

REFERENCE CODE: AkAMH

REPOSITORY NAME:

Anchorage Museum at Rasmuson Center
Bob and Evangeline Atwood Resource Center
625 C Street
Anchorage, AK 99501
Phone: 907-929-9235
Email: resourcecenter@anchagemuseum.org

Guide prepared by: Chloe Nielsen, Archivist

TITLE: Willow Creek Mining District Records

COLLECTION NUMBER: B1963.x.031

OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION

Dates: 1898-1899

Extent: 0.25 cubic feet

Language and Scripts: The collection is in English.

Name of creator(s): Bates, G.H.; Herndon, L.H.; Wilson, Joseph

Administrative/Biographical History:

“The upper ten miles of Willow Creek was one of the first steady sources of gold in the upper Cook Inlet region. Thus, by June 11, 1898, enough people were in the area that a meeting could be held at the nearby town of Knik, to formally define the Willow Creek Mining District. The miners voted to establish the boundaries as follows: ‘...commencing at mouth of canon and including all tributaries to the head waters of said Willow creek (sic).’ [...] The early miners were few in number, and possibly drifted through the area, never staying long. They were mostly trappers who supplemented their incomes by panning for gold in the summer, when the streams were free of ice. One such person was Robert Lee Hatcher, from whom the present name for the Willow Creek area, ‘Hatcher Pass,’ was derived.

“Closely related to the early growth of Knik was the success of gold mining on Willow Creek. Herning’s diaries provide most of the information for this period, and it is in his diary for 1898 that the earliest direct reference to mining on Willow Creek can be found.”¹

¹ Bruce A. Miller, *Gold Mining in Hatcher Pass, Willow Creek Mining District, Alaska*, (self-pub., undated), 2-4.

Scope and Content Description:

This collection consists of mining claims and other handwritten records, as well as three ledgers documenting mining activities in the Willow Creek Mining District in 1898.

CONDITIONS GOVERNING ACCESS AND USE

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

Physical Access: Original items in good condition. Some have slight water damage.

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. Though copyright status is unknown, this collection is most likely in the public domain.

Preferred Citation: Knik and Willow Creek Mining Records, Anchorage Museum, B1963.x.31

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Acquisition and Appraisal Information

This collection was donated to the Cook Inlet Historical Society by an unknown donor. CIHS then transferred the collection to the Museum.

Processing Note

This collection was appraised and arranged by a previous archivist. Description is based off previous arrangement.

SUBJECTS

Knik Arm (Alaska)

Mines and mineral resources – Alaska

Willow Creek (Alaska)

Detailed Description of the Collection

Box 1

- .01 – [mining claim, Knik Arm, signed by Joseph Wilson, May 6, 1899]
- .02 – [mining claim, Knik Arm, signed by Joseph Wilson, May 7, 1899]
- .03 – [mining claim, Knik Arm, signed by Joseph Wilson, May 7, 1899]
- .04 – [mining claim, Knik Arm, signed by Joseph Wilson, May 6, 1899]
- .05 – [mining claim, Knik Arm, signed by Joseph Wilson, May 8, 1899]
- .06 – [handwritten power of attorney by G. H. Bates, August 10, 1898]
- .07 – [list of 43 names, undated.]
- .08 – Knik District Mining Record Book, 1898
- .09 – [claim assessment letter, Willow Creek, Alaska, September 22, 1899]
- .10 – [authorization letter of claims sale, Knik Station, October 24, 1898]

Box 2

- .11 – [handwritten meeting minutes of Miner's Meeting, Susitna River, December 29, 1898]
- .12 – [alternate version of .11]
- .13 – [handwritten mining claim, Willow Creek, signatures water damaged, June 17, 1926]
- .14 – [hand drawn map of Willow Creek mining claims, undated]
- .15 – Alaska Assessment Recording Record of the Willow Creek Mining District Territory of Alaska District Organized June 11th, 1898. L.H. Herndon Recorder. [ledger]

Box 3

- .16 – Original Mining Record of the Willow Creek Mining District Established Jun 11, 1898, with L.H. Herndon as Recorder. [ledger]

Guide written: February 2022