

# Guide to the Helen Magee Collection



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Hot Springs Public Library

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# Collection Overview

## Repository

The Heritage Room in the Hot Springs Public Library, Hot Springs, South Dakota

## Creator

Helen Magee and Barbara Trumbull

## Title

The Helen Magee Collection

## Dates

1860-2014, inclusive

## Physical Description

165 Binders

## Summary

The materials in this collection relate to the history and preservation of Hot Springs and the surrounding areas of Fall River County and the Black Hills of South Dakota, with a main focus on Hot Springs and its residents.

## Arrangement

In the attempt to make this collection useful to researchers and easier to navigate, while also recognizing the original order it was placed in by Helen Magee and Barbara Trumbull, the arrangement of the collection has resulted in some awkward placements. There are 24 series organized by topic, the binders' arrangement individually depends on the binder, as some are arranged chronologically and some alphabetically.

# **Collection and Access Information**

## **Processing History**

This collection was given to the Hot Springs Public Library by Barbara Trumbull from the estate of Helen Magee.

The materials in this collection were collected by Helen Magee through decades of research. Following Magee's death, the collection was processed and organized by Barbara Trumbull. Trumbull placed all of the materials from Magee's collection into binders, arranging them by topic.

## **Access and Restrictions**

The collection is open for research. None of the physical materials can leave the Heritage Room at the Hot Springs Public Library or be altered in any way, per the request of Helen Magee and Barbara Trumbull. Copies of the materials, for personal use only, can be requested from a librarian for a small copying fee.

Copyright for this collection is retained by the Hot Springs Public Library.

## **Preferred Citation**

Researchers looking to cite this collection should include the following: Binder Number, Helen Magee Collection. Heritage Room Archives, Hot Springs Public Library, Hot Springs, South Dakota.

## **Online Content**

The majority of the Helen Magee collection has been digitized with great help from the Friends of the Library group. It can be accessed through the Hot Springs Public Library website or directly from this link: [box2.nmtvault.com/HotSprings/jsp/RcWebBrowse.jsp](http://box2.nmtvault.com/HotSprings/jsp/RcWebBrowse.jsp)

Any content that was unable to be digitized can be viewed in person at the library.

# Biographical Note

Helen (Trumbull) Magee was born in Hot Springs, South Dakota in 1915. She lived most of her life in Hot Springs, attending the Erskine rural school and Hot Springs High School. In 1947, Magee began working at her father's company, the Floyd A. Trumbull Insurance and Real Estate office. Trumbull handed the business over to Helen in 1973 and she continued to run it as the Trumbull Agency until 1986, when she retired.

Her love and passion for genealogy began around the age of thirty after taking her mother to a family reunion. An error in a Fall River County history book prompted her devotion to local history, leading to Magee becoming the town of Hot Springs' unofficial historian in the 1970s. She became involved in the production of the book, making sure all information provided was correct. According to those who knew her, Magee was a stickler for accuracy and spent many hours researching for the facts.

Magee amassed a large collection of historical data and photographs, which became well known among those living in Hot Springs, with many organizations coming to Magee for both her knowledge and collection. She provided genealogical research for individuals as well, locally and all over the world, while charging them only for copies and postage. Magee is quoted in the Hot Springs Star in 1993 as saying she "just wanted to help others."

Magee served on the Hot Springs Public Library board from 1982 until 1996. She belonged to many historical organizations, including: the Fall River County Historical Society, the Rapid City Society for Genealogical Research, the Birdsall Family Association, and the Northwest Genealogical Society. She wrote for the Hot Springs Star for many years, writing a history column titled "90 Years Ago..." Her research led to her documenting every grave site known in Fall River County and writing six books on local history.

Magee was a beloved member of her community and documented history for the town of Hot Springs that would have been lost without her efforts. Upon her passing, the Hot Springs Star and the Rapid City Journal both published obituaries with many quotes from the community, showcasing Magee's impact on Hot Springs as their "unofficial" town historian.

## Scope and Content Note

The Helen Magee Collection documents a wide range of topics from the history of Hot Springs, South Dakota, and the surrounding areas of Fall River County and the Black Hills. It spans the years 1863-2014, with the majority of records coming from 1880-1980. The collection mainly consists of newspaper clippings and Magee's research notes, both handwritten and typed. It includes local publications from a variety of sources, such as the Battle Mountain Sanitarium's magazine and the "Patée" from Hot Springs High School.

