

Alaska State Library  
Historical Collections

**Guide to Collection**

**Baldwin, Asa Columbus, 1887-1942**

**Asa Columbus Baldwin papers, 1907-1941**

**MS 36**

3 boxes  
1 linear ft.

Processed by: Gladi Kulp  
June 1999  
Revised by: Kay Shelton  
July 2000, Nov. 2002 & 2004

**ACQUISITION:** The Asa C. Baldwin collection was donated in 1978, by his children Mortimer, Frances and Sylvia. An addition to the collection was received in 1998 (Acc #1998-61) and has been added as Folders 9-16. The original diaries were added in 2002 (Acc. # 2000-32). Further MS 36 materials were added November 2002 (Acc. #2002-118).

**ACCESS:** The collection is unrestricted.

**COPYRIGHT:** Request for permission to publish or reproduce material from the collection should be discussed with the Librarian. Photocopying does not constitute permission to publish.

**PROCESSING:** The papers, which include writings, correspondence, notes, and publications, are arranged by subject or type of document. Fragile documents are housed in Mylar. Artifacts have been specially housed. A finding aid, described at item level, is available. Donor revisions and additions to the finding aid were made in July 2000.

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Asa Columbus Baldwin was born in Austinburg, Ohio in June 21, 1887, the son of Adelbert Mortimer and Florilla Williams Baldwin.

### ***Education:***

- June 1903 Graduate, Cleveland High, Cleveland, Ohio.
- June 1908 B.A. in Civil and Mining Engineering, Case University, Cleveland, Ohio.
- June 1913 B.S. in Law, George Washington University, Washington, D.C.  
Licensed to Practice in Alaska and Washington, D.C.

### ***Marriage:***

- 12/8/1917 Lillian Louise Smith of Seattle, Washington (died: May 6, 1933)  
*Children:* Mortimer Wells B. March 1, 1919, Seattle Washington  
Frances Louise B. June 6, 1924, Seattle, Washington  
Sylvia Anne B. December 19, 1928, Seattle Washington
- 12/12/1935 Mrs. Marguerite Holliday of Cleveland, Ohio

### ***Experience:***

- 1907 Sworn in as United States Coast and Geodetic Survey employee--assigned to the International Boundary Commission, Canada-Alaska section
- 1907-1908 Surveyor-Field Officer, U.S.-Canada International Boundary Commission, Mount St. Elias to Arctic Ocean 141st meridian boundary demarcation survey.
- 1909-1911 Assistant to Chief of Party (U.S.) Mount St. Elias to Arctic Ocean 141st meridian boundary demarcation survey.
- 1909-1910 Assigned (temporary) as civil engineer on the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey Cutter "Surveyor" for Kodiak-Aleutian Islands marine survey.
- 1912-1913 Chief of Party (U.S.) Mount St. Elias to Arctic Ocean 141st meridian boundary demarcation survey.  
The epic ascent of Mount St. Elias by Mr. Baldwin and his joint U.S.-Canadian six-man survey team in June-July of 1913 to the 16,500 ft. level to establish the termination of the 141st meridian survey is a well-documented mountain climbing event in North America.
- 1913-1914 Civil Engineering Consultant, U.S.-Canada International Boundary Commission, Washington, D.C.
- 1914-1917 Private engineering practice with headquarters in Valdez, Alaska.  
Consultant for Kennicott Copper Co., McCarthy, Alaska.  
Field Engineer for Copper River Railroad from Cordova to McCarthy. Alaska-Juneau Mining Company.  
Other independent consultation.

