

Alaska State Library
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

Smith, Walter S.

Walter S. Smith Photograph Collection, ca. 1914

PCA 525-18

2 Folders
146 various sized b&w photographs
and commercial postcards

Processed by: Alea Oien, 6/2009

ACQUISITION: The collection was donated by Charles W. McCrary to the Alaska State Library Historical Collections and is accessioned as 2009-20.

ACCESS: The collection is unrestricted.

ONLINE ACCESS: 9,314 KB PDF Folders 1 & 2

http://www.library.state.ak.us/hist/hist_img/albums/asl_p525-18_web.pdf

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ORDERING & USE: http://library.alaska.gov/vilda_rights.html

PROCESSING: This collection has been described at the folder level. All items have been placed in Mylar and into pH-neutral folders.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Walter S. Smith (9/1887-11/1967) was a crew member of the Signal Corp. While stationed in Alaska, around 1914, his crew constructed a telegraph line from Fairbanks to Nome.

This collection was passed down to the donor through his great aunt who was married to Walter S. Smith.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE

This collection contains 146 photographs and commercial postcards (Lowman Bros., Nome, Alaska) of interior Alaska and the Nome area taken and collected by Walter S. Smith. These black and white photographs depict life in this remote section of Alaska. There are pictures of prospectors, Native Alaskan people, dog sled teams, dogs, and mining or trapping camps.

There is a photograph that shows the graves of Derabin [Deraibin] (Russian) and Barnard (English Naval Officer) killed in the Nulato Massacre February 16, 1851. Mrs. James Bean is buried between them. She was the first white woman killed in Alaska, on the Tanana River, in October, 1878.

Many of the photographs were printed on postcard stock.

SUBJECTS

Alaska; Signal Corps; Fairbanks; Nome interior; Nulato Massacre; Mrs. Bean grave marker; prospectors; dog sled teams; Eskimos; Yukon River; St. Michael; Steamships

INVENTORY

Folder 1

121 black and white photographs

Folder 2

25 Larger sized black and white photographs