Fall River County cemetery, death, telephone, and census records can all be found in this collection. There are over 500 copies of photographs of Hot Springs and Fall River County, as well as maps, articles, book excerpts, and thesis papers. There are copies of correspondence and 33 binders of biographical files, including files on figures such as Badger Clark and Jess Thomas, (and a file for Helen Magee's personal history).

# Collection Inventory

## Series 1: Burials, Cemeteries, and Obituaries

1863-2014

30 Binders

**Scope and Contents:** Burial and cemetery records, genealogical publications, letters, maps, newspaper clippings, obituaries, photographs, and Helen Magee's research notes. Covers Hot Springs and Fall River County, and some cemeteries and deaths in the surrounding counties of western South Dakota and the Black Hills.

### Sub-Series A: Obituaries

1887-2014

22 Binders

**Scope and Contents:** Obituaries of residents from Hot Springs and the surrounding Fall River County. Newspaper clippings were collected and organized by Magee and Barbara Trumbull, source is noted on the clippings. The obituaries are organized alphabetically by last name into the binders, then arranged chronologically within each binder.

- Binder 001 A Obituaries, 1897-2014
- Binder 002 B Obituaries, 1889-2013
- Binder 003 C Obituaries, 1892-2012
- Binder 004 D Obituaries, 1890-2006
- Binder 005 E Obituaries, 1920-2006
- Binder 006 F Obituaries, 1887-2006
- Binder 007 G Obituaries, 1896-2010
- Binder 008 H Obituaries, 1890-1992
- Binder 009 H Obituaries cont., 1993-2006
- Binder 010 I, J, K Obituaries, 1892-2008
- Binder 011 L Obituaries, 1893-2006
- Binder 012 M Obituaries, 1895-2008
- Binder 013 Mc Obituaries, 1891-2007
- Binder 014 N Obituaries, 1918-2006
- Binder 015 O Obituaries, 1914-2005
- Binder 016 P, Q Obituaries, 1893-2007
- Binder 017 R Obituaries, 1901-2008
- Binder 018 S Obituaries, 1891-1991
- Binder 019 S Obituaries cont., 1992-2010
- Binder 020 T Obituaries, 1911-2006

- Binder 021 U, V Obituaries, 1895-2008
- Binder 022 W, X, Y, Z Obituaries, 1891-2007

## **Sub-series B: Burials and Cemeteries**

1863-2006

8 Binders

**Scope and Contents:** Burial and cemetery records for Fall River County and some of the surrounding areas in western South Dakota. Includes handwritten and typed notes from Magee, and publications from the Rapid City Society for Genealogical Research and the South Dakota Genealogical Society.

- Binder 023 South Dakota Soldier's Home, 1890-2006
- Binder 024 Edgemont Cemetery, 1876-1998
- Binder 025 Evergreen Cemetery, 1882-1991
- Binder 026 Fall River County Cemeteries, 1885-1998
- Binder 027 V.A. Cemetery, 1891-1973
- Binder 028 Mortuary Records, 1892-1934
- Binder 029 Western South Dakota Cemeteries, 1876-1975
- Binder 032 Misc. South Dakota Cemeteries, 1863-1972

## **Series 2: Hospitals and Sanatoriums**

1897-2007

5 binders

**Scope and Contents:** History of Hot Springs hospitals and sanatoriums through correspondence, newspaper clippings, photographs, research notes, and Veterans Affairs (VA) and hospital publications, including copies of the Battle Mountaineer magazine.

- Binder 033 Dr. Nichol's Sanatorium, Lutheran Hospital, West River Crippled Children's Hospital, Southern Hills General Hospital and Lutheran Nursing Home, 1905-1998
- Binder 034 Sisters Hospital, 1900-1972
- Binder 035 Battle Mountain Sanatorium Vol. I, 1897-1965
- Binder 036 Battle Mountain Sanatorium Vol. II, 1965-2007
- Binder 036A Battle Mountain Sanatorium/VAMC Vol. III/ Photos



## Series 3: Periodicals

1880-2004

11 Binders

**Scope and Contents:** Newspaper clippings and notes collected by Magee during genealogical research and for her columns in the Hot Springs Star, “70 Years Ago...” and “90 Years Ago...” History from early periodicals of Hot Springs and Fall River County with letters, photographs, and records.

