United States senator. Milward’s sons have also been deeply involved in Wyoming and national politics. Alan served in the Wyoming State Legislature and the U.S. Senate. Most recently he was a member of the Iraq Study Group. Peter K. Simpson, also a Wyoming legislator, later became a vice president for institutional advancement at the University of Wyoming. Colin Simpson, the third generation of his family in Wyoming politics, is a member of the Wyoming House of Representatives.

Working with the American Heritage Center to preserve my and my father’s papers has been a most rewarding experience. It is vitally important for the good people of Wyoming to have access to the papers of the public officials who work for them.

-- Alan K. Simpson

The Alan K. Simpson Institute for Western Politics and Leadership is a dynamic program of the University of Wyoming’s American Heritage Center that seeks to document political, economic and other aspects of leadership in the West, particularly the Rocky Mountain West. Since its beginnings in 2000, the Institute has acquired the personal papers, organizational records, and oral histories of individuals and organizations prominent in political and economic leadership in the West.

Promotion of innovative, interdisciplinary research by students, faculty and scholars on the unique characteristics of Western leadership is key to the Institute’s vision. Public programs offered by the Institute advance dialog on leadership issues affecting the politics and economy of the West.

American Heritage Center

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For questions not relating to donations of collections, contact our Reference Department
307-766-3756
Programs

Oral History
- The Milward Simpson Family Oral History Program focuses on the history of the prominent Simpson family and is supported through the generosity of Denver businessman Carl Williams.
- The Wyoming Energy Oral History Program records the experiences of those who advanced Wyoming’s latest energy boom in the early 21st century, and those who have been impacted by that boom.

Symposium and Other Public Programming
- The Simpson Symposium focuses on current issues affecting the West and the nation.
- Sponsorship of regional and national speakers providing lectures on current topics of interest to the West.

K-12 Programming
- Teacher workshops and other programs that promote civics in the classroom.
- Simpson Institute Award presented at Wyoming History Day for the best junior and senior division entries pertaining to political history and leadership. An award of $250 is given to each winning entry.

Collections
Among the collections related to political leadership in the Institute are:
- Nellie Tayloe Ross, Wyoming Governor, 1925-1927.

The Institute also houses collections of prominent institutional and business leaders from the region and nationally including:
- Wyoming Mining Association.
- Husky Oil Company.
- Anaconda Mining Company.
- Wyoming Stock Growers Association.
- Wyoming Hereford Ranch.
- Green Mountain Sheep Company.
- Taco John’s International, Inc.
- Manufacturers Aircraft Association.
- Warwick M. Downing.
- Cortlandt S. Dietler.
- Ralph O. Dietler.
- National Cattlemen’s Beef Association.
- Homestake Mining Company.
- Ethyl Corporation.
- National Woolgrower’s Association.

Established in 1945, the American Heritage Center (AHC) is the University of Wyoming’s repository of manuscript and special collections, rare books, and the UW Archives. The AHC is widely acknowledged by the University community, by the people of Wyoming, and by scholars worldwide as one of the nation’s finest special collections repositories.

American Heritage Center

Information

Collections

The Simpson Family

American Heritage Center

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Collections

The Simpson Family

The Simpson family has served Wyoming throughout the 20th century. William "Billy" Simpson (1868-1940) was a leading attorney in Cody. His son, Milward (1897-1993), served Wyoming as governor and...