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# Guide to the Geographical Surveys West of the 100th Meridian Papers

WA MSS S-744



by Beinecke Staff

October 1995

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## Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	3
Requesting Instructions .....	3
Administrative Information .....	3
Immediate Source of Acquisition .....	3
Conditions Governing Access .....	3
Conditions Governing Use .....	4
Preferred Citation .....	4
HISTORICAL NOTE .....	4
Scope and Contents .....	4
General note .....	4
Collection Contents .....	5
Contents List .....	5
Correspondence .....	5
Letters Received .....	5
Letters Sent .....	5
Field Notebooks .....	6
Photographs .....	8
Oversize, ca. 1873 .....	10
Selected Search Terms .....	11

## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
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New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
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**CALL NUMBER:** WA MSS S-744

**CREATOR:** Geographical Surveys West of the 100th Meridian (U.S.)

**TITLE:** Geographical surveys west of the 100th meridian (U.S.) papers

**DATES:** 1871-1877

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 5.5 linear feet (48 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The collection contains letterpress copies of letters signed by Wheeler and other officers of the survey, registers of correspondence sent and received, records of meteorological and topographical observations, atlas sheets, and photographs and stereoscope views of parts of the territory covered by the expeditions.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.wheeler>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.wheeler>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to [beinecke.images@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.images@yale.edu).

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b.      box

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Unspecified. Please consult the appropriate curator.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

## Conditions Governing Use

The Geographical Surveys West of the 100th Meridian Papers are the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

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## Preferred Citation

Geographical Surveys West of the 100th Meridian Papers. Yale Collection of Western Americana, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

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## HISTORICAL NOTE

The Geographical Surveys West of the 100th Meridian, also known as the Wheeler Survey, grew out of the Army's desire to create maps featuring the geological aspects of the West, man-made improvements, and the "conformation, obstacles and resources of the country." Commanded by Lieutenant George Montague Wheeler, the survey was originally intended to cover the territory lying south of the Central Pacific Railroad, but grew in scope by 1872 to a mapping of all of the United States west of the 100th meridian. The survey ended on June 30, 1879, when the bill creating the U. S. Geological Survey became effective.

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## Scope and Contents

The collection contains letterpress copies of letters signed by George M. Wheeler and other officers of the survey, registers of correspondence sent and received, records of meteorological and topographical observations, atlas sheets, and photographs and stereoscope views of the territory covered by the expeditions.

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## General note

Accompanied by typed calendar.

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## Collection Contents

### Contents List

#### Correspondence

##### Letters Received

- |      |                                                                                                                                                                                 |         |
|------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| b. 1 | Register of letters received. Explorations in Nevada and Arizona. Calf and red leather.<br>Date of receipt and file number. Name of writer. Date and subject of letter. Action. | 1872-76 |
|------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|

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##### Letters Sent

- |       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |              |
|-------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| b. 2  | Record of letters sent by Geo M. Wheeler, with Index. Explorations in Nevada and Arizona. Calf and red leather.<br>Letters and notes by Wheeler laid in.                                                         | 1872-73      |
| b. 3  | Letterpress copies of letters signed by Geo. M. Wheeler with Index. Calf.<br>Letters and notes by Wheeler laid in.                                                                                               | 1872 Feb-Jun |
| b. 4  | Copies of letters signed by Geo. M. Wheeler with Index. Morocco.<br>1873 Feb 1-Oct 7; 1878 May 7-10. Letters and notes by Wheeler laid in.                                                                       | 1873, 1878   |
| b. 5  | Copies of letters signed by Geo. M. Wheeler, with Index. No. 11 on spine. 3/4 morocco.<br>Letter by Wheeler laid in.                                                                                             | 1875 May-Oct |
| b. 6  | Copies of letters signed by Geo. M. Wheeler with Index. No. 13 on spine. 3/4 morocco.<br>Letterhead laid in.                                                                                                     | 1876 Feb-May |
| b. 7  | Copies of letters signed by Geo. M. Wheeler with Index. No. 14 on spine. 3/4 morocco.                                                                                                                            | 1876 May-Nov |
| b. 8  | Copies of letters signed by Geo. M. Wheeler with Index. No. 15 on spine. 3/4 morocco.                                                                                                                            | 1876-77      |
| b. 9  | Copies of letters signed by Geo. M. Wheeler with Index. No. 16 on spine. 3/4 morocco.                                                                                                                            | 1877 Mar-Oct |
| b. 10 | Copies of letters signed by Geo. M. Wheeler with Index. Press book No. 17. 3/4 morocco.<br>Letters from the Field - 1877 Jul 9 - Sep 11. To page 109. Letters. Oct 4, 1877 - Feb 19, 1878, page 110 to page 647. | 1877-78      |
| b. 11 | Copies of letters signed by W. Young and Geo. M. Wheeler, with Index. 3/4 morocco.                                                                                                                               | 1878-79      |
| b. 12 | Copies of letters signed by Geo. M. Wheeler and others, with Index. No. 19 on spine. 3/4 morocco.<br>Some original notes laid in.                                                                                | 1878 May-Sep |