### Sub-Series A: Notes from Newspapers

1880-1919

4 Binders

**Scope and Contents:** Research notes written by Magee and newspaper clippings pulled from the Hot Springs Star.

- Binder 037 Notes from Newspapers Vol I, 1880-1889
- Binder 038 Notes from Newspapers Vol II, 1890-1891
- Binder 039 Notes from Newspapers Vol III, 1892-1902
- Binder 040 Notes from Newspapers Vol IV, 1903-1919

### Sub-Series B: 90 Years Ago Columns

1887-1999

5 Binders

**Scope and Contents:** Newspaper clippings from Helen Magee’s “90 Years Ago...” column in the Hot Springs Star. The files include the original source newspapers from the Hot Spring Star that she based her column on, (dating from 1887-1909, 1925-1929), in addition to clippings of Magee’s columns, written from 1977 until her death in 1999.

- Binder 041 90 Years Ago Vol I, 1887-1893
- Binder 042 90 Years Ago Vol II, 1894-1898
- Binder 043 90 Years Ago Vol III, 1899-1902
- Binder 044 90 Years Ago Vol IV, 1902-1905
- Binder 045 90 Years Ago Vol V, 1905-1909, 1925-1929

## **Sub-Series C: Early Hot Springs Star and the Hesperian**

1886-2004 inclusive

2 Binders

**Scope and Contents:** Copies and clippings from the Hot Springs Star and the Hesperian. Incorporates correspondence, photographs, and records from early Hot Springs history.

- Binder 046 Hot Springs Star/Times-Herald Early Newspapers, 1886-2004
- Binder 047 The Hesperian 1895-1896

## **Series 4: Early Hot Springs and Fall River History**

1881-1994

5 Binders

**Scope and Contents:** Collection of primary sources, as well as correspondence, newspaper clippings, photographs, and research notes concerning early history of Hot Springs and Fall River County. Includes information on preservation work done in the area starting in 1973 and the Centennial Celebration in 1983.

### **Sub-Series A: Early History**

1881-1988

2 Binders

**Scope and Contents:** Accounts of the early days of Hot Springs and Fall River County with additional newspaper clippings and book excerpts.

- Binder 048 Early Hot Springs History, 1901-1988
- Binder 049 Fall River Country History, 1881-1982

### **Sub-Series B: Preservation and Celebration of Hot Springs**

1973-1994

3 Binders

**Scope and Contents:** History and Preservation Projects in Fall River and Shannon Counties to restore and record the history of the area. Includes a collection of early Hot Springs residents' recollections of the town in its beginnings and correspondence, newspaper clippings and notes, and photographs.

- Binder 050 History Project of Fall River and Shannon Counties\*
- Binder 051 Historic Preservation and Revitalization, 1973-1994
- Binder 052 H.S. Centennial 1983, 1982-1983

*\*Note: this binder was not dated*

## Series 5: Photographers and Photographs

1883-1986\*

6 Binders

*\*Note: The labeling and dating of the photos is inconsistent, the dates for this series were taken from the photographers' records and Magee's notes in binder 059.*

**Scope and Contents:** Over four hundred photographs of early Hot Springs and the Black Hills. Includes biographical information for photographers of the area through Magee's notes, articles, newspaper clippings, and records from Stevens Studio (c. 1912-1986).

- Binder 053 Photos of Early Hot Springs
- Binder 054 Photos of Early Hot Springs, Middletown/College Hill
- Binder 055 Photos of Early Hot Springs, Upper Town/Minnekahta Ave.  
Cold Brook/Chautauqua Park
- Binder 056 Photos of Early Hot Springs, Upper Town/Minnekahta Ave.  
Cold Brook/Chautauqua Park cont.
- Binder 057 Photos: People
- Binder 059 Photographers, Stevens Studio Records, 1883-1986

## Series 6: Biographical Files

1870-2008

33 Binders

**Scope and Contents:** Biographical files made from Magee's genealogical research of the early pioneers and residents of Hot Springs and Fall River County. Consists of correspondence, Magee's research notes, maps, newspaper clippings and other periodicals, photographs, and records. The files are arranged alphabetically by family name and, when

applicable, includes the correspondence from the family member requesting the information from Magee and their personal research.

