

# **Homestake Veterans Association Records, 1905-1989 5008**

**Finding aid prepared by Jenna Himsl**

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Homestake Adams Research and Cultural Center

January 2018

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	Homestake Adams Research and Cultural Center
<b>Title</b>	Homestake Veterans Association records
<b>Date</b>	1905-1989
<b>Extent</b>	2.0 Linear feet 2 boxes
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Abstract</b>	<p>The Homestake Veteran's Association, founded in December 1905, is a fraternal organization made up of longtime Homestake Mining Company employees. This collection consists of organizational and administrative records of the Homestake Veterans Association created from 1905 to 1989. The bulk of the materials date from 1936 through 1975. The collection includes correspondence, financial records, minutes, newspaper clippings, yearbooks, and records of the Homestake Veterans Association Widows Benefit Fund.</p>

## Biographical/Historical Note

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The Homestake Veterans Association, founded in December 1905, is a fraternal organization made up of longtime Homestake Mining Company employees. Initially, employees became eligible for membership in the Veterans Association after 21 years of employment by Homestake. In 2006, several years after the closure of the mine, a change in bylaws allowed all former Homestake employees to apply for membership.

On February 6, 1906, the Homestake Veterans Association held its first regular meeting. Richard Blackstone was the first president, and the club counted 103 charter members. In 1920, the organization had 157 members, and that number continued to grow. New membership classes were added annually by the 1950s, as part of the Homestake Veterans Association's annual meeting and banquet. By 2005, roughly 1,705 employees had belonged to the organization.

In addition to fostering camaraderie among members, the Homestake Veterans Association contributed to a variety of community and social initiatives. The group's first project was giving money to the Salvation Army to supply Christmas trees and gifts for local children in 1906. In 1914, the Homestake Veterans led the charge to erect a statue of Thomas Grier, former Homestake superintendent. The statue initially stood in front of the Homestake Recreation Center before it was moved to the Christ Episcopal Church. During World War I, the Veterans Association was one of the first groups in Lead to raise money for the Red Cross and the YMCA. The Veterans organized the Homestake Golden Jubilee Celebration in 1926, which drew large numbers of visitors to Lead. In later years, the organization has provided scholarships for local students.

For its members, the Homestake Veterans Association provided additional benefits, including the Widows Benefit Fund. This fund, instituted in 1936, provided a financial safety net for widows and other beneficiaries of Homestake Veterans. Participation was optional. To join the fund, Veterans initially paid \$1 and committed to paying \$1 upon the death of each participating member. When a member died, the fund paid \$100 to his or her beneficiary. Due to declining participation, the fund was disbanded in 1964.

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## Scope and Contents Note

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This collection consists of organizational and administrative records of the Homestake Veterans Association created from 1905 to 1989, including correspondence, financial records, minutes, newspaper clippings, and yearbooks. The bulk of the materials date from 1936 through 1975. Of particular note are the Secretary's Records, which contain meeting minutes, newspaper clippings, and correspondence pertaining to the administration of the organization. Included within the Secretary's Records are some records created and used by Homestake Veterans Association presidents.

Several files pertain to the Homestake Veterans Association Widows Benefit Fund. These materials are primarily financial and document the recipients of fund payments. Additional information, including thank you notes from widows and family members, are located within the correspondence files.

Information on membership and the careers of individual Homestake Veterans may be found in the Lists of Homestake Veterans, Secretary's Records, Forty-Year-Award Letters, and Yearbooks.

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## **Arrangement Note**

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Records are arranged alphabetically by subject.

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## **Administrative Information**

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### **Publication Information**

Homestake Adams Research and Cultural Center January 2018

### **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.

### **Immediate Source of Acquisition**

These materials were transferred as a portion of one donation, accession number 2005.001, from the Homestake Mining Company on May 26, 2005.

### **Processing Information**

This collection was processed November 2017-January 2018 by Jenna Himsl.

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## **Related Materials**

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## **Related Materials**

Additional Homestake Veterans Association Yearbooks are available in the Adams Museum Collection.

## Collection Inventory

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Banquet, 1970-1972	1	1
Constitution and Bylaws, 1942, 1977	1	2
Correspondence, 1936-1975	1	3-7
Event Invitations, 1926-1961	1	8
Forty-Year-Award Letters, 1969-1973	1	9
Grier Monument, 1915-1916	1	10
Homestake Stock, 1974	1	11
Lists of Employees Eligible for Membership or Forty-Year Awards, 1949-1975	1	12
Lists of Homestake Veterans, 1905-1975	1	13
Lists of Homestake Veterans' Widows, 1964-1975	1	14
Meeting Orders of Business, undated	1	15

Receipts, 1950-1975	1	16-19
Scrapbook, 1917-1942	1	20
Secretary's Records, 1942-1969	1	21-23
Stationery, undated	1	24
Widows Benefit Fund, 1936-1964	1	25
Widows Benefit Fund Account Book, 1941-1963	1	26
Widows Benefit Fund Receipt Books, 1936-1941	1	27
Widows Benefit Fund Scrapbook, 1936-1964	1	28
Yearbook, 1964	2	-
Yearbook, 1966 3 copies	2	-
Yearbook, 1971	2	-
Yearbook, 1977 3 copies	2	-
Yearbook, 1989 3 copies	2	-