

Alaska State Library  
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

**Tower, Ark A., Photographer**

**Ark A. Tower Photograph Collection, 1901-1903**

**PCA 334**

16 photographs, b&w  
1 diary, hand-made

**ACQUISITION:** Irene Tower Carey, daughter of Ark Tower, donated the collection in 1991 (Acc. no. 1991-057).

**ACCESS:** The photographs may be viewed, however, they may not be photocopied.

**COPYRIGHT:** Requests for permission to reproduce images from the collection should be discussed with the librarian.

**PROCESSING:** The photographs are sleeved in Mylar. Descriptions in this guide were transcribed from Tower's handwritten captions found on the verso of the photos, where legible.

### Biographical Note

Ark Tower was born in 1879. He served as sergeant in Company "C" 8th Infantry at Fort Egbert from 1901-1903. The U. S. Army was stationed at Fort Egbert in 1899, adjacent to Eagle, Alaska, to provide law and order, build roads and communications (including the telegraph system, WAMCATS, Washington-Alaska Military Cable and Telegraph System) and assist indigent miners in the area.

An avid photographer, Sergeant Tower photographed images of daily life and military activities in and around Fort Egbert. He developed and mounted the photographs himself. Sergeant Tower was a first cousin to Senator John Tower of Texas. He died in 1958 and was buried in the uniform he wore during his service. [Information about Fort Egbert from the Eagle Historical Society and Museums, <http://www.eagleak.org/city.htm> Accessed: 05 Feb 10.

### Scope and Contents Note

The collection contains sixteen black and white photographs mounted on board and with descriptions on versos, possibly written by Ark Tower. The images show Fort Egbert at the turn of the century, fellow soldiers (many are identified), military life on the base, the Fort Egbert school, missionary teacher and students, and the Fort Egbert Native village. The collection also includes a diary kept by Ark Tower, from Jan. to June 1903.

### Inventory

- 1 Crowd of soldiers coming down the mountain after being to the top of the mountain to see midnight sun in Juneau. Taken at 12:20 a.m. by natural light [17 men in uniform posed on a hillside. faded.]
- 2 St. Tower's Squad Room. Fort Egbert, Alaska. Verso: Members of Sergeant Tower's squad at Ft. Egbert, Alaska. Front kneeling: Conner and Parker. Standing, Shinkey, Lammers, Hewitt, Van Dyke, Allair, Ward, Tower, Jameson [?], Turner, Brown. Rear Row: Voldr, Wyland, Lewellyn, Cohan, Wertheim, Hawkins, Elder, Dresback, Wright, Bullock, Fitzsimmons.
- 3 Sergeant Tower's Squad, Fort Egbert, Alaska July 1902. Verso: Members of Sergeant Towers.... Front Row: Tower, Lynde, Ward, Moorman, Allair, Elder, Westheim [Wertheim]. Standing: Lammers, Darby, Conner, Turner, Brown, Wright, Jameson, Lammers, Hewitt, Tyler, Fitzsimmons, Van Dyke, Dresback, Harnish, Antony Miller, Meyer, McLouth, Jasper Smith. Rear row standing: Hawkins, the ? Serg't, Whitlock, Parker, Wyland, Voldr, Cohan, Lewellyn, Shinky [men in uniform posed outside a log building holding weapons].
- 4 [verso] The Day after the biggest event in Alaska the breaking of the Yukon River May 14, 1902. Down below is August Miller and Dietzeu. On top Sergt Tower, Pvt. Quigley,

- Schmidt, Tyler. The one sitting unknown. The white bellied boy is the Pugulist Winjum [?] [faded. men standing on an ice floe].
- 5 Guard at Fort Egbert, Alaska. July 27, 1902. Taken in the head nets as protection from the mosquitoes. Trumpeter John Ruigheim of Norway. Sergeant Ark A. Tower of Indiana, Corporal Daniel J. Callahan of A.H. St. Private Arthur Grenier of Maine, Private James T. Fitzsimmons of Missouri, Private Julius Schmidt of Missouri, Private Charles Snyder of Ohio, Private Willard Castle of New York [8 men standing at attention dressed in mosquito netting. stained.]
- 6 Watching Ball Game. Ft. Egbert, Alaska. July 4th, 1902. Ark A. Tower [men watching a game seated and standing next to a small dwelling].
- 7 Sergeant Tower's Squad inside view Co C 8th Infantry Fort Egbert, Alaska [blurred. men posed inside the barracks].
- 8 Indian School at Eagle, Alaska. Mrs. Ensiger the missionary's wife, the teacher. [Nine native children with teacher; log building.]
- 9 Ark A. Tower. Verso: Watching Ball game at Fort Egbert Alaska. July 4th Crown from Dawson City Yukon Territory, Canadians. [Damaged.]
- 10 Pack Train starting out from Fort Egbert. [Men in snow; one on ground, one in a tree.]
- 11 verso: Indian Village Ft. Egbert. Missionaries Indians, soldiers and dried Salmon. [Blurred].
- 12 verso: Sergt. A.A. Tower and guard in buffalo coats 1903 at Fort Egbert, Alaska. [Men posed with rifles; one observing, building is located in the background.]
- 13 Snow at Fort Egbert, Alaska 1902. [men looking over snow berm, posed, with shovels]
- 14 Different uniforms in the Co. C 8th Inf at Fort Egbert, Alaska. [Faded. Men with American flag in hand, dressed in various uniforms]
- 15 Company "C" 8th Infantry lined up for retreat August 25th, 1902 at Fort Egbert, Alaska. Standing at "Right Shoulder Arms". Sergt. Tower left guide. [Infantrymen at attention next to a log structure.]
- 16 The Mining Town of Juneau, Alaska the nicest and with the exception of Home, the largest town in Alaska and soon to become the capital. June 8, 1902. [Juneau from the waterfront, looking toward Starr Hill.]
- 17 "Diary for the year 1903. Sergeant Ark A. Tower. Co. "C" 8<sup>th</sup> Inf. Fort Egbert, Alaska" [Hand-made diary, inscribed daily from Jan. through June 1903]