- Binder 060 People: A, 1887-2003
- Binder 061 People: B, 1886-2003
- Binder 062 People: Bingham, 1931-1993
- Binder 063 People: Badger Clark, 1923-2006
- Binder 064 People: C, 1870-2007
- Binder 065 People: D, 1887-1996
- Binder 066 People: Dennis/Hill/McCrillis/Roe/Turner, 1881-1998
- Binder 067 People: E, 1887-1997
- Binder 068 People: F, 1887-1995
- Binder 069 People: G, 1884-2004
- Binder 070 People: H, 1889-1995
- Binder 071 People: Howell, 1891-1983
- Binder 072 People: I/J, 1890-1994
- Binder 073 People: K, 1887-2004
- Binder 074 People: Thomas Kimball, 1992-1993
- Binder 075 People: L, 1887-1996
- Binder 076 People: M, 1883-2000
- Binder 078 People: March, 1892-1981
- Binder 079 People: Mc, 1883-1997
- Binder 080 People: Miners, 1928-1980
- Binder 081 People: N/O/P/Q, 1881-2006
- Binder 082 People: E. T. Pierce and Columns, 1909-1950
- Binder 083 People: R, 1884-2006
- Binder 084 People: Robertson, 1910-1987
- Binder 085 People: Sa-Sn, 1882-2005
- Binder 086 People: So-Sw, 1882-1983
- Binder 087 People: Jedidiah Smith, 1967-1993
- Binder 088 People: Jess Thomas, 1961-1993
- Binder 089 People: Timma, 1896-1989
- Binder 090 People: T/U/V, 1882-2001
- Binder 091 People: Wa-Wi, 1887-1995
- Binder 092 People: Wi/X/Y/Z, 1899-2003
- Binder 093 Helen Magee, 1915-2008

## Series 7: Brochures

1877-1959\*

3 Binders

*\*Note: not all of the brochures and documents were dated, the dates included by Magee and Trumbull are listed here.*

**Scope and Contents:** Travel brochures from the Black Hills and Hot Springs. The front and back covers are digitized; the contents of the brochures are only available to view in the Heritage Room.

- Binder 095 Black Hills Brochures, 1877-1959
- Binder 096 Hot Springs Brochures Vol I, 1888-1898
- Binder 097 Hot Springs Brochures Vol II, 1890-1937

## Series 8: Native Americans

1876-1996

1 Binder

**Scope and Contents:** Native American history in Hot Springs and Fall River County starting in 1876. Consists of magazine and newspaper articles and book excerpts. For further research, a book list of primary sources written by Native American authors from South Dakota was added to the beginning of this binder.

- Binder 098 Native Americans, 1876-1996

## Series 9: Transportation and Maps

1876-2008\*

5 Binders

**Scope and Contents:** Development of transportation in Fall River County. Covers trails used by the early pioneers, the beginning of the railroads and the use of trains, and the construction of city streets through articles, Magee's research notes, maps, newspaper clippings, photographs, and records.

- Binder 099 Sidney Trail, 1876-1992
- Binder 101 Stables and Stagecoaches, 1887-2007
- Binder 102 Railroad/Depot, 1887-1997
- Binder 103 Streets/Viaduct/Water, 1885-2008

- Binder 104 Maps\*

*\*Note: this date range does not include the Maps Binder (#104) or the maps only available to view in the Heritage room. There is a list of the Helen Magee Collection maps in binder #104.*

## Series 10: Oil and Ore

1893-2008

1 Binder

**Scope and Contents:** Covers the discoveries and extractions of gold, oil, and uranium in the Black Hills. Includes articles, newspaper clippings, records, and research notes.

- Binder 105 Gold/Oil/Uranium

## Series 11: Landmarks

1883-2008

8 Binders

**Scope and Contents:** Consists of articles, book excerpts, brochures, correspondence, Magee's research notes, newspaper clippings, and photographs to portray the history and development of landmark locations in the Black Hills, Fall River County, and Hot Springs.

### Subseries A: Black Hills Landmarks

1892-2005

3 Binders

**Scope and Contents:** Landmark locations of the Black Hills through articles, brochures, newspaper clippings, Magee's research notes, and photographs.

