

**Alaska State Library  
Historical Collections**

**Guide to Collection**

**Thane, Bartlett L., Family**

**Bartlett L. Thane Family Letters, 1911-1915.**

**MS 256**

31 folders  
31 letters

Processed by: Staff, Apr. 2010  
Updated by: Jacki Swearingen, Oct. 2018

**ACQUISITION:** This collection was transferred to the Alaska State Library Historical Collections from the University of Alaska Anchorage Archives and Special Collections, April 2010. (Accession number: 2010-018).

**ACCESS:** The collection is available for viewing; however, the photographs may not be photocopied.

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

**PROCESSING:** The letters have been placed in acid free folders and then placed in an archival box.

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Bartlett Lee Thane (1877-1927) was born in California. He attended the University of California at Berkeley, where he was the quarterback for the football team, graduating with a degree in mining engineering in 1898. Thane first came to Alaska in 1897 to work for Herman Tripp running and maintaining the shaft pumps at the Sumdum Chief Mine south of Juneau. He then served as superintendent of the Eagle River Mining Company (1903-1910), before moving on to head the Alaska-Gastineau Mining Company. By 1911, Thane had gained controlling interest in six different gold mines in the Juneau area. At the Preservation Mine, Thane and his associates excavated a tunnel to provide tide water access from the Sheep Creek Valley, constructed the Salmon Creek Dam supplying hydroelectric power, and built a rotating mill that processed gold ore at the rate of 10,000 tons per day. Thane then added additional hydroelectric power by constructing a second dam at Annex Creek. These and other efforts made the Alaska-Gastineau Mine the largest gold mine in the world for a short period just prior to World War I. The Alaska-Gastineau Mine shut down in 1921 when it became unprofitable. Thane then attempted to develop his hydroelectric plants, mill town, and support facilities for a new pulp mill, but a deal with Japanese investors failed in 1923. Bart Thane died in New York City in 1927. Thane, Alaska, a small town south of Juneau, and Thane Road, running south of Juneau on Gastineau Channel, were named for Bart Thane.

*Information from: Archives and Special Collections Department, UAA-APU Consortium.*

## SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE

The collection consists of the handwritten letters of the Bartlett L. Thane Family of Juneau, Alaska, dating from 1911 to 1915. The collection contains 31 different letters with corresponding postmarked envelopes. The letters were all sent from Juneau to relatives in the town of Niles in Alameda County, California. These relatives were Bart Thane's 'parents, Joseph E. Thane and Laura E. Thane, and Bart Thane and his sister Laura Whipple's grandfather, Judge Harman J. Tilden. The letters were written by the following family members: Bart Thane, his wife Fay Thane, his daughter Fay Thane, his sister Laura Whipple, and his brother-in-law and business associate, James R. Whipple. The letters concern family and society matters and are arranged chronologically.

## SUBJECTS

Bartlett L. Thane, correspondence, family life, society

## INVENTORY

1. James Whipple to H.J. Tilden; Feb. 23, 1911 (2 pages and envelope)
2. Laura Whipple to Mr. and Mrs. J E. Thane; Feb. 23, 1911 (6 pages and envelope)
3. Laura Whipple to J.E. Thane; Apr. 1911 (3 pages and envelope)

4. Laura Whipple to Mr. and Mrs. J.E. Thane; June 11, 1916 (2 pages and envelope)
5. James Whipple to H.J. Tilden; July 23, 1911 (2 pages)
6. Laura Whipple to Mr. and Mrs. J.E. Thane; Nov. 28, 1911 (8 pages and envelope)
7. Laura Whipple to Judge H.J. Tilden; Mar. 22, 1912 (3 pages and envelope)
8. Bart Thane to Mrs. J.E. Thane; May 1912 (2 pages and envelope)  
Includes enclosed letter from Rachel Sheppard to Laura Whipple
9. Laura Whipple to Mr. and Mrs. J.E. Thane; Oct. 8, 1912 (4 pages and envelope)  
Includes enclosed calling card from Mrs. J.C. McBride and Mrs. Grover C. Winn
10. Bart Thane to Mr. and Mrs. J.E. Thane; Oct. 9, 1921 (4 pages and envelope)
11. Laura Whipple to H.J. Tilden; Mar. 25, 1913 (6 pages and envelope)
12. Fay Thane to Mr. and Mrs. J.E. Thane; Apr. 29, 1913 (3 pages and envelope)
13. Fay Thane to Mr. and Mrs. J.E. Thane; July 10, 1913 (3 pages and envelope)
14. Fay Thane to Mr. and Mrs. J.E. Thane; Oct. 23, 1913 (4 pages and envelope)
15. Laura Whipple to Mr. and Mrs. J.E. Thane; Oct. 24, 1913 (7 pages and envelope)
16. Laura Whipple to Judge H.J. Tilden; Dec. 3, 1913 (3 pages and envelope)
17. Laura Whipple to Mr. and Mrs. J.E. Thane; Dec. 3, 1913 (3 pages and envelope)  
Includes enclosed letters to Laura Whipple from: Mrs. W.E. Bathe of Juneau (Nov. 1913, 2 pages); Mrs. Anderson of Seattle, Washington (Nov. 17, 1913, 2 pages); and shoe retailer Raphael Weil & Co., Inc. in San Francisco, California (May 14, 1913, 1 page.)  
Also includes enclosed music recital invitation and program.
18. James Whipple to Mr. and Mrs. J.E. Thane; Dec. 29, 1913 (2 pages and envelope)
19. Bart Thane to Mr. and Mrs. J.E. Thane; Feb. 11, 1914 (12 pages and envelope)
20. Laura Whipple to H.J. Tilden; Feb. 27, 1914 (2 pages and envelope)
21. Laura Whipple to J.E. Thane; Mar. 28, 1914 (3 pages and envelope)
22. Laura Whipple to J.E. Thane; Apr. 15, 1914 (10 pages and envelope; first part of letter is missing)

23. Fay Thane to Mr. and Mrs. J.E. Thane; Apr. 29, 1914 (3 pages and envelope)
24. Laura Whipple to Mr. and Mrs. J.E. Thane; May 3, 1914 (7 pages and envelope)
25. Bart Thane to Mrs. J.E. Thane; July 10, 1914 (4 pages and envelope)
26. Fay Thane (daughter) to Mr. J.E. Thane; Dec. 16, 1914 (2 pages and envelope)
27. Fay Thane to Judge H.J. Tilden; Dec. 22, 1914 (2 pages and envelope)
28. Laura Whipple to Mr. and Mrs. J.E. Thane; Jan. 17, 1915 (9 pages and envelope)  
Includes enclosed party invitation and child's drawing
29. Laura Whipple to Mr. and Mrs. J.E. Thane; Mar. 24, 1915 (3 pages and envelope)
30. Bart Thane to Mr. and Mrs. J.E. Thane; Apr. 11, 1915 (4 pages and envelope)
31. Fay Thane to Mr. and Mrs. J.E. Thane; Apr. 19, 1915 (3 pages and envelope)