

Alaska State Library
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

Charles F. Knapp, 1862?-1933

Charles F. Knapp Collection, 1897-1904 (bulk 1899-1900)

MS 177

4 folders

Processed By: Tahitia Orr, & Gladi Kulp
November 1999, January 2000

Acquisition: Earl J. Ingebright of Seattle, Washington, grandson of Charles F. Knapp, donated the collection.

Access: The collection is unrestricted.

Copyright: Request for permission to publish material from the collection must be discussed with the Librarian. Neither photocopying nor making the materials available on the Alaska State Library Web Site constitutes permission to publish.

Processing: The bulk of the collection consists of letters from Charles F. Knapp to his wife and children while working on the tramway up the Chilkoot Trail and en-route to the Nome gold rush. These letters were arranged in date order. Other family correspondence, photographs, notes on family history and two watercolor paintings done by Martha Severance Knapp are included. Inventory control is to the folder level.

A group of eighteen commercial photographs of the Chilkoot Pass, Dyea, Alaska and Charles F. Knapp and family were copied and added to the collection. They were kept in their original order and are listed to the item level.

Biographical Information

Charles F. Knapp moved from Kansas to Edmonds, Washington around 1890 where his mother and father, C.B. [?] Knapp and “Little Grandmother” had relocated. Charles was a foreman on the tramline over the Chilkoot Pass in 1899 and later joined the Nome gold rush in 1900. After his years in Alaska, he was a member of the Everett, Washington police force for eight years and a captain for ten years. He later worked as a grocer, retiring two years before his death on September 25, 1933 at the age of 71. His wife was Eva T. Knapp and they had two children, Earl Knapp and Hazel Knapp (later Ingebright).

Charles F. Knapp was the nephew of Lyman E. Knapp, 3rd Territorial Governor of Alaska from 1889-1893.

Knapp-Ingebright Genealogy, etc.

Earl and Laurine Ingebright, donors

Lyman Knapp, uncle to Charles F. Knapp

Babcock, Charles Knapp’s wife’s family name:

Frank Babcock, engineer, Earl Ingebright’s great uncle (his grandmother’s brother)

Charles F. Knapp, Earl Ingebright’s grandfather:

grocer, entrepreneur, captain of police, Everett, WA

bought brickyard

foreman on tramway over Chilkoot Pass

“Papa” to Eva, his wife, and his children, Earl and Hazel (Earl Ingebright’s mother)

Earl Ingebright was named after his uncle, Earl Knapp

Scope and Contents Note

The Charles F. Knapp Collection contains correspondence written by Charles F. Knapp to his family during his stay on the Chilkoot Trail and enroute to the Nome gold rush, 1899-1900. The papers also include correspondence from Charles F. Knapp’s mother “Little Grandmother” to Earl and Hazel Knapp, 1897, and from Lyman E. Knapp to Charles F. Knapp, 1904.

Also included in the collection are 2 watercolor paintings done by Martha Severence Knapp, wife of Gov. Lyman E. Knapp, a photograph of the Lyman E. and Martha Severence Knapp gravesite in Queen Ann[e] Cemetery in Seattle, WA, and a photograph of Lyman E. Knapp. A description of the boat ride to Dyea taken by Eva Knapp and her two children written by Hazel (Knapp) Ingebright, mother of the donor, is included.

The collection had no apparent original order; it was rearranged topically and chronologically. Eighteen commercial photographs of the Chilkoot tramway, Dyea, Alaska and Charles F. Knapp and family were kept in the order given by the donor.

Inventory

- Folder 1 Correspondence, January 8, 1899-August 12, 1900 from Charles to Eva and children.
- Folder 2 Correspondence from "Little Grandma," January 7, 1897 and Lyman E. Knapp, January 11, 1904.
- Folder 3 Notes on family history, obituary, and photograph of Lyman E. Knapp and Knapp tombstone.

Two watercolor paintings by Martha S. Knapp:

Painting A: notation by Bill Knapp, cousin of the donor, reads: This was done by Martha Severance Knapp, wife of Lyman Enos Knapp, 3rd Gov. of Alaska. She was a famous painter and gave a couple to the museum in Juneau, where they are displayed – They lived ...1903. [Painting depicts a white building with red roof overlooking a body of water. There is an island in the background. Several trees and bushes surround the building. The painting has an oriental feel.]

Painting B: notation by Bill Knapp reads: To me this is precious! And must have been one of Martha Severance Knapp's last. She went blind in her 90's and lived to 91. Buried on Queen Ann [Anne] Hill with Lyman – lived until 1928. [Painting depicts an outdoor scene with a dirt road in foreground, a white house surrounded by trees and plants to the left. A river runs through the middle of the painting with two white buildings on the far bank. Low hills are in the background and the sky is filled with a yellow & red sunrise/set. The painting is loosely done with a flowing impressionist feel. Dominant colors are greens, purples and white.]

