

**REFERENCE CODE:** AkAMH

**REPOSITORY NAME:**

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**TITLE:** First Alaska Territorial Legislature Collection

**COLLECTION NUMBER:** B1956.004

**OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION**

Dates: 1913

Extent: 26 items; 1.3 linear feet

Language and Scripts: The collection is in English.

Name of creator(s): A.C. Mercer

**Administrative/Biographical History:**

In 1912, the United States Congress passed a new civil organizing act for Alaska, creating a bicameral legislature with an eight-member Senate and a sixteen-member House of Representatives. However, this collection contains photographs of only fifteen Representatives. The missing man, J.J. Mullaly of Fairbanks, left the Territory before the November, 1912 elections results were in. Mullaly failed to return to Alaska to claim his legislative seat.

Territorial legislators were elected in even numbered years, and met in session for sixty days in odd numbered years. The first session of the Territorial Legislature convened in Juneau on March 3, 1913. Because a capitol building had not yet been built, the Legislature met in the Elks Lodge hall. The powers of the Legislature were limited; although it never did so, the United States Congress was empowered to override any laws passed by the Legislature. The first act of the Legislature was unanimous approval of a bill granting women the right to vote.

The membership of the first Alaska Territorial Legislature included lawyers, businessmen, miners, and at least one doctor and one fisherman. Legislators' pay was \$15.00 per day, and a travel allowance of 15 cents per mile. Territorial Governor Walter Clark estimated that the lawmakers' average round trip to Juneau was 2,541 miles. In early January of 1913, for example, two legislators left Nome by dog team, bound for Fairbanks. From Fairbanks, they

traveled by horse-drawn sleigh to Valdez, where they boarded a steamship for Juneau. They arrived in the capital the day before the Legislature convened. For more information on Alaska's first territorial legislature, see: "Governing Alaska: The Territory of Alaska," Alaska History and Cultural Studies, <http://www.akhistorycourse.org/articles/article.php?artID=135>; "Alaska's First Legislature, 1913: Oh, How Times Have Changed," by June Allen, [http://www.sitnews.net/JuneAllen/Legislature/011803\\_ak\\_1st\\_legislature.html](http://www.sitnews.net/JuneAllen/Legislature/011803_ak_1st_legislature.html); and "100 Years Ago, New Territorial Legislature Ignited a Dream," by Steve Haycox, <http://www.adn.com/2012/04/05/2409662/100-years-ago-the-territorial.html>.

**Scope and Content Description:**

The collection consists of one leather scrapbook, 15.5" x 11" x 1.25", which includes autographed photographs of Territorial Governor Walter E. Clark and senators and representatives of the first Alaska Territorial Legislature, all taken by A.C. Mercer in 1913. The photographs are mounted one per leaf.

Arrangement: Not applicable.

**CONDITIONS GOVERNING ACCESS AND USE**

Restrictions on Access: The collection is open for research use.

Physical Access: Original items in good condition.

Technical Access: No special equipment is needed to access the materials.

**Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use:**

The Anchorage Museum is the owner of the materials and makes available reproductions for research, publication, and other uses. Written permission must be obtained from the Anchorage Museum before any reproduction use. The Anchorage Museum does not necessarily hold copyright to all of the materials in the collections. In some cases, permission for use may require seeking additional authorization from the copyright owners.

**Preferred Citation:**

First Alaska Territorial Legislature Collection, Anchorage Museum, B1956.004.

**ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

**Acquisition and Appraisal Information**

The collection was donated to the Cook Inlet Historical Society by Frank Reed Jr. in 1956.

**RELATED MATERIALS**

**SUBJECTS**

Clark, Walter Eli, 1859-1950

Ray, L.V.

Bruner, Elwood  
Rhoden, Henry  
Tripp, H.T.  
Millard, B.F.  
Freeding, Conrad  
Tanner, J.M.  
Sutherland, Daniel Alexander, 1869-1955  
Collins, Earnest B.  
Burns, William T.  
Gray, Robert D.  
Driscoll, Daniel  
Stubbins, William  
Jones, Charles Davenport  
Boyle, Frank M.  
Kennedy, James C.  
Ingersoll, Charles E.  
Aldrich, Frank A.  
Ingram, H.B.  
Shoup, Arthur Glendinning  
Kelly, Milo  
Svindseth, N.J.  
Gaffney, Thomas  
Legislators – Alaska  
Alaska Territorial Legislature  
Alaska – Politics and government, 1867-1959