- 1917 Enlisted in U.S. Army from Valdez, Alaska.  
Accepted for Officers' Training Corps at Presidio, San Francisco. August 27, 1917.  
Commissioned First Lieutenant, Infantry. November 27, 1917.  
Transferred to 29th Engineer Corps.  
Sent overseas, June 1918. Took part in Meuse-Argonne Battle as Engineer for General Headquarters.  
Discharged with Distinguished Service Cross, April 26, 1919. Gassed and injured in Meuse-Argonne Battle.
- 1920-1939 Private Engineering Practice in U.S. and Alaska. Headquarters in Seattle, Washington and Valdez, Alaska.  
Consultant for: Prince of Wales Mines, Alaska-Juneau, Kennicott Copper, Nebraska, Alaska Railroad.  
Other interest in fishing and legal practice.
- 1926-1927 Lecturer on Alaska at colleges and universities throughout U.S. and Canada. Completed two transcontinental tours.
- 1928-1939 Regional Consultant, Schlumberger Electrical Prospecting Methods of Paris, France. (First Reliable Seismic System for Locating Deposits). Located first petroleum deposits on Yakitaga Peninsula, using this method.
- 1928-1933 Managing Engineer and Vice President, Indianola Land Co. of Seattle, Washington. Surveyed and opened former Indian Reservation Land in Kitsap Country, Washington.
- 1933-1934 Chief Geodetic Engineer, International Boundary Survey: United States and Canada in charge of sector between Pacific Ocean and Montana.
- 1936-1942 President, Yellow Band Gold Mines, Inc. located in Bremner Range near Chitina, McCarthy, Alaska.
- 1937-1938 Consulting Engineer for Grand Coulee Dam, Washington
- 1940-1942 Consulting Engineer, U.S. Army Engineers in charge of surveying water and power reserves in Washington and Oregon (until his death).

Asa C. Baldwin died of a heart attack, September 18, 1942.

*Biographical information was provided by Mortimer Baldwin of San Louis Obispo, California and Sylvia Baldwin of Kailua, Hawaii. Samuel E. Fry provided additional information 11/12/2004.*

### SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE

The Asa C. Baldwin manuscript collection includes writings, maps, and information about work done on the Alaska Canada boundary survey from Demarcation Bay on the Arctic Ocean to Mount St. Elias from 1910 to 1913. The collection also includes papers documenting Baldwin's activities on prospecting, surveying and work at the Yellow Band Gold Mine near Chitna-McCarthy in the Bremner Range. The addition to the collection contains more documents concerning the above activities from c. 1910-1942; it

also includes correspondence to and from his children after his death. Photographs form a separate collection, PCA 71.

## INVENTORY

### BOX 1

#### I. U.S. Alaska Boundary Survey Reports

- 1-1. Report for season of 1912; reconnaissance, triangulation, 141st meridian, Mt. Natazhat to Mt. St. Elias. Chief of party, Asa Baldwin. (dup. copy) Typescript with original captioned photographs documenting survey, 1 v.
- 1-2. Report for season of 1913; triangulation monumenting, 141st. meridian from Mt. Natazhat to Mt. St. Elias. Chief of party, Asa C. Baldwin (triplicate) Typescript with original captioned photographs documenting survey, 1 v.

#### II. Journals, 4 v.

- 2-1. 1907 Alaska Boundary Survey
- 2-2. 1909 Alaska Boundary Survey
- 2-3. 1913 Alaska Boundary Survey
- 2-4. 1940-41 Mining activity and work at Yellow Band Gold Mine, etc.

Transcript found at: [http://www.library.state.ak.us/hist/hist\\_docs/finding\\_aids/MS036\\_Journal\\_Transcript.pdf](http://www.library.state.ak.us/hist/hist_docs/finding_aids/MS036_Journal_Transcript.pdf)

#### III. Personal writings on Mt. St. Elias survey

- 3-1. Surveying the top of Mt. St. Elias. 16 pages and 1 page bibliography. 2 copies
- 3-2. The International Ascent of Mount St. Elias, 17 pages and (29) pages of captioned photographs (some photos missing).
- 3-3. Copy of a letter to Harper's Magazine dated May 21, 1922 submitting manuscript on Mount St. Elias Survey.

