

Yale University Library
Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Guide to the Alaska Manuscripts Collection

WA MSS S-3176



by Alison Clemens

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Table of Contents

Collection Overview	3
Requesting Instructions	3
Administrative Information	3
Immediate Source of Acquisition	3
Conditions Governing Access	3
Conditions Governing Use	4
Preferred Citation	4
Processing Information	4
Scope and Contents	4
Arrangement	4
Collection Contents	5
Selected Search Terms	7

Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
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CALL NUMBER: WA MSS S-3176

TITLE: Alaska manuscripts collection

DATES: 1841–1906

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 0.21 linear feet

LANGUAGE: In English and Russian.

SUMMARY: This collection encompasses accessions of single letters and small groups of letters and other manuscripts pertaining to the history of Alaska, which the library has chosen to group and list as an artificial collection. Letters and documents discuss travel in Alaska, interactions with Native Alaskans, the Alaska gold rush, the fur industry, surveying, business operations, and naval service. Also includes one photograph of the U.S.S. Pinta.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.alaska>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.alaska>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to beinecke.images@yale.edu.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Collection of documents acquired by gift and purchase from various sources. Source information is recorded in the finding aid. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

The Alaska Manuscripts Collection is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

Preferred Citation

Alaska Manuscripts Collection. Yale Collection of Western Americana, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Processing Information

Collections are processed to a variety of levels, depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived research value, the availability of staff, competing priorities, and whether or not further accruals are expected. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

Scope and Contents

This collection encompasses accessions of single letters and small groups of letters and other manuscripts pertaining to the history of Alaska, which the library has chosen to group and list as an artificial collection. Letters and documents discuss travel in Alaska, interactions with Native Alaskans, the Alaska gold rush, the fur industry, surveying, business operations, and naval service. Also includes one photograph of the U.S.S. Pinta.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged alphabetically by creator.

Collection Contents

b. 1	Eaton, B. S. Autograph manuscript diary concerning the Alaska gold rush. Purchased from Charles Apfelbaum on the Library Associates Fund, 2007.	1905–1906
b. 1	Emmons, George F. Two manuscript letters by and to Emmons concerning naval service in Sitka, Alaska, on on the U.S.S. Pinta. Also includes a photograph of the U.S.S. Pinta. Source unknown.	1886, undated
b. 1	Everette, Willis E. Seven autograph letters, signed, from Everette to Nelson A. Miles concerning travel with Native Alaskans to Juneau and Chilcat, Alaska, and rations of gold and supplies used on the trip. Purchased from Argonaut Book Shop on the Walter McClintock Memorial Fund, 1960.	1884
b. 1	George, T. H. Six autograph letters, signed, from George to William Easton concerning travel to Alaska, surveying, and gold prospects. Purchased from William P. Wreden on the Frederick W. and Carrie S. Beinecke Fund for Western Americana, 1987.	1893–1894
b. 1	Graves, Henry Photocopy of a typescript diary of a 1915 trip to Alaska. Source unknown.	undated
b. 1	Howard, William Alanson Manuscript letters and documents by Howard and others concerning Howard's tour of duty in Alaska. Purchased from J. E. Reynolds on the William Robertson Coe Fund No. 3, 1966.	1866–1867
b. 1	Milroy, R. B. Manuscript account book for an unidentified business in Nome, Alaska. Purchased from Vigilante Rare Documents on the Frederick W. and Carrie S. Beinecke Fund for Western Americana, 2009.	1906
b. 1	Tompkins, Charles H. Autograph letter, signed, congratulating C. H. Peirer on an unidentified accomplishment. Purchased from Carnegie Bookshop Inc. on the Winlock William Miller, Jr. Memorial Fund, 1957.	1870

b.1 Unidentified 1841, undated

Two documents by unidentified authors concerning trade in Alaska. Includes one manuscript document in an unidentified hand concerning the fur trade and travel in Alaska, and one typescript document in Russian concerning Alaska wildlife and forestation.

The fur trade and travel manuscript was a gift of Charles and Lindley Eberstadt, 1970.

The Alaskan wildlife typescript is from an unknown source.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

Fur trade -- Alaska
Indians of North America -- Alaska
Soldiers -- Alaska
Surveyors -- Alaska

Geographic Names

Alaska -- Commerce
Alaska -- Description and travel
Alaska -- Economic conditions -- 19th century
Alaska -- History, Naval -- 19th century

Genres / Formats

Account books -- Alaska -- 19th century
Photographs

Occupations

Soldiers -- Alaska -- 19th century
Surveyors -- Alaska -- 19th century

Names

Eaton, B. S.
Emmons, George F. (George Foster), 1811-1884
Everette, Willis E.
George, T. H.
Graves, Henry, active 1915
Howard, William Alanson, 1813-1880
Milroy, R. B.
Tompkins, Charles H., 1830-