

Alaska State Library
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

Wansbury, Thomas Guy, 1889-1972

**Thomas G. Wansbury Photograph Collection, ca. 1915-1918
Alaska Railroad Construction**

PCA 324

154 photographs

ACQUISITION: The collection was donated in 1989 by D.E. Wansbury, son of Thomas G. Wansbury. Acc. #1989-032.

ACCESS: The collection is available for viewing, however, the photographs may not be photocopied.

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

PROCESSING: Photos were numbered and housed in Mylar. Many of the photos are captioned on the verso.

Biographical Note

Thomas Guy Wansbury was born in England in 1889 and came to the United States in 1912. He was initially employed as a civil engineering surveyor by Southern Pacific RR in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. He arrived in Alaska around 1915 to work on the Alaska Railroad. He joined the U.S. Army at Fort Seward, Alaska, in 1918. After his discharge from the Army, he returned to California where he lived until his death February 22, 1972.

Scope and Contents Note

The majority of the prints are 8 x 14 cm. (3¼ x 5½ in.); includes one panorama. This collection documents the preliminary survey and early construction of the Alaska Railroad, ca. 1915-1917. Views include railroad survey and construction work, bridges, the towns of Fort Seward, Anchorage, Seward and Cordova, a portrait of Thomas Guy Wansbury and a panorama of the original railroad survey crew. Photographers represented in the collection include Louis H. Pedersen, Paul Beran, John E. Thwaites, and Straughan.

No inventory available.

324-145 After setting the final point on the Alaska Boundary, On the shore of the Arctic Ocean, July 15th 1912. For the United States, Thomas Riggs Jr. For H.B.M., J.D. Craig. (*Located in PCA/Panoramas X-Oversize, Map Case #4 in Vault*)