

Alaska State Library  
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

**Klondike Gold Rush**

**Klondike Gold Rush Photograph Collection, ca. 1897-1910**

**PCA 232**

**Historical Note**

The discovery of gold in the Klondike created a mass stampede to an area few people had seen. The United States and Canadian governments were not even certain as to the boundary line between them but the gold rush hastened the border survey.

Dyea and Skagway became boom towns as they were the starting points for the Chilkoot and White Pass Trails. Dyea soon became a ghost town when Skagway became the southern terminus of the White Pass and Yukon Railroad, which was completed in 1899. Skagway's population also declined when the gold rush waned.

After the prospectors climbed the Chilkoot Trail, many built small boats at Lake Bennett or Lake Lindeman and sailed to Dawson and the gold fields. In May of 1898 between 20,000 and 30,000 stampeders camped on their shores, cutting trees to build boats for the journey. Even those who rode to Whitehorse on the train had to find other ways to get to Dawson.

### Scope and Contents Note

Scenes from Skagway to Dawson relating to the Klondike Gold Rush. ca. 1897-1910. The collection is arranged by areas starting with Skagway and the White Pass. Dyea and Chilkoot Pass are followed by mining operations in the Dawson area and other miscellaneous views. Most of the photographs are copy prints and better images may be found in other collections such as:

P.E. Larss	PCA 41
Winter and Pond	PCA 21 AND 87
Paul Sincic	PCA 75
E.A. Hegg	PCA 124
Charles Metcalf	PCA 34

### INVENTORY

- 1-6 Maps: Chilkoot and White Pass Trails.
- 7-17 Town of Skagway.
- 18-49 White Pass Trail.
- 50-62 Dyea -- overall views.
- 63-79 Buildings and people in Dyea.
- 79a-79f Chilkoot Trail near Dyea.
- 80-82 Tlingit and "Stick" Indians; includes gambling view.
- 83-102 Chilkoot Trail -- Yukon Canyon.
- 103-112 Chilkoot Trail -- Canyon City.
- 113 Chilkoot Trail Pleasant Valley Camp.
- 114-130 Chilkoot Trail Sheep Camp.
- 131-132 Chilkoot Trail Stonehouse.
- 133-141 Chilkoot Trail Snowslide and cemetery for victims.
- 142-158 Chilkoot Trail the scales at the foot of the summit.

- 159-166 Summit of Chilkoot Trail.
- 167-177 Lake Lindeman.
- 178-208 Lake Bennett.
- 209-213 Trains and passengers at Lake Bennett.
- 214-224 Transportation on Lake Bennett.
- 225-228 Whitehorse.
- 229-241 Marsh Lake, Miles Canyon, Whitehorse Rapids and Five Finger Rapids.
- 242-249 Yukon River.
- 250-256 Dawson.
- 257-266 Placer Mining -- Klondike Gold Fields.
- 267-279 Miners -- informal group portraits.
- 280-283 Miscellaneous views relating to mining.