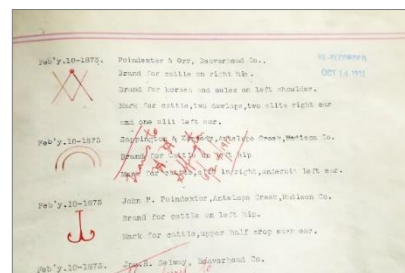


## Livestock brand registrations for Montana by-the-decade

Searching the Montana livestock brand records online takes time and persistence, but with a few tips your search will lead you through the records to reveal stories of family, place, and time. Know that these records were created using a system that has evolved for over 150 years. The records reflect significant changes in organization and technology. Although you will find inconsistencies and errors, each listing provides the information needed to guide your search.

For good or for bad, you will start your brand history with the information you have. You may have a family name, a town name, a range of years, or a brand configuration. Regardless of where you begin, your first task is to find a brand listing in the records. Once you find a listing you will use that information to move your brand forward and backward through the records.



Using the online records gives you the advantage of being able to search all volumes or within a specific volume. But the online records are simply a reproduction of the physical records. Many listings are faded, have handwritten notes over top, or other marks that produce poor search results. When doing a brand history begin by using the online search function, but plan to manually navigate through the records to find additional listings that will not show up in search results.

The following pages provide annotated brand listings by the decade to illustrate how names, numbers and dates can lead you through the records when search results fail. Refer to our separate handout for step-by-step searching instructions. For additional help contact us at 406-444-2681 or at [mhslibrary@mt.gov](mailto:mhslibrary@mt.gov)

Use this table as a reference when moving between decades

Decade	Prefix for re-records	Suffix for new/transferred brands
1873-1910		
1911-1920	N.R.	
1921-1930	A	A; R
1931-1940	B	3
1941-1950	C	4
1951-1960	D	5
1961-1970	E	6
1971-1980	F	7
1981-1990	H	8
1991-2000	J	9
2001-2010	K	0

## 1873-1910

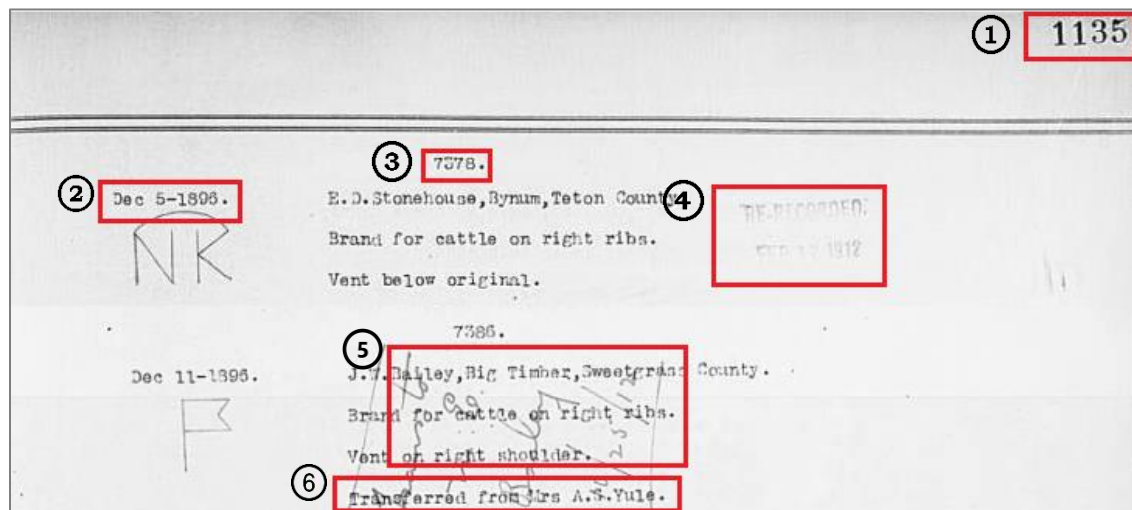
3 volumes: index by brands (handwritten), index by name (handwritten), brand registrations.

Index by brand is grouped by characters (shapes and symbols), letters, and numbers.

