

Horace H. Draper Photograph Collection, 1906-1908

Overview of the Collection

Photographer	Draper, Horace H
Title	Horace H. Draper Photograph Collection
Dates	1906-1908 (inclusive) 1906 1908
Quantity	56 photographic prints (1 box) ; various sizes
Collection Number	PH0324
Summary	The collection contains Horace H. Draper's photographs of the Porcupine Gold Mining Company in Porcupine, Alaska
Repository	University of Washington Libraries, Special Collections Special Collections University of Washington Libraries Box 352900 Seattle, WA 98195-2900 Telephone: 206-543-1929 Fax: 206-543-1931 speccoll@uw.edu
Access Restrictions	The collection is open to the public.
Languages	English
Sponsor	Funding for encoding this finding aid was partially provided through a grant awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Biographical Note

Horace Herbert Draper was born on July 5, 1855 in Rockford, Illinois. Draper developed a partnership with fellow photographer W.H. Case (1868-1920), forming the commercial photography studio of Case & Draper. Before going to Skagway in 1898, they followed the excitement of the Klondike Gold Rush where they remained active photographers from 1898 to circa 1908 in Skagway and Juneau, Alaska. By 1907, the partnership of Case & Draper dissolved, with Draper retaining possession of the business in Skagway, while Case opened a new business in Juneau.

After 1908, Draper worked individually as "Draper & Co." primarily based in Skagway. While living in Skagway, Draper married a local school teacher named Harriet and became an active member of the community. When he died in 1913, the people in the town of Skagway closed all businesses for the day. The Draper photograph studio was purchased by the Keller Brothers Drug Company of Skagway.

Historical Background

The Klondike Gold Rush in the Yukon territory began with the discovery of gold in Bonanza Creek, a tributary of the Klondike River in 1896. Within a span of two years, over 30,000 prospectors occupied

the area. In 1900 over \$22 million dollars worth of gold was mined. After the depletion of gold deposits in the area, prospectors continued their quest for gold in Alaska.

The Porcupine Mining District was established in November of 1898 after S.W. Mix and his friends Fenley and Wiley, discovered gold near Porcupine River, eight miles from Haines. The Porcupine River flows for 450 miles from the Yukon territory into NE Alaska and is one of the chief tributaries of the Yukon River in Alaska. The three friends staked claims, including Discovery, along Porcupine River and its tributaries, McKinley, Cahoon and Glacier Creeks. By the end of the mining season, there were 50 men in residence and Jack Dalton, developer of the Dalton Trail, had built a trading post and sawmill to support the miners.

By 1899, \$50,000 in gold had been recovered and the 150-acre townsite of Porcupine had 200 residents. As original claims played out and the more traditional methods of mining gold were no longer sufficient, partnerships and companies developed to continue mining operations. It became necessary to use more sophisticated and expensive mining techniques to recover the gold. The Porcupine Trading Company, owned by Dalton, Hanley and John F. Maloney, purchased controlling interest in the original claims. They build a large flume to divert the river, allowing them to recover the harder to mine gold. In 1905, the Porcupine Trading Company flume and all mining operations in the area were destroyed by flooding, ending the gold rush to Porcupine.

In 1905, a road was constructed between Haines and Porcupine, which provided cheaper access to the remote area. In 1907, The Porcupine Mining Company was organized by E.E. Harvey. Additionally, claims in the area were consolidated, providing Harvey with the means to obtain large capital backing for mining operations. In order to mine in the area, a large flume was constructed to divert the river's water. The flume, the largest in Alaska at the time, was constructed with boards milled on site and spanned a distance of 8,000 feet, 25-40 feet in width, and had a depth of 6-8 feet. Exhausting most of the gold deposits, work ceased after a 1915 flood destroyed the lower end of the flume.

Although salvaged and rebuilt in 1917 by the Alaska Corporation, floods destroyed the flume once again. In 1926, August Fritsche gained control of the site and constructed a new 12,000 foot highline flume, which remained until 1936. Company records show a yield of \$1,700,000 in gold.

Content Description

The collection contains H.H. Draper's photographs of the Porcupine Gold Mining Company in Porcupine, Alaska. Images include Porcupine Mining Company staff and their families, miners, flume construction, mines and mining operations and surrounding mountains.

Use of the Collection

Alternative Forms Available

[View selections from the collection in digital format](#)

Restrictions on Use

Restrictions may exist on reproduction, quotation, or publication. Contact Special Collections, University of Washington Libraries for details.

Preferred Citation

Horace H. Draper Photograph Collection, 1906-1908
<http://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/ark:/80444/xv58846>

Administrative Information

Processing Note

Processed by Sayaka Ito, October 2005, and Megan Peacock, 2006; processing completed in 2006

Detailed Description of the Collection

Porcupine Gold Mining Company

Container(s)		Description	Dates
Folder	Item		
1	1-2	Ike Williamson and crew [view]	circa 1906-1908
1	3	Ike Williamson and crew in front of logging engine [view]	circa 1906-1908
1	4	Ike Williamson and crew in front of logging roader [view]	circa 1906-1908
1	5	Large group outside mess hall at 12 noon [view]	circa 1906-1908
1	6	Four women, one man, and two young people on porch [view] "Porcupine Ladies at Manager's Cottage"	circa 1906-1908
1	7	Four women, one man and a young girl standing at fence of the President's cottage [view] "Porcupine Ladies at President's Cottage"	circa 1906-1908
1	8-10	Porcupine Mining Company social gathering [view]	circa 1906-1908
2	11	View from above of men working in gravel pit [view]	circa 1906-1908
2	12	Men working in gravel pit No.2 below [view]	circa 1906-1908
2	13	Pit No. 2 below showing temporary sluice box [view]	circa 1906-1908
2	14	Saw mill and lumber yard [view]	circa 1906-1908

