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## FINDING AID

# EVA K. MOGER DIARY

## 1896

Prepared by  
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Yellowstone National Park Archives  
P O Box 168  
Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190-0168

Catalog Number: YELL 89928

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## ***HISTORY***

Eva Keene Cleaveland was born October 15, 1861, probably in Illinois. The daughter of Mary Alma Annis and Harmon Cleaveland, Eva was the eldest of seven children, four of whom lived to be adults. A farmer in Illinois, Harmon moved his family to California about 1865. Sometime after 1872, the family moved to Bozeman, Montana, and continued to farm.

Eva married Charles A. Moger (often recorded as Mogger or Mayger) about 1884. Charles was born on August 19, 1847, possibly in Missouri. There, he may have assisted his father in farming. By the 1880 population census, it appears Charles had moved to Helena, Montana, where he is listed as a miner and residing in a large boarding house. The couple's daughter, Florence Willson, was born on October 21, 1885, but died January 14, 1889. She is buried in Bozeman's Sunset Hills Cemetery. A son, Fred C., was born March 8, 1890. Charles died soon after, on February 20, 1891.

Eva returned to live with her parents, brother Horace, and other relatives. It is during this time that the family takes a trip to Yellowstone National Park, which Eva records in a travel diary. Following the death of her father in 1909, the family moves to Pony, Montana, where Eva apparently filed for a homestead. By 1910, the family is living in Hot Springs, Montana, also in Madison County (there were several small towns with Hot Springs as part of the name in the county and it is unclear to which the census refers). Mary Cleaveland died in 1916. Eva continued to keep house for her brother at least through 1930 and was involved in the local community, contributing to a history of the area compiled by the Madison County Federated Women's Club. Shortly after 1920, Fred appears to have married and had at least one daughter, Corinne.

Eva died on October 4, 1941. Horace passed away in 1946. Fred died on December 11, 1963. Both the Moger and Cleaveland families are buried in Bozeman's Sunset Hills Cemetery.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT**

EVA K. MOGER DIARY  
1896

*CATALOG NUMBER* YELL 89928

*VOLUME* 0.2 LF

*DESCRIPTION* The collection consists of diaries of a trip through Yellowstone National Park in 1896 by Eva K. Moger and her family.

The collection contains two versions of the same diary describing a wagon trip through Yellowstone National Park in 1896. The first diary is a small pocket-sized notebook with a canvas cover inscribed "Memorandum" and is recorded in pencil. The second diary exists only in photocopy format, but it appears to be recorded in a larger bound volume with page numbers. The handwriting in the two diaries is similar and it is assumed that the author of the two volumes is the same.

It is supposed that the author, Eva K. Moger, used the small pocket diary in the field to record her impressions while on the trip. The second diary may have been transcribed later, perhaps with an eye toward publication or sharing within the family, as it contains more complete sentences and a few added details. Both diaries describe the same trip through the Park in August of 1896.

Moger travelled with her parents, Harmon and Mary Cleaveland, her aunt and uncle Neol [sic] and Mary (possibly Cleaveland), and her son Fred C. Moger. Allie Welch joins them at the beginning and end of the trip. The family travelled as "sagebrushers," travelling by wagon and camping along the way. There are several mentions in the diary of problems with the horses, who struggled over rough terrain, found forage lacking, and sometimes turned on each other.

The trip took the family from Bozeman, Montana, via Trail Creek and Yankee Jim's Canyon, passing Cinnabar and Gardiner, Montana, before entering the Park at Mammoth, Wyoming. The tour followed the classic "Grand Loop" visiting Mammoth Hot Springs, the Fountain area, Norris Geyser Basin, Old Faithful Geyser Basin, Yellowstone Lake, and the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone. The family had apparently visited the Park eight years earlier (about

1888) and Moger occasionally mentions the changes she observes from her previous visit. The diaries are detailed in their descriptions of the thermal and landscape features viewed along the way, with a particularly detailed and more personal account of the stop at Inspiration Point.

Accounts of the camping experience and social aspects of the trip are brief, but there is mention of a considerable amount of fishing. Eva also collects flowers and other botanical specimens, flattening them along the way with a press. On one rainy day, the ladies stayed in the tent reading and embroidering. Those encountered along the way include Yankee Jim (James George) as well as Will Frencham, Mr. Makey, Mr. and Mrs. Phelps, Billy Knowles, and Mr. Nichols and his granddaughter. The diary also remarks on the Mammoth and Lake Hotels as well as visits to a couple of Wylie camps.

Wildlife is little mentioned but includes the animals on Dot Island as well as an encounter with a black bear in camp and several sightings of deer.

Each diary contains different additions to the back portion of the book. In the field diary the end includes some accounting for what appears to be unrelated purchases of sundries as well as a listing of the past chiefs of the Ogden Valley Temple No. 1 and some additional notes on various chiefs. The back of the second, photocopied diary includes a cast list for a Wylie Camps performance in 1900 featuring various "savages" or camp employees as some of the well known thermal features.

As a whole, the diary (or diaries) comprises a thorough summary of the typical Park experience for the less well-to-do during the stagecoach era. It also serves as an early example of how members of the local gateway communities may have experienced the Park-by escorting visiting relatives on the Grand Loop tour.

*ORGANIZATION*

The collection is arranged by estimated date.

*PROVENANCE*

Gift of Corinne Hoffart, 2009.

*RESTRICTIONS*

NO

***CONTAINER LIST***

<b>File Unit Nbr</b>	<b>Title</b>
01	Diary, version 1, use photocopy, 1896
02	Diary, version 1, 1896
03	Diary, version 2, photocopy and transcript, 1896