## Correspondence &gt; Letters Sent (continued)

b. 13	Copies of letters signed by Geo. M. Wheeler and others, with Index. 3/4 morocco.	1880 May-Dec
Field Notebooks		
b. 14	Journal of Telegraphic Longitude. Astronomical Department. Journal No. 2. Stations Carlin, Nev.; Battle Mountain, Nev. and Austin, Nev. Calif. Probably written by D. W. Lockwood.	1871 May-Jul
b. 15	Meteorological Records. Book No. 8. Party No. 2, California section. From Camp at Los Angeles to Camp at Star Ranch (No. 20.). Black leather. Lieut. R. Birnie in charge of party.	1875 Jun-Jul
b. 16	Meteorological Records. Barometric Hypsometry Computations. Book No. 11. Virginia special section. From Camp at Antelope Island to Peak "T" Ophir Range. Red leather. Anton Karl in charge of party.	1877 Jul-Sep
b. 17	Meteorological. Aneroid Profiles, Computations. Book No. 17. Party No. 1, California section. Camp at Greenhorn Mts. (No. 54) to Camp at Calienti (No. 77.) Black leather. Lieut. C. W. Whipple in charge of party.	1875 Oct-Nov
b. 18	Transcripts from Field Meteorological Record. Book No. 25. Party No. 3, California section. From Camp 19, Fort Yuma, San Diego County, Cal. to Camp Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, Cal. 3/4 morocco. Lieut. Eric Bergland in charge of party.	1876? Mar-May
b. 19	Meteorological Transcript. Tri-daily Observations for Reference. Sergeant Eugene Farnham. Book No. 26b. Party No. 3, California section. Los Angeles. 3/4 morocco. Lieut. Eric Bergland in charge of party.	1876 Feb-May
b. 20	Sextant Astronomical Observations. Astronomical Department. Book No. 27. Los Angeles, Cal. to Camp 65, Elizabeth Lake. Black leather. Lieut. C. W. Whipple, Observer.	1875 Jul-Oct
b. 21	Computations of Geodetic Co-ordinates. Triangulation Stations. [Topographical Department.] Book No. 28. (Utah). 3/4 morocco. Lieut. M. Macomb and others.	1878
b. 22	Meteorological Records. Book No. 32. Summit of Kenoshak Range to Camp 21, West Plum Cr. Leather. Dr. J. T. Rothrock in charge of party.	1873 Jul-Dec
b. 23	Meteorological Records. Aneroid and Odometer. Book No. 42. Party No. 1, California section. From Camp 32 at Elliotts Ranch, Cal. to Camp 44, at Huffakers Ranch, Nev. Red leather. Lieut. S. E. Tillman in charge of party.	1876 Oct-Nov
b. 24	Field Journal. Book No. 50. Full morocco. This diary by a member of Wheeler's Survey gives a picture of camp life in northwestern Nevada and northeastern California. 73 p.	[1877] May-Nov

## Field Notebooks (continued)

b. 25	[Original maps] No. 52. Topographical Department. Book No. 1. Salt Lake City to Camp near Spanish Fork, Utah. Also Aneroid Readings from Salt Lake City to Chicago on line of R.R. Full morocco. Gilbert Thompson, Topographer.  The map, by Weyss and Thompson, on the inside front cover is probably the first topographical map of Salt Lake City and vicinity.	1872-73
b. 26	[Original maps] No. 55. Topographical Department. Near Salina through Grass Valley to Beaver and ascent of Baldy Peak. Full morocco.	1872-73
b. 27	Meteorological Records. Aneroid and Odometer. Book No. 56. Party No. 2, California section. From Camp at San Andreas, Cal. to Camp at Carson, Nev. Full morocco. Lieut. M. M. Macomb in charge of party.	1877 Oct-Nov
b. 28	[Original maps] No. 74. Topographical Department. Surveys from 1st Camp on Provo River to Strawberry Valley, Thistel Valley over the Mountains to Camp in wide valley (no name.) Calif. Notes of Mr. Severin from Mt. Nebo.	1872 Aug 11-25
b. 29	Meteorological Records. Aneroid Profile Computations. Book No. 76. Party No. 2, California section. From Camp at Walker River Canon, Cal. to Camp at Bridal Veil Meadow, Cal. 3/4 morocco. Lieut. M. M. Macomb in charge of party.	1878 Sep-Nov
b. 30	Meteorological Records. Book No. 85. Party No. 4, California section. From Sutro, Nevada to Mt. Davies, Nevada. Full morocco. Wm. A. Cowles, Meterological Observer. Lieut. R. Birnie, Corps of Engineers, in charge.	1876 Sep-Oct
b. 31	Odometer Readings and Topographical Mapping. Book No. 93. From Rendezvous Camp near Ft. Wingate to Base line near Ft. Garland. Full morocco.	1873 Aug-Nov
b. 32	Computations. Topographical Meanders and Data. Book No. 115. Party No. 2. Flagstaff, Fort Wingate (Camp 62) to Ralston, N.M. and Pescao Springs (Camp 115). Calif. Lieut. Hoxie.	1873 Sep-Nov
b. 33	Meteorological Records. Book No. 121. Party No. 2, Colorado section. From Camp No. 48 on Rio Sacramento to Camp No. 55 at Fort Stanton. Full black morocco. Lieut. Griffin in charge of party.	1878 Nov-Dec
b. 34	Topographical Records. Book No. 131. Party No. 1. From Del Norte, Camp No. 58 to Trinidad, Camp No. 70. Full green morocco. Louis Nell, topographer.	1874 Oct-Nov
b. 35	Topographical Records. Book No. 171. Party No. 1, Colorado section. Full brown morocco. Lieut. W. L. Marshall, Corps of Engineers, in charge. In Colorado, J. Calvert Spiller, Topographical Assistant.	1875 Jun-Jul

