

AN INVENTORY OF THE PAPERS OF  
FRANK G. BLOOM

Collection Number 67

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

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### Biographical Information

Frank Gearhart Bloom was born in 1843 in Martinsburg, Blair County, Pennsylvania. He lived for a time in McVeytown, Pennsylvania, where he worked in Henry Thatcher's general store. In 1865, Frank caught "western fever" and decided to follow Henry Thatcher's sons, John and Mahlon, out to Colorado Territory. Their departure was delayed until the spring of 1866, due to the unstable situation with the Indians in the West. The party brought with them groceries and household goods from St. Joseph, Missouri and sold them for a profit in Colorado.

In the fall of 1866, Bloom opened a store for the Thatcher brothers at Four Mile Creek, four miles from Canyon City. Although the business thrived, John Thatcher visited Trinidad in September 1867 and decided it would be a better place of business. Bloom closed the Four Mile Creek store and moved his inventory to Trinidad. The store, called Thatcher Brothers and Company, was located on the site of the present First National Bank of Trinidad.

In 1867, while riding near Raton (Fisher's) Peak, Bloom discovered an outcropping of coal. Later the same year, he opened the first commercial coal mine in the Trinidad district.

Bloom made a six-week trip with John Thatcher back to Martinsburg in 1869 and there he married Sarah Catherine Thatcher on July 22, 1869. They made their home in Trinidad, where they had four children, three of whom died in childhood. The children were Anna (1873-1879), Alberta Gearheart (1875-1967), Frank H. (1878-1889) and Dora May (1883-1886).

In 1869, as proprietor of the Thatcher's store, Bloom was compelled to accept cattle as payment for goods bought from the store. This proved to be the beginning of his great cattle enterprise. In 1885, Frank Bloom and the Thatcher brothers joined Frank's brother, who had come out to Colorado, and John Burns, to form the Bloom Cattle Company. With its headquarters in Trinidad, the company became one of the largest cattle outfits in the state. Along with its valuable property in Colorado, the company leased and owned land in New Mexico, Montana and South Dakota.

Bloom was also an important banker in Trinidad. In 1875, he was made vice-president of the Trinidad National Bank. In 1886, the Thatcher brothers gained control of the bank and changed its name to First National Bank of Trinidad. Bloom was associated with these banks for forty-three years. He was also involved with a variety of other business ventures in Trinidad and for a short time published The Enterprise, a local newspaper.

In 1882, the family lived in a large, three-story brick house on the corner of Main St. and Walnut St. in Trinidad. Today, the Bloom mansion is owned by the state of Colorado and operated as a museum by the Colorado Historical Society.

Frank Bloom remained an active and leading citizen of Trinidad until his death on April 5, 1931. His wife, Sarah, died on November 22 1928.m

## Scope and Contents

Frank G. Bloom played an important role in the development and history of south-central Colorado. From his start as a small businessman, he went on to develop coal mining in the Trinidad area, he became a banker and he owned one of the largest cattle companies in the state. His life in Colorado typifies the lives of those pioneers who came to Colorado with very little, but who remained and became successful businessmen and an important part of Colorado history.

This collection spans Frank G. Bloom's life in Pennsylvania and Colorado from 1863 to 1932. It contains correspondence sent to Bloom from friends and relatives when he was in McVeytown, Pennsylvania (1863-1865) and Colorado (1866-1932); legal documents of the Bloom family in Colorado (1883-1932); and miscellaneous documents of and regarding Frank Bloom and his family (1870-1975).

The series includes Correspondence, most of which is from Sarah "Sallie" Thatcher, Bloom's fiancée, the rest being from friends and relatives in Martinsburg and McVeytown, Pennsylvania. Since none of the correspondence is from Bloom himself, the letters give little insight into Bloom's life in Colorado. However, they do provide an excellent insight into the Bloom and Thatcher families and the importance of family and religion to both families.

The Legal Documents consist of deeds of land owned by Bloom, along with documents of the Bloom Cattle Company. There are also documents of the estates of Sarah and Frank Bloom. The Miscellaneous Documents contain documents regarding the Bloom family.

The items of this collection were donated to the Colorado Historical Society by N. Leonard Persson of Tujunga, California in 1962.

The only other know repositories of Bloom family materials are the Baca House, the Bloom House and the Pioneer Museum of Trinidad, Colorado, which contains the Bloom Family Bible.

Collection Contents

Correspondence (1863-1902)

FF	Description	Date
1	Personal correspondence	1863
2	Transcription of personal correspondence of 1863	1863
3	Personal correspondence	1864
4	Transcription of personal correspondence of 1864	1864
5	Personal correspondence	1865
6	Transcription of personal correspondence of 1865	1865
7	Personal correspondence	May-Aug 1866
8	Transcription of personal correspondence of May-Aug 1866	May-Aug 1866
9	Personal Correspondence	Sept-Dec 1866
10	Transcription of personal correspondence of Sept-Dec 1866	Sept-Dec 1866
11	Personal correspondence	Jan-Aug 1867
12	Transcription of personal correspondence of Jan-Aug 1867	Jan-Aug 1867
13	Personal correspondence	Sept-Dec 1867



14	Transcription of personal correspondence of Sept-Aug 1867	Sept-Aug 1867
15	Personal correspondence	1868
16	Transcription of personal correspondence of 1868	1868
17	Personal correspondence	1869-1870
18	Transcription of personal correspondence of 1869-1870	1869-1870
19	Transcriptions of business correspondence from the Pueblo Metropolitan Museum	1876-1900
20	Transcriptions of business correspondence from the Rio Grande Historical Collections of the New Mexico State University Library	1885-1902
21	Transcriptions of business correspondence from the Montana Historical Society	1902
22	Personal correspondence	Undated
23	Notes regarding F.G. Boom's correspondence y Charlotte Barber	Undated

Legal Documents (1883-1932)

24	Copies of deeds	1883-1885
25	Copies of legal material of Bloom Cattle Company	1902, 1938
26	Copies of the estate of Sarah C. Bloom	1929-1930
27	Copies of the estate of F.G. Bloom	1931-1932

Miscellaneous Documents (1870-1975)

28	Advertisement regarding Jonas Brook and Brothers	1870
29	Booklet titled "History and Reminiscences of Eastend and District, Saskatchewan, 1855"	1955
30	Booklet of the First National Bank of Trinidad on its 100 <sup>th</sup> anniversary	1975
31	Bloom biographical notes	Undated
32	Articles regarding the cattle industry	Undated