- Folder 4 Commercial photographs of Chilkoot Pass tramway, Dyea, Alaska, Charles F. Knapp and family.** Copy negatives were loaned by the donor for copying. As some of the copy negatives, therefore photos, were of inferior quality, the user may wish to search other collections, i.e., Hegg, for better negatives. Notations in red on recto and verso of photos were written by Earl Knapp, uncle of the donor. Original photographs and verso of photos were photocopied so Earl Knapp's notations are intact.

| Item number | Recto | Verso |
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| 177-4-1 | 710. Crew at terminal. Chilkoot Ry R [?]not . Co. Apr. 24-99. E.A. Hegg. [Marked in red pencil by Earl Knapp, son of | [Notations by Earl Knapp.] A banker named Wallace from Tacoma, Wash. financed the tramway over Chilkoot Pass |

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| | Charles F. Knapp are the figures of] X Jud Hull [and] X Chas Knapp [Crew at the Chilkoot Tramway terminal] | and put my father, Chas. F. Knapp in charge of the operation. |
| 177-4-2 | [Three figures are marked with red pencil with an "x" and number.] X1 X2 X3 [Group of women, children and a dog in front of a tree. Cabins in the background.] | Family of Chas. F. Knapp. Mother Eva T. Knapp [marked with X1 on recto] Hazel Knapp. Daughter [marked with X2 on recto] Earl L. Knapp. Son. Up middle on tree [Marked with X3 on recto] Dyea, Alaska – 1898. |
| 177-4-3 | C. Hirschfeld. Chilcoot [sic.] Pass. No. 75. [Line of people walking over the pass, packs on their backs. Structures and piles of goods in foreground.] | Before the tramway gold rush over Chilcoot [Chilkoot] pass. One dollar a lb. 2 days round trip. |
| 177-4-4 | [Wooden tramway power house. Five men and one woman are standing around the tramway platform. Furthest man to right marked by red pencil "x". | Chas. F. Knapp at one of the power houses. |
| 177-4-5 | [Group of eight men standing around the Union Jack flag. Roof of building emerging from the snow behind them. Caches in background. Photograph is dark and blurred. | Summit. Chilcott [Chilkoot] Pass. |
| 177-4-6 | No. 78 [? or 6] Cache on Chilcoot [sic.] Pass. C. Hirschfeld [Cache piles in snow. Tramway aerial lines overhead.] | Summit Chilcoot [Chilkoot] Pass. Yukon Territory Canada. Customs. |
| 177-4-7 | [Group of men, women and child standing near a harnessed dog team. Photograph blurry.] | Dog team |
| 177-4-8 | C. Hirschfeld. No. 97. Glaciers from Mount Bell showing Hirschfeld Creek, Dyea. [Two men on hill side, one standing holding a rifle, one seated on boulder. Glaciers in background. Seated man is marked with a red pencil 'x'. | Hershefeld [Hirschfeld] the photographer. |
| 177-4-9 | [...] Dyea. A.C. Hirschfeld [Large number of tents and buildings in a field. Hills in background. (faded photo)] | Dyea, Alaska. tent city. Entrance to Chilcoot [Chilkoot] Pass. |
| 177-4-10 | [Photograph taken looking down on large number of buildings and tents. Trees in foreground. Hills in background.] | Dyea, Alaska – 1898. Where Chas. F. Knapp and family lived. Entrance to Chilcoot [Chilkoot] Pass. |
| 177-4-11 | Hirschfeld. Locality of snow slide. April 3 rd , 1898. No. 24. [Rock and snow gulch. Wooden tram and electrical ? towers running | Snow slide here buried and killed lots of people. Chilcott [Chilkoot] Pass. |

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| | up right side of gulch. Wooden buildings in center of gulch.] | |
| 177-4-12 | Scales and Summit, Chilkoot Pass. 468. Sept 3, 1898. E.A. Hegg. [Bare rock view of Chilkoot Pass. Wooden building and tent in right corner of photograph. Red pencil marks show the path of the tramway line from summit to scales tower.] | Summer. Chilcoot [Chilkoot] Pass. |
| 177-4-13 | C. Hirschfeld. No. 110. Chilcoot [sic.] Summit. Looking down to lakes. [End of tramway platform and building at left of photograph. Three tents in middle. Wooden building at right.] | Tramway Summer. |
| 177-4-14 | [...]king boats at Lake Lindeman. [Numerous completed and half-built boats on the shore of Lake Lindeman. Tents in back ground.] | Lake Lindeman, Lake Bennett and other lakes the source of the Yukon River to Dawson. |
| 177-4-15 | 706. Chilkoot Ry St. Co's Aerial tram. Apr. 24-99. The long span to the summit. 1200 feet high. E.A. Hegg. | Tramway buckets marked. [in red pencil on recto.] |
| 177-4-16 | Skagway wharf. [View of three wharves on Skagway's waterfront. Taken looking down the channel.] | Skagway Waterfront 1898. |
| 177-4-17 | Dyea Beach [Looking across the beach to the water. Wooden building and tent on right. Large group of people posed at water's edge. Piles of goods on beach.] | Dyea Alaska beach. Supplies from Skagway about 6-7 miles. For Chilcoot [Chilkoot] Pass. |
| 177-4-18 | Aerial tramway, from D.K.T. Co's bucket, Chilkoot Pass. Sept. 2, 1898. E.H. Hegg. [Photo taken from a tramway bucket as it approaches a tramway tower.] | Tramway, Chilcoot [Chilkoot] Pass. Chas. F. Knapp, operated. |

Folder 4: (cont.) Photocopies of prints and information written on verso of prints, loaned by the donor.