

**Alaska State Library  
Historical Collections**

Guide to Collection

**Muncaster, Frances Noyes**

**INVENTORY OF THE FRANCES NOYES MUNCASTER PAPERS 1850-**

**MS 90, PCA 202**

**by  
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**ALASKA HISTORICAL LIBRARY  
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## INTRODUCTION:

Through the estate of William Muncaster of Haines, the Alaska Historical Library received the papers and photographs of Frances N. Muncaster in 1968. The Alaska State Museum received a significant collection of ivory and artifacts largely collected by Frances and Thomas Noyes while living at Candle, Alaska. Unfortunately there is limited information on when and where the artifacts were obtained.

Since I lived my early years in Haines and had a brief knowledge of Mrs. Muncaster, I was interested to learn more about her. While a listing of photographs (PCA 202) was available, only preliminary accession work existed for the papers (MS 90). The research and this inventory has been prepared for my thesis, Anthropology 497, University of Alaska, Juneau under the instruction of Professor Wallace Olson in cooperation with librarian Phyllis DeMuth.

A petite and attractive woman, Frances Noyes Muncaster was born in Saint Paul, Minnesota in 1874. Her life is a study in contrast and individual perseverance. Frances married three times, acquired some success as an actress in the theater in the East, lived and worked in the gold rush community of Candle in northern Alaska, enjoyed European travel and refined living, faced economic difficulties as a widow, and spent her latter years in Haines, a small town in Southeast Alaska.

The papers of Frances Noyes Muncaster are primarily arranged in chronological order determined by her three marriages. There are sub groups by types of papers, i.e.: correspondence, business records, diaries, and newspaper clippings. The collection also includes papers and diaries of relatives. Some of the papers of her grandmother, mother and aunts date back to the Civil War era. These records are only briefly described as to originator, place and date since the library's major interest area is the Alaska related material.

Frances' family tree is complete back to Richard Eason who founded Onesburg, Mass. around 1660. Her paternal relatives were known to be in the Revolutionary War. Her maternal grandfather was a member of the Banks Expedition, New Orleans, LA during the Civil War.

Frances' parents married at Oswego, New York in 1868, later moving to Saint Paul, Minn., where Frances was born Aug. 10, 1874, one of eight children. They moved to Spokane in 1886, and in 1897 to Coeur d'Alene.

Frances married Samuel G. Allen, a county attorney, on the 21st of September 1892, in Spokane. Frances was only 18 at the time of her marriage. His age is unknown, but since he was already an attorney and a highly respected member of the Elks, I feel he was some years older than Frances. Evidently Frances took part in various community

activities as she participated in a society circus at Natatorian Park in Spokane around 1895. Mr. Allen, then a prosecuting attorney, consented to his wife's participation in the circus since all of the proceeds were to benefit a boy who suffered a broken back.

In her circus debut, Frances rode into the ring on a barebacked horse, looking beautiful and daring in baby pink tights and a short light blue costume. She created quite a sensation or a scandal as envisioned by her husband. A quarrel followed, and Frances left home August 26, 1895.

Albert Hildreth, a Southerner from New Orleans, was smitten with Frances after seeing her ride in the circus. The NEW YORK JOURNAL newspaper carried a series of articles in 1897 on Hildreth's pursuit of Frances across the continent into Montana, Wyoming, Kansas, Chicago, and finally New York. It is reported that he said he would either marry Frances or kill her. She had other ideas and was not interested in a proposal of marriage.

During this time, Frances was enjoying some success as an actress on the stage. Her first appearance was April 8, 1896 at Bradford, Pa. She was in the cast of "Fiordelisa in the Fools Revenge" and "Marco in the Marble Heart."

While staying at the Leland Hotel in Chicago in 1897, she met Mr. Hildreth face to face and consented to dine with him. He again threatened to kill her if she wouldn't marry him. He pulled out a knife and tried to stab her. While she was not harmed, Frances did leave the area and went to New York in the summer of 1897.

Meanwhile, her husband (now an ex-prosecuting attorney) sued Frances for divorce in 1896 on grounds of desertion -- the divorce was granted the summer of 1897.

Thomas Clarke Noyes, a student from the University of Michigan, saw Frances on the stage and fell in love with her. They were married sometime in 1897. Thomas was the son of John Noyes, one of Butte's oldest pioneers who settled there in 1866. John Noyes, a former Montana legislator was active in Silver Bow county affairs and made his fortune in the mining industry.

The SEATTLE SUNDAY TIMES, June 14, 1908, noted that John Noyes "never could accept the daughter-in-law. I shall conduct no training school for actresses". Tom took his interest in mining and his trust fund of \$2,500 and went to Alaska with Frances to establish their future.

In the winter of 1897-1898 they were in Skagway. According to Frances' diary of 1921, after arriving in Skagway by boat, she wrote, "We came up town and secured our rooms at the hotel Golden North, the same people that ran it in 1897. The man is old, bent and withered up. He has been here for twenty three years. I met one or two that

remembered me from 97. Seems strange. The hotel man remembered me, talked of Tommy. We went up and looked at the little wee cabin that I lived in the winter of 97-98."

In a letter from friend, "Capt. William K---", written in circa 1916, he mentions seeing her at Skagway, Atlin and the Klondike about twenty years before. He recalls Tommy as pure gold.

Frances and Tom moved to Nome in 1900. On November 13, 1900, Thomas Clarke Noyes was appointed United States commissioner for four years, for the Fairhaven Recording District.

W.A. Simonds, a relative by marriage, wrote in 1985 that "Thomas and Frances became important people in Nome. Tom was an experienced miner. He decided to look for the motherlode. If there was so much gold in the ocean, it must be a bonanza. An Eskimo boy told him that the gold was easier to get on Candle Creek north of Nome, so Tom, thinking this might be the "Mother-lode" staked several claims at Candle Creek. Candle was better than the crowded beach at Nome and he prospered."

