

Alaska State Library
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

Stafeev, Vladimir Vasiliev, 1837-1910

Papers of Vladimir V. Stafeev, 1869-1895

MS 6

2 boxes
1.5 linear ft.

Updated by: Jacki Swearingen, Sept. 2016
Updated by: Jacki Swearingen, Jan. 2019

ACQUISITION: The provenance is unknown.

ACCESS: The collection is unrestricted.

Please use Microfilm MFMS 37

MS 6/1 has been scanned and is available on Alaska's Digital Archives:

<http://vilda.alaska.edu/cdm/singleitem/collection/cdmg21/id/22662/rec/1>

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PROCESSING: This collection has been described at the item and folder level. Some items have been placed in Mylar and then into a pH-neutral folder.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Vladimir Stafeev was born in 1837, in Reval, Estonia. In his mid-20s he entered the service of the Russian-American Company and was sent to Alaska. In June 1864 he was appointed manager of the company post, Nikolaevskii Redoubt, now Kenai.

After the sale of Alaska to the United States, in 1868, and the purchase of Russian-American Company installations by the Hutchinson-Kihl Company, Stafeev was hired in May 1868 to operate their store at Kenai. He worked jointly with Captain James Wilson. Wilson dealt with the U. S. Army soldiers at Fort Kenai and Stafeev with the Kenaitsy (Dena'ina) Indians. He married a Kenaitsy woman, the daughter of a local toion (chief). They had one daughter.

Stafeev remained at Fort Kenai until about 1870. In 1872 he was at Kodiak, and for part of the time after 1874 he was in San Francisco. About March 1879 he was installed at Nuchek as agent of the Western Fur and Trading Company, better known as the W.F. & T. Company.

Stafeev died in 1905. He lies in the family plot, overlooking Kodiak, with his wife, daughter, and son-in-law.

From information found in the article "Tyonek In The 1880s: From The Diary of V.V. Stafeev" by Richard A. Pierce. The article is in the book Adventures Through Time: Readings in the Anthropology of Cook Inlet, Alaska. (F912.C66A38 1996)

SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE

Stafeev's journal and letters provide many facts concerning the ethnography, economy, and social history of the period in Alaska from 1880-1895. During this time Stafeev served in trading posts at Nuchek, Tyonek, Douglas, and Kodiak. Entries while he was at Tyonek (1884/1888) mention Dena'ina shamanism, hunting routines, the conduct of the fur trade, traditions, customs, and beliefs. There is information of the murder of traders Holt, at Knik, and McIntyre, at Kodiak. The journal is supplemented by the author's ethnographic notes, and drafts of letters.

From information found in the article "Tyonek In The 1880s: From The Diary of V.V. Stafeev" by Richard A. Pierce. The article is in the book Adventures Through Time: Readings in the Anthropology of Cook Inlet, Alaska. (F912.C66A38 1996)

INVENTORY

Most of this collection is in Russian, includes some translations into English by Moira Dunbar and Richard Pierce.

6/1 Journal. 1 v. (Russian language mss.)

Title: "A Description of Daily Incidents and Some Natural Phenomena, in Short all Manner of Things, and of Buffoons, Swindlers and Drunkards, begun in Nuchek, Lord knows where it will end."

First entry is headed: "12/25 May in the year 1880 since the Creation of the World, the second year of our reign in the town of Nuchek."

6/2 A socio history of the area. Includes information on murder of Russians at Tuiunok (Tyonek).

Letters written by V.V. Stafeiff (Stafeev) (Western Fur and Trading Co.) to Stepan Ushin (Mikhaylovich) (Clerk in Alaska) Fort Kenay, 1869-1889. 19 items.