



# HERITAGE HIGHLIGHTS

SPRING 2013

## AHC Acquires Papers of Robert Russin and Randall Wagner

The AHC recently received the collections of two well-known Wyomingites, Randall Wagner and Robert Russin. Wagner had a long career in Wyoming's state government and is a free-lance travel writer and photographer and Russin was a longtime art professor at the University of Wyoming and an internationally known sculptor. Their careers briefly crossed on Wyoming's high plains during October 1959.

Russin's most famous sculpture is the bronze bust of Abraham Lincoln which currently stands overlooking I-80 a few miles east of Laramie. However, when the statue was completed in 1959, it was placed on the highest point on U.S. 30, also known as the Lincoln Highway. The bust was moved to its present location in 1969 when I-80 was opened across Wyoming.

The *Laramie Boomerang* covered the October 1959 dedication of the twelve and one half foot, three and one-half-ton sculpture of the sixteenth president. Nineteen fifty-nine was the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Lincoln's birth which was celebrated around the country. Russin's sculpture served as the "focal spot" in a new roadside park.

Russin's longtime dream was to create a "super-enlargement of Lincoln's craggy head" that he believed would be "the best way to memorialize the man." Dr. Charles W. Jeffrey of Rawlins was the financial sponsor of the project. At the dedication held on October 18, 1959, University of Wyoming History Professor T.A. Larson served as the master of ceremonies. Speakers at the event included UW President G.D. Humphrey, E.C. Smith and Louis Boschetto of the Highway 30 Association, Wyoming Governor J.J. Hickey, Wyoming Congressman Keith Thomson, U.S. Senator Gale McGee, and Russin.

In his remarks, Russin spoke about his intent in creating the statue. "I have tried to depict a brooding, contemplative Lincoln in the last years of his life, his great heart sorrowing over the rent nation. The ruggedness of the hills falling away into the breadth of the valley below finds an echo in the rugged vigor of his face. The splendor of the landscape is recalled in the nobility of his character." Russin was also quoted in the *Boomerang* explaining the triple purpose of

(continued on page 7)

Robert Russin (right) examined his sculpture of Abraham Lincoln just before it was mounted on the 30 foot native granite stone base. Photographs from the Randall Wagner Collection.





## From the Director

Mark Greene

I hope, as this reaches you, spring is in the air. Here in Wyoming spring usually doesn't grab hold until late April, sometimes May—it's a very short growing season.

For some reason it occurs to me to write the newsletter column I should have written in Spring of 2003—my first appearance in *Heritage Highlights*. It just hit me recently that I never properly introduced myself when I first arrived at the Center; I just launched into discussing the AHC itself—its activities, its archivists, its accomplishments, etc. I never really said anything about myself. Better late than never? You can let me know.

The early basics: I was born in Washington, DC, and grew up in the suburb of Rockville, Maryland. At age 12 my father was transferred to Boulder, Colorado, where I spent junior high and high school. My college years were spent at Ripon College, in Wisconsin, where I double-majored in History and Political Science, and I decided to take a short break after college before beginning graduate school.

I am part of one of the last generations of “accidental archivists,” individuals who headed for graduate school with no thought in their mind about archives or special collections, indeed quite possibly never having set foot in such an institution. Beginning in the late 1980s more and more people entering the profession had left college with the specific goal of becoming archivists. Moreover,

at about the same time, the criteria, in terms of graduate course loads, was becoming stiffer—so that the archivists who entered the field after me had far more “book learning” than I was exposed to.

I entered graduate school at the University of Michigan in 1982 intending to obtain a PhD in History and teach college. A serious illness after completing my first year convinced me I would not have the stamina to stay another five or six years in school, so I decided to shift my sights to a Master's degree. But jobs for people with MAs in History were few and far between... except in a field I'd never heard of—archives. A good friend of mine in the department was paying her bills by working at the Bentley Historical Library, one of the premier repositories in the nation. She convinced me to minor in archives administration, which I did.

The two one-semester archives administration courses were taught by Bentley archivists, and included a practicum at the Library. Today, a concentration in archives administration (usually as part of a Master's of Library or Information Science rather than History) entails at least five one-semester courses, often more. But after completing those two courses and my Master's degree, I was able to hire on at the Bentley for a year as fill-in for two staff members on leave. That was 1984. In 1985 I accepted my first permanent professional position as archivist for

Carleton College (a small, elite liberal arts school in Minnesota).