They became pioneers in the history of Candle, moving there after gold was discovered. Thomas became known as the "Father of Candle Creek", according to ALASKA-YUKON MAGAZINE, March 1909, page 531.

Mr. Noyes established the T.C. Noyes Banking Co. at Candle soon after their arrival. Mr. Simond's letter stated, "With the bank he planned to finance a dredging operation and used the bank to tap major sources of capital in New York."

Tom and Frances lived a comfortable lifestyle in this rural area. Their first home in Candle, a log cabin, had many books, pictures and lace curtains at the windows. Their second home had wallpaper on the walls, many books, pictures, and a beautiful staircase. The women of Candle had fashionable dresses as shown in the photograph collection. Mrs. Noyes was a gracious hostess.

Hudson Stuck, a prominent Alaskan Episcopal archdeacon and author wrote Frances, "It is indeed good to a "mushing" archdeacon to know that here and there in this vast wilderness are homes of comfort and refinement where he is made welcome, and nowhere that I have been, have I found more cordial and generous hospitality than I found with you."

Tom and Frances did not have children of their own as Frances had several miscarriages while at Candle, according to Joe Jurgeleit of Haines. They did adopt a half Eskimo girl, Bonnie, who was born Feb 14, 1900. From the photographs, it would seem Bonnie was about five years old when she came to live in the Noyes' household. Frances

and Tom also assisted a young man named Garnet W. Martin for a period of time and helped him with his life. He writes she was like a mother to him.

In 1905, Godfrey Chealander, Father of the Alaska Yukon Exposition, announced additional directors for the Alaska-Yukon Fair which included Thomas C. Noyes of Candle.

In 1908, the Nome Kennel Club, with Albert Fink as first president, offered a purse of \$2500 for a dog team race from Nome to Candle and back to Nome. This 420 mile race also had \$100,000 in race bets. Frances was one of the three appointed judges of the All-Alaska Sweepstakes race. She registered every dog that went through Candle. Frances also kept a dog team. William Muncaster stated, "attorney Albert Fink offered \$1,000 for her leader so she sent the dog outside on the last boat just because he was not going to abuse one of her pets."

Tom and Frances spent the summers in Candle and often traveled in the winter. In 1902 and 1903 they were in Hot Springs, Arkansas, for a while. They traveled to Coeur d'Alene where Frances' family lived, spent some time in Seattle, traveled to Europe in 1907 and possibly other years.

Tom's father died in 1902 leaving him one-fourth interest in the Rainer Grand Hotel in Seattle. Mr. Simond's letter indicated Tom and Frances traveled the world and that Frances "was the toast of New York, London, Paris, and especially Monte Carlo." Among other things, they now owned the Rainer Grand Hotel in Seattle.

They also traveled to Butte, Montana. In the winter of 1909-10, Bonnie entered first grade at the Butte-Public School. The Noyes were established members of Butte and Seattle society. Frances and Bonnie appeared quite frequently in the newspaper's society pages.

All the time Frances and Tom lived in Alaska, they collected artifacts. Many of these artifacts are in the Alaska State Museum. Unfortunately documentation is lacking on origin/sources of the ivory and other objects. The ANACONDA STANDARD, Dec. 13, 1908, described the Noyes' artifact collection in this way. "Besides his nuggets and photographs, Mr. Noyes has still another collection, perhaps the most complete display of curios ever brought out of the north, laubrettes (labrets) stone, clay and ivory pipes with curious Eskimo carving, snuff boxes, furs, strange ivory specimens, weird household utensils, jade axes and hammers and many other interesting articles picked up in the course of his travels at considerable expense and gathered together in a specially set aside curio room at the Noyes' homestead at Granite and Wyoming streets in Butte. The urgent request that this collection be exhibited at the Alaska-Yukon exposition in Seattle, Mr. Noyes has granted." Records have not been located that indicate the Noyes' contribution to A-Y-P exhibition.

First the gold mining at Candle was carved out by rockers and sluicing. Lack of water for hydraulic mining resulted in construction of the five mile long Bear Creek Ditch. Construction by C.L. Morris, who constructed over 350 miles of ditches on the Seward Peninsula, began in 1907 with work progressing into 1908.

The ANACONDA STANDARD, Dec. 13, 1908, stated "Of this magnificent enterprise, Tom Noyes is the projector, the engineer, the backbone, a big owner and president of the company which has control -- The Candle-Alaska Hydraulic gold Mining Company. Associated with him are W.L. Leland of San Francisco, vice president; Fred P. Meyer of Candle, secretary-treasurer; and Robert D. Adams of Nome, Alaska, manager. The cost of the piping also entails an outlay of \$100,000. The pipe was manufactured in Seattle and made up the entire cargo of 1,400 tons carried by the steamer EDITH on an early trip north in 1907."

Mr. Noyes went to New York in the fall of 1907 to secure financing to complete his Bear Creek, Ditch. He told Frances "I'll be back to eat Christmas dinner with you." It didn't work out that way. A financial storm arose, and Tom was unable to secure financing. He even had to pawn personal belongings to pay his hotel bill.

This financial crisis caused the Noyes' bank in Candle to be hard pressed. The ANACONDA STANDARD, Dec. 13, 1908, had the following account of Frances' efforts which helped save the bank. "There was gold dust enough, but a scarcity of currency. The demand grew so insistent that Mrs. Noyes set out for Nome, drove all the way behind her faithful dog team, secured the money needed and returned on the ice cluttered path, through snow drifts and over mountains, completing a journey of 420 miles. So by her courage, resources and endurance a woman saved the bank. It was a stunt few men would attempt." The BUTTE EVENING NEWS, Feb. 20, 1910, carried a story "In the Social Whirl..." which recorded a conversation about Frances, "Why my old friend, Rex Beach, author of THE SPOILERS, you know, told me he intended to make Mrs. Noyes the heroine of his next novel. And, if he describes her as she really is, he won't have to draw on his imagination to picture a beautiful woman."

