



MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Minnesota State Archives

CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT Lands and Minerals Division

An Inventory of Its Director's Reading File

OVERVIEW OF THE RECORDS

- Agency:** Minnesota. Division of Lands and Minerals.
- Series Title:** Director's reading file,
- Dates:** 1933-1967.
- Abstract:** Carbon copies of outgoing letters and memos relating to all aspects of the management and disposition of state-owned lands and their mineral and timber resources.
- Quantity:** 58.0 cu. ft. (58 boxes).
- Location:** See Detailed Description section for box locations.

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY OF THE DIVISION OF LANDS AND MINERALS

The Division of Lands and Minerals was established within the Department of Conservation when the latter was created in 1931 (Laws 1931 c186), to take over the lands and minerals duties of the state auditor. In 1937 the legislature gave the division authority over all state lands and minerals with the exception of state forest lands (Laws 1937 c310). Its duties included appraisal, sale and lease of state-owned lands and minerals, classification of agricultural and tax-forfeited land, inspection of all mining operations under permit or lease, and exploration and development of mineral resources.

The division was eliminated when the Conservation Department was reorganized in 1967, with its functions divided among the newly created Division of Lands and Forestry and Division of Waters, Soils and Minerals (Laws 1967 c904).

An expanded history of the Lands and Minerals Division is available in the Minnesota Historical Society Library as part of the inventories for records of the Conservation Department.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE RECORDS

Carbon copies of outgoing letters and memos from the St. Paul office of the Division of Lands and Minerals. The majority were written by or for divisional directors Frank A. Wildes (1933-July 1937) and Ray D. Nolan (August 1937 - June 1967). They are written to other division and department officials and employees, to the staff of the division's Hibbing office, to county auditors and other local officials, to other state agency officials, to mining companies, and to members of the general public. Letters for January-March, 1933, are from Wildes as Superintendent of State Mines, prior to the organization of the division. Beginning in 1940, an increasing number of letters are written by subordinate office personnel, especially the deputy division director and the state land agent.

The letters relate to all aspects of the management and disposition of state-owned lands and their mineral and timber resources. General land letters concern land sale activities, procedures, and advertising; responses to requests for information about state-owned land, especially about land available for sale or lease, the status of specific land parcels (especially tax-delinquent land), and lands available for homestead; procedures for payment on land purchases; and stumpage available for sale.

Mineral letters focus on the iron ore lands of the Mesabi Range and discuss leases of mineral lands, payments thereon, the status of various mines, applications for prospecting permits, royalty payments, transmittal of reports from mining companies, and responses to public inquiries on ore lands and ore production. Other letters concern the general administration and personnel of the division.

Also included are copies of reports on ore properties; some detailed letters and reports to members of the state Executive Council on the status of land in various areas; instructions to field employees, appraisers, and mine inspectors; texts of some articles; and synopses of laws. From 1933 into the 1940s, many of Wildes' and Nolan's monthly divisional reports to the conservation commissioner are present.

ARRANGEMENT OF THE RECORDS

Arranged chronologically. For 1933-1934, divided into subseries for land letters and minerals letters.

RELATED MATERIALS

Preceded by Auditor: Land Department: Letters sent, superintendent of mines (cataloged separately). Succeeded by Natural Resources Department: Minerals Division: Reading file (cataloged separately).

OTHER FINDING AIDS

Each volume contains an index to correspondents.

INDEX TERMS

This collection is indexed under the following headings in the catalog of the Minnesota Historical Society. Researchers desiring materials about related topics, persons or places should search the catalog using these headings.

Topics:

Iron mines and mining--Minnesota.
Iron mines and mining--Taxation--Minnesota.
Iron ore--Minnesota.
Iron ore--Minnesota--Analysis.
Managing.
Mine inspection--Minnesota.
Mineral lands--Minnesota.
Mines and mineral resources--Government ownership--Minnesota.
Mines and mineral resources--Minnesota.
Mining corporations--Minnesota.
Mining law--Minnesota
Mining leases--Minnesota.
Prospecting--Minnesota.
Public land sales--Minnesota.
Tax forfeiture--Minnesota.
Timber--Minnesota.
Timber lands--Minnesota.

