Alaska State Library
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

Sutherling, Charles A. and Anna (Karlsson)

Charles A. and Anna (Karlsson) Sutherling Correspondence, 1902-1904

MS 301

2 Folders:  Processed by: Staff, 2017
Translated letters, photocopied photographs  Updated by: Jacki Swearingen, Nov. 2017
See also: Digital Files

ACQUISITION: Len Ceder and Chuck Holland, grandsons of Charles and Anna Sutherling, loaned the letters and photographs in this collection to the Alaska Historical Collections library for copying. Acc. #2012-043.

ACCESS: The collection is unrestricted.

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

PROCESSING: The letters and photographs in this collection were copied and returned to the donor. This collection has been inventoried at an item level. Items have been placed in archival folders and an archival box.
BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

These 36 letters, from 1902 to 1904, were written in Swedish, between Swedish immigrants Anna Carlston and Charles Sutherling (Anna Karlsson and Carl Adolf Söderling spelled in Swedish) before they were married on July 12, 1904.

The letters were written while Charles Sutherling (called Charly in Annie’s letters) was in Nome, Alaska, during the Nome Gold Rush and Anna Sutherling (called Annie in Charly’s letters) was either in Seattle or Bothell, Washington, or The Dalles, Oregon, working as a domestic servant or au pair.

The family Annie worked for then was the Arthur Dunn family. Arthur G. Dunn Sr. (1861-1945) made his first fortune in the Northwest fish cannery industry, and then made another by investing in real estate in the Seattle area. One property was Seattle’s Pier 70. Ainsworth & Dunn is still on the building’s face.

These letters are from a time unlike today. A letter signified that the writer was still alive. If letters did not arrive, worry set in. This happened once for Annie and Charly as you will read in the letters. Another concern was over health. Nearly every letter begins with Mågott! or Be Well!

Information from Chuck Holland

SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE

This collection includes 36 translated letters written between Anna Karlsson and Charles Sutherling from 1902-1904. Also available, in digital form only, are 18 letters in Swedish from Anna Karlsson (later Mrs. Sutherling) to Charles Sutherling. Anna’s letters were translated and are part of the 36 translated letters. Both the 36 translated letters and Anna’s 18 letters in Swedish may be viewed at the Alaska’s Digital Archives: http://vilda.alaska.edu/cdm/singleitem/collection/cdmg21/id/22925/rec/1

15 photoprints of Charles Sutherling, Anna Karlsson (Sutherling), and the Nome area are also contained in this collection. Photographers include E.A. Hegg and Sciaroni & Hammond.

INVENTORY

Folder 1
Translated Letters


http://www.library.alaska.gov/hist/hist_docs/finding_aids/MS301.pdf


13a. [Similar to #13]


14a. “July 25, 1903 note from Nome Postmaster explaining why Charles had not received his letters from Anna” (information from donor’s e-mail)


16a. [Similar to #16]
Folder 2
Photographs (photocopies)

1. [Full portrait of Charles A. Sutherling (Charly)]
2. [Camp on beach, tent, 4 Native Alaskans & child] S & H 852
13. “Photo of grandfather [Charles Sutherling] in Cadillac, Michigan before he left for AK”. *(information from donor’s e-mail)*
13a. [Charles Sutherling’s] “work badge at Todd Shipyard in Seattle”. *(information from donor’s e-mail)*
14. [Head and shoulder portrait of Anna Karlsson] (Annie Sutherling)] *(information from donor’s e-mail)*
15. [Charles and Anna Sutherling] “Wedding photo of my grandparents. They were married July 12, 1904.” *(information from donor’s e-mail)*
15a. “Grandmother’s [Anna Sutherling] home in Sweden”. “She lived on a remote farm near Kristdala in the Småland province in Sweden”. *(information from donor’s e-mail)*