- Binder 107 Mt. Rushmore, 1924-2005
- Binder 108 Wind Cave, 1892-2005
- Binder 109 Angostura, 1910-1993

### Subseries B: Hot Springs Landmarks

1887-2001

5 Binders

**Scope and Contents:** Hot Springs landmarks history and development including articles, book excerpts, brochures, newspaper clippings, photographs, records, and research notes.

- Binder 110 Mammoth Site Vol I, 1974-1991
- Binder 111 Mammoth Site Vol II, 1991-2006
- Binder 112 Butler Park/Centennial Park/Parades/Golf Course, 1887-2011
- Binder 113 Kidney Springs, 1893-2007
- Binder 114 Evans Plunge, 1888-1991

## **Series 12: Hotels and Bathhouses**

1883-2008

4 Binders

**Scope and Contents:** Book excerpts, correspondence, Magee's research notes, newspaper clippings, and photographs relating to hotels and bathhouses in Fall River County and Hot Springs.

- Binder 115 Evans Hotel Vol I: History, 1889-2008
- Binder 116 Evans Hotel Vol II: Photographs
- Binder 117 Hotels and Bathhouses Vol I, 1883-1994
- Binder 118 Hotels and Bathhouses Vol II, 1887-1994

## **Series 13: Floods, Fires, and Emergency Responders**

1891-2007

2 Binders

**Scope and Contents:** Correspondence, Magee's research notes, newspaper clippings, and photographs covering fires and floods in Fall River County. Includes information on the development of the Fire Department and actions taken to prevent fires and flooding.

- Binder 119 Floods/Flood Control/Cottonwood Dam, 1892-1006
- Binder 120 Fires and Fire Department, 1891-2007

## Series 14: Courts, Crimes, and Saloons

1883-2006

2 Binders

**Scope and Contents:** Fall River County Justice Court Docket along with newspaper clippings and research notes regarding crimes and saloons in Fall River. Includes magazine articles and a chapter from Lael Morgan's *Good Time Girls of the Alaska-Yukon Gold Rush* (1998).

- Binder 122 Murders/Robberies/Justice Courts, 1886-2006
- Binder 123 Saloons/Gambling/Etc.

## Series 15: Fall River County Towns

1880-2008

6 binders

**Scope and Contents:** A history of towns in Fall River County consisting of articles, correspondence, land records, Magee's research notes, maps, newspaper clippings, and photographs.

- Binder 124 Ardmore/Odell/Buffalo Gap/Smithwick, 1880-1986
- Binder 125 Cascade, 1881-2002
- Binder 126 Minnekahta/Red Canyon/Bradley Flat/Dudley/Erskine, 1884-1995
- Binder 127 Edgemont, 1890-1998
- Binder 128 Igloo/Provo, 1924-2005
- Binder 129 Oelrichs, 1887-2008

## Series 16: Fall River County Schools

1880-1996

10 Binders

**Scope and Contents:** History of Hot Springs and Fall River County schools consisting of correspondence, newspaper clippings, photographs, and research notes. The binders also include publications and records from the various schools discussed.



## **Subseries A: The Patée**

1914-1923

4 Binders

**Scope and Contents:** Copies of the “Patée,” a yearly publication from Hot Springs High School, edited by the senior class of that year.

- Binder 130 The Patée/1914/1915/1916
- Binder 131 The Patée/1917/1918/1919
- Binder 132 The Patée/1920/1921
- Binder 168\* The Patée 1923

*\*Note: This binder was added later so the numbering is off here.*

## **Subseries B: Schools and the Black Hills College**

1880-1996

6 Binders

**Scope and Contents:** Hot Springs Schools, Fall River County Schools, and the Black Hills College history through correspondence, newspaper clippings, notes, photographs, and school records and publications.

- Binder 133 Schools: Vol. I 1880-1923
- Binder 134 Schools: Vol. II 1924-1996
- Binder 135 Schools: Vol. III County Schools A-Mil, 1890-1992
- Binder 136 Schools: Vol. IV County Schools Min-W, 1886-1962
- Binder 137 Schools: Vol. V Superintendent Record, 1886-1940
- Binder 138 Black Hills College, 1887-1947

## **Series 17: Hot Springs Public Library**

1898-2014

4 Binders

**Scope and Contents:** Articles, Magee’s notes, newspaper clippings, and photographs concerning the history and development of the Hot Springs Public library.

