

Alaska State Library
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

Rawson, Alonzo, 1864-1904

Alonzo Rawson Papers, ca 1898-1900

MS 176

1 box
10 folders

Processed By: Gladi Kulp
December 1999
Inventory: L. Spear
December 1999
Revised By: Gladi Kulp
February 2000

ACQUISITION: The collection was donated by Ted Stubbs, grandson of Alonzo Rawson.

ACCESS: The collection is unrestricted.

COPYRIGHT: Request for permission to publish or reproduce material from the collection should be discussed with the librarian.

PROCESSING: Documents were arranged according to transcript created by the donor. A folder level inventory is available.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Alonzo Rawson, of Des Moines, was born on November 18, 1864 and graduated from Iowa State University with a law degree in 1888. He worked in Seattle area until he went to interior Alaska as the legal representative of the North American Transportation and Trading Co. The Company sent him to set up a post on the Yukon River at Melozikakat, which is north of Ruby on the north side of the river. In June 1899 he floated down the Yukon to St. Michaels expecting to return home. As there were no other attorneys there he stayed to practice law. After the

Nome gold strike he was appointed U.S. Commissioner and soon thereafter, first municipal judge in the district of Nome. Rawson was also the first mayor of Nome. His fiancée, Gertrude Witmer joined him in Nome in the fall of 1900 where they were married. He returned to Des Moines to attend to business, became ill and died there on May 20, 1904 at age 39.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE

The manuscript collection includes Alonzo Rawson's diary from 1898-1900, correspondence, primarily to his fiancée, Gertrude in Des Moines. One letter is written by Gertrude after her arrival in Nome, October 1900. Also included is a story by Rawson, clippings, and Rawson's obituary. Most of the above were transcribed by the donor; the arrangement follows his transcription and is chronological. Photographs form a separate collection, PCA 406.

INVENTORY

The donor provided a transcript of the diary, correspondence, and "The Arrival of the Storekeeper on the Yukon." Transcript is located in Folder 9.

Folder 1	Diary, 1898 - 1900
Folder 2	"The Arrival of the Storekeeper on the Yukon" as told by Judge Rawson
Folder 3	Correspondence Dec. 1897 - May 1898
Folder 4	Correspondence June 1898 - Sept.1898
Folder 5	Correspondence Jan. 1899 - Aug. 1899
Folder 6	Correspondence Sept.1899 - Oct. 1900
Folder 7	Alonzo Rawson obituary
Folder 8	Newspaper clippings
Folder 9	Transcript of diaries, correspondence, and story told by Judge Rawson; Macintosh disk included.
Folder 10	The Rampart Whirlpool, v. 1, no. 1 [Rampart City, 1899?]