

Alaska State Library
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

Stanley, Lewis V., 1876-1956

Lewis V. Stanley Photograph Collection, 1904-1929

PCA 184

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Introduction

These photographs by Lewis V. Stanley are a selection of views reproduced from the Stanley-Mason Collection at the Tacoma Public Library. This extensive collection in Tacoma, Washington, includes both personal papers and photographs.

Biographical Note

In 1925 Beatrice Birmingham went to Fort Yukon, Alaska, to work at the hospital. She later married two pioneer Alaskans. In 1926, she married Willoughby Mason and traveled with him and his brother Reuben, 600 miles up the Porcupine River for winter fur trapping. Mr. Mason died in 1935 and Beatrice later remarried Lewis V. Stanley, a prospector who arrived in Alaska in 1897. He was in Nome in 1901, Chisana in 1913, and worked for several large mining companies throughout the North and Alaska. The Masons retired to Seattle and their home became a gathering place for former Alaskans, a service which grew to be known as "Alaskan Friends." Beatrice' life in Alaska is described in the unpublished manuscript Return to the Frontier.

Scope and Contents Note

The collection consists of photos taken by Mr. Stanley and collected by Beatrice during her marriage to Mr. Mason. Images include gold mining, dredges, freighting and activities at Forty Mile, Goldstream, Shushana, Fox, etc, 1904-1929.

Inventory (by subject)

Box 1

- 1 - 3 Fairbanks Dredges
- 4 - 15 Forty Mile
- 16 - 29 Goldstream
- 30 - 40 Mammoth Creek
- 41 - 66A Miller House/Berry Dredge
- 67 - 68 Ruby
- 69 - 82 Shushana/Bonanza City
- 83 - 106 T.E.C. Dredge, Fox
- 107 - 109 Walker Fork
- 110 - 115 Fairbanks, McCarthy, Circle Hot Springs, & Circle City
- 116 - 125 Panning Gold, Mail Service, Roadhouses, White Pass Stage & Brower Stage
- 126 - 139 Trail & Freighting (Whiskey Hill, White River, Nizina Glacier, Skolai Trail & Chisana)
- 140 - 160 People

[Notes from Norman Sather 1/11/01, who grew up on this property:

143 First gold bucket-lined dredge in Alaska. It was disassembled in Stewart River, Canada and reassembled in Fairbanks Creek.

144 Crew house for dredge.]

Box 2

"Return to the Frontier," by Beatrice Stanley. Copy of a typescript of Mrs. Stanley's autobiography, describing her life in Alaska, and copies of several articles on Mr. and Mrs. Stanley and their work for an Alaska Friends Home in Seattle.