Sometime later disaster struck. From the financial papers it seems business was deteriorating by 1910. According to Mr. Simonds, "Tom was a first class miner but a poor business man. He signed inter bank instruments as 'Thomas C. Noyes' rather than 'Thomas C. Noyes, President'. As a result, he was held to be individually liable for the debts of the bank. He lost the bank, his claims, and the Rainer Grand Hotel."

Sometime after this financial disaster, Tom and Frances moved to Tongass Island near Ketchikan. Frances had a 40 ft long launch built for her the winter and spring of 1913. It was named the ELMIRA after Tom's mother. The summer of 1913, she traveled the

inlets of southeast Alaska with her launch. The Forest Service purchased it in March 1914 renaming it the RANGER #4.

The Shushana gold strike in the spring of 1913 lured them north again. On Sept. 7, 1913, Tom wrote from Wilson Creek near McCarthy, to Frances in Ketchikan with details on travel conditions. She was to be ready to come when he wired her. They prospected with some success.

THE MINING AND ENGINEERING WORLD, Feb. 12, 1916, stated, "It was on one of these trips he met with such hardships that despite his splendid physique and being skilled in the mode of traveling and living in the far northern lands, he returned to his home on Tongass Island a physical wreck." He spent a week at Port Simpson General Hospital, B.C. in Dec. 1915. Frances boarded in the room with him. He was finally taken to a hospital in St. Louis accompanied by Frances and his mother.

Thomas C. Noyes died Feb. 2, 1916 of pneumonia.

Frances' life had changed from happiness, a husband and riches. These major losses over a period of only a few years and her struggle to survive amidst such a situation can only be imagined.

After Tom's death, Frances survived by managing the Nakat Inlet cannery store belonging to John Hume. Letters he wrote her indicate more than just a business interest.

Bill Muncaster also worked at the cannery where he met Frances. According to W.A. Simonds, "As a young man Bill was a surveyor on the Great Northern Railroad route, working his way east across the northern continent. He contracted typhoid fever and almost died. After recuperating he went to work for the Coast and Geodetic Survey to survey Alaska, entering at Nome."

During his travels to Ketchikan and Seattle Bill wrote Frances many love letters, trying to convince her that his age (15 years younger) didn't matter, he would always love her.

Finally June 15, 1919, Frances and Bill were married in McCarthy, Alaska. Taking Bonnie with them, they embarked on a year long honeymoon trip. She kept diaries day by day on this trip. They left McCarthy by pack train, taking their dogs and enough supplies for a year. They traveled to the Nazina River stopping overnight at Young's Creek in an empty cabin. Frances wrote it was the same place she and Mr. Noyes had stopped in 1914. They crossed the Nazina and Russell Glaciers to the White River. They continued on to Canyon

City down river (now deserted) and set up living in an empty cabin. They planted a garden and went on many sheep hunts.

In August they made a trip to Shushana for supplies. The later part of August they attempted a trip to the Yukon. Making it to the Donjek they were stopped by the high water. So it was back to Canyon City. Summer travel was by pack horse and winter travel was dog team. In early December they made a trip to Snag for supplies. Finally on January 31 at 37 below zero, they set out for Wellesley Lake to spend the rest of the winter in another deserted cabin. They supplemented their supplies by hunting and fishing with a moose hide net through a hole in the ice.

Next spring Frances, Bill and Bonnie planted a large garden. "May 29, finished potatoes, 1100 hills. Bill built a boat for the lake, June 12 launched it and Bonnie broke a bottle of lemon extract on it and named it the MOSQUITO."

In August plans were made to leave. They left their garden for a neighbor who lived 15 miles away. Their trip out to McCarthy was quite exciting. Travel took them through a mile of burned timber, ashes to their knees. The next day they traveled through a forest fire, camping in a marsh surrounded by fire. The dogs' feet were burned and Bill had to carry one of them on his back. Arriving in McCarthy Sept 1, 1920, Frances wrote in her diary, "Thus ends my year in the interior and happiness."

Frances' next diary tells of another trip that she, Bill and Bonnie took in March 1921. Loaded with provisions, horses, and chickens, they boarded a ship in Vancouver, B.C., bound for Skagway. Whitehorse was reached by travel on the White Pass railroad. Pack train was the next mode of travel. Their final destination was Wellesley Lake where they had spent the 1920 winter. The Alaska highway follows some of this pack train trail. Frances mentions Takhini, Champagne, Bear Creek, Burwash, Kluane Lake, the Jacquot brothers, and the Donjek River.

On May 25 Frances writes "Today is Tommie's birthday. It makes it a sad day always."

Her diary continued for another year ending July 2, 1922. They are still at Wellesley Lake. During this time Frances helped bring in meat, killing birds, caribou, and even moose

Frances' diaries contain good information on the people and roadhouses in the area at the time, and hardships suffered.

According to Bill's letter Nov 11, 1952 to the DAILY ALASKA EMPIRE, "About 1923 we went from Wellesley Lake to Burwash Landing about 150 miles, drove a herd of horses out of the hills to good feed for the winter, it was cold, our thermometer went to the bulb at 56 degrees below zero and stayed there for some 10 days. But we had to keep

going for we were out there, us two, 100 miles or so from nowhere. But she loved it. Have seen her day after day cover 20 to 25 miles on snow shoes, just took it as an every day chore."

Frances was a romantic and interested in writing. A few of her stories are in her papers. The managing editor of the Press Reporting Syndicate encouraged her to continue her writing in a 1925 letter.

Bonnie married Larry Crozier, a member of the Canadian mounted police, sometime after the summer of 1922. According to the photograph captions they were living in Whitehorse in 1929. At this time she had a young baby.

