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# Guide to the William H. Wright Papers

WA MSS S-2564



by Kathleen T. Burns

July 2006

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
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New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

**CALL NUMBER:** WA MSS S-2564

**CREATOR:** Wright, William H., 1854-1937

**TITLE:** William H. Wright papers

**DATES:** 1897-1954

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 0.42 linear feet (1 box)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The papers consist of correspondence, printed materials, personal papers, and photographs of William H. Wright of Chicago, Illinois, documenting the mining industry in Washington State's St. Helens Mining District during the first decades of the twentieth century. The bulk of the material is correspondence relating to investments that William and his wife Ella made in southwestern Washington, and includes materials documenting stockholder relations with specific Washington and Oregon mining corporations. The papers span the years 1897 to 1954, and include letters addressed to Wright's wife, in-laws, and son.

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

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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.wwright>.

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 Charles Apfelbaum on the Winlock William Miller, Jr. Memorial Fund, 2006.

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## Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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## Conditions Governing Use

The William H. Wright 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

William H. Wright Papers. Yale Collection of Western Americana, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

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## WILLIAM H. WRIGHT (1857-1939)

William H. Wright was born in 1854. He lived in Chicago, Illinois with his wife, Ella R. Wright. The Wrights invested in the St. Helens Mining District in Washington state at the urging of Ella's brother, E. A. Sessions. Sessions was officially involved with multiple mining corporations in the St. Helens area during the first two decades of the twentieth century, including the Cascadia Mining and Development Company, the Levens Ledge Gold Mining Company, and the Polar Star Mining Company.

The Wrights had a son, Henry E. Wright. William H. Wright died on August 16, 1937.

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## Scope and Contents

The William H. Wright Papers consist of correspondence, printed materials, personal papers, and photographs that document the mining industry in the St. Helens Mining District of southwestern Washington. The papers also document stockholder relations with specific Washington and Oregon mining corporations. The bulk of the material relates to financial investments that William H. Wright and his wife, Ella, made in the Cascadia Mining and Development Company, the Levens Ledge Gold Mining Company, and the Polar Star Mining Company. The papers span the years 1897-1954, and include letters addressed to Wright's wife, in-laws, and son.

[Series I. Correspondence](#) is organized into three subseries: Family Correspondence, Business Correspondence and Third Party Correspondence. Family Correspondence consists primarily of letters from William Wright's brother-in-law, Eugene A. Sessions. According to a letter he wrote in 1898, Sessions was a proprietor of a grocery and supply store in Portland, Oregon. His letters to his sister and her husband, mostly addressed to the latter, describe mining investment opportunities in the mining district around St. Helens, and trace Session's career as a mining investor and entrepreneur and the increasing financial involvement of the Wrights in his ventures. Sessions' letters also discuss the growth and financial state of his mining and other business enterprises, which included the Cascadia Mining and Development Co., the Levens Ledge Gold Mining Co., and the Polar Star Mining Co. Letters from Sessions to his parents in Woodstock, Illinois are also present.

Business Correspondence consists primarily of stockholder letters to the Wrights from the Cascadia Mining and Development Company and the Polar Star Mining Company as well as letters replying to William Wright's inquiries about these corporations in the 1930s. Third Party Correspondence includes letters reporting on E. A. Sessions's mining properties in the St. Helens Mining District as well as two letters written by Henry E. Wright concerning his father's financial interests in corporations in the area.

[Series II. Printed Materials](#) consists of prospectuses and brochures for the Cascadia Mining and Development Company and the Levens Ledge Gold Mining Company of Portland, Oregon.

[Series III. Personal Papers](#) is organized into Financial and Legal Papers and Other Papers. Other Papers includes newspaper clippings, a map of the St. Helens Mining District, and a phone book containing birth and death dates for members of the Sessions and Wright families.

[Series IV. Photographs](#) consists of three photographs by James H. Eaton: "Soda Springs Camp", a captioned image picturing pack animals, men, and one woman in June 1897; "Minnie Lee", an image of the entrance of the Minnie Lee mine; and "Polar Star", an image of four unidentified miners in front of the entrance of the Polar Star mine. An uncaptioned mounted photograph by J. A. Meiser of two loggers sitting in the cleft of a tree they've nearly sawn through is also present.

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## Collection Contents

### Series I: Correspondence, 1898-1930

0.21 linear feet (0.5 boxes)

Series I. *Correspondence*, is organized into three subseries: Family Correspondence, Business Correspondence, and Third Party Correspondence. Each subseries is arranged chronologically.

