



Alaska Railroad Subject Guide

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This guide is intended to assist researchers in locating archival materials pertaining to the Alaska Railroad, which are housed at the Anchorage Museum Archives & Library. It is not necessarily a complete listing of all railroad or Alaska railroad related holdings. Please note that our collections contain materials that are racist, sexist, and may be painful or traumatizing for researchers. Please contact Archives staff at resourcecenter@anchoramuseum.org or 907-929-9235 for assistance in locating other collections of interest.

Using this Guide

The majority of the collections show construction and/or operation of the Alaska Railroad. Fewer collections include images of the Alaska Engineering Commission (AEC). The collections are ordered by accession number. Keywords are provided for each collection. In addition, a list of past Anchorage Museum exhibitions as well as publications available in the Archives and Library pertaining to the Alaska Railroad have been included at the end of this guide.

ARCHIVAL COLLECTIONS

Jack H. Floyd Collection, B1957.005

The collection consists of 465 photographs and 33 negatives, primarily of Alaska Railroad operations, including many AEC series photographs as well as snapshots. There are also several images of early construction on the Richardson Highway. For more information, see Detailed Description of Collection. (196 AEC items)

CIHS Collection, B1961.005

The CIHS Collection consists of 42 black-and-white photographs mounted in an album measuring 13" x 10". Included are 31 images from the Alaska Railroad AEC series, as well as snapshots and commercial images of Alaskan scenes. For more information, see Detailed Description of Collection. (23 AEC items)

CIHS Fairbanks Collection, B1962.006

The collection consists of six black-and-white photographs and three postcards depicting scenes in Anchorage and Fairbanks, created or collected by an Alaska Railroad employee in the 1920s. For more information, see Detailed Description of Collection.

Marie Silverman Collection, B1963.016

Marie Silverman came to Alaska from Norway in 1908. She married Sol Silverman in Ketchikan, and the couple lived in various locations before settling in Anchorage in 1915. Marie worked for the Anchorage Times and was active in community affairs. She died in 1967. The collection consists of 194 photographs (one color) and nearly 100 pieces of ephemera collected by Marie Silverman. (2 AEC Items)

C.H. Darby Collection, B1963.031

This collection consists of three items that include a ship manifest from the W.M. Tupper and a bill of landing from the Santa Ana Steamship Company.

CIHS Reeve Collection, B1963.x.011

The collection consists of 45 black-and-white and five color photographs and photographic postcards, depicting Katalla, Seward, the Alaska Railroad, and other Alaskan locations and subjects.

CIHS Gastrock Collection, B1963.x.015

The collection consists of six black-and-white photographs of Alaskan scenes. (1 AEC item)

John Urban Collection, B1964.001

The Urban Collection consists of 842 black-and-white and tinted photographs and postcards, depicting the Klondike and Nome gold rushes, construction and operation of the Alaska Railroad and the Copper River & Northwestern Railroad, and communities and locations around the state. (2 AEC items)

Anna M. Crutcher Collection, B1964.x.002

This collection consists of photographs of scenes along the Alaska Railroad. Scenes include Bartlett Glacier, Camp 285, Caterpillar No. 4, Hurricane Gulch Bridge, Chickaloon River, the Loop District, Placer River Crossing, J. E. and Anna Crutcher, Nenana River, and Spencer Glacier. The collection is housed in the photo file collection and the AEC collection. (13 AEC items)

Fred B. Wood Collection, B1965.003

The collection consists of photographs, deeds, correspondence, maps, ephemera, and a ledger of funeral records created and/or collected by Fred B. Wood. The materials primarily pertain to the history of Seward and Anchorage, Alaska, during the early development of the Alaska Railroad, 1915-1920. (14 AEC items)

