

Alaska State Library
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

Steckel, Randal E., Collector

James M. Lahr Family Papers, 1921-1937

MS 170

1 box
0.4 linear ft.

Processed By: Gladi Kulp
& Kay Shelton, May 1998
Revised by: Connie Hamann
April 2009

Acquisition: The papers were donated by Randal E. Steckel in 1998 (Accession no. 98-19). Steckel purchased the documents from a Tibetan nun in Gold Bar, WA.

Access: The collection is unrestricted.

Copyright: Request for permission to publish material from the collection must be discussed with the Librarian. Photocopying does not constitute permission to publish.

Processing: The papers, which include received and sent correspondence, are arranged chronologically. Envelopes are housed with letters. Straight pins used to fasten letters have been removed to preserve the documents. No inventory is available.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE

The James M. Lahr Family Papers contain the correspondence of the family from 1921-1923, 1925 and 1936-1937. The early letters are from James Lahr to his wife Garnet and daughter Barbara in Juneau. James was working in various Alaska mining camps – Kennecott, LaTouche, Chickaloon, Seward, Valdez, and Anchorage. The 1936-1937 letters are primarily between Juneau and Seattle written by the Laughlin sisters – Garnet (Lahr), Luella (Egan), Addie

(McKinnon), also their mother Alice and James and Garnet's daughter Barbara. Other correspondents were connected to the Lahr-Laughlin families professionally or socially.

The letters, while largely personal, include glimpses of life during this time period in Alaska's history. Many historic events, such as the closing of the Alaska-Juneau Gold Mine, are mentioned as are some well-known Juneau people, for example Minnie Field (8/9/1937).

A photograph copy of the young Laughlin sisters – Luella and Addie – has been added to the collection (PCA 14-112).

INVENTORY

Folder 1: Correspondence, 1921 (J.M. Lahr to Mrs. JML -3 letters – Nov.-Dec. 1921)

1. letter to Mrs. J.M. Lahr (Juneau, AK) from (Jim) J.M. Lahr (Kennecott, AK), Nov. 13, 1921 (2 p, typed, on onionskin)
 2. letter to Mrs. J.M. Lahr (Juneau, AK) from (Jim) J.M. Lahr (Kennecott, AK), Dec 3, 1921 (3 p, holograph in light blue ink + envelope date stamped Dec 5)
 3. letter to Mrs. J.M. Lahr (Juneau, AK) from (Jim) J.M. Lahr (Kennecott, AK), December 4, 1921 (3 p, typed, on onionskin)
- 1 envelope with above names and addresses, date stamp torn off.

Folder 2: Correspondence, 1922 (1)

1. letter to Mrs. J.M. Lahr (Juneau) from Jim (J.M. Lahr, Kennecott), Jan 22, 1922 (4 p, holograph in pencil, + envelope)
2. letter to Mrs. Jas. M. Lahr (Juneau) from Jim (J.M. Lahr, La Touche, AK), February 21, 1922 (4 p, holograph in ink, + envelope)
3. letter to Mrs. J.M. Lahr (Juneau) from Jim (J.M. Lahr, Kennecott), Feb. 14, 1922 (3 p, holograph in pencil, + envelope date-stamped Feb 15)
4. letter to Mrs. J.M. Lahr (Juneau) from Jim (J.M. Lahr, Kennecott), Feb. 15, 1922 (1 p, holograph in pencil, + envelope date-stamped Feb 17)
5. letter to Mrs. J.M. Lahr (Juneau) from Jim (J.M. Lahr, Kennecott), Feb. 28, 1922 (3 p, holograph in pencil, + envelope date-stamped Mar 1)
6. letter to Mrs. Jas M. Lahr (Juneau) from Jim (J.M. Lahr, Kennecott), 3/9/1922 (2 p, holograph in pencil, + envelope date-stamped Mar 10)
7. letter to Mrs. Jas M. Lahr (Juneau) from Jim (J.M. Lahr, Kennecott), 3/28/1922 (3 p, holograph in pencil, + envelope date-stamped Mar 30)

