

# Portage Entry Quarries Company Collection MS-053

Finding aid prepared by Elizabeth Russell, revised by Rachael Bussert.



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This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections

5/6/2010

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections
<b>Title</b>	Portage Entry Quarries Company Collection
<b>Date [bulk]</b>	Bulk, 1891-1908
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1853; 1891-1918
<b>Extent</b>	3.48 cubic feet 7 manuscript boxes, 5 oversize folders
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Language of Material</b>	English
<b>Mixed materials [Folder]</b>	66 O-66 P
<b>Mixed materials [Box]</b>	1-7
<b>Mixed materials [Folder]</b>	53 M-53 O
<b>Abstract</b>	Collection, 1893-1918, of the Portage Entry Quarries Company of Jacobsville, Michigan. Includes business correspondence, ledger books, maps and photographs. The bulk of this collection relates to James W. Wyckoff's tenure as superintendent of the Portage Entry Quarries Co.

### Preferred Citation

MS-053, Portage Entry Quarries Company Collection, Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections, Houghton, Michigan.

## **Administrative History**

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An extensive deposit of reddish brown and white stone, called Potsdam or Lake Superior sandstone, outcrops along the eastern shore of the Keweenaw Peninsula. George Craig, Senior, first identified the rock's potential commercial value in the late 1860s or early 1870s, according to different reports. Despite the quality of the sandstone, Craig was unable to develop the necessary capital to open and operate a successful quarry. In 1883, John Henry Jacobs, for whom the village of Jacobsville is named, obtained a lease on the Craig property and began quarrying operations as Furst, Jacobs and Company. Jacobs' other regional business interests included Wolf & Company Quarry in Marquette, later called the Marquette Brownstone Company. Jacobs' father-in-law, Peter Wolf, marketed the attractive Keweenaw stone, which came to be known as Jacobsville sandstone, in Chicago. The stone was a desirable building material and was used extensively in residential and commercial buildings throughout the United States. Jacobs maintained a financial interest in the Keweenaw quarrying industry until 1902. At one time there were four quarries operating at Portage Entry. By 1899, Furst, Jacobs & Co., which bought out a number of small operations through the years, and Portage Red Stone Company merged and reorganized as the Portage Entry Quarries Company. By 1919, the best beds of stone that could be economically removed were depleted, and large scale quarrying operations ceased at Jacobsville. During the days of peak production, the sandstone quarries at Portage Entry were the third largest industry in the Copper Country.

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## **Collection Scope and Content Summary**

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Business correspondence, ledger books, maps and photographs. The bulk of this collection relates to James W. Wyckoff's tenure as superintendent of the Portage Entry Quarries Co.

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## **Arrangement**

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MS-053 is arranged into four series: 1. James W. Wyckoff Correspondence, 2. Financial and Legal Records, 3. Images and Ephemera, and 4. Oversize.

## **Administrative Information**

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### **Publication Information**

Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections 5/6/2010

### **Revision Description**

This collection was processed during the NHPRC funded Detailed Processing project. 8/16/2012

### **Conditions Governing Access**

Available for use in the Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections.

### **Conditions Governing Use**

Various copying restrictions apply. Guidelines are available from Michigan Technological University Archives & Copper Country Historical Collections.

### **Acquisition**

Correspondence, account books, journals, day books, and various business records were donated to the Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections on October 12, 1981 by the Houghton County Historical Society. A second accession consisting of a letterpress book from Portage Entry Quarries Company was donated by Greg Lusk on July 12, 2004. A final accession consisting of two maps of Furst, Jacobs & Company's property was donated by Karen Hubbard on January 18, 2007.

### **Processing History**

Elizabeth Russell, 5/6/2010, revised by Rachael Bussert, 8/16/2012.

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## **Controlled Access Headings**

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### **Corporate Name(s)**

- Furst, Jacobs & Company.

- Portage Entry Quarries Co..
- Portage Red Stone Company.

**Genre(s)**

- Correspondence
- Financial records
- Maps (Documents)
- Photographs

**Geographic Name(s)**

- Jacobsville (Mich.)

**Personal Name(s)**

- Jacobs, John Henry, b. 1848
- Wyckoff, James W.

**Subject(s)**

- Quarries and quarrying--Michigan--Jacobsville
- Sandstone--Michigan--Jacobsville

## Series I, James W. Wyckoff Correspondence

## Collection Inventory

## Series I, James W. Wyckoff Correspondence 1902-1909; 1915, 1918 (Bulk, 1902-1908)

## Scope and Contents

Incoming business correspondence to J.W. Wyckoff, catalogues and brochures, and a letterpress book from the Portage Entries Quarries Company, from May through November of 1893, which includes copies of outgoing letters from H.J. Andrews and J.W. Wyckoff.

