MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Revised 8/4/2026

Primary Source Set

Project Title: Montana's Gold and Silver Boom, 1862-1893

Title & Description	Collection	Media/File Type	URL/Location	Thumbnail
Hydraulic mining in Alder Gulch, MT, ca. 1869-1872. Photo by W.H. Jackson of the Hayden Survey.	MHS PA, Mines and Mining	JPEG Image	View image of Hydraulic mining in Alder Gulch	
Hydraulic mining near Nelson Gulch, ca. 1905. Photo by Calso.	MHS PA	JPEG Image	Enlarged photograph of Hydraulic mining near Nelson Gulch	
Major Gold Rush Towns and Trails.	Map by MHS, base map courtesy NRIS	JPEG Image	Enlarged map of Gold Rush Towns and Trails	
Fort Benton Levee, MT, 1878-79. Photo by W.E. Hook Sr. Steamboat transportation.	MHS PA, Stereograph	JPEG Image	View photograph of Steamboat transportation	
Walter S. Corwin. Photo by E.H. Train, Helena. Mining difficulties.	MHS PA, Mines and Mining	JPEG Image	Enlarged photo of Walter S. Corwin	
Indian camp with Mt. Helena in the distance, ca. 1874. Photo by Bundy & Train, Helena.	MHS PA, 953-370	JPEG Image	View photo of Indian camp	

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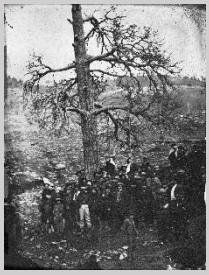
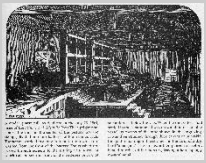
Execution of Compton and Wilson on Helena's hanging tree, 1870. Photo by M.A. Eckert. Vigilantes.	MHS PA, 948-120	JPEG Image	Enlarged photograph of Helena's hanging tree	
Stamp Mill. Engraving from *Supplying the Mining World: Mining Equipment Manufacturers of San Francisco, 1850-1900*, by Lynn R. Bailey (Tuscon, AZ, 1996), p. 13.	MHSL	JPEG Image	Enlarged image of Stamp Mill Engraving	
Panning gold in Alder Gulch, MT, ca. 1869-1871. Photo by W.H. Jackson of the Hayden Survey.	MHS PA	JPEG Image	Photograph of panning gold in Alder Gulch	
A gold rocker. Oren Sassman, *Metal Mining in Historic Beaverhead* (MA Thesis, Montana State University, 1941), Plate XI.	MHSL	JPEG Image	Enlarged photo of a gold rocker	
Confederate Gulch in the 1860s. Sluice mining.	MHS PA	JPEG Image	Enlarged image of Confederate Gulch in the 1860s	
Bluebird Mine, ca. 1900. Photo of miners and little girl.	MHS PA Mines and Mining. "Children of the Mining Camps" slides and lesson plan	JPEG Image	View photograph of miners and little girl at Bluebird Mine	

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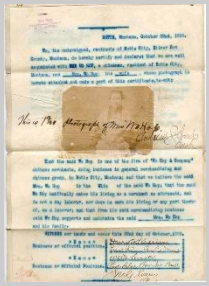
Mary "Mollie" Sheehan (Mary Ronan) and her father, James.	University of Montana. "Children of the Mining Camps" slides and lesson plan *Girl from the Gulches: The Story of Mary Ronan*	JPEG Image	Portrait of Mary "Mollie" Sheehan and her father, James	
Prospector Millie/Milly Ringold, African American prospector/mine owner, Weathermax Mine, Utica.	MHS PA, 944-586 "Women at Work" slides and lesson plan	JPEG Image	Enlarged photograph of prospector Millie/Milly Ringold	
Afro American Mining and Milling Co. Newspaper articles.	"Profile of African American Montanans" slides and lesson plan	JPEG Image	Newspaper article of Afro American Mining and Milling Co.	
Mrs. Wo Hop document. Required papers for Chinese.	Butte-Silver Bow Archives	JPEG Image	View Mrs. Wo Hop's required papers	
Chinese miners operating sluice box at Alder Gulch. Photo by W.H. Jackson of the Hayden Survey.	MHS PA Mines and Mining	JPEG Image	Enlarged photograph of Chinese miners operating sluice box	

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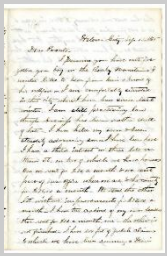
Letter from Emily Meredith to "Father," from Bannack, April 30, 1863.	Learning From Historical Documents, Ch. 6	Online resource	View letter from Emily Meredith	
Letter from Cornelius Hedges to "Parents," from Helena, September 13, 1865.	Learning From Historical Documents, Ch. 6	Online resource	View letter from Cornelius Hedges	
Letter from E.W. Knight to U.S. Attorney General, February 7, 1882.	Learning From Historical Documents, Ch. 6	Online resource	View letter from E.W. Knight	

For more information, see *Montana: Stories of the Land*, Chapter 6: Montana's Gold and Silver Boom, 1862-1893.

Find additional resources on the *Montana: Stories of the Land* Companion Website.