#### Detailed Description of the Collection

- .01 – Mercer; [Studio portrait of Walter E. Clark, Territorial Governor of Alaska, 1913; autographed.]
- .02 – Mercer; [Studio portrait of Territorial Senate President L.V. Ray; Third Division, Seward; First Alaska Territorial Legislature, 1913; autographed.]
- .03 – Mercer; [Studio portrait of Territorial Senator Elwood Bruner; Second Division, Nome; First Alaska Territorial Legislature, 1913; autographed.]
- .04 – Mercer; [Studio portrait of Territorial Senator Henry Rhoden; Fourth Division, Iditarod; First Alaska Territorial Legislature, 1913; autographed.]
- .05 – Mercer; [Studio portrait of Territorial Senator H.T. Tripp; First Division, Juneau; First Alaska Territorial Legislature, 1913; autographed.]
- .06 – Mercer; [Studio portrait of Territorial Senator B.F. Millard; Third Division, Valdez; First Alaska Territorial Legislature, 1913; autographed.]
- .07 – Mercer; [Studio portrait of Territorial Senator Conrad Freeding; Second Division, Nome; First Alaska Territorial Legislature, 1913; autographed.]
- .08 – Mercer; [Studio portrait of Territorial Senator J.M. Tanner, First Division, Skagway; First Alaska Territorial Legislature, 1913; autographed.]
- .09 – Mercer; [Studio portrait of Territorial Senator Dan A. Southerland, Second Division, Ruby; First Alaska Territorial Legislature, 1913; autographed.]

- .10 – Mercer; [Studio portrait of Territorial House of Representatives Speaker Earnest B. Collins; Fourth Division, Fox; First Alaska Territorial Legislature, 1913; autographed.]
- .11 – Mercer; [Studio portrait of Territorial Representative William T. Burns; Fourth Division, Fairbanks; First Alaska Territorial Legislature, 1913, autographed.]
- .12 – Mercer; [Studio portrait of Territorial Representative Robert D. Gray; Third Division, Katalla; First Alaska Territorial Legislature, 1913; autographed.]
- .13 – Copyright 1913 Mercer; [Studio portrait of Territorial Representative Daniel Driscoll; Fourth Division, Fairbanks; First Alaska Territorial Legislature, 1913; autographed.]
- .14 – Mercer; [Studio portrait of Territorial Representative William Stubbins; First Division, Douglas; First Alaska Territorial Legislature, 1913; autographed.]
- .15 – Mercer; [Studio portrait of Territorial Representative Charles Davenport Jones; Second Division, Nome; First Alaska Territorial Legislature, 1913; autographed.]
- .16 – [Studio portrait of Territorial Representative Frank M. Boyle, M.D.; Third Division, Valdez; First Alaska Territorial Legislature, 1913; autographed.]
- .17 – Mercer; [Studio portrait of Territorial Representative James C. Kennedy; Second Division, Candle; First Alaska Territorial Legislature, 1913; autographed.]
- .18 – Mercer; [Studio portrait of Territorial Representative Charles. E. Ingersoll; First Division, Ketchikan; First Alaska Territorial Legislature, 1913; autographed.]
- .19 – Copyright 1913 Mercer; [Studio portrait of Territorial Representative Frank A. Aldrich; Second Division, Nome; First Alaska Territorial Legislature, 1913; autographed.]
- .20 – Mercer; [Studio portrait of Territorial Representative H.B. Ingram; Third Division, Valdez; First Alaska Territorial Legislature, 1913; autographed.]
- .21 – Mercer; [Studio portrait of Territorial Representative Arthur Glendinning Shoup; First Division, Sitka; First Alaska Territorial Legislature, 1913; autographed.]
- .22 – Mercer; [Studio portrait of Territorial Representative Milo Kelly; Third Division, Knik; First Alaska Territorial Legislature, 1913; autographed.]
- .23 – Mercer; [Studio portrait of Territorial Representative N.J. Svindseth; First Division, Wrangell; First Alaska Territorial Legislature, 1913; autographed.]
- .24 – Mercer; [Studio portrait of Territorial Representative Thomas Gaffney; Second Division, Nome; First Alaska Territorial Legislature, 1913; autographed.]
- .25 – Copyright 1913 by A.C. Mercer; [Group portrait of 1913 First Alaska Territorial House of Representatives, with staff members; seated at desks in Elks Lodge, Juneau.]
- .26 – Copyright 1913 by A.C. Mercer; [Group portrait of 1913 First Alaska Territorial Senate, with staff members; seated at desks in Elks Lodge, Juneau.]

Guide written: June, 2012.