Places:

Minnesota --Public lands
Hibbing (Minn.)
Mesabi Range (Minn.).

Persons:

Nolan, Ray D.
Wildes, Frank A.

Organizations:

Minnesota. Dept. of Conservation.
Minnesota. Executive Council.
Minnesota. Division of Lands and Minerals--Management.
Minnesota. Division of Lands and Minerals.--Officials and employees.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Preferred Citation:

[Indicate the cited volume and page here]. Minnesota Department of Conservation:
Division of Lands and Minerals: Director's reading file. Minnesota Historical Society. State
Archives.

See the Chicago Manual of Style for additional examples.

Accession Information:

Accession number(s): none; 985-111

Processing Information:

PALS ID No.: 0800003895 RLIN ID No.: MNHV446-A

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

Note to Researchers: To request materials, please note both the location and box numbers shown below.

Location	Box	
103.E.5.2F	1	Lands: Volume 1-L. February 28 – September 30, 1933. Volume 2-L. October 2 – December 29, 1933. Volume 3-L. January 1 – March 12, 1934. Volume 4-L. March 13 – April 20, 1934. Volume 5-L. April 17 – May 31, 1934. Volume [6-L]. June 1 – July 31, 1934. Volume [7-L]. August 1 – September 29, 1934.
103.E.5.3B	2	Volume [8-L]. October 1 – December 30, 1934. Minerals: January-[March], 1933. April-[May], 1933. June-[July], 1933. August 1933. September-[November], 1933. December 1933.
103.E.5.4F	3	January-[March], 1934. April-[July], 1934. August-December, 1934. 1935 Volume 2. January-February. 1935 Volume 3. March – April 24. 1935 Volume 4. April 25 – June 17.

Location	Box	
103.E.5.5B	4	1935 Volume 5. June 18 – July 31. 1935 Volume 6. August 1 – September 30. 1935 Volume 7. October 1 – November 18. 1935 Volume 8. November 19 – December 31. 1936 Volume 9. January 2 – February 29. 1936 Volume 10. March 2 – April 16.

Location	Box	
103.E.5.6F	5	1936 Volume 11. April 12 – May 20. 1936 Volume 12. May 12 – June 30. 1936 Volume 13. July 1-25. 1936 Volume 14. July 27 –August 31. 1936 Volume 15. September 1-30.

Location	Box	
103.E.5.7B	6	1936 Volume 16. October 1-31. 1936 Volume 17. November 2 – December 14. 1936 December 15-31. 1937 January. 1937 February. 1937 March.

Location	Box	
103.E.5.8F	7	1937 March 29 – April 28. 1937 April 29 – May 28. 1937 June. 1937 July. 1937 August. 1937 September. 1937 October.

Location	Box	
103.E.5.9B	8	1937 November-December. 1938 January 1 – February 24. 1938 February 24 – April 13. 1938 April 14 – May 19. 1938 May 20 – July 12. 1938 July 13 – September 3.

Location	Box	
103.E.5.10F	9	1938 September 6 – October 19. 1938 October 20 – December 13. 1938 December 14 – 1939 February 8. 1939 February 9 – April 11. 1939 April 12 – May 20. 1939 May 22 – June 20.

Location	Box	
103.E.6.1B	10	1939 June 21 – July 25. 1939 July 26 – September 5. 1939 September 6 – October 6. 1939 October 7 – November 21. 1939 November 22 – 1940 January 6. 1940 January 8 – February 2.
Location	Box	
103.E.6.2F	11	1940 February 5 – March 4. 1940 March 5-28. 1940 March 29 – April 22. 1940 April 23 – May 20. 1940 May 21 – June 12.
Location	Box	
103.E.6.3B	12	1940 June 13 – July 9. 1940 July 10 – August 4. 1940 August 5-31. 1940 September 3-26. 1940 September 26 – October 23.
Location	Box	
103.E.14.2F	13	Unbound letters, 1928-1939. 1 folder. 1940 October 24 – November 22, with index. 1940 November 23 – December 31, with index. 1941 January 2-31, with index. 1941 February 1-24, with index. 1941 February 25 – March 22, with index.
Location	Box	
103.E.14.3B	14	1941 March 24 – April 17, with index. 1941 April 18 – May 10, with index. 1941 May 12 – June 5, with index. 1941 June 6-25, with index. 1941 June 26 – July 17, with index.
Location	Box	
103.E.14.4F	15	1941 July 18 – August 18, with index. 1941 August 19 – September 19, with index. 1941 September 20 – October 9, with index. 1941 October 10 – November 6, 1941, with index. 1941 November 7 – December 10, with index.