#### FAMILY CORRESPONDENCE

b. 1, f. 1-6	Correspondence	1898-1930
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#### BUSINESS CORRESPONDENCE

b. 1, f. 7	Cascadia Mining and Development Company	1908-27, n.d.
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b. 1, f. 8	Cowlitz, Chehalis, and Cascade Railway	1927
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b. 1, f. 9	Levens Ledge Gold Mining Company	1904 Jan 15
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b. 1, f. 10	Oregon. Corporation Dept.	1930, 1931
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b. 1, f. 11	Oregon. Office of the Secretary of State	1920 Apr 10
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b. 1, f. 12	Polar Star Mining Company	1929-31
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b. 1, f. 13	Thompson, Wm. Regarding Dallas, Tex. property purchased by E. A. Sessions in 1883	1908 Oct 14
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b. 1, f. 14	Washington (State). Office of the Secretary of State	1930 Apr 3
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#### THIRD PARTY CORRESPONDENCE

b. 1, f. 15	Fassett, Charles M., Analytical and Consulting Chemist and Metallurgist, to T. T. Burkhart, Spokane, Wash. Report on Sessions's group of mining properties in St. Helens Mining District, Washington	1904 Apr 9
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b. 1, f. 16	Hanley, Robert E. to E. A. Sessions	1904 Dec 5
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b. 1, f. 17	Wright, H. E. to Polar Star Mining Company	1954 Mar 16
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b. 1, f. 18	Washington (State). Office of the Secretary of State to H. E. Wright Regarding dissolution of Cascadia Mining & Development Co.	1954 Apr 7
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b. 1, f. 19	Watson, W. H. to J. T. Henwood, Levens Ledge Mining Company, Riddles, Ore.	n.d.
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b. 1, f. 20	Empty envelopes	1969, n.d.
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**Series II: Printed Materials, n.d***0.07 linear feet (0.2 boxes)*Series II. *Printed Materials*, is arranged alphabetically.

b. 1, f. 21	<i>The Cascadia Mining and Development Company</i> , brochure	n.d.
b. 1, f. 22	<i>Cascadia Mining and Development Co.: Copper, Gold, Silver</i> , prospectus	n.d.
b. 1, f. 23	<i>The Cascadia Mining and Development Company</i> , prospectus	n.d.
b. 1, f. 24	<i>The Cascadia Mining and Development Company</i> , prospectus	n.d.
b. 1, f. 25	<i>A Gold Mine</i> , prospectus for Levens Ledge Gold Mining Company, Portland, Oregon	n.d.
b. 1, f. 26	Sessions, E. A. <i>Mining No Gamble</i> , Levens Ledge property circular	n.d.

**Series III: Personal Papers, 1906-1954***0.07 linear feet (0.1 boxes)*

Series III. *Personal Papers* is organized into two subseries: Financial and Legal Papers and Other Papers. Each subseries is arranged chronologically.

## FINANCIAL AND LEGAL PAPERS

b. 1, f. 27	Contract, blank, between Cascadia Mining and Development Company and O.J. Gray of Portland, Ore.	1917
b. 1, f. 28	Opinion of title for property of Ella R. Wright, County McHenry, Ill.	1919 May 19
b. 1, f. 29	Bill of sale for Alton Watch and Mdse. Co., Cook County, Ill. William H. Wright to Harry E. Wright	1922 Dec 14
b. 1, f. 30	Tax receipt, 1953, for H. E. Wright (St. Anthony Mining Co.), Iowa County, Wisc.	1954 Mar 29

## OTHER PAPERS

b. 1, f. 31	Newspaper clippings	1906-54, n.d.
b. 1, f. 32	Diagram, pencil	n.d.
b. 1, f. 33	Map of St. Helens Mining District	n.d.
b. 1, f. 34	Phone book Includes birth and death dates for Millar, Sessions and Wright families	n.d.



**Series IV: Photographs, 1897-1901***0.07 linear feet (0.2 boxes)*Series IV. *Photographs* is arranged chronologically.

b. 1, f. 35	"Soda Springs Camp" Annotated: "Taking in party to develop the property in June 1897"	1897 Jun
b. 1, f. 36	[Two loggers in tree cut with crosscut saw]	1901
b. 1, f. 37	"Minnie Lee"	n.d.
b. 1, f. 38	"Polar Star"	n.d.

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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.

Polar Star Mining Company

### Subjects

Copper mines and mining -- Washington (State) -- St. Helens Mining District  
Gold mines and mining -- Oregon -- Douglas County  
Gold mines and mining -- Washington (State) -- St. Helens Mining District  
Loggers -- Washington (State)  
Miners -- Washington (State)  
Mines and mineral resources -- Washington (State) -- St. Helens Mining District  
Silver mines and mining -- Washington (State) -- St. Helens Mining District  
Stockholders -- United States  
Stockholders -- United States

### Contributors

Wright, William H., 1854-1937  
Eaton, James H.  
Meiser, J. A. (Jesse A.)

### Geographic Names

Saint Helens Mining District (Wash.)  
Saint Helens Mining District (Wash.) -- Maps

### Genres / Formats

Maps (documents) -- Washington (State) -- Saint Helens Mining District  
Photographic prints -- Washington (State) -- Saint Helens Mining District  
Prospectuses -- Washington (State) -- Saint Helens Mining District -- 20th Century

### Occupations

Miners -- Washington (State)

### Names

Sessions, E. A. (Eugene A.)  
Wright, Ella R., 1857-1939  
Wright, Henry E.  
Wright, William H., 1854-1937

### Corporate Bodies

Cascadia Mining and Development Company  
Levens Ledge Gold Mining Company