I was the first professional archivist at Carleton. The previous archivist, a superannuated secretary, had saved a lot of good records but had given no attention to organizing or cataloging them, and the archives had no regular hours of service. Almost no one on campus knew an archives existed. I determined my goals were to (1) make the archives accessible, with regular hours of service; (2) make the archives visible, with exhibits and columns in the student newspaper (the columns appeared under the title “Raiders of the Lost Archives”); (3) make the collections more useable and useful, both to students and to the college administration.

Perhaps one of my most significant achievements was purchasing the archives' first computer, in 1987. While at Carleton I managed to publish my first professional articles, and present my first papers at professional conferences. After four years I felt I had largely accomplished those goals and was ready for different challenges.

So I moved north to St. Paul, Minnesota, for a position with the Minnesota Historical Society (MHS), one of the nation's most comprehensive and active historical organizations. My title was Curator of Manuscripts Acquisition, and my role was to establish and implement collecting goals

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and appraisal criteria for a 35,000 cubic foot manuscripts collection. I also developed and maintained relationships with a wide range of donors, from U.S. Senators and Fortune 500 corporations to members of the public and small civic organizations.

My position also provided guidance to small repositories in the state on all aspects of archives administration. While at MHS I developed, applied, and published (internationally) collecting objectives, and appraisal and reappraisal standards, for congressional collections and modern business records. And I installed the Society's first local area network, bringing the wonders of email to the institution (those were the days).

While at MHS I became very active in my professional organizations. I was elected to the steering committee and as chair of the Society of American Archivists' (SAA) Congressional Papers Roundtable, elected to the steering committee and as chair of the SAA Manuscripts Repository Section, appointed chair of the SAA Committee on Education and Professional Development, appointed to co-chair an annual program committee, appointed to the Intellectual Property Working Group, and elected to the SAA governing Council.

During the same years I served as journal editor for *Archival Issues*, newsletter editor for the Midwest Archives Conference (MAC), MAC Council member, and MAC president. It was a busy decade. MHS did not require this level of professional commitment, but I felt drawn to it as a way of fully embracing a profession that had embraced me.

In 1998 my significant other (now wife) Kathy accepted a position

in Michigan, and after two years of commuting back and forth I became the Head of Research Center Programs at the Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village (now The Henry Ford). There I administered library and archives technical services and reference functions, museum registrars, and outreach programs for the research division of one of the nation's largest museums. Research Center programs included a public reading room, fee-for-service activities such as photographic reproductions and "special access" for film makers and others seeking use of collection items in storage, web access to collection information—from on-line public access catalogs to specialized databases to in-depth interpretive presentations, and public programs.

My main accomplishments at the museum were overseeing the migration from a stand-alone to consortial and web-based on-line public catalog, initiating standards-based manuscript and artifact cataloging and significantly expanding the digitization program. Professionally I was selected as a Distinguished Fellow of the Society of American Archivists.

Then my dream job opened up... yes, this one. In addition to calling on all my experience, knowledge, and skill, in addition to being prime for a renaissance, in addition to having strong support from the university's administration, in addition to holding world-class collections, in addition to having a solid reputation for undergraduate and K-12 work along with public programming, and in addition to boasting an excellent staff and faculty, the American Heritage Center had two other important things going for it. One was that it was located in the Rocky Mountain West, the region I considered

home since moving there with my family in 1971. The other was that my father and sister still lived in northern Colorado, less than two hours away. Since my arrival here you have a much better idea of what I've been up to.

I hope all this has given you a belated but better idea of who I am. Even since my stroke last summer I have continued, as best I can, to participate in my profession after ensuring my responsibilities as director have been fulfilled. I have had another article accepted for publication, and am scheduled to give three conference papers this year (first I have to overcome the considerable barriers for paraplegics to long-distance travel, but that is another story). It is important to me to give back to the profession that has provided me with so much satisfaction.

