Guide to Collection

Whitaker, William L., Photographer

William L. Whitaker Photograph Collection, ca. 1899-1902

PCA 32

3 albums
(310 photoprints) : b&w ; 16 x 19 cm.,
18 x 26 cm., 26 x 31 cm.

Processed By: Staff
Revised by: Jacki Swearingen, May 2014

ACQUISITION: Originally donated to the Alaska State Museum by W.L. Whitaker, Aug. 26, 1969. The albums were transferred to the Historical Collections Feb. 8, 1979 (Acc. # 1979-004).

ACCESS: The collection is unrestricted.

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PROCESSING: This collection has been described at the item level. Interleaving tissue has been placed between each album page to protect the photographs. The albums have been placed in an archival box.
**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

William L. Whitaker came to Alaska around 1898 to prospect for gold during the Klondike gold rush. He traveled from Seattle to Wrangell by boat, up the Stikine to Dease Lake, then down the Dease River to the Liard, and up the Liard, prospecting for one summer. He returned by the same route in the fall and spent the winter in Juneau. The following spring he went to Skagway and over the Chilkoot Pass. He eventually returned to Seattle by boat.

**SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE**

This collection contains views of Southeast Alaska, British Columbia, and Chilkoot Trail, ca. 1899-1902. The images in the albums show the beginning of the trip to Alaska about 1898; Skagway, Dyea, White Pass scenes during the Gold Rush; Juneau and area scenes and activities 1899.

**INVENTORY**

**Album 1 (#1 – 79)**

1. Unloading ship "City of Topeka" at Skagway.
2. City of Topeka" at dock, Skagway.
3. Long Wharf, Dyea in the distance.
4. End of Long Wharf, Dyea in the distance.
5. Dyea, the new deserted village.
6. Dyea, a Boom Town."
7. Wilson and Healy's Post at Dyea
8. Trail 1 mile out of Dyea, showing dog sled team, man, and two children.
9. Dyea Trail just above Dyea.
10. Dyea Trail through good timber.
11. Trail and bridge over Dyea River.

http://www.library.alaska.gov/hist/hist_docs/finding_aids/PCA032.pdf
12. Dyea River near Canyon City.
15. Canyon City, Dyea Trail - Penciled note, “Stayed at this hotel overnight. W.L.W.,” with arrow pointing to building.
16. One mile south of Sheep Camp, Dyea Trail.
17. Dyea River, a poor trail.
18. Dyea Canyon.
19. Dyea Canyon.
20. Dyea Canyon.
22. Power house, Dyea Trail.
24. Sheep Camp, Dyea Trail, showing Hotel Northern.
25. Street scene, Sheep Camp.
26. Looking down Dyea Trail from one mile above Sheep Camp.
27. Returning from the Scales, Dyea Trail. (Shows horse pulling sled and several men.)
28. Not far from below "the Scales", Dyea Trail.
29. View from halfway up Chilkoot Summit.
30. Engineers Camp, Scales, and Chilkoot Summit, Dyea Trail.
31. At "the Scales", two people in the distance.
32. Engineers Camp, near foot of Summit, Dyea Trail, showing three men, W.L.W. in center.
33. The Scales.

34. Freight waiting to be hauled over summit, showing three men.

35. Going over Chilkoot Summit, Dyea Trail. (Shows two men in distance, one pulling a sledge.)

36. Looking backward from Summit of Chilkoot, Dyea Trail.

37. Top Dyea Summit. "Hoisting Outfits". (Shows man and three horses.)

38. "Where I passed a cold night." Long Lake Hotel, Dyea Trail. (Shows three men in front of Hotel.)


40. Linderman, Dyea Trail.

41. Post Office, Lake Linderman.

42. Lake Linderman.

43. At Lake Bennett, B.C.

44. Bennett City, head of navigation of Yukon River.

45.-46. W.L.W. at Lake Bennett, B.C.

47. Trail between Bennett and Log Cabin, B.C.

48. A freighter from Log Cabin to Bennett. (Shows man on horse drawn sled, with penciled note "I rode fifteen miles with. this man." Wm. L. Whitaker.

