yellowstone Park March & Two Step, 1904**

BOX 4

Series Nbr **Series Title**
05 *Printed materials, 1882-1906 (CONT'D)*

File Nbr **Title**
01 **troop roster, 1887 Oct. 20**
Troop M, 1st Cavalry roster, commanded by Capt. Moses Harris, Camp Sheridan, Wyo. Hand drawn in colored ink on cream paper by Henry Ruckelhausen and given to Jennie Henderson Ash by Captain Harris.

OVERSIZE

File Nbr **Title**
01 **[separated] postmaster certificates, architectural drawing, maps**