I have been at the Center longer than at any other workplace, a fact easily explained by the wonderful work environment—particularly the superb, challenging, creative faculty and staff I'm privileged to work with on a daily basis. Together we continue to develop new programs and services, acquire new collections, and reach out to new audiences. The AHC continues to be one of the most active and innovative repositories in the US. I have no doubt that will continue as we begin to move into our third round of strategic planning. In the next issue of the newsletter I will report on our successes and setbacks achieving our current set of strategic plan goals. ■



# Arthur E. Demaray Papers at AHC

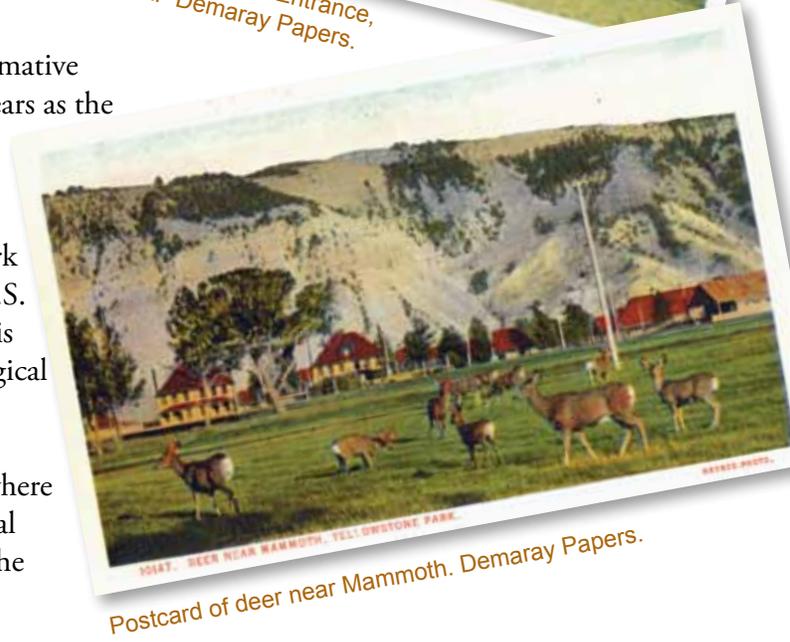
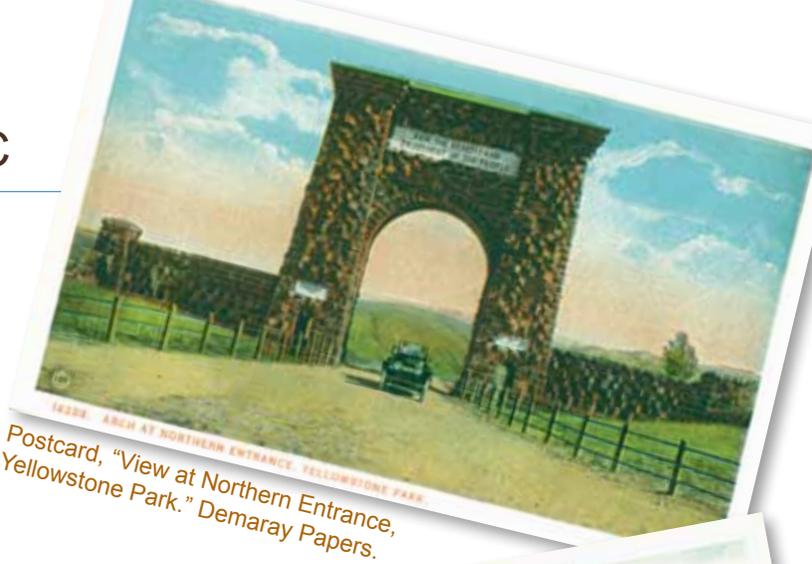
Jamie Greene, Processing Archivist

Arthur E. Demaray was a United States government Administrator for the Department of the Interior, National Park Service. The American Heritage Center just completed processing this collection and a new online finding aid for the Demaray papers is available!

Demaray was born on February 16, 1887, in Washington D.C and died in Tucson, Arizona, in 1958. He spent most of his career in key leadership roles in the National Park Service during the agency's formative years, the New Deal period, and through the war time years as the agencies point of contact with Congress. He is known for his effectiveness as an administrator, his pioneering efforts that led to the establishment of several national parks during these turbulent times, and his ability to work with Interior Secretary, Harold Ickes. Demaray was in U.S. government service for forty-eight years (1903-1951). His career began at the age of 16 in 1903 for the U.S. Geological Survey as a messenger boy; he was later apprenticed to and became a draftsman for the department. In 1917, he transferred to the newly formed National Park Service, where he proved to be a very effective administrator and political liaison and served as Assistant Director and Director of the National Park Service until his retirement in 1951.