Index by name is alphabetical by first letter and first vowel of last name. Look for names added out of order on final pages of each lettered section. Look for Mc names at the end of the M section. Last names beginning with S are not well ordered and require more browsing.

Neither index is searchable; you must browse the index pages to find name or brand listings.

Pro tip: if you find a page number in either index higher than 4,262, subtract 1,970 from that page number and look for the new page number in the 1911-1920 registrations.

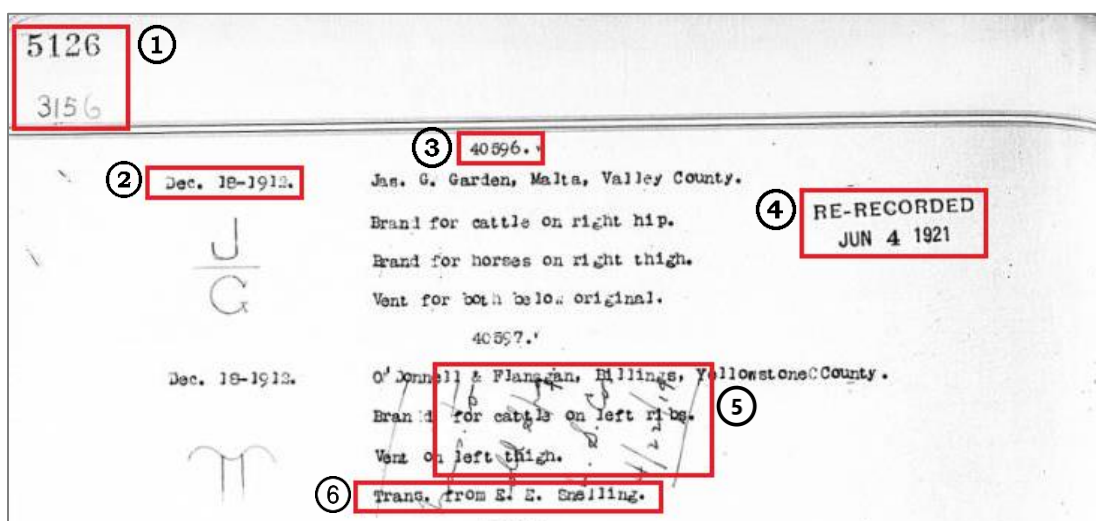


1. Page number. Use this if you have a page number from an index or brand listing.
2. Date the brand was recorded. Use this if you are browsing by date.
3. Registration number for the brand.
4. Date the brand was re-recorded in the next decade. In this example you could browse by this date in the 1911-1920 registration volumes.
5. Handwritten date and name to whom the brand was transferred in either the current or preceding decade registrations. In this example you could use the 1911-1920 name index to find a page number or browse by the date in the 1911-1920 registration volumes.
6. Name from whom the brand was transferred. In this example you could use the 1873-1910 name index to find the page number of the earlier brand recording. Note that it could be easier to use the 1873-1910 brand index (character section) to find the same page number.

5 volumes: index by brand (handwritten), index by name (handwritten), 3 volumes of brand registrations.

Index by name is organized by first letter of last name. It is further very roughly organized by first two letters of last name, but not consistently. This can be a time-consuming index to use.

Neither index is searchable; you must browse the index pages to find name or brand listings.



1. Page number. Use this if you have a page number from an index or brand listing. This example illustrates the tip described above in the 1873-1910 records. The correct page number is 3156, however 5126 is the page number listed in the 1873-1910 index.
2. Date the brand was recorded. Use this if you are browsing by date.
3. Registration number for the brand.
4. Date the brand was re-recorded. In this example you could browse by this date in the 1921-1930 registration volume.
5. Handwritten date and name to whom the brand was transferred in either the current or next decade registrations. In this example you could browse by this date in 1911-1920 registration volumes or use the 1911-1920 name index to find a page number.
6. Name from whom the brand was transferred. In this example the previous registration could be in either the 1873-1910 registration volume or the 1911-1920 registration volumes. Use 1911-1920 the brand index (character section) or the name index to find a page number. The brand index can be easier to use for this decade. You will find the earlier listing in the 1873-1910 registrations.