Container(s)		Description	Dates
2	15	Saw mill from mill pond [view]	circa 1906-1908
2	16	Miners with supplies on mountain trail [view]	circa 1906-1908
2	17	Men working in the snow	circa 1906-1908

Construction of flume

Container(s)		Description	Dates
Folder	Item		
3	18	View from hillside of supplies on already planked flume bed [view]	circa 1906-1908
3	19	Men planking flume bed near machine shop [view]	circa 1906-1908
3	20	View from hillside of a completed stretch of flume [view]	circa 1906-1908

Flume intake and dam

Folder	Item		
4	21	View from flume bed of men laying planks on sills looking towards portable steam sawmill at flume intake [view]	circa 1906-1908
4	22	Cutting end of sills to angle for spillway next to portable steam sawmill [view]	circa 1906-1908
4	23	View from hillside of dam, intake and spillway under construction	circa 1906-1908
4	24	End of spillway, intake and hill behind flume viewed from river bed [view]	circa 1906-1908
4	25	View from river of Porcupine Gold Mining Company workers and families standing hand-in-hand across the width of the flume at the intake spillway [view]	circa 1906-1908
4	26	Five women, two men and one young girl sitting on planks at flume intake [view]	circa 1906-1908

Container(s)		Description	Dates
4	27-29	View from riverbank across from intake of men working on planking the walls of the intake and spillway [view]	circa 1906-1908
Station No. 1			
Folder	Item		
5	30-31	View from hillside of workers laying stringers and sills on flume above No. 1 [view]	circa 1906-1908
5	32	View from river of river, Flume structure of posts, spills and piles of lumber below No. 1 [view] "Substructure 1 below."	circa 1906-1908
Station No. 2			
Folder	Item		
6	33	View from hillside of lumber on flume near Station No. 2 [view]	circa 1906-1908
6	34	Buildings and flume under construction as seen from sills [view]	circa 1906-1908
6	35	View from spillway of tail-race of station and side of flume [view]	October 1, 1908
6	36	Man standing at intersection of bedrock flume and spillway tail-race [view] "View looking north showing 300 feet of bedrock flume completed and the spillway of tail-race from No. 2 penstock."	October 1, 1908
6	37	Station viewed from above Pit No. 2	circa 1906-1908
6	38-39	Probably Station No. 2 under construction [view]	circa 1906-1908
6	40	Men planking flume, probably near Station No. 2 [view]	circa 1906-1908
6	41	Building materials on riverbank, in river, under and alongside flume, probably near Station No. 2	circa 1906-1908
6	42	Distant view from alongside flume posts in winter [view]	circa 1906-1908

Container(s)	Description	Dates
6 43	Station and flume in winter as seen from across the river [view] "No. 2 below after closed down October 29, 1908."	circa 1906-1908
6 44	Station in winter from above Pit No. 2 [view]	circa 1906-1908
6 45	Snow covered spillways and running river next to flume posts, possibly Station No. 2 [view]	circa 1906-1908
6 46	Side view of flume and possibly part of Station No. 2 in winter	circa 1906-1908
6 47	View from ground of possibly part of Station No. 2 in winter	circa 1906-1908
6 48	Spillway in between crossbeams and posts of flume in winter, possibly Station No. 2	circa 1906-1908

Near Discovery

Folder	Item	Description	Dates
7	49	Three women, one man and a young girl standing on nearly completed flume bed [view] "Jenks faction and Discovery."	circa 1906-1908
7	50	View from bed of flume of flume and scenery with not-yet planked side posts [view] "Sect. 3 - On Discovery."	circa 1906-1908
7	51	View from hillside of unplanked side posts, planking on bed of flume and distant station [view] "Sect. 5.2 below Discovery."	circa 1906-1908
7	52	Looking out flume spillway into gravel clearing and forest [view] "Sect. 7 Spillway 3 below Discovery."	circa 1906-1908

Mountains

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Folder	Item	

Container(s)	Description	Dates
8 53	Gray Mountain [view]	circa 1906-1908
8 54	Phillips Mountain, copper river region [view]	circa 1906-1908
8 55	Bonanza Mine, Kennicott Mountain [view] "Limestone overlaying greenstone. Bonanza Mine, Kennicott Mt. 30' shaft, 100' drift, 200' tunnel, 1906. Vein 4' - 30' wide, outcrop 700' long crosses contact, extends into greenstone and limestone."	circa 1906-1908
8 56	Dock with pilings and high tide watermarks visible [view] "Mt. Andrews dock without barge loading."	circa 1906-1908

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms :

Flumes--Design and construction--Alaska--Photographs

Gold miners--Alaska--Photographs

Gold minines and mining--Alaska--Photographs

Loggers--Photographs

Logging--Machinery--Photographs

Logging--Photographs

Mountains--Alaska--Photographs

Sawmills--Photographs

Visual Materials Collections (University of Washington)

Personal Names :

Williamson, Ike--Photographs

Corporate Names :

Porcupine Gold Mining Company

Geographical Names :

Alaska--Photographs

Kennicott (Alaska)--Photographs

Porcupine (Ont.)--Photographs

Form or Genre Terms :

Photographs

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