Fred Henton Collection, B1965.018

The collection consists of photographic prints and negative copies. The prints are primarily black and white, with some sepia and hand-tinted color prints. The collection includes snapshots, postcards, and some commercial photographs, most notably by the Lomen Bros. of Nome. The collection depicts scenes of life in various rural and urban locales in Alaska. Henton documents scenery, people, wildlife, native culture, transportation, exploration, and architecture throughout his travels. Notable events in the collection include images of Henton with his world record Kodiak bear; various sled dog races and parades in Nome, such as the Solomon Derby and All Alaska Sweepstakes; the wreckage after a major storm in Nome, 1913; and President Harding's visit to Seward in 1923. (1 AEC item)

CIHS Isaacs, B1967.019

The Isaacs collection includes photographs of Chickaloon and Anchorage scenes. Scenes of Chickaloon include houses and coal fields. Anchorage scenes include the first lot sale in 1915, fourth avenue on Memorial Day and the Fourth of July, Anchorage terminal yards, the U.S. Marshal's Office and Jail, and President Harding and Mrs. Harding at the Anchorage Depot. Also in the collection are photos of Baseball teams.

CIHS McCrady, B1967.007

This collection consists of three photographs of the Tent City of Anchorage in 1915. Subjects include Fourth Avenue, tents, and log cabins.

J.J. Delaney Collection, B1970.019

This collection consists of photographic prints, documents, and ephemera related to J.J. Delaney and family.

Hugh Jones Collection, B1970.062

This collection consists of 9 photographs of workers on the Alaska Railroad from Cantwell to Healy. Photograph subjects include the Cantwell women's section crew, Jack West, and Carlson's Roadhouse.

Railroad Photograph Collection, B1970.x.002

This Alaska Railroad collection consists of photographs of the Alaska Railroad, the Alaska Engineers Commission, Anchorage, Matanuska Valley, Boating, Chickaloon, Dyea, Fairbanks, Denali, Mendenhall Glacier, Nenana River, Seward, and Sitka. Alaska Railroad scenes include baseball, Chickaloon, Anchorage, Birchwood, Montana, Curry, Healy to Nenana, Moose Pass to Portage, Moose Creek, Indian, and Rainbow. Matanuska Valley scenes include photos of Ranches, cultivation of potatoes, and Matanuska River. Photographers of the collection include P. (Phineas?) S. Hunt, H.G. Kaiser, Gordon, Gilbertson, George L. Johnson, and Guy F. Cameron. (18 AEC items)

Halverson Collection, B1971.25

The Halverson collection consists of both photographs and books. Photographs in the collection include the "Alaska building", the boat Matanuska, Byrne's Building, Frontier Peak, G. H. Saindon's Harvester & binder, the Lathrop Building, locomotive cranes, and Mt. St. Elias. Other items in the collection include the books "Rhymes of a Rolling Stone", "the Real Book about Alaska", and "Hunting and Fishing in Alaska." Please see item list for complete item information. (7 AEC items)

Charles Weller Collection, B1974.040

The collection consists of 149 black-and-white photographs and real photo postcards of Alaskan scenes, most bearing extensive typescript captions. There are many photographs of Alaska Railroad employees, and of miners at various locations.

ARR Sutton Collection, B1977.147

The collection consists primarily of Alaska Railroad scenes. The Alaska Railroad subjects include building construction, tracks, tent camp, and the Hurricane gulch bridge crew (taken by H.G. Kaiser). Also in the collection are photographs of the Omineca (Riverboat), Chickaloon, a caterpillar tractor, and "four men chipping at a snow slide".

Dorothy Stauter Collection, B1980.041

The collection consists of 154 black-and-white photographs and postcards and three-color postcards of Valdez, Juneau, Anchorage, and other Alaskan towns and villages as well as scenic views of glaciers, mountains, and landscapes, all dating from the first half of the 20th century. There are many commercial photographs, including 38 by Valdez-based photographer P.S. Hunt. Of note are two images of the Alaska Central Railway route and images of early mining and logging operations. (2 AEC items)

AHFAM FIC Collection, B1981.019

The collection consists of 178 items from scattered small collections received and/or accessioned in 1981. (1 AEC item)

William Robert Mathewson Collection, B1987.072

William Robert Mathewson worked for the Alaska Engineering Commission / Alaska Railroad as a timekeeper from 1915 to 1923.