The Demaray collection contains correspondence (including a few letters from Harold Ickes), diaries, photographs, articles, publications, awards, medals, memorabilia, and Plains Indian artifacts all related to Demaray's career. There is material relating to his various trips including brochures and other travel literature, postcards, scrapbooks, and photographs. Also included are personal and family memorabilia, such as articles by Elise Demaray Anderson; family photographs including ambrotypes and daguerreotypes; and genealogical information on the Demaray, Demarest, Briggs, Shryock, and Fravel families. There are a large number of photographs of the National Parks and Monuments across the United States; Yellowstone; Great Smoky Mountains; Crater Lake; Mammoth Cave; Yosemite; Grand Canyon; many of the Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah parks; National Park Service officials; Civilian Conservation Corps camps; and photographs by Jack Ellis Haynes, Official Yellowstone photographer. There are also photographs of Harold Ickes, Eleanor and Franklin D. Roosevelt, and personal family snapshots and photo albums of family, friends, and their travels.

This is a rich addition to the many collections already available at the AHC on the National Park Service. If Arthur Demaray and his career fits with your research interests, please feel free to contact the AHC Reference Department with questions you might have about this collection or others on the topic. ■



# Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance Papers Donated to AHC

Rachael Dreyer

The American Heritage Center is pleased to announce the addition of a new collection to its holdings that pertain to the work of conservation and environmental organizations. In December 2012, the Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance (JHCA) transferred its body of out-of-use records to the AHC, providing those researchers engaged with documenting the history and progress of conservation groups with a rich source of information on the efforts and accomplishments of this pivotal Wyoming organization. The collection consists of 53 boxes comprising 52.1 cubic feet and contains research materials, correspondence, reports, publications, and legal documents, all relating to conservation activities and initiatives in the Jackson area and Grand Teton National Park, Bridger-Teton National Forest, and the National Elk Refuge.

Since 1979, the Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance has been working to preserve the natural beauty of the region. Among the Alliance's many accomplishments is the establishment and continuing success of the Watchdog Program, which guards against dangerous precedents that would negatively impact the environment of Jackson Hole. Another current activity is an education campaign called "Wild Neighborhoods," an effort that seeks to educate residents of the Jackson area about the unique conflicts that can arise in the area between local wildlife, public lands, and residential zones that exist in such close proximity. Through education and the adoption of new neighborhood habits, the JHCA seeks to reduce the adverse effects of these conflicts. The efforts of the JHCA have achieved impressive victories in years past as well. The JHCA successfully prevented a nuclear waste incinerator from being located only 100 miles from Jackson Hole, in cooperation with other partners assisted with the reintroduction of wolves into the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, and prevented the construction of a dam on the Snake River that would have flooded the scenic Oxbow Bend in Grand Teton National Park.

The Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance continues to advocate for preservation of wild lands and wildlife, as well as for environmentally sustainable and responsible growth in the region. The AHC is pleased to add this valuable collection to its roster and believe that researchers will be well-served by the depth of its content. ■

## C. J. Box Begins Publicity Tour for New Book at AHC

Once again, well-known Wyoming author C.J. Box began his North American publicity tour for his latest Joe Pickett novel at the American Heritage Center. A large, appreciative audience listened to him read from the new book, *Breaking Point*. Box also answered many questions and then signed copies of the book.

*Breaking Point*, the thirteenth novel with Joe Pickett, a Wyoming game warden, as the main character, has already received high praise in several reviews. Booklist said it was "Thrilling . . . [You'll] have a hard time putting this one down and turning off the light." Kirkus' review said "Box doles out more complications and misfortunes with masterly control . . . One of [Box's] most exciting [novels]."



C. J. Box signing books after his talk at the AHC.

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## Dr. Ellen Wald, 2012 Bernard L. Majewski Lecturer

Dr. Ellen Wald, visiting professor of history at the University of Georgia, presented the 2012 Bernard L. Majewski Lecture on March 11. The talk was first scheduled for last October, but because of a fall snowstorm it was rescheduled.



Dr. Ellen Wald points to a document from the Bernard L. Majewski Papers during her lecture at the AHC.