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Correspondence 1904-1906	1	1
Correspondence 1905-1906	1	2
Correspondence (2 of 3) 1905-1906	1	3
Correspondence (3 of 3) 1905-1906	1	4
Correspondence A-Z (1 of 2) 1906	1	5
Correspondence A-Z (2 of 2) 1906	1	6
Correspondence (1 of 3) 1907	1	7
Correspondence (2 of 3) 1907	1	8

## Series I, James W. Wyckoff Correspondence

Correspondence (3 of 3) 1907	1	9
Correspondence 1854; 1894-1898	2	1
Correspondence 1887-1900	2	2
Correspondence App. 1901-1904	2	3
Correspondence 1905-1907	2	4
Correspondence (1 of 2) 1908-1909	2	5
Correspondence (2 of 2) 1908-1909	2	6
Correspondence 1915, 1918	2	7
Brochures and Reports 1902, 1903	2	8
Correspondence with Chicago Office (1 of 3) 1908-1909	3	1
Correspondence with Chicago Office (2 of 3) 1908-1909	3	2
Correspondence with Chicago Office (3 of 3) 1908-1909	3	3
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Volume</b>
Letterpress Book 1893	5	1



## Series II, Financial and Legal Records

**Series II, Financial and Legal Records 1893-1908; 1918, 1919 (Bulk, 1904-1908)****Scope and Contents**

Documentation relating to property owned and leased by the Portage Entry Quarries Company, as well as documentation about stocks owned by J.W. Wyckoff, time books, quarry notes, deposit books, agreements, inventories, invoices, financial statements, a journal of payments, and a Day Book for Traverse Bay Redstone Co. and Portage Entry Quarries Company.

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Lease and Deed Documentation 1901, 1906	2	9
Bill of Lading 1903-1906	2	11
Stocks 1902-1908	2	12
Various Books (Times Books, Grocery Charge Book) 1895, 1899, 1901	3	4
Various Books (Time Books, Quarry Notes) 1890-1897; 1901, 1904	3	5
Time Books 1891, 1907, 1908	3	6
Time Books 1907, 1908	3	7
Deposit Books and Notebook 1890, 1899; 1904-1906	4	1
Agreements 1903-1904; 1906	4	2

## Series II, Financial and Legal Records

Returned Checks 1897, 1898	4	3
Invoices and Receipts (1 of 2) 1896, 1897; 1903-1906	4	4
Invoices and Receipts (2 of 2) 1906-1908; 1918, 1919	4	5
Financial Statements 1903-1904; 1909	5	1
Invoices 1907-1908	5	2
Inventories (1 of 3) 1901, 1903, 1905, 1907	5	3
Inventories (2 of 3) 1904	5	4
Inventories (3 of 3) 1904	5	5
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Volume</b>
Personal and Business Expenditures Ledger 1904-1905	6	1
Journal of Payments Jan 1904-Jan 1908	6	2
Small Journal of Payments 1893-1896	7	1
Day Book for Traverse Bay Redstone Co. & Portage Entry Quarries Co. 1902-1905	7	2
Day Book for Personal and Business Expenditures and Bank Deposits 1906-1908	7	3

## Series III, Images and Ephemera

Day Book for J.W. Wyckoff Expenditures 1906	7	4
<b>Series III, Images and Ephemera 1900, 1901, 1907</b>		
<b>Existence and Location of Originals</b>		
The Houghton County Historical Society holds the original copies of the Xeroxed photographs.		
<b>Scope and Contents</b>		
Photographs and Xeroxed copies of photographs of the Portage Entry Quarries Company and other quarries. The Houghton County Historical Society holds the original copies of the Xeroxed photographs. The Houghton County Historical Society holds the original copies of the Xeroxed photographs.		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Photographs Approximately 1900	4	6
J.W. Wyckoff Honorary Membership Houghton Light Infantry Certificate 1907, Jan 1	4	7
Xerox Copies of Images that Remain with the Houghton County Historical Society Approximately 1900	5	6
<b>Series IV, Oversize 1854, 1891, 1902, 1907</b>		
<b>Scope and Contents</b>		

## Series IV, Oversize

Found in this series are maps and drawings of Portage Entry Quarries Company sites and machinery. Also in this series are the 1907 Portage Entry Quarries payroll, and an Invention Patent without Government Guarantee from France submitted by J.W. Wyckoff.

	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Item</b>
The Industrial Mining, Manufacturing & Development Co., Surface and Underground Map Undated	53 M	1
Map of Houghton & Sherman Townships Undated	53 M	2
Invention Patent without Government Guarantee 1854, July 5	53 N	1
Portage Entry Quarries Payroll 1907	53 N	2
Brown and Red District of Keweenaw Bay Undated	53 O	1
6' x 62' Hardening Cylinder, Huennekes System, Michigan Sand and Lime Brick Co. 1902, Nov 19	53 O	2
Derrick Hoist, Lake Shore iron Works 1891, Jun 1	53 O	3
		<b>Folder</b>
Drawings of Quarry Operations, Portage Entry Quarries Co. (4 drawings) Undated		66 O
Maps of Furst, Jacobs, and Co.'s Property at Portage Entry Undated		66 P