A letter from a Dollie Shiedt dated Dec 21, 1932, indicated Bonnie died sometime in the near past. There was no mention of the baby or the cause of her death. Debbie Shiedt probably was Bonnie's sister.

During the summer of 1927, Bill was in Seattle and Frances went prospecting. She followed some Indians into Squaw Creek, B.C. and staked some claims all by herself. At first the Indians wouldn't accept her, but eventually did after she was appointed the only independent woman Deputy Mining Recorder in the B.C. Mining Dept. This saved them a 600 mile trip to record their deeds. Young Billy Simonds, Bill's nephew, (W.A. Simonds) came the spring of 1928 and helped Frances relay all the supplies by dog team to Squaw Creek. They went to Champagne, Yukon Territory, turned south following the Dezadeash River to Klukshu Indian village. Bill joined them here with the horses and they continued on to the Dalton Post. Squaw Creek was only 13 miles south from there but across the Tatshenshini.

For 10-12 years Frances and Bill would spend the summers gold mining at Squaw Creek, eventually going in through Haines. Winters were spent at various places, Victoria, Seattle, Vancouver. Sometime in the 1930's they bought a cabin at 30 mile on the Haines Highway. They finally settled at Haines where Bill had a job with the city of Haines surveying streets and the town lots. Their trips to Squaw Creek became fewer and farther apart. They were still making trips in 1946, according to a letter Bill wrote to the Honorable Minister of Mines, Victoria, B.C. explaining the reason they were not able to work their claims.

Frances despite her age and arthritis continued with her gold mining. Mr. Muncaster wrote, "My what a pardner she was never cross like I get."

Frances died October 28, 1952. Bill survived her by 15 years, dying February 6, 1968.

After Bill's death, her artifacts and papers were donated to the Alaska Division of State Libraries and Museum by three of his four heirs, one being Young Billy Simonds who accompanied them to Squaw Creek in 1928. (W.A. Simonds). The Frances Noyes Muncaster Collection serves as a living memorial to a petite, feminine, kindly lady whose courage and abilities made her a special kind of Alaska pioneer/pro prospector.

## References

## I.

- Folder 20 ALASKA YUKON MAGAZINE, March 1909, p. 531.
- 2-6 THE ANACONDA STANDARD, Dec. 13, 1908.
- 2-9 BUTTE EVENING NEWS, Feb. 20, 1910
- 2-12 THE MINING AND ENGINEERING WORLD, Feb. 12, 1916.
- Box 1 Muncaster, Frances' diaries 1919-1920, 1920-1923, 1921
- 18-2 Muncaster, William letter to the DAILY ALASKA EMPIRE, Nov. 11, 1952
- 1-7 NEW YORK JOURNAL, Sept. 5, 1897.
- 2-4 SEATTLE SUNDAY TIMES, June 14, 1908.
- Folder 20 Simonds, W.A., letter to Louetta Ward, Feb. 1, 1985.
- 4-9 Stuck, Hudson, letter to Frances, March 11, 1910.

## INVENTORY

### I. 1892-1897 (Period married to Samuel G Allen.)

#### **Box 1.**

##### Folder 1.

1. Marriage certificate dated Sept. 21, 1892 between Samuel G. Allen and Belle F. Patchen at Spokane, Washington.
2. Divorce petition dated July 19, 1897 at Spokane, Wash.
3. Newspaper clipping: SPOKANE(?) "Attended by the Elks, Wedding of County Attorney Allen and Miss Belle Patchen".
4. Newspaper clipping: The SPOKESMAN, Aug. 10, 1897. "She's an Actress, Ex-prosecuting Attorney Objected that Life".
5. Newspaper clipping: CHICAGO CHRONICLE, date(?), "Flees to Avoid Lover: Mrs. Frances Allen Scorns Albert J. Hildreth's Devotion".
6. Newspaper clipping: NEW YORK JOURNAL, date(?), "Would slay one he loves, Marriage or Death, the alternative Albert Hildreth gives to Mrs. Allen".
7. Newspaper clipping: NEW YORK JOURNAL, September 5, 1897, "How pretty Mrs. Allen was pursued by an unwelcome suitor 4,000 miles just for a kiss".
8. Letter: comment by Emma L.C. Patchen (Arabelle's mother) on the Society circus in which Arabelle participated and her husband's reaction.

### II. 1899-1916 (Period married to Thomas C. Noyes.)

#### Folder 2. Newspaper and magazine clippings.

1. Newspaper clipping: MAN-REVI, Spokane, Wash., June 15, 1899. "Noyes and Heinze Brilliant Wedding at Butte of Prominent young people".
2. Newspaper clipping: THE ANACONDA STANDARD, March 27, 1902. "Thousands pay their last tribute, imposing turn-out at the burial of John Noyes".
3. Newspaper clipping: SEATTLE SUNDAY TIMES, June 14, 1908. "Drawing Mrs. T.C. Noyes and dog team".
4. Newspaper clipping: SEATTLE SUNDAY TIMES, June 14, 1908. "How a plucky woman saved the Bank, brave and resourceful Mrs. Thomas Noyes" -- 2 clippings.
5. Newspaper clipping: ANACONDA STANDARD, June 26, 1908. "Strenuous Journey of a Butte Woman, Mrs. Tom Noyes trip to save the bank at Nome". Also two incomplete articles.

