

J. Henry Schnitzel Collection

5026

Finding aid prepared by Hannah Marshall Bawden

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Homestake Adams Research and Cultural Center

February 2020

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Summary Information

Repository	Homestake Adams Research and Cultural Center
Creator	Galena Ridge Mining Company
Creator	Golden Reward Mining Company
Creator	Kellar, Chambers
Title	J. Henry Schnitzel Collection
Date	1903-1968
Extent	0.25 Linear feet
Language	English
Abstract	The J. Henry Schnitzel Collection consists of materials including contracts and maps regarding the Golden Reward Mining Company and Schnitzel's work in Kirwin, Wyoming, including the Galena Ridge Mining Company and the settlement of his estate after his death in 1930.

Biographical/Historical Note

J. Henry Schnitzel was born in Germany in 1860. He studied chemistry and received a degree as a pharmacist before coming to the United States at the age of twenty-one. He worked for family in Illinois until he made his way to Deadwood in 1886.

After arriving in Deadwood, Schnitzel kept himself very busy, holding several jobs at the same time. These jobs included working as an assayer in the Carbonate Camp as well as the Deadwood and Delaware Smelter, a butcher in Deadwood, and an executive assistant to George W. Perkins.

After several years of working for others, Schnitzel opened an assay and chemical office in Lead in 1894. The office employed over one hundred men and operated until 1904. After closing his office, Schnitzel was named general manager of the Golden Reward Consolidated Mining & Milling Company. Golden Reward was the largest mining operation besides Homestake at that time and stayed open until World War I forced its closure in 1918. Outside of the Lead and Deadwood area J. Henry Schnitzel established both cattle and mining operations in Kirwin, Wyoming. The cattle operations were not as lucrative as the mining operations, and Schnitzel ceased ranching by 1912. He founded the Galena Ridge Mining Company in Kirwin, which was highly successful through the late 1910s.

J. Henry Schnitzel passed away in Baltimore, Maryland, while on a trip to visit family. His body was returned to Deadwood and interred at the Masonic Cemetery. His pallbearers included prominent businessmen George V. Ayres and Chambers Kellar.

Scope and Contents Note

The collection includes a map of Wood River Mining District (Kirwin, Wyoming), and legal documents regarding both Galena Ridge Mining Company and Golden Reward Mining Company. There is also correspondence between attorneys Kenneth C. Kellar and Seymour Bernfeld regarding the standing of the Kirwin property in the 1960s, which Kellar's father had a stake in.

Arrangement Note

Materials are arranged chronologically. Please see box list.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Homestake Adams Research and Cultural Center February 2020

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is housed at the Homestake Adams Research and Cultural Center with no restrictions to access. The collection may be utilized during normal operating hours or by appointment.

Provenance

These materials were transferred as a portion of one donation from the Homestake Mining Company on May 26, 2005.

Processing Information

This collection was processed January 2020 by Hannah Marshall Bawden.

Related Materials

Related Materials

Additional archival materials related to the Golden Reward Mining Company can be found in the Homestake Mining Company Collection and the Adams Museum Collection.

Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Name(s)

- Homestake Mining Company

Collection Inventory

	Box	Folder
Map of Wood River Mining District in Big Horn County, 1904	1	1
Galena Ridge Mining Company, 1903-1911	1	2
Phillip Schnitzel and William Sanson Agreement, 1926	1	3
Golden Reward Mining Co. and Samuel Reichback Agreement, 1927	1	4
Estate of J. Henry Schnitzel, 1931-1934	1	5-6
Kirwin Property, 1930-1968 (Bulk, 1930-1934)	1	7-8