#### IV. Personal writings on Alaska and geophysical prospecting

- 4-1. Mushing through Alaska. 20 pages typescript. (probably used to introduce a film, or visual presentation)
- 4-2. Glaciers, typescript (used with movie)
- 4-3. Untitled, 14 pages, beginning page 7, typescript
- 4-4. Geophysical Prospecting by the Schlumberger Method, 15 pages, typescript
- 4-5. Geophysical Prospecting for Gold, 12 pages, typescript. Notation: "University of Washington, January 20, 1937"

#### V. Newspaper clippings concerning ascent of Mount St. Elias and survey, 3 items. (one item from the Seattle Post Intelligencer dated September 6, 1913)

#### VI. Preferred stock certificates in the Yellow Band Gold Mines, Inc. issued to Marguerite H. Baldwin, Feb. 16, 1938, 2 items, photocopies

**BOX 1 (cont)**

## VII. Motion picture films taken at Yellow Band Gold Mine, near Chitina/ McCarthy, 3 reels, 8 mm., 2 min. each

[Housed separately in BOX 3]

- 7-1. Ptarmigan and views of mine buildings and equipment
- 7-2. Mountain scenes, ore car on aerial lift, miners, and Pushing ore cars in mine, miners working, views of mining buildings and American flag, pipeline, grader/plow on road
- 7-3. Dump truck on road, shoveling ore out of sluice into truck and later dumping, grader

## VIII. (Folder 8) Maps

*Located in MS X-Oversize Map Case in Vault*

- 1. Survey No. 1584. Valdez Mining District. Scale: 1" = 200 feet. by Asa Baldwin
- 2. Alaska Mines Corporation (Fidalgo Mine) Plans for tunnels 2-5. Scale: 1" = 40 ft.
- 3. Alaska Mines Corporation. (Fidalgo Mines) Plan of underground workings. Scale: 1" = 40 ft.
- 4. Fidalgo Alaska Copper Mine, Alaska Mines Corporation. Longitudinal Section. Scale: 1' = 40 ft.
- 5. Same title. Blueprint. June 15, 1916. Map No. 2. Scale: 1' = 20 ft. 2 copies
- 6. Fidalgo Alaska Copper Mine, Alaska Mines Corporation. Plan of underground workings. June 15, 1916. Map No. 1. Scale: 1' = 20 ft. 2 copies.
- 7. Fidalgo Alaska Copper Mine, Alaska Mines Corporation. Longitudinal section. Map No. 4. June 15, 1916. Scale 1" = 20 ft.
- 8. Fidalgo Alaska Copper Mine, Alaska Mines Corporation. Plan of underground workings. Map No.1. June 15, 1916. Scale: 1" = 20 ft.
- 9. Fidalgo Alaska Copper Mine, Alaska Mines Corporation. Longitudinal section. Scale: 1" = 40 ft.
- 10. Same. Tunnel No. 2.
- 11. Same. Tunnel No. 3.
- 12. Same. Tunnel No. 4
- 13. Same. Composite map. (Tunnel 2-5 shown).
- 14. International Boundary along the 141st. meridian. Sheet No. 14. Surveyed in 1910. Published 1914. Thomas Riggs, Engineer in charge. Scale: 1" = 62,500
- 15. Same. Sheet No. 38. A.C. Baldwin, Surveyor in charge.
- 16. Alaska Boundary Survey. Sketch of triangulation, 141st. meridian. 1913. A.C. Baldwin, Chief of party. Scale: 1" = 200,000
- 17. Headwater regions of Copper, Tanana and White Rivers, Alaska 1914. Compiled by Asa C. Baldwin. Scale: 1" = 500,000
- 18. Unidentified mining tunnel map with reference to Jumbo Mine and tram, Glacier Mine and tram, Bonanza Mine.
- 19. Sketch map showing location of Eastover Branch Road, Nizina Mining District, Alaska. Asa Baldwin, C.E. (poor condition)
- 20. (Bering River area map with reference to Kattala [Katalla] oil field) Incomplete blueprint. Compiled by Asa Baldwin.
- 21. Grade for proposed flume line, parallel to high cut bank below Boulder Creek. Nicolai Glacier Mining Company. Dan Creek, Alaska. Nov. 1935. Asa Baldwin. 2 copies.
- 22. Profile of main pressure line. (from sta. 43+00 to sta.80+00) Nicolai Placer Mining Company. Dan Creek, Alaska. Asa Baldwin.
- 23. (Yellow Band Gold Mine sketch map showing pot hole vein in vicinity of intersecting dike). n.d.