- Binder 139 Hot Springs Library Vol. I, 1898-1995
- Binder 140 Hot Springs Library Vol. II, 1996-2004
- Binder 141 Hot Springs Library Vol. III, 2005-2010

- Binder 142 Hot Springs Library Vol. IV, 2011-2014

## **Series 18: Fall River County Churches**

1887-2005

5 Binders

**Scope and Contents:** Church history in Fall River County, includes church records and publications, correspondence, newspaper clippings and notes, and photographs.

- Binder 143 Baptist Church, 1889-1947
- Binder 144 Churches, 1889-2005
- Binder 145 Methodist Church, 1887-1994
- Binder 146 St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 1891-1996
- Binder 147 United Churches, 1921-1995

## **Series 19: South Dakota Soldier's Home**

1888-2005

1 Binder

**Scope and Contents:** Brochures, correspondence, newspaper clippings, notes, and photographs covering the South Dakota Soldier's Home. Includes publications from the Home and a thesis paper discussing the early history.

- Binder 148 South Dakota Soldier's Home

## **Series 20: Fall River County Records**

1860-1961

6 Binders

**Scope and Contents:** Handwritten and typed records consisting of census data, land records, property taxes, voter registration, and telephone records in Fall River County, beginning in 1860.

- Binder 150 Fall River County Land Records Vol. I, 1887-1915
- Binder 151 Fall River County Land Records Vol. II, 1888-1961
- Binder 152 Census 1900 Fall River County

- Binder 153 Census/Property Taxes/Voter Registration, 1860-1901
- Binder 154 Peoples' Telephone 1918-1919 Records
- Binder 155 Peoples' Telephone/Oelrichs and Buffalo Gap 1917-1920

## **Series 21: Hot Springs Police Department**

1885-2006

1 Binder

**Scope and Contents:** History of the Hot Springs Police Department. Consists of articles, book excerpts, correspondence, newspaper clippings, photographs, records, and Magee's research notes.

- Binder 156 Police/Sheriffs/Jails, 1885-2006

## **Series 22: Quarries, Sculptors, and Stonemasons**

1887-1982

1 Binder

**Scope and Contents:** Quarries, mills, stonemasons, stonecutters, and sculptors of Fall River County and the Black Hills discussed through newspaper clippings and research notes. Includes some articles, correspondence, and photographs.

- Binder 157 Quarries/Mills/Masons/Stonecutters/Sculptors, 1887-1982

## **Series 23: Architecture and Business**

1882-2003

9 Binders

**Scope and Content:** Fall River County and Hot Springs homes, businesses, and architecture history. Includes records and advertisements as well as booklets, brochures, correspondence, newspaper clippings, photographs, and research notes.

### **Subseries A: Architecture**

1883-1998

4 Binders

***Scope and Contents:*** Architecture and history of buildings and homes in Hot Springs, discussed through booklets, brochures, correspondence, newspaper clippings, records, and research notes.

- Binder 158 Houses, 1887-1997
- Binder 159 Buildings: Vol. I Misc. Information, 1891-1997
- Binder 160 Buildings: Vol. II B-L, 1891-1997
- Binder 161 Buildings: Vol. III M-W, 1883-1997

## **Subseries B: Business**

1882-2003

5 Binders

***Scope and Contents:*** Consists of advertisements, correspondence, newspaper clippings, photographs, records, and research notes regarding a variety of businesses in Hot Springs, starting in 1882.

- Binder 162 Businesses/Stores: Vol. I Chronological, 1882-1956
- Binder 163 Businesses/Stores: Vol. II A-E, 1887-1997
- Binder 164 Businesses/Stores: Vol. III F-Hom, 1886-2003
- Binder 165 Businesses/Stores: Vol. IV Hot-Me, 1887-1992
- Binder 166 Businesses/Stores: Vol. V Mi-Z, 1886-1995

## **Series 24: Miscellaneous**

1885-2009

1 Binder

***Scope and Contents:*** Covers a wide variety of topics with newspaper clippings, notes, and photographs, such as biographies, obituaries, buildings and landmarks histories. Additionally, many of these can be found in the other binders from the collection.

- Binder 167 Miscellaneous