Lu Liston Collection, B1989.016

The collection consists of the portrait and stock image libraries of Hewitt's Drug Store through 1978. There are passport photographs of approximately 805 individuals, circa 1933-1942, and portrait photography of approximately 145 subjects, circa 1960s. The subjects, locations, and time periods documented in the collection are wide-ranging. Many of the photographs

chronicle business and daily life in Anchorage, especially on Fourth Avenue. Of particular note are Matanuska Colony photographs taken for the first annual report on the colony, documenting agriculture and homesteading in the valley in the 1930s. Other major subjects include early aviation and mining, with several hundred photographs of the Gold Zone and Hatcher Pass area mines. (3 AEC items)

Simonson Photographs, B1991.009

The collection consists of primarily black and white photographic prints of the Cook Inlet region taken by Tom Odale and others. Photographed regions include Homer, Kenai, Beluga, Sunrise, and Seldovia

Wennerstrom Collection, B1994.002

The collection consists of 265 photographs, as well as architectural drawings and documents pertaining to coal mining at Eska and Chickaloon. The first 35 images illustrate the "Report of the Mining Department, A. E. C.," for 1921. Numerous images are from the Alaskan Engineering Commission series documenting the construction of the Alaska Railroad. There are also several images from the filming of the motion picture The Chechahcos in 1924; images documenting fishing, probably in Cook Inlet; and early commercial stock photography of Alaskan scenes. (91 AEC items)

August Cohn Collection, B1997.022

This collection contains 298 black and white photos taken by August Cohn during his work with the Alaska Engineering Commission, 1915-1917. The photos focus on the Anchorage town site area, including images of construction, railroad buildings and equipment, anchorage residents and their families, houses, cabins, and local businesses.

Morgan Sherwood Alaska Railroad Photographs, B1999.022

The collection consists of 77 35mm color slides. Most images are of scenes along the railroad between Seward and Fairbanks, many featuring the survey crew. There are also generic images of Alaskan flora and fauna, some taken by other photographers, implying that the collection may have been used for a slide talk about Alaska. All but a few images were taken during the summer and fall of 1949.

Alaska Gastineau Mining Company Collection, B2000.004

This collection documents construction of the mine camp, tunnel portal, and mill and support facilities at Thane in Volume 1. The construction of a 170-foot-high concrete dam, powerhouses, and support facilities at Salmon Creek are covered in Volume 2. The collection also includes a folder with separate photographs of the Annex Creek hydroelectric facility, located twelve miles to the south of the mill.

Cornelia Templeton Jewett Hatcher Papers, B2008.15

These papers consist of three scrapbooks including numerous photographs related to Cornelia's years as editor of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union newspaper, The Union Signal; her visit to the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition in Seattle in 1909; her trip to Alaska with a group of national newspaper editors the summer of 1909 on the Alaska Steamship company's vessel the S. S. Northwestern; her role in Robert Lee Hatcher's development of the Gold Mint Mine; [Scrapbooks were assembled by Cornelia's daughter, Hazel Jewett Phelps Wells; they contain Hazel's notes on her mother's life.] (1 AEC item)

Lane Family Photograph Collection, B2011.014

The collection consists of black-and-white photographic prints and negatives. Most photos are of individuals or groups in outdoor Interior Alaskan settings, engaged in activities such as fishing, camping, mining, and travelling by automobile or river steamer. Few individuals are identified by full name. A few photos are of Anchorage, including boats at the mouth of Ship Creek. (3 AEC items)

Whitehead-McDannel Collection, B2012.018

The collection consists of 38 black-and-white photographs, correspondence, ephemera, and publications collected by J. Casey McDannel and his daughter, Lucy McDannel Whitehead. Many of the materials document the 1923 visit of President Warren G. Harding to Alaska. Other materials pertain to McDannel's and Whitehead's careers with the Alaska Railroad.