**BOX 1, Folder 8** (cont)***Located in MS X-Oversize Map Case in Vault***

24. Assay map Sheriff claims, Yellow Band Gold Mines, Inc. Golconda Creek, Alaska.(Blueprint) Scale: 1" = 10 ft. 2 copies
25. Same. (cloth)
26. (Yellow Band Gold Mine sketch map of tunnels with area stopped from 1939-1941 and gross production figures.)
27. Same map as No. 17. with location indicators for Yellow Bank property
28. Assay map Sheriff claims, Yellow Band Gold Mines, Inc. Golconda Creek, Alaska. Scale: 1" = 10 ft. (ink and pencil planning map for Nos. 24 + 25.)
29. Underground working Sheriff claims. Yellow Band Gold Mine. (poor condition)
30. Surface Geology near Yellow Band Gold Mine, Golconda Creek, Bremner District, Alaska, by Asa Baldwin. Scale 1" = 40 ft. (poor condition)
31. X section No. 3 vein looking west. No mine name given. (poor condition)
32. (Mining tunnel) No mine name given. (poor condition)
33. Plan of Portion of Wks. Middle Tunnel, Fidalgo 20'=1". Sketch ~ Section Fidalgo Alaska Copper Co. AB 31 #2, Y44, 32.
34. Surface Assay Plan Fidalgo Alaska Copper Company 20 ft. scale. Plat No. 1. Levensaler. AB 32, Y33.
35. Fidalgo Alaska Copper Company (section through east croppings) Levensaler Plat #3. AB 33, Exhibit "B" A-1, Y-34.
36. Fidalgo Alaska Copper Company (section through west croppings) Levensaler Plat #4. AB 34, Exhibit B A-1, Y-35.
37. Sketch Map showing location of Eastover Br. Road Nizina Mining Dist-Alaska. A. C. Baldwin. C.E. AB 7

Addition to Asa C. Baldwin Papers, ca. 1918-1978 (Acc. # 98-61)

**FOLDER 9:** Diary, registration, personal

1. Pocket diary of Asa C. Baldwin, 1918 (World War I)
2. G. Clyde Baldwin, letter to Asa Baldwin, 14 Sept. 1910
3. Registration certificate issued by the Tax Commission of the State of Washington
4. Business card of Prof. Mortimer W. Baldwin
5. Envelope addressed to Sylvia Baldwin in Hawaii
6. Yellow Band Gold Mine stock certificates (9) (copies)

**FOLDER 10:** Yellow Band Group, Yellow Band Gold Mines Inc, 1935-1941

Item	Date	Author/Title/(description)/Number of Pages
1.	ca. 1935/1936	Asa C. Baldwin, <i>Yellow Band Gold Prospect, Golconda Creek, Bremner District Alaska</i> . (draft of item 2, written on Schlumberger Electrical Prospecting Methods letterhead) 7p.
2.	ca. 1935/1936	Asa C. Baldwin, <i>Yellow Band Gold Prospect, Golconda Creek, Bremner District Alaska</i> . 4p.

3. 10 March 1937 Asa C. Baldwin, *To the Unitholders in Yellow Band Gold Option*. 3p.
4. ca. mid-1938 Asa C. Baldwin, *Notice of Special Meeting of Stockholders: To the Stockholders of Yellow Band Gold Mines, Inc.* 1p.
5. ca. 1938 Asa C. Baldwin, *Yellow Band Gold Mines, Inc.: President's First Annual Report to Stockholders, Year 1938*. 12 p. booklet.