6. Newspaper clipping: ANACONDA STANDARD, Dec. 13,1908. Article on Noyes -- both sides of paper.
7. Newspaper clipping: ANACONDA STANDARD, Dec. 13, 1908. "Mr. & Mrs. Thomas C. Noyes mines in Alaska". 6 pictures in newspaper.
8. Newspaper clipping: THE ANACONDA STANDARD, Feb. 13, 1910, Society page. Several items with Mrs. Tom Noyes - Nome.
9. Newspaper clipping: BUTTE EVENING NEWS, Feb. 20, 1910. "In the Social Whirl, Mrs. Noyes exquisite luncheon." "Among the Swells and Belles."
10. Newspaper-clippings: February 20, 1910. Society page -pictures of Mrs. Tom Noyes. Three of same picture.
11. Newspaper clippings: SEATTLE SUNDAY TIMES, date(?), Society page -- picture of Mrs. Thomas C. Noyes.
12. Newspaper clipping: BUTTE EVENING NEWS, Feb. 20, 1910, Picture of Mrs. Tom Noyes.
13. Magazine clipping: MINING AND ENGINEERING WORLD, Feb. 12, 1916 tells of death of Thomas Clarke Noyes.
14. Magazine clipping: PACIFIC MOTOR BOAT, date(?), article on Mrs. Noyes, 40 ft launch sold to the forest service in 1914.
15. Newspaper clipping: MONTANA STANDARD, April 14 ,1935. "Jack Noyes, Pioneer Native Son of Mining City, dies."

### Folder 3. Financial Records -- T.C. Noyes

1. Letter and two receipts concerning \$5,400 interest paid on loan, January 8, 1909.
2. Four paid out slips, three deposit slips: T.C. Noyes Bank, Co., September 1, 21, 22, 1909.
3. Balance sheet: T.C. Noyes Banking Co., November 30, 1908. Balance sheet: T.C. Noyes Banking Co., September 22, 1909.
4. Deposit book: T.C. Noyes Banking Co., in account with T.C. Noyes; October 14, 1908 - August 3, 1909.
5. Seattle Brewing and Malting Co., Seattle; to T.C. Noyes Banking Co., bill, 8/14/1908; receipt, 9/17/1908; receipt, 9/18/1908.
6. Note from Chas E. Herron; 9/16/1907. Night letter concerning a loan from Chas E. Herron, 4/14/1910.
7. Letter from F.J. Carver and John Slattery, Dec. 13, 1911 concerning a note from Chas. E. Herron. Letter to Chas. E. Herron from the Alaska Banking and Safe Deposit Co., July 8, 1914.
8. Receipt to T.P. Lindsay, balance on claim, November 6, 1907: receipt to Lindsay 200, Jan. 22, 1908 -- on acct of board of T.C. Noyes dog: letter, Feb 1, 1908, to T.C. Noyes, concerning note and Mr. Lindsay.

9. Receipt from Lindsay, July 18, 1907 received \$769.10 from Thomas C. Noyes; bill, T.C. Noyes to T.P. Lindsay, Dr. November 6, 1907 - June 1, 1908.
10. Three certificates of shares; Bear Creek Ditch Co., #A8, A9, All : June 4, June 17, 1907.
11. Agreement between Roy Davenport and T.C. Noyes, Aug. 31, 1906 for cabin. Agreement to pay Thomas C. Noyes \$500 from Stephansen.
12. Letter to Tom Noyes from Chas Dankel, Jan. 15, 1910, concerning "mining, cabin rent, lighteridge business.": Agreement made at Nome, Alaska 24th Sept. 1901, between Okanogan Improvement Co., and Thomas C. Noyes.
13. Statement; the MacDougall and Southwick Co., to Tom C. Noyes, 3/1/1909: Memorandum of Gold Bullion deposited July 1, 1909. Letter February 1, 1911, concerning title to the Rainier-Grand Hotel.

Folder 4. 1909-1916. Appointments, personal correspondence.

1. Appointment to U.S. Commissioner Thomas C. Noyes, Nov. 13, 1900.
2. Power of attorney - Theadore H. Patchen to Mrs. T.C. Noyes, May 11, 1910.
3. Three statements from Albert Hansen, Jeweler, May 9, May 19, May 31, 1909: Receipt from Albert Hansen, Jeweler, Oct. 25, 1907 for \$166.30.
4. Two statements from Albert Hansen, Jeweler, July 3, 1909, April 1, 1910.
5. Receipt from Dr. Kenneth E. Turner to Mrs. Thos C. Noyes for household furniture.  
Receipt from Knowles for 50 lbs each of sugar and flour for Thom. C.Noyes: Portion of a letter concerning shirts.
6. Letter to Thomas C. Noyes from Ferguson, May 18, 1910: Note to Charlie from (?) concerning Sliscovich mine.
7. Aprilfoolimony contract: between Mrs. T.C. Noyes - P.H. Watt, April 1, 1908: Letter to Mrs. Noyes from Mikkelane.
8. Letter: Nome, Alaska, March 3, 1908 - Mrs. T.C. Noyes, judge makes appointments for the "All Alaska Sweepstakes" race.
9. Letter: to Mrs. T.C. Noyes from Hudson Stuck., archdeacon. A hospitality, March 11, 1906.
10. Two poems to Mrs. T.C. Noyes from the candle Doctor: a poem to Mrs. T.C. Noyes from John Holmes: a newspaper clipping about John Holmes death: a note from W. Muncaster 1954 explaining poem from John Holmes.
11. Four telegrams from Thomas C. Noyes to Mrs. T.C. Noyes from Butte, Montana to Seattle dated March 22 - March 26, 1904.

12. Post card: April 8, 1907, from Tom to Mrs. L.H. Patchen, Idaho "Eruzione Vesuvio.". Note to Frances from Tom concerning poker game. Note to Frances from Tom asking for forgiveness.
13. Letter to Frances dated Sept. 7, 1913 from Tom in McCarthy, one envelope - two pages.
14. One doctor bill, one hospital bill for Mr. T.C. Noyes dated Feb. 25, 1916.
15. Letter: to Mrs. Noyes from Garnet Martin, Feb. 27, 1916 in sympathy for Mr. Noyes death. One envelope.
16. Letter - 2 pages - to Mrs. Noyes' from W.A. Bryant (J.R. Heckman & Co. Inc.), March 13, 1916, in sympathy for Mr. Noyes death. One envelope. One note from J.R. Heckman & Co Inc. concerning sale of eggs, 2/17/?
17. Letter - 2 pages - to Mrs. Thomas Noyes from Dr. William W. Graves May 3, 1916 concerning Tom's death. One envelope.