49. At log cabin, White Pass.

50. At log cabin, White pass Trail. (Shows Tugwell's British Hostelry, etc.)


52. One of the many tents in which the men lived while building the W.P.R.R.

53. From log cabin to Summit, White Pass.

55. Crossing lakes, bound for Bennett. (Shows two teams of freighters.)
56. Dog team and two men, White Pass Trail.
57.-58. White Pass, west of Summit.
59. One mile south of Sheep Camp, Dyea Trail,
60. Dyea Pass near Squaw Hill.
63. Eastward from Summit, White Pass. Railroad grade to the right shows work camp site.
64. Summit Lake Hotel and Restaurant, White Pass. (Shows door cut in snow.)
65. West side of Summit, White Pass Trail, showing camp site.
66. White Pass City, showing R.R. along mountain side.,
67. White Pass City.
68. Coming out of White Pass City, showing packers, and log cabin in distance.
69. White Pass Trail, nearing Skagway.
70. The river is 100 feet below and to the right.
71. Log cabins at Skagway, Alaska.
72. Hospital at Skagway.
73. Street scene at Skagway, showing tracks of White Pass Railway.
74. Juneau, Gastineau Channel, Treadwell, and Douglas City on Douglas Island. (Two part panorama)
75. Treadwell, Juneau Island Harbor from Douglas Wharf, (Two part panorama)
76. The Alaska Treadwell Gold Mining Co.'s plant, including residence of Supt. Douglas Island Alaska. (Two part panorama)
77. Placer mining, Silver Bow Basin, Gold Creek - back of Juneau, Alaska, Giants at work. (Two part panorama)

78. Timber used for saw logs and piling at Eagle River, Lynn Canal, Alaska. (Two part panorama)

79. Range of mountains on Kupreanauf Island, Alaska, where W. L. W. found copper. (Two part panorama)

**Album 2 (#80 - 130)**

80. Fishermen on pier at Juneau, 1899.

81. Decoration Day, Juneau, Alaska, (parade at Seward and Front St.) 1899.


83. Decoration Day, procession heading for cemetery [cemetery], Juneau, 1899.

84. Decoration Day, ceremony at cemetery, Juneau, 1899.

85. Decoration Day, ceremony at cemetery, Juneau, 1899.

86. Milk ranch back of Juneau, Alaska, 1899 (Calhoun's Dairy Farm).

87. Douglas landing from pier (with lone fisherman and ferry) 1899.

88. Street scene, Douglas City (Front Street) 1899.

89. Just launched my sealing boat at Douglas, Alaska, summer of 1899.

90. (James') sawmill, Douglas; Mt. Juneau and Juneau at its base in background, 1899.


92. Indian women at Douglas, Alaska, won't face the camera, 1899 - also rail track and frame houses.

93. On way from Douglas to Treadwell, Douglas Island, 1899.

95. Mendenhall Glacier, above Juneau, Alaska, 1899.
96. Canoe going over bar, north end Douglas Island, Alaska, 1899.
97. Indian graves at Auk Point, Alaska, 1899.
98. One of numerous pretty spots, Lynn Canal, Alaska 1899.
99. Indian camp above Auk Point drying halibut, Alaska 1899.
100. Gulls at mouth Eagle River, Lynn Canal, Alaska, 1899.
103. Mouth of Eagle River and across Lynn Canal, Alaska, 1899.
105. Equipped for work at Eagle River (logging) 1899.
106. Donkey engine ready to come off scow at Eagle River, Lynn Canal, Alaska, 1899.
108. Donkey engine going through swamped trail Eagle River, 1899.
109. The log is coming along "O.K." Eagle River, 1899. (Two men logging with Donkey engine).
111. Timber and snow, Eagle River, Alaska, 1899.
113. Elmer Collins coming ashore with stove, summer of 1899, Alaska. (Near Eagle River)
114. One of many waterfalls in Southeast Alaska, Admiralty Island, 1899.