Location	Box	
103.E.14.5B	16	1942 unbound memo. 1 folder. 1941 December 10 – 1942 January 14, with index. 1942 January 15 – February 11, with index. 1942 February 13 – March 16, with index. 1942 March 17 – April 10, with index. 1942 April 11 – May 1, with index.
Location	Box	
103.E.14.6F	17	1942 May 2-26, with index. 1942 May 27 – June 17, with index. 1942 June 18 – July 8, with index. 1942 July 9 – August 4, with index. 1942 August 5 – September 7, with index.
Location	Box	
103.E.14.7B	18	1942 unbound letters. 1 folder. 1942 September 8 – October 5, with index. 1942 October 6 – November 4, with index. 1942 November 5 – December 3, with index. 1943 Volume 1. December 4, 1942 – January 12, 1943, with index. 1943 Volume 2. January 13 – February 15, with index.
Location	Box	
103.E.14.8F	19	1943 Volume 3. February 16 – March 19, with index. 1943 Volume 4. March 20 – April 17, with index. 1943 Volume 5. April 19 – May 7, with index. 1943 Volume 6. May 8-26, with index. 1943 Volume 7. May 27 – June 11, with index.
Location	Box	
103.E.14.9B	20	1943 Volume 8. June 12 – July 2, with index. 1943 Volume 9. July 5-30, with index. 1943 Volume 10. August 2-31, with index. 1943 Volume 11. September 1-30, with index. 1943 Volume 12. October 1-30, with index.
Location	Box	
103.E.14.10F	21	1943 Volume 13. November 1-29, with index. 1943 Volume 14. November 30 – December 15, with index. 1944 Volume 1. December 16, 1943 – January 6, 1944, with index. 1944 Volume 2. January 7-28, with index. 1944 Volume 3. January 29 – February 18, with index.

Location	Box	
103.E.15.1B	22	1944 unbound letters. 1 folder. 1944 Volume 4. February 21 – March 20, with index. 1944 Volume 5. March 21 – April 17, with index. 1944 Volume 6. April 18 – May 10, with index. 1944 Volume 7. May 11 – June 2, with index. 1944 Volume 8. June 3-23, with index.
Location	Box	
103.E.15.2F	23	1944 Volume 9. June 24 – July 22, with index. 1944 Volume 10. July 24 – August 28, with index. 1944 Volume 11. August 29 – October 2, with index. 1944 Volume 12. October 3-31, with index. 1944 Volume 13. November 1-30, with index.
Location	Box	
103.E.15.3B	24	1944 Volume 14. December 1, 1944 – January 3, 1945, with index. 1945 Volume 1. January 4 – February 9, with index. 1945 Volume 2. February 10 – March 17, with index. 1945 Volume 3. March 19 – April 25, with index. 1945 Volume 4. April 26 – May 26, with index.
Location	Box	
103.E.15.4F	25	1945 Volume 5. May 28 – June 19, with index. 1945 Volume 6. June 20 – July 17, with index. 1945 Volume 7. July 18 – August 28, with index. 1945 Volume 8. August 29 – September 20, with index. 1945 Volume 9. September 21 – October 24, with index.
Location	Box	
103.E.15.5B	26	1945 Volume 10. October 25 – November 27, with index. 1945 Volume 11. November 28 – December 26, with index. 1946 Volume 1. December 27, 1945 – January 22, 1946, with index. 1946 Volume 2. January 23 – March 2, with index. 1946 Volume 3. March 4 – April 3, with index.
Location	Box	
103.E.15.6F	27	1946 Volume 4. April 4 – May 6, with index. 1946 Volume 5. May 7-28, with index. 1946 Volume 6. May 29 – June 18, with index. 1946 Volume 7. June 20 – July 10, with index. 1946 Volume 8. July 10 – August 9, with index.