### III. 1917-July 1919 (Interim between marriages.)

#### Folder 5. Personal correspondence. 1917-1919 of Mrs. Thomas C. Noyes.

1. Letter - to Mrs. T.C. Noyes from Capt. W.H.K., May 28, 1916 3 pages, one envelope (sympathy on Tom's death).
2. Letter - to Mrs. T.C. Noyes from Capt. W.H.K. (William) Christmas. 2 pages - concerning mining days & Skagway 20 years before.
3. Letter - to Frances from Jack: 4/25/1917 - one page, one envelope.
4. Letter - to Mrs. T.C. Noyes from Jake? 6/27/1917 - one page, one envelope.
5. Letter to Mrs. T.C. Noyes from John Hume 12/17/1917 one page, one envelope, concerning her running the store in Nakat or the Seattle office.
6. Letter to Mrs. Noyes from John Hume 4/20/1918, one page, concerning plans for the establishment at Nakat.
7. Letter to Francis Nois from O.O. Gummere, Kennicott, Alaska May 30, 1918 four pages, one envelope, concerning mining in Kennicott area.
8. Letter to Mrs. Noyes from F.C. Fluent, Attorney-at-Law Butte, Montana, 8/13/1918, one page, one envelope, concerning heirs of John Noyes, title to a portion of Mineral Entry 511.
9. One page of a letter from an unknown.

#### Folder 6. Family File. Bonnie Noyes - daughter, Dollie Shiedt.

1. Letter to Frances (Momma) from her daughter Bonnie, March 17, written while in school: Butte Public Schools, report card for Bonnie Noyes in 1st grade Sept. 13, 1909: Newspaper clipping about "a tea for

little girls" - Bonnie Noyes: an Easter card for our darling from Reggie & Mama.

2. Letter to Mrs. Noyes (Mother) from Mrs. Dollie Shiedt, Noatak, Alaska, Dec. 21,, 1934 concerning Bonnie's death.

Folder 7. Financial records, 1917-1918.

1. Three statements from J.R. Heckman & Co. to Mrs. Noyes, 1917, 1917, 9/12/1918.
2. Envelope of 17 receipts from Nakat Inlet Cannery for store receipts: Bill from G.W. Hume Co. to Mrs. Noyes 9/30/1918.
3. Bill of sale for the boat "Arcturus", June 20, 1918: two receipts for payments of the boat "Arcturus" - June 20, 28, 1910.

Folder 8. Letters written to Frances from Wm Muncaster, 1917-1918, prior to their marriage, concerning business and personal items.

1. Jan. 18, 1917 - two pages, one envelope.
2. Jan. 22, 1918 - five pages, one envelope.
3. Feb. 2, 1918 - two pages.
4. April 7, 10, 1918 - three pages, one envelope.
5. April 12, 1918 - three pages, one envelope.
6. April 2, 1918 - two pages, one envelope.
7. April 16, 1918 - two pages, one envelope.
8. April 20, 1918 - three pages, one envelope.

Folder 9. Letters written to Frances from Wm. Muncaster in 1919, prior to their marriage, concerning business and personal items.

1. Jan. 13, 1919 - four pages, one envelope.
2. Jan. 14, 1919 - two pages, one envelope. Talks of his sister's death.
3. Jan. 23, 1919 - four pages, one envelope. Talks about Shushana claims of Noyes'.
4. Feb. 3, 1919 - five pages, one envelope. Talks about Mr. Hume - maybe going to Shushana.
5. Feb. 9, 1919 - three pages, one envelope. Talks about working at a Petersburg cannery or at the Railroad at Anchorage.
6. Feb. 16, 1919 - seven pages, one envelope. Talks about family affairs at his mother's after his sister's death.
7. Feb. 24, 1919 - four pages. Talks about job prospect at Chignich and Ungo Island, mentions Frances trapping.
8. March 17,1919 - telegram acknowledging Frances trip south.
9. March 26,1919 - two pages. Talks of family move, marriage, age difference.
10. March 28, 1919 - two pages. Talks about going to Shushana.

IV. 1919-1952 (Period married to William Muncaster.)

Folder 10. Short stories probably written in the 1920's after marriage to Bill.

1. Letter July 15, 1925 from managing editor of Press Reporting syndicate encouraging Frances to write. One envelope.
2. One short story - "The One Butterfly". 4 pages written in Whitehorse.
3. One short story - "Caribou in the Upper Yukon". 4 pages written at 211 Lincoln St., West Kelso, Wash.
4. Copies of #3 above.
5. One short story - "The Black Stallion and a Big Grizzly". 7 pages.

Folder 11. Five letters written to Frances at Whitehorse from Bill while he was in Seattle, June - August 1927.

1. Sunday - date? Two pages. Talking about trapping.
2. 6/17/27 mentions a trading post.
3. 6/20/27 two pages-mentions again trying to buy the trading post.
4. 7/5/27 two pages-still talking about buying the trading post. Mentions Bonnie and her family.
5. 8/3/27 2 pages - still talking of buying the trading post.

Folder 12. Wm Muncaster papers, 1916-1928.

1. Bond - Office of U.S. Surveyor General, Juneau, Alaska January 26, 1916 - William Muncaster U.S. Deputy Surveyor.
2. Letter to Wm from D.H. Bradpord, Pacific American Fisheries, March 25, 1924, two pages. Talks of canneries and fox farming.
3. Letter to Bill Muncaster from Bill 1/9/28. Contents concerning young Billy Simonds trip north to help Wm Muncaster.
4. Copy of a letter sent to Wm Muncaster Jan. 10, 1928, mentions his guiding activities out of Whitehorse. Concerns young Billy Simonds trip north. Three pages.
5. Copy of another letter sent to Wm Muncaster, Jan 10, 1928 concerning young Billy Simonds trip north, 1/27/28. Only one page of letter.