## Field Notebooks (continued)

b. 36	Topographical Records. Triangulation. Book No. 200. Atlas Sheet No. 73c, 73d, 80a. Party No. 3, California section. Full black morocco. G. Thompson, Observer. 1st Lieut. Eric Bergland in charge of party.	1875 Sept 27
b. 37	Topographical Records. Book No. 201. Main Party. From Peak (Branch of Rio Conejos) Camp 9 to Old Ft. Wingate. Camp 35. Full brown morocco. Topographer Anton Karl.	1875 Jun-Aug
b. 38	Topographical Records. Book No. 224. Party No. 3, California Section. From Camp 35 at Camp Mohave, A.T. to Camp No. 54 at [M?]artin's Ranch, [San Bernadino] Calif. Atlas Sheet No. 74, 81, 80. Full brown morocco. 1st Lieut. Eric Bergland in charge of party. Gilbert Thompson, Topographer.	1875 Sep 5
b. 39	Topographical Records. Book No. 226. Party No. 3, California Section, at Stone's Ferry. Camp Mohave. Atlas Sheet No. 66d, 74b. Sta. 1 and 2. Angle Record, Current Observation. Calif. Lieut. Eric Bergland in charge of party. G. Thompson, Observer.	1875 Aug
b. 40	Topographical Meanders. Topographical Records. Book No. 271. Party No. 1, Colorado Section. From Camp No. 7, Currant Creek, Colo. to Saguache, Colo. Full brown morocco. Lieut. Eric Bergland in charge of party. F. [Klett?] and Wm. C. Niblack, Topographers.	1876 Sep-Oct
b. 41	Mountain Stations. Topographical Records. Book No. 323. Party No. 1, Colo. Section. Topographical stations 100, 101, 103. Full brown morocco. Lieut. Eric Bergland in charge of party. Louis Nell, Topographer.	1877 Oct
b. 42	Topographical Meanders. Topographical Records. Book No. 384. Party No. 2, Utah section. From Camp No. 78 at Mojave River, Cal. to Camp No. 96 at Santa Ana, Cal. Full black morocco. Lieut. W. Young in charge of party. F. Carpenter, Topographer.	1878 Nov-Dec
b. 43	Topographical Records. Book No. 389. Party No. 2, California Section. From Camp No. 1 at Carson, Nev. to Camp No. 30, near Conness Mt. Full green morocco. Lieut. M. Macomb in charge of party. Lieut. Macomb, Topographer.	1878 Aug-Sep
b. 44	Computations of Latitudes and Departures of Topographical Meanders. Topographical Records, Book No. 431. Party No. 1, California Section, From Camp No. 1, Oakdale to Camp No. 33, Milton. Full black morocco. Lieut. M. Macomb in charge of party. F. O. Maxson, Topographical Assistant.	1879 May-Jun
b. 45	Topographical Atlas Sheets. Wheeler.	1877
Photographs		
	Photographs of Geographical Explorations and Surveys West of the 100th Meridian. 2 vols. Stored in: Oversize, volumes 46-47 One volume contains 25 prints, the other, 50 prints. Photographers: Timothy O'Sullivan and William Bell.	ca. 1873



Photographs (continued)

- |       |                                                                                                                                                                   |         |
|-------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| b. 48 | Stereographs of Geographical Explorations and Surveys West of the the 100th Meridian.<br>A series of 50 views. Photographers: Timothy O'Sullivan and William Bell | 1871-74 |
|-------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
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## Oversize, ca. 1873

- |          |                                                                                                                                                                                    |          |
|----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| b. 46-47 | Photographs of Geographical Explorations and Surveys West of the 100th Meridian. 2 vols.<br>One volume contains 25 prints, the other, 49 prints. Photographer: Timothy O'Sullivan. | ca. 1873 |
|----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
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## **Selected Search Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### **Subjects**

Soldiers -- United States  
Stereoscopic views

### **Geographic Names**

West (U.S.) -- Pictorial works  
West (U.S.) -- Surveys

### **Genres / Formats**

Albums -- United States  
Photoprints -- United States

### **Names**

Bell, William  
O'Sullivan, Timothy H., 1840-1882  
Wheeler, George M. (George Montague),  
1842-1905

### **Corporate Body**

Geographical Surveys West of the 100th  
Meridian (U.S.)