Location	Box	
103.E.15.7B	28	1946 Volume 9. August 12 – September 5, with index. 1946 Volume 10. September 6-30, with index. 1946 Volume 11. October 1-24, with index. 1946 Volume 12. October 25 – November 20, with index. 1946 Volume 13. November 21 – December 26, with index.
Location	Box	
103.E.15.8F	29	1947 unbound letters. 1 folder. 1947 Volume 1. December 27, 1946 – January 28, 1947, with index. 1947 Volume 2. January 29 – March 7, with index. 1947 Volume 3. March 10 – April 11, with index. 1947 Volume 4. April 12 – May 7, with index. 1947 Volume 5. May 8-31, with index.
Location	Box	
103.E.15.9B	30	1947 Volume 6. June 2-30, with index. 1947 Volume 7. July 1-21, with index. 1947 Volume 8. July 22 – August 20, with index. 1947 Volume 9. August 21 – September 12, with index. 1947 Volume 10. September 15 – October 2, with index.
Location	Box	
103.E.15.10F	31	1947 Volume 11. October 3-23, with index. 1947 Volume 12. October 24 – November 21, with index. 1947 Volume 13. November 24 – December 29, with index. 1948 Volume 1. December 30, 1947 – January 31, 1948, with index. 1948 Volume 2. February 2 – March 15, with index.
Location	Box	
103.E.16.1B	32	1948 Volume 3. March 16 – April 10, with index. 1948 Volume 4. April 12 – May 5, with index. 1948 Volume 5. May 6 – June 3, with index. 1948 Volume 6. June 4-25, with index. 1948 Volume 7. June 28 – July 16, with index.
Location	Box	
103.E.16.2F	33	1948 unbound memo. 1 folder. 1948 Volume 8. July 19 – August 21, with index. 1948 Volume 9. August 23 – September 24, with index. 1948 Volume 10. September 25 – October 22, with index. 1948 Volume 11. October 23 – November 19, with index. 1948 Volume 12. November 20 – December 23, with index.

Location	Box	
103.E.16.3B	34	1948 Volume 13. December 24, 1948 – January 27, 1949, with index. 1949 Volume 1. January 28 – March 10, with index. 1949 Volume 2. March 11 – April 13, with index. 1949 Volume 3. April 14 – May 6, with index. 1949 Volume 4. May 9 – June 7, with index.
Location	Box	
103.E.16.4F	35	1949 Volume 5. June 8-30, with index. 1949 Volume 6. July 1-27, with index. 1949 Volume 7. July 28 – September 3, with index. 1949 Volume 8. September 26-29, with index. 1949 Volume 9. September 30 – November 1, with index.
Location	Box	
103.E.16.5B	36	1950 unbound letter. 1 folder. 1949 Volume 10. November 2 – December 7, with index. 1949 Volume 11. December 8, 1949 – January 17, 1950, with index. 1950 Volume 1. January 18 – March 10, with index. 1950 Volume 2. March 13 – April 6, with index. 1950 Volume 3. April 10 – May 6, with index.
Location	Box	
103.E.16.6F	37	1950 Volume 4. May 18 – June 6, with index. 1950 Volume 5. June 7-28, with index. 1950 Volume 6. June 29 – July 18, with index. 1950 Volume 7. July 19 – August 14, with index. 1950 Volume 8. August 15 – September 20, with index. 1950 Volume 9. September 21 – October 19, with index.
Location	Box	
103.E.16.7B	38	1950 Volume 10. October 20 – November 22, with index. 1950 Volume 11. November 24 – December 29, with index. 1951 Volume 1. January 1 – February 14, with index. 1951 Volume 2. February 15 – April 3, with index. 1951 Volume 3. April 4-30, with index.
Location	Box	
103.E.16.8F	39	1951 unbound letter. 1 folder. 1951 Volume 4. May 1 – June 11, with index. 1951 Volume 5. June 12 – July 12, with index. 1951 Volume 6. July 13 – August 21, with index. 1951 Volume 7. August 22 – September 20, with index. 1951 Volume 8. September 21 – October 22, with index.