## 1921-1930

3 volumes: index by brand (handwritten), index by name (typed), brand registrations.

Index by brand is grouped by characters (shapes and symbols), letters, and numbers.

Name index is in alphabetical order and is searchable.

Pro tip: This is the first decade with a typed, alphabetical name index. If possible, begin your name search in this decade. However, be aware that the search results are not 100% accurate. You will need to browse the name index if your search does not provide a result.

1. Page number. Use this if you have a page number from an index or brand listing.
2. Registration number for the brand.
3. Date the brand was recorded. Use this if you are browsing by date.
4. Page number for the previous brand registration as a new record. In this example the leading N.R. directs you to the 1911-1920 registration volumes.
5. Handwritten date and page number to whom the brand was transferred. In this example you could browse by the page number or date in the 1931-1940 registration volume.
6. Date the brand was re-recorded. In this example you could browse by this date in the 1931-1940 registration volume.
7. Page number from whom the brand was transferred. In this example the absence of a prefix or suffix directs you to the 1911-1920 registration volumes. Note throughout the re-record year of 1921, a page number prefix or suffix was not used regardless of if the preceding registration was a new-record or a transfer. After January 1, 1922, page numbers referring to a new record in the 1911-1920 registration volumes were designated with N.R., while page numbers referring to transferred brands in the 1911-1921 registration volumes continued with an absence of a prefix or suffix.
8. Page number from whom the brand was transferred. In this example the trailing -R confirms this is a page number within the current volume of registrations (1921-1930).

## 1931-1940

3 volumes: index by brand (handwritten), index by name (typed), brand registrations.

Index by brand is grouped by characters (shapes and symbols), letters, and numbers.

Name index is in alphabetical order and is searchable.

Re-records and new/transferred brands are divided into separate sections with independent page numbering for the first time.

### Re-records snip

2700 ①

② December 31, 1931 : H. F. BOWDISH, Route #1, Kalispell, Flathead  
Brand for cattle on right hip  
Brand for horses on right thigh  
Vent for both below original (1323-A) ④

B-32387 ③

December 31, 1931 : JOHN AINLEY, Box 373, Chester, Liberty  
Brand for cattle on left ribs  
Brand for horses on left thigh ⑤  
Vent for both below original (231-A) 84

### New/Transferred Brands snip

⑥ 16820 Re-Recorded ⑦

April 18, 1938 CHARLES C. COLWELL, Moore, Fergus  
Brand for cattle on right hip  
Brand for horses on right thigh  
Vent for both below original A-9476

16821

April 18, 1938 : G. L. McDONALD, Havre, Hill TRANSFERRED  
Brand for cattle on right ribs 12-23-41  
Brand for horses on right thigh 322  
Vent for both below original  
Transferred from Emil Adamson B-1547 ⑧

1. Page number in the Re-records section. Use this if you have a page number from an index or brand listing.
2. Date the brand was recorded. Use this if you are browsing by date.
3. Certificate number for the brand. In this example the leading B- confirms this is 1931-1940 re-record certificate number.
4. Page number for the previous brand recording. In this example the trailing -A directs you to the 1921-1930 registration volume.
5. Handwritten date and page number to whom the brand was transferred. In this example you could browse by the page number or date in the New/Transferred Brands section in the 1941-1950 registration volume.
6. Certificate number for the brand.
7. Date the brand was re-recorded. In this example you could browse by this date in the Re-records section in the 1941-1950 registration volume.
8. Name and page number from whom the brand was transferred. In this example the leading B- directs you to the Re-records section in the 1931-1940 registration volume.



## 1941-1950

3 volumes: index by brand (handwritten), index by name (typed), brand registrations.

Index by brand is grouped by characters (shapes and symbols), letters, and numbers.

Name index is in alphabetical order and is searchable.

