

Alaska State Library  
Historical Collections

**Guide to Collection**

Trappe, Carl, d. 1901

Letters from Skagway: the Experiences of Carl Trappe during the Yukon Gold  
Rush, 1898-1899

MS 13-8-2

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**Provenance:** The manuscript was donated to the Alaska State Museum by Lois Avoian for Margaret West Taylor, granddaughter of Carl Trappe. The State Museum transferred the manuscript to the Historical Collections in 1999 (Acc. # 99-71).

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**Processing:** The transcription was added to the manuscript collections.

### Biographical Note

Carl Trappe, a German immigrant and builder, worked as a carpenter in the Skagway region during the Klondike gold rush. He was trying to make money to send home to his wife and family. Jobs were scarce in the U.S. as a severe depression had hit the country in 1897-1898. Trappe returned to Portland, Oregon and worked as a carpenter and house builder. He died in 1901 as the result of a fall from a roof.

### **Scope and Contents Notes**

The letters transcribed here were written by Carl Trappe to his wife, Emma, while he was in Skagway during the Klondike gold rush, 1898-1899. The original letters were written in German; the translation was done by James M. Trappe. The letters remain in the possession of the family.