

Alaska State Library  
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

Mellem, E. G., Photographer

E. G. Mellem Photograph Collection, 1898

PCA 370

8 photographs  
1 typescript

Processed by: India Spartz  
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**ACQUISITION:** The photographs were donated to the Alaska State Library in 1970 by Mellem's granddaughter, Ione Mellem-Moore of Brisben, New York. (Acc. No. 1996-23).

**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:** The photos were numbered by staff and housed in Mylar. A finding aid is available.

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Little is known about Mr. Mellem. According to his granddaughter, he was a "school teacher, homesteaded lots of land in N. Dakota and was in real estate law." He came to Alaska during the 1898 gold rush and never would have survived the expedition if he had not received help from an Eskimo family. Out of the 80 men who went, only 4 or 5 returned. He died in 1904.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The small collection contains pictures of Mr. Mellem's trip including Copper Center, Sitka and unidentified men and locations. The typed manuscript from "Ships Island, Alaska May 25, 1898" describes his experience traveling the trail, hauling supplies on a glacier and family information regarding mail delivery at Port Valdes [Valdez].

## INVENTORY

1. 1898 Going to Alaska on Tillimook Boat [men loading supplies, faded image].
2. Copper River at Copper Center, Alaska [man standing on shore with boats].
3. [4 men in work clothes and mosquito netting in a boat *The Rolling Gimlet*.]
4. Cache where goods were stored. Inland Alaska. [Men standing in front of a large cache with tents and "Pilot Bread" box in foreground].
5. Preparing Last Supper Inside Glazier [Glacier]. Aug. 10, 1898. Alaska. [faded view of men seated on rocky surface preparing a meal].
6. [Men seated on rocky surface looking over glacier field.]
7. [Unidentified men standing at a campsite, faded image.]
8. Port of Sitka Alaska 1898. [Very faded image of Sitka from the water].