

Alaska State Library
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

Betts, William J.

“Captain Castner of Chilkoot”

MS 4-37-14

1 Folder
16 page manuscript
11 – 8x10 b&w photographs

Processed By: Alea Oien &
Anastasia Tarmann
April 2009

ACQUISITION: Provenance unknown. #42 in Kay’s “T” files.

ACCESS: The collection is unrestricted.

COPYRIGHT: Request for permission to publish or reproduce material from the collection should be discussed with the Librarian. Photocopying does not constitute permission to publish.

PROCESSING: This collection has been described at the item level. All items have been placed in mylar and into pH-neutral folders.

BIOGRAPHICAL / HISTORICAL NOTE

William J. Betts enlisted in the Army, 7th Infantry, Chilkoot Barracks, Haines, Alaska in 1935. The subject of his manuscript is Captain Lawrence V. Castner, Betts’ commanding officer, and his company while stationed at Chilkoot Barracks. Betts later reenlisted and the promoted Colonel Castner invited him to join “Castner’s Cutthroats,” a group of scouts sent to the Aleutian Islands. Betts declined the offer, but attributed the scouts’ accomplishments to their training under Captain Castner at the Chilkoot Barracks. Captain Castner was a grandson of Lt. J.C. Castner of the 4th Infantry, who led an expedition up the Matanuska Valley and over the divide into the Tanana Valley in the 1880s.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE

This collection contains a 16 page manuscript by William J. Betts, titled "Captain Castner of Chilkoot" and several 8x10 size black and white images to accompany the manuscript. The photographs depict activities at Chilkoot Barracks, 1935-1937, and Colonel Castner.

SUBJECTS

Castner, 7th Infantry, Chilkoot Barracks, Ft. Seward, Haines, Alaska, Castner's Cutthroats, Lawrence V. Castner, WWII, Aleutian Islands.

INVENTORY

Folder 1 of 1

1 Manuscript

11 b&w Photographs