Location	Box	
103.E.16.9B	40	1951 Volume 9. October 23 – November 30, with index. 1951 Volume 10. December 3, 1951 – January 14, 1952, with index. 1952 Volume 1. January 15 – March 1, with index. 1952 Volume 2. March 3 – April 9, with index. 1952 Volume 3. April 10 – May 13, with index.
Location	Box	
103.E.16.10F	41	1952 unbound letters. 1 folder. 1952 Volume 4. May 14 – June 9, with index. 1952 June 10-18. 1 folder. Included in index to Volume 4. 1952 Volume 5. June 19 – July 9, with index. 1952 Volume 6. July 10 – August 8, with index. 1952 Volume 7. August 11 – September 17, with index. 1952 Volume 8. September 18 – October 20, with index.
Location	Box	
103.E.17.1B	42	1952-1953 unbound letters. 1 folder. 1952 Volume 9. October 21 – November 25, with index. 1952 Volume 10. November 26 – December 31, with index. 1953 Volume 1. January 1 – February 19, with index. 1953 Volume 2. February 20 – April 1, with index. 1953 Volume 3. April 2 – May 6, with index. 1953 Volume 4. May 7 – June 15, with index.
Location	Box	
103.E.17.2F	43	1953 Volume 5. June 16 – July 15, with index. 1953 Volume 6. July 16 – August 24, with index. 1953 Volume 7. August 25 – September 25, with index. 1953 Volume 8. September 28 – October 31, with index. 1953 Volume 9. November 1 – December 9, with index. 1953 Volume 10. December 10, 1953 – January 15, 1954, with index.
Location	Box	
103.E.17.3B	44	1954 Volume 1. January 18 – February 26, with index. 1954 Volume 2. March 1 – April 5, 1954, with index. 1954 Volume 3. April 6-30, with index. 1954 Volume 4. May 1 – June 9, with index. 1954 Volume 5. June 10 – July 19, with index. 1954 Volume 6. July 20 – August 31, with index.

Location	Box	
103.E.17.4F	45	1954 unbound letter. 1 folder. 1954 Volume 7. September 1 – October 15, with index. 1954 Volume 8. October 18 – November 22, with index. 1954 Volume 9. November 23 – December 31, with index. 1955 Volume 1. January 3 – February 28, with index. 1955 Volume 2. March 1 – May 25, with index. 1955 Volume 3. April 12 – May 25, with index.
Location	Box	
103.E.17.5B	46	1955 Volume 4. May 26 – July 18, with index. 1955 Volume 5. July 19 – September 12, with index. 1955 Volume 6. September 13 – October 31, with index. 1955 Volume 7. November 1 – December 30, with index. 1956 unbound letters. 1 folder. 1956 Volume 1. January 3 – March 2, with index. 1956 Volume 2. March 5 – April 30, with index.
Location	Box	
103.E.17.6F	47	1956 Volume 3. May 1 – June 29, with index. 1956 Volume 4. July 2 – August 31, with index. 1956 (September) – 1957, unbound letters. 1 folder. 1956 Volume 5. September 4 – October 31, with index. 1956 Volume 6. November 1 – December 28, with index. 1957 Volume 1. January 2 – February 28, with index.
Location	Box	
103.E.17.7B	48	1957 Volume 2. March 1 – April 30, with index. 1957 Volume 3. May 1 – June 20, with index. 1957 June-October, unbound letters. 1 folder. 1957 Volume 4. June 21 – August 23, with index. 1957 Volume 5. August 26 – October 10, with index. 1957 Volume 6. October 11 – November 29, with index. 1957 Volume 7. December 1, 1957 – January 24, 1958, with index.
Location	Box	
103.E.17.8F	49	1958 Volume 1. January 27 – March 19, with index. 1958 unbound letters. 1 folder. 1958 Volume 2. March 20 – May 14, with index. 1958 Volume 3. May 15 – July 3, with index. 1958 Volume 4. July 7 – August 8, with index. 1958 Volume 5. August 11 – September 30, with index. 1958 Volume 6. October 1 – November 21, with index.

