

Alaska State Library
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

Churchill, William L.

William L. Churchill Photograph Collection, ca. 1912

PCA 464

1 photograph album
162 b&w photographs

Processed by: James Simard, Sept. 2006
Revised by: Sandra Johnston, Aug. 2015

ACQUISITION: William L. Churchill's collection of Alaskan photographs was donated by his grandson, William L. Churchill, in 2006, Acc. no. 2006-042.

ACCESS: The collection is available for viewing.

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PROCESSING: The album is in fragile condition. Some album pages are loose, with a few photographs missing. The album was placed in an archival box. All album pages were interleaved.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

William L. Churchill was an itinerant engineer who went to the Klondike gold fields from White Plains, New York, which was his permanent home when he was not traveling. He died in 1936.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE

Photographs taken by Mr. Churchill depict placer mining, hard rock gold mining and related activities in 1912, during the Klondike gold rush. Some images document mining engineering practices such as brush retaining walls on streams and thawing of frozen ground to accommodate dredging.

Places depicted include the Klondike River, Yukon River, Treadwell, Douglas, Skagway, Ketchikan, Petersburg, Allard Bay [Alert Bay, B. C.], Bonanza Creek, Y. T., Dawson, Y. T.

Subjects also include totem poles, potlatch, light houses, glaciers, travel by steamships and railroad, and scenes of daily life in the Yukon and Alaska.

INVENTORY

1. William L. Churchill – photographer for this album. Taken at midnight June 22, 1912, Dawson, Y.T.
2. Whale Inlet. June 1912.
3. Waterfront at Dawson.
4. On the Klondike mouth of Bear Creek.
5. City of Douglass [Douglas], Alaska. 1912.
6. Ketchikan, Alaska.
7. Hootalinqua Y.T.
8. White Pass and Yukon Railway near Summit of pass.
9. Digging frozen ground 70 ft. underground. Gold values highest.
10. Lighthouse Wrangle [Wrangell] Narrows.
11. Five Finger rapids in a storm.
12. Chain of buckets 20 every minute runs 24 hours a day during season [Photo Missing]
13. Bonanza Creek near Dawson.
14. "Me & Jim".
15. Comforts at Klondike, July 1912.
16. "Taku Glacier".
17. Lake Bennett on White Pass and Yukon railway.

18. Totem Poles, Wrangle [Wrangell], Alaska.
19. Bridge on White Pass, Yukon Ry.
20. Gold dredge [Photo Missing]
21. Wooding up on the Yukon River.
22. Building a fire in a snowstorm, June 8,'12 near summit of Mt. Dewey.
23. "Horseless carriage - " Milk team.
24. Scene on Bonanza Creek, Y.T.
25. Brush walls to retain gravel from creek.
26. Gold Bottom Yukon Ter.
27. Brush woven retaining walls.
28. Icebergs in Wrangle [Wrangell] Narrows, June 1912.
29. Dominion Creek, Y.T. \$150,000,000 taken out of this stream.
30. Dawson Y.T. from Moosehide trail.
31. Queen Victoria Rock on Yukon River.
32. Wood pile for thawing ground.
33. Looking down on the Yukon, Moosehide Trail.
34. Rejected gravel from gold dredge.
35. Dog team, Treadwell, Alaska.
36. The Forks- millions in gold taken from here. Now a deserted village.
37. Chilkoot Pass - famous during 1897-98.
38. Thawing bed of Bonanza Creek.
39. Bonanza Creek trail. Mr. Taylor and Dr. Payne [Photo Missing]
40. Dr. Payne and W.L. Churchill, Dawson, Y.T. 1912.
41. Haircut in Klondike.
42. Churchill experiment in thawing.
43. On Steamer Spokane looking for bear in Wrangell Narrows.
44. On Mt. Dewey Skagway, Alaska. June 7, 1912.
45. Climbing Mt. Dewey June 7, '12. 5,000 ft. high.
46. Steamer Spokane.
47. \$135,000 in gold bricks, Dawson 1912.
48. Log bridge, Indian River Y.T.
49. Thawing for dredging on Bonanza Creek.
50. Upper Bonanza, Y.T.
51. Indian River road-house. Potatoes in foreground.
52. On the Klondike, Y.T. near Bear Creek.
53. Hydraulic tailings from Levett [Lovett] Gulch Y.T.
54. Barnes Gold Drift Mine Lovett Gulch Dawson Y.T.
55. Ice covered walls of Barnes Gold Drift Mine, Lovett Gulch.
56. Carrying mail from Dawson to Fort McPherson in midwinter.
57. Method of holding back hydraulic tailings from burying roads.
58. Hydraulic for gold in the Gulch in Klondike.
59. Lovett Gulch in the Klondike.
60. McKinnon Bros., Indian River Y.T.