### Re-records snip

February 21, 1941 C-10801 901  
 FRANK MIESALOSKI, Wibaux, Wibaux  
 Cattle - right ribs  
 Horses - right shoulder  
 Vent below original B-1511 5-17-43  
 810  
 C-10802  
 CHAS. A. PREVOST, Lambert, Richmond  
 Cattle - right hip  
 Horses - right thigh  
 Vent below original 1096-3  
 RE-RECORDED  
 MAR 21 1951

### New/Transferred Brands snip

Aug. 25, 1943 10806 901  
 CHESTER L. HANCOCK, Camps Pass, Powder River  
 Cattle - right shoulder  
 Horses - right thigh  
 Vent below original  
 Transferred from J. R. Mitchell C-5321 1-9-52  
 6330-5  
 10807  
 Aug. 25, 1943 EDWARD ARNOLD, Hardin, Big Horn  
 Cattle - right shoulder  
 Horses - right shoulder  
 Vent below original B-1993  
 10808  
 Aug. 25, 1943 ROBERT G. LANGSTON, Big Timber, Sweet Grass  
 Cattle - left ribs  
 Horses - left shoulder  
 Vent below original  
 RE-RECORDED  
 MAR 20 1951

1. Page number in the Re-records section. Use this if you have a page number from an index or brand listing.
2. Certificate number for the brand. In this example the leading C- confirms this is a 1941-1950 re-record certificate number.
3. Date the brand was recorded. Use this if you are browsing by date.
4. Page number for the previous brand recording. In this example the leading B- directs you to the Re-records section in the 1931-1940 registration volume.
5. Page number for the previous recording of the brand. In this example the trailing -3 directs you to the New/Transferred Brands section in the 1931-1940 registrations volume.
6. Page number in the New/Transferred Brands section.
7. Certificate number for the brand.
8. Certificate number and name from whom the brand was transferred. In this example the leading C- directs you to the Re-records section in the 1941-1950 registration volume.
9. Handwritten date and page or registration number to whom the brand was transferred. In this example because the date is after 1951, the trailing -5 in the number below the date directs you to a registration number in the New/Transferred Brands section in the 1951-1960 registration volume. If the date is before 1951, the number below the date is a page number.
10. Date the brand was re-recorded. Use this if you are browsing by date.

## 1951-1960

1 volume: brand registrations.

### Re-records snip

1004 ①

ERNEST J LAROCHE ② D-16049 ③  
STAR ROUTE ④  
POPLAR MONTANA  
1943-7  
CATTLE-LEFT HIP  
HORSES-LEFT SHO

MARY EMILY ⑤ D-16057  
BARTHELME ⑥  
BOX 606  
FT PECK MONT  
CATTLE-LEFT RIB  
HORSES-LEFT THIGH  
For change of name see transfer file  
June 11 1955

### New/Transferred Brands snip

⑥ 101

⑦ DEAN TAYLOR ⑧ 6401-5  
GALLATIN GATEWAY  
MONTANA  
CATTLE-LEFT SHO  
HORSES-LEFT SHO  
1012-5  
Trans.

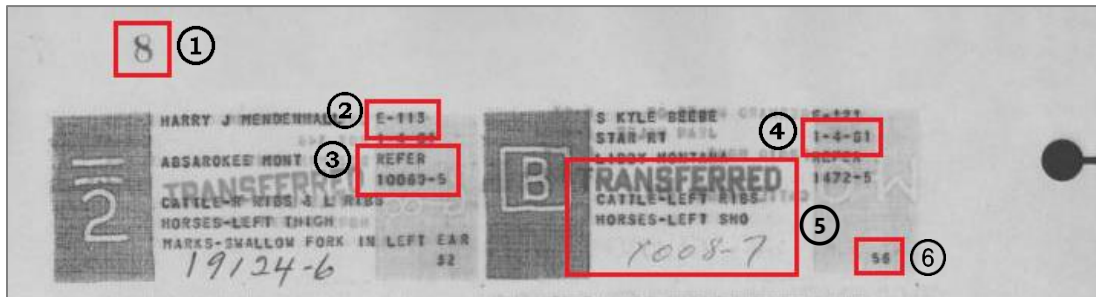
JAMES O MELTON OR ⑨ 6409-5  
GEORGE F MELTON  
BOX 214  
DILLON MONT  
CATTLE-RIGHT RIBS  
HORSES-RIGHT SHO  
3719-5  
Trans.

