

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: Heather McClain, Senior Archivist

TITLE: CIHS Griffin

COLLECTION NUMBER: B1966.007

OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION

Dates: 1943

Extent: 1 item

Language and Scripts: The collection is in English.

Name of creator(s): Unknown

Administrative/Biographical History:

Wanda Mildred Gelles Griffin (1922-2015) was born, and spent her whole life, in Anchorage, Alaska. After graduating from Anchorage High School in 1940 and working at Providence Hospital on 9th and L Street, she married Ned Griffin on May 9, 1942. Together, they raised 4 children (Chuck, Marie, Tim, and Mark) in Wanda's childhood home at 6th and L Street. In 1950, the couple opened the Knik Arms Apartments on Northern Lights and Spenard Road, which Wanda managed and Ned maintained until they sold the building in 1968.

Wanda was the longest-term parishioner of Holy Family Cathedral and was heavily involved in the church, including serving as chair to the Altar Society. Wanda was also a longtime member of the Cook Inlet Historical Society and was involved with the Anchorage Museum, helping to identify photographs of early Anchorage.¹

Scope and Content Description:

¹ "Wanda M. Griffin," Anchorage Daily News, February 19-22, 2015, accessed April 15, 2022, <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/adn/name/wanda-griffin-obituary?id=14325759>.

This collection consists of one photograph of captured Japanese soldiers on Attu Island in 1943. The item was supposedly found in a library book by the donor's son.

Arrangement: Collection arranged by previous archivist.

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:

CIHS Griffin, Anchorage Museum, B1966.7

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Acquisition and Appraisal Information

Donated by Wanda Griffin to the Cook Inlet Historical Society in April 1966. Transferred to the Anchorage Museum.

Separated Materials

The original donation included three telephone directories and a yellow supplement.

RELATED MATERIALS

1966.10

B1963.026 CIHS Griffin Collection

B1968.021 Wanda Griffin Ephemera Collection

B1995.004 Wanda Griffin Copy Photograph Collection

B1999.010 Wanda Griffin Collection

SUBJECTS

Griffin, Wanda Mildred Gelles, 1922-2015

Attu Island (Alaska)

World War, 1939-1945 – Alaska – Aleutian Islands

Detailed Description of the Collection

.3 – Attu Alaska 1943, Captured Jap[anese] Pictures [two individuals identified as Japanese soldiers posed in the snow with mountains in the background. Attu, Alaska, 1943]

Guide written: March 13, 2025