61. Ready for a trip in the Klondike. W.L.C. and Dr. Payne.
62. Indian River road house on the winter trail. Y.T.
63. Interior of road-house.
64. Hydraulicing on left limit- Lovett Gulch.
65. Hydraulicing in the Klondike.
66. On the Yukon below Dawson.
67. City of Quartz, on Quartz Creek, Y.T.
68. Ground sluicing on Dominion Creek.
69. Coal mine sampling, Ruby Creek.
70. Coal Creek Valley. Y.T.
71. Interior of coal mine on Coal Creek.
72. A Dawson hotel.
73. Ready for ground sluicing on Dominion Creek.
74. Bank of Yukon River.
75. Chiefs Isaac's camp on Yukon River.
76. Yukon River.
77. Tract of land uncovered of muck by ground sluicing, Dominion Creek, Y.T.
78. Water guided to trickle over frozen muck to thaw for removal by the creek at base Dominion Creek, Y.T.
79. Ploughed muck preparatory to burning on 75 Below Discovery, on Dominion Creek.
80. Moss being burnt to enable the underlying frozen muck to be thawed- Dominion Creek, Y.T.
81. Creek is guided to undercut the frozen muck, which is blasted off into the stream. Dominion Creek.
82. Open cut gold mining on Eldorado Creek, Y.T.
83. A hill of supposed conglomerate on McKinnon Creek, Y.T.
84. Keeping stream clear of obstructions on ground sluicing operations, Dominion Creek.
85. Showing frozen muck and how it is washed away by ground sluicing.
86. Ground sluicing on Dominion Creek.
87. Hawker Creek in the Klondike- a latent measuring device. Messers. Payne, Henry, Churchill.
88. Collection of game heads, and pre-historic tusks, bones, etc. Dawson Y.T.
89. Left limit, Lovetts Gulch Klondike.
90. Hydraulicing, Lovetts Gulch, Klondike.
91. Mountain peaks on White Pass, Alaska.
92. Sea gulls- Alaska.
93. Sea gulls.
94. Mirror Lake, Y.T.
95. Lake Bennett, Y.T.
96. Indian woman, weaving mats at Allard Bay, Alaska.
97. White Pass Mountains.

98. White Pass Ry. Observation. (Sept.)
99. A winter trail. Y.T.
100. Midnight on the Yukon River.
101. Hydraulic nozzle, Klondike.
102. A winter morning toilet in the Klondike.
103. Five Finger rapids, Yukon River, Alaska.
104. Drying salmon, Yukon River.
105. Klondike stock yard.
106. Klondike winter freighters.
107. Freighters in winter.
108. Freighting in the Klondike.
109. Petersburg, Alaska.
110. Klondike hydraulicing.
111. Klondike fields.
112. Indian women and children, Allard Bay, Alaska.
113. Klondike flood.
114. Dugout canoes. Indian village, Allard Bay.
115. White Horse rapids.
116. Petersburg, Alaska.
117. White Pass railway.
118. Steamer Spokane at Juneau, Alaska.
119. Ketchikan, Alaska.
120. Thawing on Bonanza Creek.
121. A Hawker Creek Mine.
122. Bonanza Creek.
123. Mountains of the White Pass, Alaska.
124. Lake Bennett.
125. Indian women, Alaska.
127. Dogs at Selkirk, Y.T.
128. Coasting wood- Klondike.
129. Gold dredge, Bonanza Creek, Y.T.
130. Treadwell, Alaska.
131. Indian potlatch, Allard Bay, Alaska.
132. Indian potlatch, Allard Bay.
133. Allard Bay, Alaska.
134. Treadwell, Alaska.
135. Upper Lake Dewey, on Mt. Dewey [Photo Missing]
136. Winter in the Klondike.
137. Peaks of the White Pass.
138. Mountain on White Pass.
139. White Pass R.R. and mountains near Lake Bennett.
140. Road house, Y.T.
141. Dawson, Y.T.

142. Brush retaining walls- Bonanza Creek.
143. Indian Chief haranguing his tribe at Indian potlatch, Allard Bay.
144. Painted totem board, Allard Bay.
145. Party of Dawsonites under a totem pole at Allard Bay. Left to right- Mr. Creamer, Miss Kootz, Miss Douglars, Mr. Lowe, Mr. Ross.
146. Totems, Allard Bay.
147. Allard Bay, Alaska.
148. Allard Bay.
149. Totem- Allard Bay.
150. "Chief" at his Klondike home.
151. Klondike wild flowers.
152. Pipe line and bank washed down by hydraulicing.
153. Trail Gulch.
154. Flume in which gold is recovered from hydraulic operations, Lovett's Gulch, Klondike.
155. Ogilvia Bridge- Klondike.
156. Thawing on Bonanza Creek.
157. River steamer pushing freight barge, Yukon River, Y.T.
158. A lonesome freight tow.
159. White Pass, Y.T.
160. White Horse rapids- Mr. King, Mr. Miller, Mr. Ross.
161. Klondikers at White Horse, Y.T. Left to right-Mr. Miller, Mr. Creamer, Mr. Shaw, Mrs. Adams. Miss Day, Miss McIntyre, Mr. Ross.
162. Dominion Creek.
163. Totem used for milliners display, Ketchikan, Alaska.
164. Indian potlatch, Allard Bay.
165. Sea gull.
166. [Hydraulic washing in operation].