Folder 13. Letter from former business partner, Dec. 7, 1929.

1. Letter to Frances from Fred P. Meyer, a business partner of Thomas C. Noyes in the Candle Ditch enterprise and the Candle Bank; dated December 7, 1929. He states he felt he has discharged any and all obligations by paying over \$60,000 on debts of the two businesses.

Folder 14. Six letters to Frances from Margaret E. Gedney, who had claims at Squaw Creek beside Frances' claims. Dates, Jan. 23, 1935 November 24, 1936.

1. January 23, 1935, four pages, concerning Mr. Gedney's health.
2. August 26, 1935 three pages, concerning her trip to PA.

3. October 31, 1935, four pages, reminiscing about Squaw Creek.
4. June 19, 1936, two pages, reminiscing about Squaw Creek and claims.
5. September 28, 1936, three pages, she mentions Frances losing the recording office.
6. November 24, 1936, five pages.

Folder 15. Two letters to Frances from her mother, Mrs. Leonard H. Patchen, 1936-1938. Two letters from Frances to her mother.

1. February 13, 1936 one page. Mother talks of being ill and the weather.
2. May 15, 1938 one page. Mother talks of the family.
3. Letter circa 1938, five pages, from Frances to her mother. Describes in great detail a mud slide that came down, hit and moved their house at 30 mile, Haines, Alaska.
4. Letter, circa, Oct. 29, 1938 two pages, from Frances to her mother tells of clean up and reconstruction after mud slide.

Folder 16. Three newspaper clippings pertaining to mining, 1928-40: mining records, 1935-1946.

1. Magazine clipping: WEST, Jan. 14, 1928, talks of gold discovery at Squaw Creek and Mrs. Muncaster's appointment as deputy mining recorder.
2. Two newspaper clippings: THE VANCOUVER SUN, Feb. 3, 1933, "Woman Sourdough Tires of Cities: Mushes Back to Creeks, Sourdough Off to Lone Post".
3. Newspaper clipping: \_\_\_?\_\_\_ 22, 1940 "Woman Gold Miner Tells of Conditions in North".
4. Placer mining lease: Nov. 21, 1935, Squaw Creek, B.C. Emma Lease #838, map of claims attached. The lease states: Provided, always that these presents are upon the express condition that no Chinese or Japanese shall be employed in or about the said demised premises or any part thereof.
5. Receipt, Aug. 19, 1936 for water application on Bonnie Gulch, for hydraulic mining file# 0125227.
6. Conditional water license, September 30, 1936, to divert and use Bonnie gulch, map attached.
- 7-20. Letters and receipts concerning rental and renewal for water license #12986 on Bonnie Gulch tributary of Squaw Creek, B.C. 1936 - 1941.
21. Letter to Frances Muncaster from collector of customs and excise, July 12, 1939, concerning her request to ship gold from Squaw Creek, B.C. via Skagway, Alaska to the office of the Canadian Mint at Vancouver, B.C. Enclosure, "Consolidated Departmental Regulations Governing Export Licenses -- Gold Coin or Bullion." "An Act Respecting the Export of Gold", two pages.

22. A letter to Hon. Minister of Mines, Victoria, B.C., Dec. 14, 1946 I believe the letter is from Muncasters. It tells of hardships getting to the mine at Squaw Creek, making their arrival too late to do any mining for the year.

Folder 17. Miscellaneous letters, 1941-1949.

1. A letter to Frances from her Aunt Ella Holly, Jan. 30, 1941. She expresses her concern at Frances being by herself at Squaw Creek while Bill is working elsewhere for the summer. Then she goes on to family matters. Two pages.
2. A letter to Frances from G. Hoisington, Colonel, 4th Infantry, March 15, 1941. He talks of praise for Mr. Muncaster's capabilities in dog handling and securing employment for him at Fort Richardson, two pages.
3. A letter concerning some property Frances inherited from her Aunt Eleanor Holly, Oct 24, 1942. A letter and bill concerning fire insurance on property at 2309 E. Illinois St., November 12, 1942 and November 17, 1942.
4. Letter to Frances from Deputy Collector of Customs at Skagway, July 24, 1942, stating in order for her to leave Alaska it will be necessary to have a Departure Permit issued by the military police. Three copies of application to depart are included. "This was war time.-"
5. Letter to Aunt Frances from Margaret at Salt Lake, Utah. May 24, 1949. Talks of remodeling her house and of her husband.

Folder 18. Papers concerning Frances' death on Oct. 28, 1952.

1. Letter to THE DAILY ALASKA EMPIRE, Juneau, October 29, 1952, two pages, from Mr. Muncaster. He gives some of Frances' early history; their marriage in McCarthy, 1919, their travels in the Interior for the next few years and staking her claims at Squaw Creek.
2. Letter to THE DAILY ALASKA EMPIRE, Jack Daum, November 11, 1952, two pages, from Mr. Muncaster. He talks of Frances' death, Rex Beach wanting her to write with him, her hiking abilities, trip from Wellsey Lake to Burwash Landing in 1923 driving a herd of horses, a trip from Squaw Creek to Haines, 50 degrees below in 1932, and her Eskimo collection.
3. Letter to Bill from Garnet W. Martin, date unknown, soon after her death probably. The letter is expressing sympathy and appreciation for Frances. Mr. Martin as a boy lived with Frances for awhile.
4. A letter to Bill from Forest Young, November 6, 1952, in sympathy for Frances' death.
5. Newspaper clipping: DAILY ALASKA EMPIRE, Oct. 13, 1952.