**BOX 1, Folder 10** (cont)

6. 23 Dec. 1938 Asa C. Baldwin (?), *Financial Statement, Yellow Band Gold Mines, Inc. December 23, 1938*. 1p.
7. 22 Dec. 1939 Asa C. Baldwin, *Yellow Band Gold Mines, Inc.* (1939 annual report). 4p.
8. 31 Dec. 1939 Asa C. Baldwin, *Yellow Band Gold Mines Inc., Balance Sheet, December 31, 1939*. 4p
9. 12 Dec. 1940 Asa C. Baldwin, *Yellow Band Gold Mines, Inc* (1940 annual report) 6p (including 2 p. balance sheet)
10. 6 June 1941 Claude Stewart, letter to Asa Baldwin. 1p (2 sided). Transcript included.
11. 24 Dec. 1941 Asa C. Baldwin, *Yellow Band Gold Mines, Inc., Annual Report for the Year 1941*. 6p (including 2 page balance sheet).
12. Small spiral notebook containing notes for 1941 operation of Yellow Band – last year in operation. [accession #2002-118]

**FOLDER 11: Yellow Band Gold Mines Inc, 1942-1978**

Item	Date	Author/Title/(description)/Number of Pages
1.	ca. 1942	n.a., Asa C Baldwin Estate: Yellow Band Gold Mining. Stock. 1p.
2.	27 Jan. 1943	Ernest B. Herald, letter. 1p.
3.	30 June 1943	Yellow Band Gold Mines, Inc., List of Stockholders as of June 30, 1943. 8p.
4.	5 March 1945	Claude Stewart, letter to Marguerite Baldwin. 1p.
5.	17 Aug. 1945	Claude Stewart, letter to Marguerite Baldwin. 2p.

- 6. 5 Sept. 1945 Ernest B. Herald, letter to Claude Stewart. 1p.
- 7. 15 Sept. 1945 Claude Stewart, letter to Ernest B. Herald. 2p.
- 8. 21 Sept. 1945 Ernest B. Herald, letter to Claude Stewart. 1p.
- 9. 29 Sept. 1945 Claude Stewart, letter to Marguerite Baldwin. 1p.
- 10. 20 Dec. 1945 Claude Stewart, Yellow Band Gold Mines, In., Report to the Stockholders. 2p.

**BOX 1, Folder 11** (cont)

Item	Date	Author/Title/(description)/Number of Pages
11.	11 Jan. 1946	Claude Stewart, letter to Marguerite Baldwin. 1p.
12.	9 Feb. 1946	Claude Stewart, letter to Marguerite Baldwin. 2p.
13.	10 Nov. 1946	Claude Stewart, letter to Mrs. Asa C. Baldwin (Marguerite). 1p.
14.	25 Feb. 1947	Claude Stewart, letter to Marguerite Baldwin. 2p.
15.	23 Feb. 1948	Yellow Band Gold Mines, Inc. Summary of Stock Transaction, Jan. 1, 1946 to Feb. 23, 1948. 2p.
16.	15 March 1948	Claude Stewart, letter to Mrs. Asa C. Baldwin (Marguerite). 1p.
17.	6 Jan. 1960	O.A. Nelson, letter to Mr. Taplin. 4p.
18.	9 Jan. 1960	Paul W. Fretzs, letter to C. F. Taplin, Jr. 2p.
19.	28 Nov. 1960	Peter Gatz (State of Alaska, Department of Revenue), re: Yellow Band Gold Mines, Inc. 1132-D. 1p.
20a,b.	16 May 1961	C. F. Taplin, letter to Mrs. Louise B. Knauss, Mr. Mortimer W. Baldwin, Mrs. Sylvia B. Johnson. 3p. (2 copies, 1 with copy of receipt)
21.	ca. 1960's (?)	Jack O'Neill, letter to Sylvia (Baldwin) Johnson, 1 p.
22.	26 March 1975	Paul W. Fretzs, letter and photo to Sylvia B. Johnson. 6 p.
23.	27 March 1978	Virginia and Mortimer Baldwin, letter to Sylvia B. Johnson. 2 p.
24.	17 April 1978	Paul W. Fretzs, letter to Sylvia B. Johnson. 8 p.



