

Alaska State Library
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

Rawson, Alonzo, 1864-1904

Alonzo Rawson Family Photograph Album, ca 1898

PCA 406

1 album (123 photographs, postcards)

Prepared by: Gladi Kulp, 10/1999
Inventory: Loraine Spear, 11/1999

ACQUISITION: The collection was donated by Theodore F. Stubbs, grandson of Alonzo Rawson, in August of 1999 (Acc. No. 1999-050).

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

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

PROCESSING: Photographs in album were numbered. Album was interleaved with acid-free tissue. An item-level inventory is available.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Alonzo Rawson, of Des Moines, was born on November 18, 1864 and graduated from Iowa State University with a law degree in 1888. He worked in Seattle area until he went to interior Alaska as the legal representative of the North American Transportation and Trading Co. The Company sent him to set up a post on the Yukon River at Melosikikat, which is north of Ruby on the north side of the river. In June 1899 he floated down the Yukon to St. Michaels expecting to return home. As there were no other attorneys there he stayed to practice law. After the Nome gold strike he was appointed U.S. Commissioner and soon thereafter, first municipal judge in the district of Nome. Rawson was also the first mayor of Nome. His fiancée, Gertrude Witmer, joined him in Nome in the fall of 1900 where they were married. He returned to Des Moines to attend to business, became ill and died there on May 20, 1904 at age 39.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE

The album is mainly a documentation of Rawson's life in Alaska, the Yukon, Washington, D.C. and around Lake Michigan. Places photographed include: Yukon River, Nulato, Nome, Koyukuk, St. Michaels, Chilkoot Pass, Circle City, Weare and Dawson. The Alaska/Yukon photos were taken ca. 1898-1899. Documents form a separate collection, Ms 176.

INVENTORY

Photograph Album:

Photo:	1	Residence of C. H. Arater [?] - Nome Alaska. Where we were married.
	2	Staking claims in the Yukon.
	3	The Lower Yukon
	4	Burning down to bed-rock.
	5	Indian Grave
	6	A likely looking gulch
	7	Nulato
	8	A trading post on the Yukon
	9	Winter on the Yukon
	10	Starving Indians coming to the Post-from the Yoykuk [Koyukuk] Dogs to[o] weak to haul the sleds.

- Your humble servant in the white shirt.
[Repeated en verso]
- 11 Making a portage Mch.[sic] 22/99
- 12 72° below zero.
- 13 Indian friends
- 14 By T. J. L[angston] [Camp set up in the woods.]
- 15 Indian squaw and children
- 16 Lap Driver and Reindeer
- 17 Some more friends
- 18 “Don’t know whether they like it or not”
- 19 [Ko]yukuk Ala. [T.] J Langston [same person as Indian friend #13]
- 20-21 St. Michaels [panoramic view]
- 22 Village near St. M[ichaels].
- 23 Behring [Bering] Sea Natives and Kayaks.
- 24 [Chilkoot Pass]
- 25 Spring of 1898 Rush over Chilcoot [Chilkoot] Pass
- 26 [Camp at Chilcoot [Chilkoot] Pass]
- 27 Near view
- 28 Half way to the Summit house
- 29 Custom House on the Summit
- 30 Horses breaking through on trail to Dawson Spring of 1898.
- 31 Miles Cañon [Canyon]
- 32 As the water enters the gorge
- 33 2nd view
- 34 Last leap of boat going down White Horse Rapids.

35	Dawson
36	Dawson
37	Steamboat Landing at Dawson
38	Dawson Post Office July '98
39	"Old misson"[mission] Lake Michigan
40	[Trees at Lake Michigan]
41-44	[Sailboats on Lake Michigan]
45-46	[People standing under trees near Lake Michigan]
47	[Church near Lake Michigan]
48	[Lighthouse near Lake Michigan]
49-50	[Friends and/or family on sailboat, Lake Michigan]
51	[Boy with cat]
52	[Older couple and child on porch]
53	[Sailboat, Lake Michigan]
54	[Boy with dog]
55-68	[Home and family (cyanotype)]
64-65	[Alonzo, Gertrude, and Dorothy]
69	[Man standing on rock with engraved plaque]
70-71	[Woman with child]
72	[Woman standing in front of rocks]
73-81	[Family photos]
76	[Alonzo]
82-84	[House: exterior and interior]
85	[Portrait of a woman]

86-94	[Family photos]
95	[United States Capitol Building]
96	[Building in Washington D.C.]
97	[Ballroom, Washington D.C.]
98	Circle City
99	[Boats, tents, buildings]
100	Weare
101	The Yukon
102	[Boat]
103-105	Dorothy at six months
106	[Man standing]
107-113	[Family photos]
114	[Horses with carriages]
115-116	[Men with rifles]
117-123	[Family photos]