Folder 3: Correspondence, 1922 (2)

1. letter to Mrs. Jas M. Lahr (Juneau) from Jim (J.M. Lahr, Kennecott), Apr 2 - 1922 (3 p, holograph in pencil, + envelope date-stamped APR 3 or 13 in Chitina)
2. letter to Mrs. Jas M. Lahr (Juneau) from Jim (J.M. Lahr, Chickaloon), April 18, 1922 (3 p, holograph in ink, + envelope)
3. letter to Mrs. Jas M. Lahr (Juneau) from Jim (J.M. Lahr, Seward), June 18, 1922 (4 p, holograph in pencil, + envelope)
4. letter to Garnet (Mrs. Jas M. Lahr, Juneau) from Jim (J.M. Lahr, Seward), 7/9/1922 (6 p, holograph in pencil, + envelope)

5. letter to Garnet (Mrs. Jas M. Lahr, Juneau) from Jim (J.M. Lahr, Anchorage), 11/8/1922 (5 p, holograph)

Folder 4: Correspondence, 1923, 1925

1. letter to Mrs. Jas M. Lahr (Juneau) from Jim (J.M. Lahr, La Touche), 1/11/1923 (2 p, holograph in ink, + envelope)
2. letter to Garnet (Mrs. Jas M. Lahr, Juneau) from Jim (J.M. Lahr, La Touche), 1/16/1923 (4 p, holograph in ink, + envelope)
3. letter to Mrs. Jas M. Lahr (Juneau) from Jim (J.M. Lahr, La Touche), 1/11/1923 (3 p, holograph in ink, + envelope)
4. letter to Garnet (Mrs. Jas M. Lahr, Juneau) from Jim (J.M. Lahr, La Touche), Jan 31 - 1923 (3 p, holograph in ink, + envelope)
5. letter to Garnet (Mrs. Jas M. Lahr, Juneau) from Jim (J.M. Lahr, La Touche), 2/17/1923 (4 p, holograph in ink, + envelope)
6. letter to Garnet (Mrs. Jas M. Lahr, Juneau) from Jim (J.M. Lahr, La Touche), May 6/1923 (3 p, holograph in ink, + envelope)
7. letter to Mrs. James Lahr, Aberdeen, WA, from the Ass't Cashier of the First National Bank of Juneau, Sept. 21, 1925 (1/2 sheet), duplicate deposit slip for Barbara Lahr dated June 16, 1925, and envelope.

Folder 5: Correspondence, 1936:

1. empty envelope, postmarked April 17, 1936
2. letter to Luella (Ludie) Egan from Ma, June 27, 1936 (10 p + envelope).
3. letter to Luella (Ludie) Egan from Moms (Alice A. Laughlin) Dec. 29, 1936 (5 p + e.)

Folder 6: Correspondence, 1937 (1):

1. letter to Luella (Ludie) Egan from Mom, Jan. 11, 1937 (8 p + env.)
2. letter to Luella (Ludie) Egan from Mom, Feb. 1, 1937 (6 p + env.)
3. typed letter from (Babbie?) titled Ye Old Homestead News on first page, with penciled in notes [from Barbara] and Feb. 13 [1937?] (3p), immediately followed by typed letter from (Babbie?) to Mother, Dated February 14 (2 p), and 3rd written letter to mother from Babbie (?) dated February 15 (13 p). All folded the same, perhaps mailed together. No envelope.
4. letter to Garnet (?) (Mrs. J.M. Lahr) from Jim (J.M. Lahr), Feb. 27, 1937 (2p + env.)
5. letter to Mumsy from Babbie (?), Feb. 27, 1937 & Mar 1, 2, 4, 5. (24 p + env., part pencil)
6. letter to Garnet (?) (Mrs. J.M. Lahr) from Jim, March 5, 1937. (3 p + env., all pencil)
7. letter to Mother (Mrs. J. M. Lahr) from Barbara (Babs), March 9, 11, 12 1937, (11p + env., part pencil)
8. letter to Luella (Ludie) Egan from Moms, March 10, 1937 (2 p +envelope, pencil)