Copper River & Northwestern Railway Album, B2012.028

The collection consists of a photo album containing 308 black & white photographs. Only a few photos have captions printed on them. Five photos had been separated from the album and have messages penciled or inked on the reverse, signed by "A.A.D." Some of the mounted photos have loose corners and messages partially visible on the reverse, apparently sent by "A.A.D." while he worked on the railroad in 1909-10. There is little order to the mounting of photos in the album and there are some images of non-Alaskan subjects, such as scenes identified as being in Wallace, Idaho, and a few non-Alaskan railroad images. Highlights of the collection include Copper River Natives wearing beadwork and regalia, railroad construction activities such as grading roadbeds, steam shovels operating, snow removal, and bridge and trestle construction, as well as images of railroad rolling stock and the paddlewheel steamboat Nizina.

Marcus V. Tyler, B2013.007

The collection consists of 265 photographs, as well as architectural drawings and documents pertaining to coal mining at Eska and Chickaloon. The first 35 images illustrate the "Report of the Mining Department, A. E. C., for 1921. Numerous images are from the Alaskan Engineering Commission series documenting the construction of the Alaska Railroad. There are also several images from the filming of the motion picture "The Chechahcos" in 1924; images documenting

fishing, probably in Cook Inlet; and early commercial stock photography of Alaskan scenes. (1 AEC item)

Alaska Railroad Week Posters, B2013.013

The collection consists of ten posters issued for Alaska Railroad Week.

Alaska Railroad Equipment Photographs, B2013.015

The collection consists of two-color photographs of Alaska Railroad equipment taken by G. Arthur Cort in April 1996. The first is labeled "EMD F7 Transportation Museum Wasilla, AK 4-28-96," and shows locomotive number 1500. The second is labeled "Alaska Railroad 'V' snowplow Anchorage R.R. yard 4-30-96."

Katherine G. Kane Manuscript, B2013.049

The collection consists of a 255-page typescript manuscript written (probably in 1938) by Katherine G. Kane, titled My Twenty-Seven Years in Alaska and the Aleutians. The text is illustrated with mounted photographs, including both snapshots and commercial images. Twelve additional photographs were enclosed in an accompanying envelope. The text contains transcriptions of correspondence, reports, and news articles pertaining to Kane's tenure in Alaska. The manuscript bears some penciled notes, possibly made by an editor to whom the manuscript had been offered for publication. Facing page 245 is a typescript poem, "I believe," signed and dated "Carrie Jacobs-Bond, 1943. (2 AEC items.)

Thomas "Cliff" Fuglestad Photographs, B2014.005

The collection consists of 515 black-and-white and color photographs in print, negative, and 35mm slide formats, documenting the construction and maintenance of the Alaska Railroad in the period 1919-1997. Included are 60 print images (.39-98) and 98 color slides (.415-513) of damage to railroad track and facilities sustained during the 1964 Alaska Earthquake.

W.L. McCulloch Alaska Railroad Collection, B2015.016

The collection consists of printed timetables, Alaska Railroad Week posters, postcards, brochures, news clippings, and other ephemera pertaining to the Alaska Railroad.

Alaska Railroad Denali Park Slides, B2015.031

The collection contains 19 color and one black-and-white 35mm slides of Alaska Railroad operations in Mount McKinley National Park (later Denali National Park and Preserve), taken between 1974 and 1993.

Jerry Forsyth McKeen Railmotor Photographs, B2016.009

The collection consists of 55 digital photographs of the McKeen railroad motorcar prior to its shipment to California, all taken by Jerry Forsyth in March of 2016. Images depict deterioration of the car and preparations for shipment.

Arturo Lloyd Alaska Railroad Photographs, B2017.032

The collection contains eight black-and-white negatives depicting Alaska Railroad equipment and the steamer Prince George. Ninety-six color 35mm slides depict equipment from the Alaska Railroad and the White Pass & Yukon Route, as well as sights Lloyd encountered on his tours. Three images from Southeast Alaska may have been taken during an Inside Passage voyage.

Dudley Westler Alaska Railroad Slides B2017.033

The collection consists of 700 color 35mm slides taken by Westler, primarily depicting the equipment and operations of the Alaska Railroad. Westler arranged his images by equipment type or route location. There are also over 100 images of White Pass & Yukon Route equipment and stations.

