

**A GUIDE TO THE RECORDS OF THE ELKO**

**LUMBER COMPANY (MS/NC 710)**

**By**

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## **HISTORY OF THE ELKO LUMBER COMPANY**

The Elko Lumber Company's roots reach back to 1868, the year that the town was established. The company was started by W. J. Urton, who ran the business for a number of years and was succeeded by Wilsey and Earl, who owned the operation for an undetermined length of time. They were succeeded by Frank Smith until John Payne and Frank Fernald took over the business in the early 1880's. Fernald retired in 1888, and Payne took on a new partner, Major H. Miller, who later became Elko County Treasurer, from 1908 to 1934.

In 1895, John A. McBride joined the partnership and the name was changed to Payne and McBride. In 1901, the firm was incorporated by Payne, Miller, and McBride as the Elko Lumber Company. It continued under that name for another eight decades. The Elko Lumber Company, then located at 801 Railroad Street, ceased to exist in 1980 or 1981.

In 1915, the Elko Lumber Company also included an automobile dealership, selling Chevrolets and perhaps other vehicles. There was also an ice business connected with the company about 1912. Chris Eshelman was associated with this part of the operation. These two side-businesses may have continued well into the 1920's, beyond the scope of this collection.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT OF THE COLLECTION**

The Elko Lumber Company collection consists principally of business correspondence, general financial documents, and banking records. The correspondence files begin in 1888 and end in 1919, except for a few items from 1920-21. The invoices and receipts begin in 1883 and run through 1919 with a few receipts in 1920. Bank records span the period from the 1880's through 1919. The records from the nineteenth century appear to be incomplete, with a couple of years where no records appear and some years with few documents.

The correspondence collection comprises letters from area ranchers and businesses ordering or requesting delivery of lumber and building materials, as well as solicitations from many wholesale suppliers advertising their products. The financial records include bills of lading, invoices for purchases, water and electric bills, and receipts or acknowledgment of payments made to creditors. The bank records consist of deposit slips, canceled checks and bank statements from a variety of financial institutions.

In addition, there are single folders containing documents for the Elko Lumber automobile sales, the ice business associated with the company, insurance policies, business licenses and miscellaneous printed materials. The collection also includes two large ledgers from 1901 and 1902 with a limited number of entries.

Box	Folder	Description
	I.	CORRESPONDENCE
1	1	Correspondence, 1888
	2	Correspondence, 1889 Folder 1
	3	Correspondence, 1889 Folder 2
	4	Correspondence, 1889 Folder 3
	5	Correspondence, 1890
	6	Correspondence, 1891
	7	Correspondence, 1892
	8	Correspondence, 1893
	9	Correspondence, 1894
	10	Correspondence, 1896
	11	Correspondence, 1897
	12	Correspondence, 1898
	13	Correspondence, 1899
	14	Correspondence, 1900
	15	Correspondence, 1901
	16	Correspondence, 1903
	17	Correspondence, 1904
	18	Correspondence, 1905
	19	Correspondence, 1906
	20	Correspondence, 1907 Folder 1
	21	Correspondence, 1907 Folder 2
	22	Correspondence, 1907 Folder 3
	23	Correspondence, 1907 Folder 4
	24	Correspondence, 1907 Folder 5
	25	Correspondence, 1908 Folder 1
	26	Correspondence, 1908 Folder 2
2	1	Correspondence, 1908 Folder 3
	2	Correspondence, 1908 Folder 4
	3	Correspondence, 1908 Folder 5
	4	Correspondence, 1909
	5	Correspondence, 1910 Folder 1
	6	Correspondence, 1910 Folder 2
	7	Correspondence, 1910 Folder 3
	8	Correspondence, 1910 Folder 4
	9	Correspondence, 1910 Folder 5
	10	Correspondence, 1910 Folder 6
	11	Correspondence, 1910 Folder 7
	12	Correspondence, 1910 Folder 8
	13	Correspondence, 1911 Folder 1
	14	Correspondence, 1911 Folder 2
	15	Correspondence, 1911 Folder 3
	16	Correspondence, 1911 Folder 4
	17	Correspondence, 1911 Folder 5
	18	Correspondence, 1911 Folder 6
	19	Correspondence, 1911 Folder 7
3	1	Correspondence, 1912
	2	Correspondence, 1913
	3	Correspondence, 1914
	4	Correspondence, 1915 Folder 1
	5	Correspondence, 1915 Folder 2
	6	Correspondence, 1915 Folder 3
	7	Correspondence, 1915 Folder 4
	8	Correspondence, 1916 Folder 1
	9	Correspondence, 1916 Folder 2
	10	Correspondence, 1916 Folder 3
	11	Correspondence, 1916 Folder 4

- 12 Correspondence, 1916 Folder 5
- 13 Correspondence, 1916 Folder 6
- 14 Correspondence, 1916 Folder 7
- 15 Correspondence, 1916 Folder 8
- 16 Correspondence, 1916 Folder 9
- 17 Correspondence, 1916 Folder 10