Folder 7: Correspondence, 1937 (2):

1. letter to Garnet & All (address on envelope Mrs. J.M. Lahr) from Ludie (Luella Egan), Mar. 11, 1937 (3 p + envelope, pencil on long, acidic paper – fragile)
2. letter to Mother (Mrs. J.M. Lahr) from Barbara, March 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 [1937?] (16 p + env. without postmark, 2 ½ pages typed)
3. letter to Mumsy (Mrs. Jas. M. Lahr) from Babs, March 26, 1937 (4 p + env.)

4. letter to ?(Mrs. James M. Lahr on envelope), no signature, but monogram BML at top, March 29, [1937 on envelope], (8 p + envelope, 5 ½ p typed)
5. letter to Mother from Babs (BML), March 31, April 1 & 2, 1937 (8 p + env.)
6. letter to Mother (Mrs. James M. Lahr) from Babbie (BML), April 6, 1937 (4 p + env.)
7. letter to Mother (Mrs. J.M. Lahr) from Barbara, April 7 & 9, 1937 (10 p + env.)
8. letter to Mother (Mrs. Jas. M. Lahr) from Barbara, April 13 & 14, 1937 (11 p + env.)
9. letter to Mrs. Garnet Lahr from Robert M. Coffey, M.D., May 21, 1937 (1 p + env.)
10. letter to Alice (Laughlin) and Garnet from Anna Webster, 6/10/37 (2 p + env.)

Folder 8: Correspondence, 1937 (3):

- 1a. letter to Alice from Alphonsine (?), June 17, 1937 (4 p) [may have been enclosed with letter to Garnet, next]
- 1b. letter to Garnet Lahr from Alphonsine (?), June 17, 1937 (3 p + envelope addressed to Garnet Lahr)
- 1c. letter to Grammee (Alice Laughlin) from Bobbie, June 17, 1937 (2 small p +unstamped envelope)
2. letter to Grandma (Mrs. Alice Laughlin) from Mildred, June 18, 1937 (12 p + env.)
3. letter to Mother (Mrs. Alice Laughlin) from Ted, July 8, 1937 (2 p + env.)
4. letter to Garnet (Mrs. J.M. Lahr) from Ted, July 19, 1937 (2 p + env.)
5. letter to Nannie (Mrs. Alice Laughlin) from Walter McKinnon (?), July 25, 1937 (8 p + envelope with note stating “came after Mother went to hospital”)
6. letter to Lue, Garnet (Mrs. J.M. Lahr) from Aunt Gertie (?), Aug. 2, 1937 (2 p + env.)
- 7a. letter to Garnet from “Uncle Flor” (?), Aug. 6, 1937 (1 p + env.)
- 7b. letter to Garnet and Luella from Aunt Addie (Alice’s sister, Mrs. A. Robertson), Aug. 6, 1937 (4p + env.)
8. letter to Garnet from Anna Webster, Aug. 8, 1937 (2 p + envelope)
9. letter to Garnet from Anna Keeny (?), Aug. 8/9, 1937 (4 small p + envelope)
10. letter to Mrs. Garnet Lahr from Elizabeth S. McDowell, Aug. 12, 1937 (1p + env.)
11. letter to Garnet from Ruth Blake (?), Aug. 20, 1937 (1 p + envelope)
12. letter to Garnet from Addie, Sept. 13, 1937 (4 p + env.)
13. letter to Garnet from Aunt Addie (Mrs. A. Robertson), Sept. 23, 1937 (6 p + env.)

Folder 9: Copy of 1 photograph from James Simpson MacKinnon collection:

PCA 14-112. Addie and Louella Laughlin [head and shoulder portrait of two young girls both wearing knotted tams.] [this is a poor copy of the image at PCA 14-112]