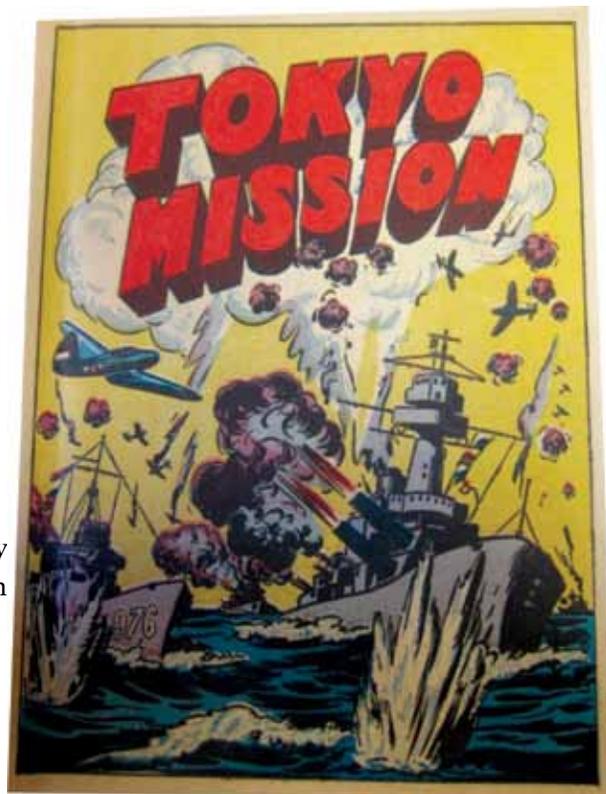
The title of Wald's talk was "Oilmen in the Beltway: Fighting the Enemy with Business and Government. During World War II and the earliest years of the Cold War, influential oilmen, including CEOs and corporate presidents such as Bernard Majewski and Bruce K. Brown, moved to Washington, D.C. to assist the country in establish effective oil policies for national security. These men, from private industry, navigated the halls of the nation's capital and created and implemented the oil policies which helped make the United States victorious in World War II and maintain its military and industrial power during the opening rounds of the Cold War.

During her several research visits as the Majewski Fellow, Wald used the papers

of Walter Levy, a petroleum consultant for the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Economic Cooperation Administration, C. Stribling Snodgrass, who worked for Bechtel after WWII and during the war served on the DeGolyer Mission which was a petroleum exploratory project Saudi Arabia commissioned, and Bernard L. Majewski, who served in the Petroleum Administration for War during WWII and was active with the National Petroleum Council and the American Petroleum Institute. Other collections Professor Wald researched were Bruce K. Brown, Harold B. Hoskins, Richard Kerr, and John Rouse.

Wald's dissertation was titled "Fueling the American Century" and she is currently expanding that work into a book. She studies the organizational structures that oil companies and government agencies established to promote the acquisition and production of foreign petroleum by American companies. She examines these interactions and proposes a new model of business-government relations in which the two developed a symbiotic relationship of mutual insurance. According to Wald's research, each party acted as an insurer of the other's risk. This connection developed based not on exploitation, quid-pro-quo, or campaign contributions, but instead grew organically based on aims shared by both government agencies pursuing American interests and the companies naturally seeking profit.

The Majewski Research Fellowship is funded by a generous endowment given to the AHC by the late Thelma Majewski to honor her husband, Bernard L. Majewski, and to encourage recognized scholars to use the many AHC collections related to economic geology. ■



The Petroleum Administration for War published this and other comic books during World War II illustrating the need for the U.S. to acquire enough 100-octane fuel in order to win the war as soon as possible. Bruce K. Brown Papers.



## Antoinette “Toni” D. Stabile

Antoinette “Toni” D. Stabile, longtime financial and collection donor to the AHC, passed away on March 10, 2013. Born in New York City, she earned her Bachelor’s degree in journalism from the University of Kentucky and went on to become an award-winning investigative journalist, best known for her writings on the cosmetic industry and cosmetic safety. Stabile published four books about the American cosmetic industry. Her most well-known is *Cosmetics: Trick or Treat* (1966), which the *Los Angeles Times* called “the most chilling expose since Ralph Nader’s *Unsafe at Any Speed*.” The book attracted international attention and led to various television specials and a TV award to Stabile for Service to Consumers. In 2005, Columbia University’s Journalism School established the Toni Stabile Center for Investigative Journalism.

