

An Inventory of the Papers of

JOHN L. BARR
(1864-1939)

Collection Number 36

A Holding of the
Library of the Colorado Historical Society
Denver, CO 80203

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Aleks Humeyumptewa

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BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

John L. Barr was born on February 28 1864 in Sealkolte, Upper Punjab, Northern India, the son of James Barr and Mary E. Black Barr. His father was a prominent member of the United Presbyterian Church, who served as a missionary and worked with the government educational systems of various nations for Great Britain.

Young Barr received his elementary and secondary education in Pennsylvania. When he finished school, he farmed for a short time in that state. He arrived in Colorado in 1888 and became self-employed as a commission merchant.

In 1891, Barr began to work for the F.C. Ayres Mercantile Company as a sales manager. He bought the company in 1901 and served as president of the company until his death. The company marketed a variety of grains and mixtures and owned a fireproof grain elevator, which was a phenomenon at that time.

In 1900, Barr married Glenn Scott of Denver. He invested in the Gold King Extension Mines Company during the 1920s. He served on the board of directors of the mine, which was located in Silverton, Colorado. Under his tenure, the company changed its name to Gold King Mines, Incorporated. The capital stock was increased from 750,000 shares to 3,000,000 shares by 1923. The stock was managed by the L.J. Soper Brokerage Company of Kansas City, Missouri. In 1926, the mine was faced with a \$250,000 mortgage foreclosure, dating back to 1921. The board of directors appealed to the major stockholders for them to subscribe to the unissued treasury stock. The appeal was denied, and, in 1928, the mine was sold to W. Murray Sanders of New York.

Barr was well known in Denver as a prominent businessman and mining developer. He was also a representative of Masonic interests, belonging to Oriental Lodge No. 87, A.F. & A.M.; Colorado Chapter, No. 29, R.A.M; Denver Commandery, No. 25, K.T.; and the El Jebel Temple of the Mystic Shrine. He was a member of the Rotary Club and a lifetime member of the Presbyterian Church.

John L. Barr died in Denver, Colorado in November 1939.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS

John Barr, a prominent businessman in Colorado, was involved with several milling and mining companies. This collection spans thirty years and is dedicated entirely to Barr's business ventures, especially the F.C. Ayres Mercantile Company and the Pocatello Flour Mill Company.

The milling correspondence reflects the day-to-day activities of the milling business and includes such items as quick-claim deeds, bills of sale, financial reports and blueprints. The mining documents pertain mostly to stockholder meetings, mine agreements and stock investments.

The series includes:

Miscellaneous Correspondence (1915-1934)

Denio-Barr Milling and Grain Co. Correspondence (1920-1927)

Gold King Mine Corporation Correspondence (1923-1926)

Pocatello Flour Mills Company Records (1921-1924)

Miscellaneous Records (1903-1934)

Additional records of the Pocatello Flour Mills Company are located at the Idaho Historical Society, Boise, Idaho.

The provenance of the collection is unknown.

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Miscellaneous Correspondence (1915-1934)

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1	Miscellaneous correspondence	1915
2	Miscellaneous correspondence regarding R. C. Jones	1915-1921
3	Miscellaneous correspondence	1916
4	Miscellaneous correspondence	1917
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6	Miscellaneous correspondence	Mar 1918
7	Miscellaneous correspondence	Apr 1918
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10	Miscellaneous correspondence	Aug 1918
11	Miscellaneous correspondence	May 1918
12	Miscellaneous correspondence	Sept 1918
13	Miscellaneous correspondence	Oct – Nov 1918
14	Miscellaneous correspondence	Jan – Feb 1919
15	Miscellaneous correspondence	Mar 1919
16	Miscellaneous correspondence	Apr 1919
17	Miscellaneous correspondence	May 1919
18	Miscellaneous correspondence	June 1919
19	Miscellaneous correspondence	July 1919
20	Miscellaneous correspondence	Aug 1919
21	Miscellaneous correspondence	Oct-Nov 1919
22	Miscellaneous correspondence	Dec 1919
23	Correspondence regarding the Vitamin Company	1919
24	Miscellaneous correspondence	Feb 1920

25	Miscellaneous correspondence	Mar-Apr 1920
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27	Miscellaneous correspondence	June 1920
28	Miscellaneous correspondence	July 1920
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35	Miscellaneous correspondence	Jan 1921
36	Miscellaneous correspondence	Feb 1921
37	Miscellaneous correspondence	Feb 1921
38	Miscellaneous correspondence	Mar 1921
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40	Correspondence regarding the Buffalo Trail Oil Co.	Apr-May 1921
41	Miscellaneous correspondence	Apr-May 1921
42	Miscellaneous correspondence	June-July 1921
43	Miscellaneous correspondence	Aug 1921
44	Miscellaneous correspondence	Aug 1921
45	Miscellaneous correspondence	Sept 1921
46	Miscellaneous correspondence	Oct 1921
47	Miscellaneous correspondence	Nov 1921
48	Miscellaneous correspondence	Dec 1921
49	Correspondence regarding H.F. Rover	1921
50	Correspondence regarding Intermountain Milling Co.	1921
51	Correspondence regarding Peterson & Coffin	1921-1923

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54	Miscellaneous correspondence	Apr 1922
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64	Correspondence re discounts and wheat varieties	1922
65	Correspondence re the Home Food Service Co.	1922
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69	Correspondence re the U.S. Treasury Department	1922
70	Correspondence regarding D.E. Wilson	1922
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