

Alaska State Library
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

Nord, John Gus, 1868-1939

Captain John Gus Nord Ship Logs, 1904-1917, 1939

MS 275

4 boxes
14 Ship log books
1 folder of photographs
2 folders of correspondence & clippings

Processed by: Sara Bornstein, July 2013
Updated by: Jacki Swearingen, Feb. 2014

ACQUISITION: This collection was donated in the summer of 2013 by John Nordin and given the Acc. # 2013-033.

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. Log books have been placed in Mylar.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Captain John G. "Gus" Nord was born in Oland, Sweden, February 20, 1868. Captain Nord immigrated to the United States from Oland, Sweden. He was recorded as John North when he was naturalized. He later changed his name legally, back to Nord.

John Nord captained ships in Alaska from about 1898 until he retired. During his career the Captain lost one ship, the *Aleutian*, in 1929. It struck Pinnacle Rock and sank in seven minutes, but Captain Nord managed to save all the passengers.

On July 8, 1939, Captain John Nord drowned in an automobile accident near Haines, Alaska.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE

The majority of this collection is comprised of log books and track books which contain magnetic headings lists. The ships which Captain Nord commanded that are represented in this collection are the *Jefferson*, the *Alaska*, and the *Aleutian*.

There is one folder of sleeved photographs and two folders of news clippings and correspondence mostly relating to Captain Nord's loss of the *Aleutian*, and later his death.

INVENTORY

Box 1

Steam Ship	Log Type: Title	Date
Jefferson	Log Book	1904-1905
Jefferson	Master's Log Book	1908-1909
Jefferson	Master's Log Book	1911
Jefferson	Log Book	1914
Jefferson	Log Book: Voy[age] 222	1915
Jefferson	Master's Log Book	1917
Jefferson	Magnetic Coordinates Log: Cash	1904-1905
Jefferson	Track Book	1914
Jefferson	Pilot House Log Book: Voyages 201 & 202 from Jan 6 to Jan 26 1915	1915

Box 2

Steam Ship	Log Type: Title	Date
Unidentified	Magnetic Coordinates Log [covered in sail cloth]	Unidentified
Farallon	Pilot House Log Book	Unidentified
Aleutian	Pilot House Log Book: Seattle to Hawai &	1928

Alaska	Return Pilot House Log Book: Voyage 38	Unidentified
Unidentified	Daily Rate & Equipment	1890-1929 [?]

Box 3

Folder 1 - Photographs

Photographs, originals copied and returned to donor:

1. [Nord looking through a sextant]
2. Parents and Siblings of John Nord, the donor
3. Captain J. G. Nord and unknown person in Alaska. *Attached Note:* The "unknown person" appears to be Governor Parks...I'd know that hat anywhere...-Steve
4. [Nord? On ship's deck]
5. Capt J.G. Nord [with two unidentified people on board the S. S. *Northwestern*]
6. S. S. *Jefferson*
7. [Captain Nord]

Folder 2

Continuous Discharge Book for John Gus Nord, 1937-1939

Certificate of Efficiency to Lifeboat Man 1937 and White Pass & Yukon Route Pass for Capt. Nord 1939

Notary Public; January 26, 1920; State of Washington; John Guss North and John G. Nord are the same person, is citizen of the United States

Correspondence:

April 28, 1921 Recommendation letter for Mr. Martin J. Kempson written by J. G. Nord

August 2, 1926 Recommendation letter for Henry Pedersen written by J.G. Nord

February 15, 1928 letter from passengers of *Aleutian* complimenting the captain and crew with signatures of passengers

May 27, 1929 letter to Capt J. G. Nord with Treasury Department, U. S. Customs Service letterhead expressing condolences on the news of the lost ship

May 30, 1929 letter to Captain J. G. Nord from the Department of Commerce Steamboat Inspection Service expressing condolences for losing a fine vessel.

July 28, 1939 - letter and resolution from the Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce regarding the death of Captain "Gus" Nord

August 18, 1939 - Letter from the Alaska Steamship Company to Captain Nord's family regarding the Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce resolution in honor of Captain Nord

Clippings:

Naval Reserve Flag is Raised Aboard *Aleutian*
Hawaiian Excursion Attracts Palatial Vessel is Engaged
The Amazing Voyage of the S.S. *Dora*
Capt. Nord, Famed Alaska Ship Pilot, Drowns in Auto Mishap
Funeral Held for Captain Nord
Divers Seek to Salvage Shipwrecked Steamer, Seattle Times 8/25/03
Aleutian Hits Hidden Rock and Founders off Kodiak
Fog of Queen Anne Too Thick for Siren Honker of Captain Nord's Auto
Liner *Alaska* is Polished Craft
Capt. Nord Will Not Stay on *Kansas City*
Captain Nord is Back on Old Ship

Folder 3

Correspondence:

Feb 10, 1908 - letter from J.G. Nord regarding buoys

Feb 11, 1908 - letter withdrawing membership in American Association Masters, Mates, and Pilots

March 4, 1908 - letter from J.G. Nord indicating repairs needed on S.S. *Jefferson*

April 16, 1908 - letter to Captain Nord requesting information regarding Egg Harbor

November 24, 1908 - letter to Captain Nord requesting feedback regarding the publications Alaska Coast Pilot and Coast Pilot Notes from Yakutat to Cook Inlet

December 24, 1908 - letter from J.G. Nord regarding S.S. *Jefferson* collision

January 20, 1909 - letter from J.G. Nord reporting a leak in S.S. *Jefferson*

January 28, 1909 - letter describing items that needed attention on the S.S. *Jefferson*

February 11, 1909 - letter to Captain of *Jefferson* asking Marine Data information

March 10, [?] - letter of recommendation for Paul Hurberger

April 10, 1909 - letter from J.G. Nord regarding bad coffee on the S.S. *Jefferson*

April 23, 1909 - letter regarding steering gear and sounding machine

January 25, 1910 - letter from J.G. Nord regarding dock at Haines

November 19, 1910 - letter from J.G. Nord regarding repairs to S.S. *Jefferson*

June 21, 1916 - letter to Commander *Jefferson* warning of rock going into Auk Bay

July 25, 1918 - telegram to J.G. Nord of *Jefferson* to pick up passengers

July 10, 1921 - letter from [J.G. Nord] regarding anchor windlass problem

July 24, 1921 - letter from J.G. Nord of S.S. *Northwestern* regarding changes to ship

November 23, 1927 - letter to Master S.S. *Northwestern* regarding Selig dock

Undated - letter from J.G. Nord regarding S.S. *Jefferson* contact with dolphin

List of equipment for boat

Citizenship document for John Guss North; State of Washington; December 3, 1889

Box 4

Framed photograph of Captain John G. Nord