Addison H. Laflin, Jr., Photographs, B2018.007

The collection contains 18 black-and-white negatives and 118 prints taken by Addison H. Laflin Jr. during his service with the U.S. Army in Alaska during World War II. The images primarily depict Alaska Railroad equipment and facilities, riverboats, and military installations.

Guy Wheeler Alaska Railroad Collection, B2019.001

The collection consists of 4 digital copy prints of black-and-white photographs and ephemera pertaining to Guy Wheeler's work with the Alaska Railroad. Of note is a final report on the relocation survey of the railroad line between Portage and Indian in 1950 to allow for the completion of the Seward Highway.

Alaska Railroad Slides, B2019.015

The collection consists of 54 medium format-colored slides depicting scenes on the Alaska Railroad by an unknown photographer.

Alaska Railroad Ephemera Collection, B2020.005

This collection consists of 52 35mm slides that document Endler's travel throughout Alaska in 1956, including images of Anchorage, Portage, Whittier, and Nome. The primary focus of the images is the Alaska Railroad and includes images of depots, train engines and cars, and views from the train.

John Elder, Jr. Slides B2023.003

This collection consists of 24 booklets, 2 books, 100 brochures, 33 postcards and prints, 162 items of ephemera, and 26 4x5 film negatives. These items encompass all the Alaskan content collected by the BAERA Archives, including ephemera and photographs from Alaskan cruises and the Alaska Railroad.

James T. Wilson Collection, B2024.003

This collection consists of 2 photographic prints, 148 negatives, and 57 35mm color slides. The images document Alaska Railroad locomotives, depots, and train yards, Korean War era military workshops, Army winter camping, and soldier recreational activities. Areas depicted include Anchorage, Portage, Wasilla, Palmer, Fairbanks, Seward, Nenana, and Hope.

ART AND CULTURAL BELONGINGS

1966.039, 1968.009, 1970.053, 1970.082, 1973.101.001, 1980.111, 1982.038, 1983.131, 1985.024, 1987.006, 1987.006, 1987.026, 1991.011, 1992.018, 1992.061, 1993.065, 1997.037, 1999.003, 2002.029, 2005.054, 2007.041

MUSEUM RECORDS

The Alaska Railroad (2006)

All Aboard: The Alaska Railroad Centennial (May 5, 2023 – February 18, 2024)

Opening in the centennial year of the completion of the Alaska Railroad, this exhibition created in collaboration with Alaska Railroad historians and experts looked at the history, impact, and legacy of the railroad through archival images, objects, and ephemera.

LIBRARY PUBLICATIONS

F904.H57 1995

A history of the Alaska Railroad [videorecording]. KAKM Video. 1995.

F914 .C87 M37 2003

Lavish silence: a pictorial chronicle of vanished Curry, Alaska: a unique Alaska railroad community. Kenneth L. Marsh. 2003.

HE2754 .M43 C75 2002

Get Mears!: Frederick Mears: builder of the Alaska Railroad. Katharine Carson Crittenden. 2002.

HE2771 .A4 H44 2017

The Alaska Railroad: blazing an iron trail across the last frontier. The early years of the Alaska Railroad, 1902 to 1923. Helen Hegener. 2017.

HE2771 .A4 S38

Origin and construction of railroads in Alaska. E. J. E. Schuster. 196?.

HE2791 .A3794 1950

Annual report of the Alaska Railroad. United States, Department of Interior. 1948/49.

HE2791 .A3794 1976

The annual report on the Alaska Railroad. Federal Railroad Administration. 1975/76.

HE2791.A3794 1982

The Alaska Railroad. United States Federal Railroad Administration.

HE2791 .A38 A58 1961

Alaska's New Railway. Alaska Railroad. 1961.

HE2791 .A38 D34 1988

Alaska Railroad. Nicholas Deely. 1988.

HE2791 .A38 N67 1998

Northbound [videorecording]: the story of the Alaska Railroad. KTUU Channel 2 News. 1998.