1. Page number in the Re-records section.
2. Certificate number for the brand. In this example the leading D- confirms this is a 1951-1960 re-record number.
3. Certificate number for the previous brand recording. In this example the trailing -4 directs you to the New/Transferred Brands section in the 1941-1950 registration volume.
4. County code for the residence of the person recording the brand.
5. Date the brand was recorded. Use this if you are browsing by date.
6. Page number in the New/Transferred Brands section.
7. Handwritten certificate number to whom the brand was transferred. In this example the trailing -5 directs you to the New/Transferred Brands section in the 1951-1960 registration volume.
8. Certificate number for the brand. In this example the trailing -5 confirms this is a 1951-1960 New/Transferred Brands certificate number.
9. Certificate number from whom the brand was transferred. In this example the trailing -5 directs you to the New/Transferred Brands section in 1951-1960 registration volume.

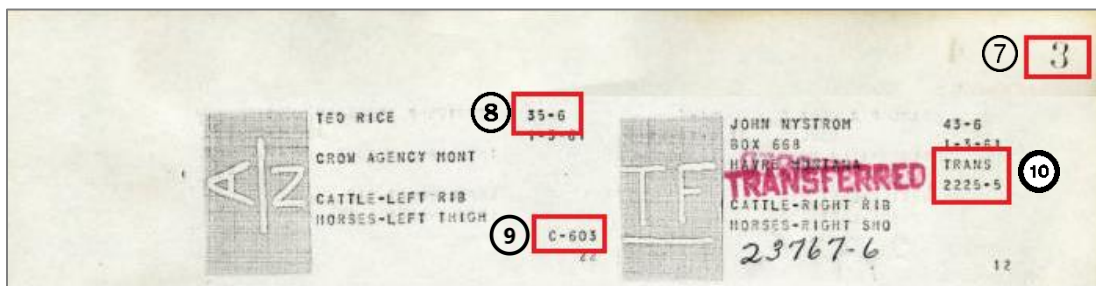
## 1961-1970

1 volume: brand registrations.

### Re-records snip



### New/Transferred Brands



1. Page number in the Re-records section.
2. Certificate number. In this example the leading E- confirms this is a 1961 re-record number.
3. Certificate number for the previous brand recording. The trailing -5 directs you to the New/Transferred Brands section in the 1951-1960 registration volume.
4. Date the brand was re-recorded. Use this if you are browsing by date.
5. Handwritten certificate number to whom the brand was transferred. In this example the trailing -7 directs you to the New/Transferred Brands section of the 1971-1980 registration volume.
6. County code for the residence of the person recording the brand.
7. Page number in the New/Transferred Brands section.
8. Certificate number in the New/Transferred Brands section. In this example the trailing -6 confirms this is a 1961-1970 New/Transferred brand certificate number.
9. Page number for the previous brand recording. In this example the leading C- directs you to the Re-records section in the 1941-1950 registration volume.
10. Certificate number from whom the brand was transferred. In this example the trailing -5 directs you to the New/Transferred Brands section in the 1951-1960 registration volume.



## 1971-1980

1 volume: brand registrations.

### Re-records section

1001	①		
DAVID F MATTI	②	F-16081	
		4-8-71	
<b>TRANSFERRED</b>			
CATTLE-RIGHT RIBS			
HORSES-RIGHT SHO			
14046-7	③	18474-6	
		28	
LAWRENCE CHRISTENSEN		F-16082	
RT 1 BOX 145		4-8-71	
RONAN MT 59864			
<b>CT</b>			
<b>TRANSFERRED</b>			
CATTLE-RIGHT RIB			
HORSES-RIGHT SHO			
11461-7			
		E-34169	
		15	
HAROLD OR KATHLEEN		F-16089	
HOFFMAN		4-8-71	④
RT 1 BOX 36			
HELENA MT 59601			
CATTLE-LEFT RIB			
HORSES-LEFT THIGH		3420-6	
		5	⑤
LIMA M MALMQUIST		F-16090	
		4-8-71	
EKALAKA MT 59324			
CATTLE-RIGHT HIP			
HORSES-RIGHT THIGH		E-12689	
		42	