117. W.L. Whitaker on snow slide on Kupreanauf Island, Alaska, 1899.

118. Large spruce at head of Duncan Canal, Kupreanauf Island, Alaska, 1899.

119 - 130. Views in California.

Album 3 (#131 – 310)

131 - 146. United States and British Columbia views.

147. Caldwell and Whitaker party at Nanaimo, Vancouver Island, B. C.

148. In hold of Pak Shan.

149. Caldwell and Whitaker party at Nanaimo, Vancouver Island, B. C.

150. Fort Wrangell, Alaska. (Taken from boat about five miles out.)

151. Pak Shan unloading at Wrangell. (With riverboat and skiffs at dock.)

152. Scows and boats loading for Stickeen [Stikeen] River.

153. Sling with 100 lbs. of compressed hay on top (unloading at Ft. Wrangell).

154. Our outfit was all in a muddle. (Men congregated by store in Ft. Wrangell).

155. Fort Wrangell from totem poles looking N. W.

156. Indian totems and canoes at Fort Wrangell.

157. Canoes and totems at Fort Wrangell.

158. Totem, Fort Wrangell (in front of Tlingit house).

159. Mouth Stickeen [Stikeen] River, Alaska, from here on we moved our outfit ourselves.

160. Indian graves, Wrangell.

161. Outfits on Cottonwood Island mouth of Stickeen [Stikeen] River.
162. Twas here we first encountered the Stickeen [Stikeen] River proper. (Horses and sledge).

163. Everybody out on the trail. (Pack Train).

164. Fifteen mile camp. (Camp set up).

165. The big glacier.

166. Big glacier.

167. Our happy home. (Camp set up).

168. Trail badly cut up. (Leading horse and pushing sledge).

169. A sheltered camp site.

170. Hand sledders. (Men pulling own sledges).

171. A good driver and leader. (Dog team).

172. Dog teams (on the trail).

173. Whiskey of course was packed along. (Horses and sledges on trail).

174. Gerald returning from cache.

175. The ox did great work. (Pulling sledge).

176. Gerald and Jerry (man and horse).

177. W. L. Whitaker and Tom and Jerry. (Horses).

178. A pitch off and through a slough. (On the trail).

179. A thaw, waiting for a freeze. (Camping).

180. A weak spot in the trail.

181. An odd combination. (Goats pulling sledge).

182. Over a snow bridge. We now enter British Columbia.

183. Mouth of canyon.
184. A block on the trail.

185. Through a slough.

186. One of the lonely places.

187. Making camp for the night.

188. A lucky ledge of ice for us.

189. Telegraph Creek, British Columbia.

190. A big icicle.


192. Above Telegraph Creek.

193. A dangerous piece of ice.

194. We were compelled to build this bridge.

195. The river is opening rapidly. (Thaw).

196. A risky crossing.

197. At mouth Tahlta River, making pack saddles for pack train.

198. Our pack train. First trip.

199. The trail and banks of Tooya River.

200. Indian graves and George W. Caldwell.

201. George, not saying a word. (Packing on trail).


203. "Jack" always ready for a meal.