FOLDER 12: Newspapers, Articles and Miscellany

1. 3 Nov. 1939 "Manager of Yellow Band Mines Arrives in Seattle,"  
Alaska Weekly, 3 Nov. 1939.
2. 22 Dec. 1939 "Yellow Band Gold Mines Submit Annual Report,"  
Alaska Weekly, 22 Dec. 1939.
3. ca. Oct.-Dec. 1937 "Nabesna Mine is Richer on Lower Levels," [possibly  
Alaska Weekly, ca. Oct.-Dec. 1937.

**BOX 1, Folder 12** (cont)

4. 16 Oct. 1941 Carl C. Whitham, Nabesna Mining Corporation, October  
16, 1941, Report on Operations at Nabesna Mine from  
April to Date, 1 p.
5. ca. 1942 "Wartime Gold Output and Demand," reprinted from the  
National City Bank of New York Bulletin, Dec. 1942.

**BOX 2**

FOLDER 13: Writings:

Notes – "Some Bears I Have Met"

FOLDER 14: Writings: "Surveying the Top of Mt. St. Elias, 1913"

Letters to publishers (2)

Drafts of Mt. St. Elias article (2)

FOLDER 15: Writings/Publications

Article by Asa Baldwin:

"Bearding Saint Elias; With Victory in Sight, Snowstorms Drive the surveyors Down the Alaskan  
Glaciers Again," *Sunset*, v. 51, no. 2, Aug. 1923, p. 8-10, 60-62

Chapter 7, "The 141st Meridian: A Single Straight Line (1906-1913)", from *The Boundary Hunters* by  
Lewis Green, 1982 (photocopy)

Report by Paul J. White: *Bremner Historic District: Cultural Landscape Report, Wrangell-St. Elias  
National Park and Preserve, National Park Service, 2000.* (Gift of Geoff Bleakley, January 2001)

FOLDER 16: Memorabilia

Instrument: "Teco calculator for split rings and shear plates"

[OTHER MEMORABILIA IS AT THE ALASKA STATE MUSEUM]

**FOLDER 17:** Court Certificates of admittance as Attorney 1914 [3 items] [Accession #2002-118]

1. Original license to practice law in the Court of Appeals of the District of Columbia dated March 10, 1914.
2. Original license (with blue seal) to practice law in the District Court, District of Alaska dated May 27, 1914.

**BOX 2, Folder 17** (cont)

3. Original license (with red seal) to practice law before the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia dated March 5, 1914

**FOLDER 18:** Items relating to lecture tours, 1926-1927: [6 items] [Accession #2002-118]

1. 1926-1927 Supplementary Announcement for Nomad Lecture Bureau listing Asa C. Baldwin's "Return Transcontinental Tour by Popular Request" with four topics of choice: Mushing Through Alaska, Alaska - the Land of Nightless Days, Tracing the Frontier of Alaska, and Alaska - Its Economic and Political Aspects.
2. 1926-1927 Milwaukee Public Museum Educational Exhibits and Lectures. ACB is listed on their Sunday program on page 7 as speaker #13 on Jan. 30 - Mushing Through Alaska and speaker #14 Feb.6 Tracing the Frontier of Alaska.
3. A brochure featuring ACB produced by Nomad Lecture Bureau for the 1926 season.
4. Copies of press releases: "Mountaineer Forced to Jump Across Bottomless Crevasse", "Mountain Peak Made Corner Post of International Boundary Line", "New Alaska Railroad Completed When the Late President Harding Drove Golden Spike", "Disappearing Bed Disturbs Sleepers on Alaska Glacier".
5. Letter dated November 10, 1925 from Nomad Lecture Bureau outlining the bookings made for ACB for the 1926 season for February, March and April and decrying the difficulty of obtaining bookings for him because of the competition from Amundson and MacMillan.
6. Illustrated brochure re: "Tracing the Frontier of Alaska" with testimonials from dignitaries and those who have enjoyed his lecture.
7. Reproduction of poster advertising Asa Baldwin's lecture "Daring Danger on Alaska's Glaciers".