"New York Actress, Early Pioneer; Story of Frances Muncaster is Alaska Saga." Small clipping Nov. 4, 1952 telling of her death. Letter to the editor from William Muncaster, Nov. 4, 1952.

Folder 19. Items found in Frances' diaries 1919-1935.

Folder 20. Diaries 1919-1935, address book. (*Moved from Box 3*)  
Muncaster, Frances Noyes-Diaries

Diary, 1919-1920, Frances' diary that tells of her honeymoon trip with Bill to the White River area by pack horse. The trip commenced at McCarthy. It tells of many hardships, mentions names of people encountered, many old deserted cabins.

Diary 1920-1923, a continuation of previous diary.

Diary 1921-March 1921-July 1922 tells of a trip up the inside passage from Vancouver to Skagway by boat, to Whitehorse by train, and by pack train to Wellesley Lake to spend over a year. Tells of hardships, mentions people encountered and roadhouses along the way.

Diary 1932-1935, winter spent outside, summers at Squaw Creek prospecting. Much time was spent relaying supplies. She mentions many people.

Muncaster, Frances Noyes--address book

Folder 20a, 20b. Letters, articles and obituaries gathered as supplemental information for the collection.

**Box 2.**

Folder 1. Papers of Eason, Richard (great-grandfather of Frances Muncaster) 1865-1866 Oswego, New York. "In the opinion of Doctor Richard Eason on the cause of disease in the human system." A promise to pay \$150.00.

Folder 2. Haskins, Laurenea C.P., papers 1863-1903. (Grandmother of Frances Muncaster).

Letters sent 1863-1868.

Includes letters to-Fe-r- parents; her husband, serving in Civil War as Lieut. in the Banks expedition, New Orleans, LA. Contents generally

relate to family and war matters, his health. David is back from the war in 1864. They have moved from Oswego, New York to Pilot Knob Adams County, Wis. A letter to the army trying to get a pension after her husband's death, July 8, 1965.

Letters received 1889-1903.

Three from H.W. Holley in Winnebago, Minn., to Mrs. L.C.P. Haskins is living in Kettle Falls, Washington; concerning family matters, offer to buy land. Letter received from U.S. Senate, Knute Nelson. Two letters from Palmer Mountain Gold Mining & Tunnel Co., C.C. May, Davenport, Wash., concerning her claims. Letter from her husband at a camp near Port Hudson 1863.

Miscellaneous papers 1888-1902.

L.C.P. Haskins last Will and Testament; financial records; two warranty deeds; two articles of agreement; act for pension from government; newspaper articles; a Civil War pass from President Abraham Lincoln, allowing person to pass the war lines to General Grant. A newspaper clipping on Joseph Warren; a small note on dates of Judge Nathaniel Easton's death; various clippings and notes from diaries.

- Folder 3. Papers of Patchen, Emma (Frances' mother) 1865-1938. Marriage certificate; Bible birth records of her immediate family; two letters, one telling of family history dating back to members in Revolutionary War; newspaper clippings including Frances' father's death in 1930.
- Folder 4. Papers of Haskins, Jessie Alice (Frances' aunt) 1893-1920. Common school first grade certificate; receipts; satisfaction of mortgage; mining deeds from Wash.; real estate agreement. Eight letters; one from Theodore Roosevelt concerning hospitals; one from Booth Tarkington - his appreciation of a letter she wrote to him.
- Folder 5. Papers of Holly, Eleanor A.L. (Haskins) (Frances' aunt) 1890-1931 Letter; concerning stock owned, Big Indian Royalty Pool, Ft. Worth, Texas; agreement concerning sale of mining property in Iliamna Mining District; letters concerning purchase of German marks; real estate papers.
- Folder 6. Papers of Holly, Eleanor A.L. (Haskins) (Frances' aunt) 1931-1941

Minute; of stockholders meeting of the Consolidated Silver Mountain Mining Co., Nov. 1933; letter concerning stock owned, Victoria Mines Co., Nogales, Sonora, Mexico; Last Will and Testament, general inventory and appraisalment.

**Box 3.** Muncaster, Frances Noyes-Diaries (*Moved to Box 1 Folder 20*)

Diary, 1919-1920, Frances' diary that tells of her honeymoon trip with Bill to the White River area by pack horse. The trip commenced at McCarthy. It tells of many hardships, mentions names of people encountered, many old deserted cabins.

Diary 1920-1923, a continuation of previous diary.

Diary 1921-March 1921-July 1922 tells of a trip up the inside passage from Vancouver to Skagway by boat, to Whitehorse by train, and by pack train to Wellesley Lake to spend over a year. Tells of hardships, mentions people encountered and roadhouses along the way.

Diary 1932-1935, winter spent outside, summers at Squaw Creek prospecting. Much time was spent relaying supplies. She mentions many people.

Muncaster, Frances Noyes--address book

**Box 3.** Haskins, Laurenea C.P. (Maternal grandmother of Frances Muncaster)

Diary. Jan 1, 1850 through Feb. 15, 1852, New Haven, Oswego, New York. 1 volume.

Diary. 1854 through Dec. 1856, Ogdenburgh. 1 volume.

Diary, loose pages. Feb. 15, 1857 through Feb. 23, 1861, Wisconsin.

Diary. Dec. 1874 through 1881, St. Paul, Minnesota. This diary has genealogy history in the back. 1 volume.

Diary. May 1879 through December 1879, St. Paul, Minnesota. 1 volume.

Diary and poetry journal. October 26, 1885 through January 1891, Herman Grant Co., Minnesota. This diary contains mostly poetry. 1 volume.

Account books. Jan. 1889 through 1893. 1 volume.

Account book. 1889 through 1899. 1 volume.

**FOLDER - Oversize**

**Located in MS X-Oversize Map Case in Vault**

Ulster County Gazette; Published at Kingston, (Ulster County,) by Samuel Freer and Son. [Vol. II.] Saturday, January 4, 1800. [Num. 88.]