204. Capt. Jack and Elmer holding down their job. (Sleeping in tent).

205. George and his caribou.
206. George and his moose.

207. W.L. Whitaker knows when he has enough

208. Sometimes the trail passed through good timber.

209. A remnant of corduroy. (Trail).

210. The trail, Tanzilla River in the distance.

211. Dease Lake, ice bound as we first saw it.

212. Sawing wood. Looking for a place to sit down. (Men crossing bridge).

213. Camp, head of Dease Lake.

214. Building our boats.

215. Whip sawing. We sawed out 1200 feet of lumber.

216. Rip and the burro train.

217. The faithful burro. (Men and animals at camp).

218. A trial spin. (Men in boat in river).

219. Down Dease Lake on a raft.

220. Some tried carts instead of packing.

221. Our outfit ready to start away (Men and boats ready to leave settlement).

222. N. E. end or outlet of Dease Lake, head of Dease River.

223. Forest fires Dease Lake.

224. The water ran swiftly cutting away the banks.

225. Our outfit going down Dease River.

226. Taking it easy, good current. (Boat going down river).

227. The overhanging trees at times made it interesting.
228. Pak Shan, one of the lakes on the Dease.

229. Missouri Queen, altogether. (Men in boat on Dease).

230. Marble and Clarkson. (Two men in boat).

231. Pak Shan, ever ready to drift along.

232. The current helped us considerably.

233. Sylvesters Landing
   McDames Creek       Old Cassiar Country
   Dease Post           Hudsons Bay Post here

234. Gravel banks around the Horseshoe.

235. Clay banks along the Dease.

236. A typical bend and slough.

237. We killed a moose here. (Men and loaded boats near shore).

238. Liard River, Liard Post in background.

239. Rough water 4 miles from mouth Dease River.


241. Entrance to Canyon, Liard River.

242. Tearfully hard work and coming to something that looks no better. (Cutting poles for poling boat against current in dangerous passages).

243. We rowed and poled along cliffs or walls.

244. A moments rest before we undertook the task.

245. Along the walls. We now are in North West Territory

246. Just room enough to get along.

247. Swift water and bad footing.

248. A good passage way.
249. Dinner. M. Butterfield has his say. (Eight men around campfire).

250. A howling wind and swift water. Frances River made off to the right.

251. On beach., near Liard Post.

252. Our Cache"

253. Foot of a slough.

254. Water is awfully swift here.

255. Imagine the fun of passing a rope along this bank for miles.

256. On the tow path. Too good to last long.

257. The end of the beach is in sight. More hard work ahead.

258. Old channels and sand banks.

259. A man had to possess some of the qualities of a goat to get a footing.

260. Sometimes we poled awile.

261. Inch by inch (for the boat), and the sweat drop by drop (for the man).

We now are in North West Territory

262. Just over a riffle.

263. Heading a slough and riffle.

264. Bodily we hauled her up.

265. We crossed the river a hundred times or more.

266. Sometimes the river was shoal and wide.

267. The river cut through immense gravel banks.

268. A moments rest after a hard pull.

269. Crossing the heads of several sloughs.
270.  Lunch, bacon, beans and tea.
271.  Around a big log jam.
272.  Resting while dishes are being washed. Smoke from fire in foreground.
274.  Water swift and very deep.
275.  Immense gravel and sand banks.
276.  One of many log jams.
277.  Our outfit, showing gearing for towing boat.
278.  Indian leering skin canoe through rapid water.
279.  W.L.W [Whitaker]. Wash day. Handkerchief about his head to keep off mosquitoes.
280.  We fed them. They were awfully hungry. (Indian man, woman and child).
281.  Bartering for fresh meat. (With Indians).
282.  Tom and Jerry and Horace at Dease House.
283.  They said farewell. (Indians, leaving in boat).
284.  Driving the Edmonton party’s horses into Dease River.
285.  All in and headed across. (Horses. crossing river).
286.  The lake and rolling country along Dease River between Cottonwood River and the horse ranch.
287.  Ashon on the other side. (Horses coming ashore on other side).
288.  Same as 286.
289.  One of many lakes along Dease River.
290.  We walked along the ridges with packs on our backs.
291. Same as 289.
292. Same as 290.
293. We crossed the river in a spruce bark canoe.
294. Packing hay out of river bottom.
295. We arrived at McDames "OK".
296. Horace nudging "Pascal" (horse) over windfalls.
297. Guiding horse down slope.
298. The bench and bottom country.
299. The Dease from top bank.
300. River bottom country.
301. Burned timber district.
302. Glenora, looking north.
303. Telegraph Creek from top of the hill.
304. Tent life, Glenora, B. C.
305. Street scene, Glenora.
306. River steamer below Glenora.
307. We sold Pascal (horse) at Glenora.
308. Ships boat, having just picked up a deer (under middle seat).
309. The Utopia arrived at Juneau, Alaska.
310. The man from whom we purchased Pascal. He was 18 mo. on the trail coming from Edmonton.