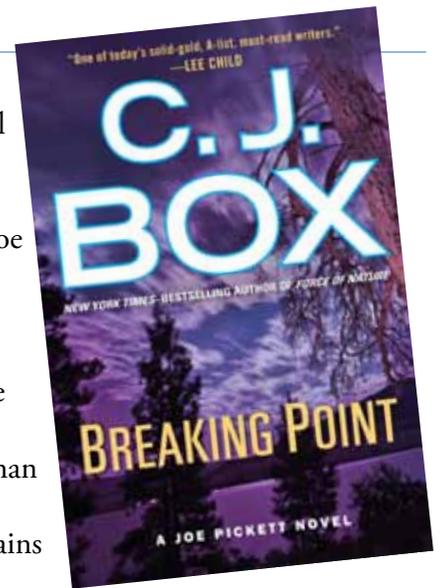
Stabile donated her papers to the AHC during the 1980s and 1990s. Her papers include correspondence, drafts of manuscripts, research and promotional material for her books, annotated copies of her books, published articles, and audio visual materials. ■

## C.J. Box *(continued from page 5)*

In the book, Pickett is chasing the alleged murderer of two employees of the Environmental Protection Agency. According to Box’ website, “It was an awful story. But was it the whole story? The more Joe looked into it, the more he begins to wonder—and the more he finds himself in the middle of a war he never expected and never wanted. . . . Every man reaches his breaking point. Joe Pickett may just have reached his.”

Box is a native of Wyoming and while working as a journalist and in the tourism business he wrote his first book, *Open Season*, published in 2001. This was the first of the Joe Pickett novels. In 2008, his stand alone book, *Blue Heaven*, won the Edgar Allen Poe Award for Best Mystery Novel. Box’ books have won several other awards as well and they have been published in more than twenty-five languages.

Several years ago Box donated his papers to the AHC. The collection contains manuscript drafts, reviews, and promotional materials related to his published books. Also included are screenplay drafts, newspaper columns, and magazine articles by Box, along with research files, interviews, and correspondence. ■



## Russin *(continued from page 1)*

the sculpture. “It will play a large part in Wyoming’s and the nation’s celebration this year of the 150<sup>th</sup> year of Lincoln’s birth; it will rededicate the significance of one of America’s great presidents and his role in the opening of the West; and it will effectively mark the top of the Lincoln Highway in Wyoming and thus serve as a tourist attraction.” That year the Wyoming State Parks Commission added tables, benches, rest facilities, and parking areas for the site.

Wagner graduated from UW in 1959 with a degree in journalism. He also worked as a photographer for the Laramie newspapers from 1954 to 1961 so he was at the dedication ceremony documenting the event photographically. The two photos illustrating this article were taken by Wagner and are part of his collection at the AHC. Throughout his long career he documented many of Wyoming’s historic sites and events.

Russin’s collection at the AHC contains information of his more than forty-year career at UW and the hundreds of sculptures he created which are located around the country and internationally. The UW campus features several of his works, including a statue of Benjamin Franklin and “Family” in the center of Prexy’s Pasture. One of Russin’s son, Joe, stated in 2008, that the “Lincoln statue became his father’s calling card. It was one of his favorite statues.” Robert Russin died in 2008 and the family interred his and his wife’s ashes at the Lincoln monument. ■





## American Heritage Center

Department 3924, 1000 E. University Avenue

Laramie, Wyoming 82071

307-766-4114

e-mail: [ahc@uwyo.edu](mailto:ahc@uwyo.edu)

Web: <http://ahc.uwyo.edu>

Blog: <http://ahc.uwyo.edu/blog>

Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/AHCnews>

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## PHOTO from the ARCHIVES:

The AHC holds a small William Ainsworth Collection. Born in 1850 in England, Ainsworth and his mother immigrated to the U.S. in 1853. He demonstrated a great mechanical ability as a boy and as a young man began work as a watchmaker. He also was an excellent toolmaker and mechanical engineer. After working in a watch factory in Illinois, Ainsworth and his wife, Elma, moved to Colorado, settling in Denver in 1877. Several years later, he located his "Watchmaker and Man'e'g Jeweler" shop at 577 and 579 Lawrence Street. One of his major accomplishments was his work creating assay balances, which were sensitive balances used in assaying of gold, silver, and other precious metals. Photographs courtesy William Ainsworth Collection.