Location	Box	
103.E.17.9B	50	1958 Volume 7. November 21 – December 31, with index. 1959 unbound letters. 1 folder. 1959 Volume 1. January 2 – February 13, with index. 1959 Volume 2. February 16 – April 10, with index. 1959 Volume 3. April 13 – May 29, with index. 1959 Volume 4. June 1 – July 16, with index. 1959 Volume 5. July 17 – August 31, with index.
Location	Box	
103.E.17.10F	51	1959 Volume 6. September 1 – October 30, with index. 1959 Volume 7. November 2 – December 17, with index. 1960 Volume 1. December 18, 1959 – February 28, 1960, with index. 1960 Volume 2. February 26 – April 15, with index. 1960 Volume 3. April 18 – June 8, with index. 1960 Volume 4. June 9 – July 15, with index.
Location	Box	
103.E.18.1B	52	1960 Volume 5. July 18 – August 25, with index. 1960 Volume 6. August 26 – September 30, with index. 1960 Volume 7. October 1 – November 15, with index. 1960 Volume 8. November 16 – December 30, with index. 1961 unbound letters. 1 folder. 1961 Volume 1. January 3 – February 28, with index. 1961 Volume 2. March 1 – April 14, with index. 1961 Volume 3. April 17 – May 31, with index.
Location	Box	
103.E.18.2F	53	1961 Volume 4. June 1 – July 10, with index. 1961 Volume 5. July 11 – August 10, with index. 1961 Volume 6. August 11 – September 30, with index. 1961 Volume 7. October 2 – November 15, with index. 1961 Volume 8. November 16 – December 29, with index. 1962 Volume 1. January 2 – February 28, with index. 1962 Volume 2. March 1 – April 30, with index.
Location	Box	
103.E.18.3B	54	1962 Volume 3. May 1 – June 14, with index. 1962 Volume 4. June 15 – July 31, with index. 1962 Volume 5. August 1 – September 28, with index. 1962 Volume 6. October 1 – November 15, with index. 1962 Volume 7. November 16 – December 29, with index. 1963 unbound letters. 1 folder. 1963 Volume 1. January 2 – February 28, with index.

Location	Box	
103.E.18.4F	55	1963 Volume 2. March 1 – April 30, with index. 1963 Volume 3. May 1 – June 29, with index. 1963 Volume 4. July 1 – August 20, with index. 1963 Volume 5. August 21 – October 24, with index. 1963 Volume 6. October 25 – December 31, with index. 1964 Volume 1. January 2 – March 6, with index.

Location	Box	
103.E.18.5B	56	1964 Volume 2. March 9 – May 8, with index. 1964 Volume 3. May 11 – July 10, with index. 1964 Volume 4. July 13 – September 28, with index. 1964 Volume 5. September 29 – November 13, with index. 1964 Volume 6. November 16 – December 31, with index. 1965 unbound letter. 1 folder. 1965 Volume 1. January 4 – March 15, with index.

Location	Box	
103.E.18.6F	57	1965 Volume 2. March 16 – June 18, with index. 1965 Volume 3. June 21 – August 31, with index. 1965 Volume 4. September 1 – October 29, with index. 1965 Volume 5. November 1 – December 31, with index. 1966 unbound letters. 1 folder. 1966 Volume 1. January 3 – March 15, with index. 1966 Volume 2. March 16 – June 10, with index.

Location	Box	
103.E.18.7B	58	1966 Volume 3. June 13 – August 31, with index. 1966 Volume 4. September 1 – November 23, with index. 1966 Volume 5. November 25 – December 30, with index. 1967 unbound letters. 1 folder. 1967 Volume 1. January 3 – March 31, with index. 1967 Volume 2. April 3 – June 23, with index.