### New/Transferred Brands section

GRAVELEY BROS	16227-7		
GORDON OR BILL OR	10-1-73		
R 1 BX 93 KURT.			
TOWNSEND MT 59644			
CATTLE-RIGHT RIB			
HORSES-RIGHT THIGH		86-4	⑥
		43	
RONALD & OR	16228-7		
STEPHANIE HARDING	10-1-73		
RT 1			
BILLINGS MT 59102			
<b>TRANSFERRED</b>			
CATTLE-LEFT RIB		26187-7	⑦
HORSES-LEFT SHO		E-15547	
		3	
OREN FORTHUN	16235-7		
RR 1 BOX 234A	10-1-73		
SIDNEY MT 59270			
CATTLE-LEFT RIBS			
HORSES-LEFT SHO			
		27	
IRVIN L YEAGER	16236-7		
RT 3 BOX 74	10-1-73		
CONRAD MT 59425			
CATTLE-LEFT HIP			
HORSES-LEFT THIGH			
		17259-6	⑧
		29	

1. Page number in the Re-Records section.
2. Certificate number. The leading F- confirms this is a 1971 re-record certificate number.
3. Certificate number for the previous brand recording. In this example the trailing -6 directs you to the New/Transferred Brands section in the 1961-1970 registration volume.
4. Date the brand was re-recorded. Use this if you are browsing by date.
5. County code for the residence of the person recording the brand.
6. Page number from whom the brand was transferred. In this example the trailing -4 directs you to the New/Transferred section in the 1941-1950 registration volume.
7. Handwritten certificate number to whom the brand was transferred. In this example the trailing -7 directs you to the New/Transferred Brands section in the 1971-1980 registration volume.
8. Certificate number from whom the brand was transferred. In this example the trailing -6 directs you to the New/Transferred Brands of the 1961-1970 registration volume.

*Note: the 1981-1990 and 1991-2000 registrations are not available online. The Montana Historical Society is working to digitize these records.*

## 2001-2010

8 groups of 14 brand registration books.

Reports were generated throughout the decade on demand. Records and New/Transferred brand registrations are interspersed with non-consecutive page numbering.

The image displays three Montana brand registration forms, each with a different brand logo and owner information. Red boxes and numbered circles highlight specific fields on each form:

- Form 1 (Top):** Features a '+w' logo. The owner is BARRY L WALL OR RENEE A WALL OR RYAN L WALL, 4450 CANYON FERRY RD, EAST HELENA MT 000059635. The form includes fields for animal type (0-S-RS-BL), location (0-H-RT-), and county (0-C-RH-). It also shows a certificate number (K-044282), a date (02/08/2002), and a range (05 0 00 00 00). A reference number (055110-9) is also present.
- Form 2 (Middle):** Features a '-NJ' logo. The owner is LARRY D OR VALA K JOHNSON, RT 1 BOX 2, HARLEM MT 000059526. The form includes fields for animal type (0-H-RT-), location (0-C-RR-), and county (0-C-RR-). It also shows a certificate number (J-045924), a date (03/12/2002), and a range (24 00 00 00 00). A reference number (J-045924) is also present.
- Form 3 (Bottom):** Features a 'B' logo. The owner is BILL BAHNY OR KATHY BAHNY, PO BOX 4895, HELENA MT 596044895. The form includes fields for animal type (0-H-LS-), location (0-C-RR-), and county (0-C-RR-). It also shows a certificate number (044714-0), a date (03/12/2002), and a range (05 00 00 00 00). A reference number (F-016083) is also present.

1. Certificate number. In this example the leading K- confirms this is a 2001-2010 re-record certificate number.
2. Abbreviation for animal and location on the animal for the brand
3. Code for county of range. A registration may have up to five counties of range.
4. Certificate number from previous brand recording. In this example the trailing -9 directs you to the 1991-2000 registration volume.
5. Date the brand was registered. Use this if you are browsing by date.
6. Livestock Commission alpha-numerical code for the brand configuration.
7. Certificate number from whom the brand was transferred. In this example the leading J- directs you to the 1991-2000 registration volume.
8. Certificate number. In this example the trailing -0 confirms this is a 2001-2010 New/Transferred Brands certificate number.
9. Certificate number for the previous brand recording. In this example the leading F- directs you to the Re-records section in the 1971-1980 registration volume.