

**Alaska State Library
Historical Collections**

Guide to Collection

Seyfer (Seyffer), William C.

William C. Seyfer Photograph Collection, ca. 1899-1930

PCA 576

4 b&w photographic prints
1 newspaper obituary
2 certificates [photocopies]

Processed by: Anastasia Tarmann, May 2014
Revised by: Jacki Swearingen, Aug. 2015

ACQUISITION: The collection was donated June 12, 2006 by Yvonne Wohlferd Carrabine, Seyfer's granddaughter. Acc. # 2006-057.

ACCESS: The collection is unrestricted.

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

PROCESSING: This collection has been described at the item level. All items were placed in Mylar, and placed into a pH-neutral folder.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Paraphrased from donor's notes: William C. Seyfer was born April 6, 1879 in Pepin, Wisconsin. He died July 12, 1964, at age 85, at a hospital in Wabasha. He was given the surname Seyffer at birth, however, as "relatives wanted his money when he returned from Alaska so he changed the spelling before he returned from Alaska." Seyfer worked as an "Eng. Watchman Fireman" on the Washington and Colorado Railroad on his way from Pepin, Wisconsin, to Alaska in 1898. Seyfer remained in Alaska until 1930 where he was first a goldminer. Seyfer found a large quantity of gold, but lost much in the crash [of 1929]. Then he started his own hauling company and helped build the road to Mt. McKinley [now called Denali]. Seyfer returned to Wisconsin where he bought a farm. He married in 1931. He and his wife, Emma Wohlferd, lived and worked on the farm in Hicks Valley, until 1958. Seyfer and Emma then moved to Pepin. He served as treasurer of the Hicks Valley school district for 12 years.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE

b&w photographs of road crew, tractors, snow clearing, road; and work certificates, ca. 1899-1930.

INVENTORY

Folder 1

- 1 [Road crew posing with tractors in grassy area]
- 2 [Tractor clearing deep snow]
- 3 [Road, grassy landscape, from above]
- 4 [Five individuals in automobile, driving between deep snow banks]
- 5 William C. Seyfer Obituary
- 6 [2 photocopied certificates]
 - a. Wash & Col Railroad Company, Apr 1899 to Dec 1901
 - b. City of Fairbanks Registration, 1918