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  - 1 Correspondence, 1917 Folder 1
  - 2 Correspondence, 1917 Folder 2
  - 3 Correspondence, 1917 Folder 3
  - 4 Correspondence, 1917 Folder 4
  - 5 Correspondence, 1917 Folder 5
  - 6 Correspondence, 1917 Folder 6
  - 7 Correspondence, 1917 Folder 7
  - 8 Correspondence, 1917 Folder 8
  - 9 Correspondence, 1918 Folder 1
  - 10 Correspondence, 1918 Folder 2
  - 11 Correspondence, 1918 Folder 3
  - 12 Correspondence, 1918 Folder 4
  - 13 Correspondence, 1919 Folder 1
  - 14 Correspondence, 1919 Folder 2
  - 15 Correspondence, 1920-1921
  - 16 Chris Eshelman (ice business), 1912-1919
  - 17 Elko Lumber Auto Sales, 1915-1919
  - 18 Insurance Policies, 1893 & 1907
  - 19 Elko Lumber Business Licenses, 1903-1910
- 20 Miscellaneous Printed Material

**Box 5 Financial Records**

- 1 Invoices & Receipts, 1883
- 2 Invoices & Receipts, 1884
- 3 Invoices & Receipts, 1885-1888
- 4 Invoices & Receipts, 1889
- 5 Invoices & Receipts, 1890-1897
- 6 Invoices & Receipts, 1898-1899
- 7 Invoices & Receipts, 1900
- 8 Invoices & Receipts, 1901
- 9 Invoices & Receipts, 1902
- 10 Invoices & Receipts, 1903
- 11 Invoices & Receipts, 1904
- 12 Invoices & Receipts, 1905
- 13 Invoices & Receipts, 1906
- 14 Invoices & Receipts, 1907
- 15 Invoices & Receipts, 1908 Folder 1
- 16 Invoices & Receipts, 1908 Folder 2
- 17 Invoices & Receipts, 1908 Folder 3
- 18 Invoices & Receipts, 1909
- 19 Invoices & Receipts, 1910 Folder 1
- 20 Invoices & Receipts, 1910 Folder 2
- 21 Invoices & Receipts, 1910 Folder 3
- 22 Invoices & Receipts, 1910 Folder 4
- 23 Invoices & Receipts, 1911 Folder 1
- 24 Invoices & Receipts, 1911 Folder 2
- 25 Invoices & Receipts, 1911 Folder 3
- 26 Invoices & Receipts, 1911 Folder 4
- 27 Invoices & Receipts, 1912 Folder 1
- 28 Invoices & Receipts, 1912 Folder 2

**Box 6**

- 1 Invoices & Receipts, 1913

2	Invoices & Receipts,	1914 Folder 1
3	Invoices & Receipts,	1914 Folder 2
4	Invoices & Receipts,	1914 Folder 3
5	Invoices & Receipts,	1914 Folder 4
6	Invoices & Receipts,	1915 Folder 1
7	Invoices & Receipts,	1915 Folder 2
8	Invoices & Receipts,	1916 Folder 1
9	Invoices & Receipts,	1916 Folder 2
10	Invoices & Receipts,	1916 Folder 3
11	Invoices & Receipts,	1917 Folder 1
12	Invoices & Receipts,	1917 Folder 2
13	Invoices & Receipts,	1917 Folder 3
14	Invoices & Receipts,	1917 Folder 4
15	Invoices & Receipts,	1917 Folder 5
16	Invoices & Receipts,	1917 Folder 6

Box 7

1	Invoices & Receipts, 1918 Folder 1
2	Invoices & Receipts, 1918 Folder 2
3	Invoices & Receipts, 1918 Folder 3
4	Invoices & Receipts, 1918 Folder 4
5	Invoices & Receipts, 1919 Folder 1
6	Invoices & Receipts, 1919 Folder 2
7	Invoices & Receipts, 1919 Folder 3
8	Invoices & Receipts, 1919 Folder 4
9	Invoices & Receipts, 1919 Folder 5
10	Invoices & Receipts, 1920
11	Property Tax Assessments 1915, 1916

Box 8

1	Bank Records 1880's
2	Bank Records, 1890
3	Bank Records, 1891
4	Bank Records, 1892
5	Bank Records, 1893
6	Bank Records, 1894-1899
7	Bank Records, 1900-1905
8	Bank Records, 1907
9	Bank Records, 1908
10	Bank Records, 1909
11	Bank Records, 1910 Folder 1
12	Bank Records, 1910 Folder 2
13	Bank Records, 1911
14	Bank Records, 1912
15	Bank Records, 1913
16	Bank Records, 1914
17	Bank Records, 1915
18	Bank Records, 1916
19	Bank Records, 1917
20	Bank Records, 1918
21	Bank Records, 1919

Box 9

1	Ledger, 1901
2	Ledger, 1902