HE2791 .A38 O64 1951

Operating, financial and rehabilitation charts of the Alaska Railroad. The Department of the Interior. 1951.

HE2791 .A43

The Alaska Railroad: probing the Interior. Charles Michael Brown. 1975.

HE2791 .A434 A47

Alaska Railroad historical records survey: final report and identification/inventory, selected historical records. Glenda Choate. 1984.

HE2791 .A6 A4 v.1 no.1-52

Alaska railroad record. Alaska Railroad Commission. 1916-1920.

HE2791 .A6 B7

Alaska's wilderness rails: from the Taiga to the Tundra: a pictorial review of the Alaska Railroad.
Ken C. Brovald. 1982.

HE2791 .A6 C6 1984

Rail across the tundra: a historical album of the Alaska Railroad. Stan Cohen. 1984.

HE2791 .A6 F4

The Alaska Railroad. Edwin M. Fitch. 1967.

HE2791 .A6 J64 2003

Portrait of the Alaska Railroad. Kaylene Johnson. 2003.

HE2791 .A6 K2 1990

The Alaska railroad [videorecording]. KAKM (producer). Tom Morgan (director/writer). 1990.

HE2791 .A6 P7 v.1

The Alaska Railroad, in pictures, 1914-1964. Bernardine LeMay Prince. 1964.

HE2791 .A6 W4

Railroad in the clouds: the Alaska Railroad in the age of steam, 1914-1945. William H. Wilson. 1977.

HE2791 .A6 Z2

Ride guide to the historic Alaska railroad: mile-by mile route logs, maps, historic photos. Laura Zahn and Anita Williams. 1987.

HE2791 .T33 D43 1996

Tanana Valley Railroad: The Gold Dust Line, Alaska. Nicholas Deely. 1996.

QE75 .P9 no.545-D

Effects of the Earthquake of March 27, 1964, on the Alaska Railroad. David S. McCulloch. 1970.

TF140 .H36 H4 1960

Alaska's railroad builder, Mike Heney. Edward A. Herron. 1960.

TF24.A4 B4 1974

The Alaskan Engineering Commission; its history, activities, and organization. Joshua Bernhardt. 1974.

TF25 .A4 B36 1997

Equipment of the Alaska Railroad, 1915-1985. Robert E. Barrett. 1997.

TF25 .A4 B37 1995

Equipment of the Alaska Railroad, 1920. Robert E. Barrett. 1995.

TF25 .A4 F84 1986

The Alaska Railroad between Anchorage and Fairbanks: guidebook to permafrost and engineering problems. T.C. Fuglestad. 1986.

TF24.A4 H36 1943

Report on the Alaska Railroad. F. A. Hansen. 1943.

TF25 .A4 J46 2017

Alaska Railroad: history through the miles. Barton Jennings. 2017.

RARE HE2771.A4 A3 1913

Railway routes in Alaska. Message from the President of the United States transmitting Report of Alaska railroad commission. United States Alaska Railroad Commission. 1913.

RARE HE2791.A38 A437 1943

The Alaska Railroad: transportation rules and general instructions. Alaska Railroad. 1943.

OTHER RESOURCES

Alaska Railroad, National Archives

Records of The Alaska Railroad,

<https://www.archives.gov/research/guide-fed-records/groups/322.html>

Alaska State Libraries, Archives & Museums

Alaska Railroad Photograph Collection; 1916-1922,

<https://alaska.libraryhost.com/repositories/2/resources/156>

The Alaska Railroad Tour Lantern Slide Collection, 1923,

<https://alaska.libraryhost.com/repositories/2/resources/238>

Walter L. Fisher Photograph Collection, 1909-1911,

<https://alaska.libraryhost.com/repositories/2/resources/767>

U.S. Alaska Engineering Commission Photograph Collection, 1916-1919,

<https://alaska.libraryhost.com/repositories/2/resources/54>

Thomas G. Wansbury Photograph Collection, ca. 1915-1918,

<https://alaska.libraryhost.com/repositories/2/resources/692>