



World War I Resource Guide

Compiled by Sara Piasecki, Archivist
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This guide is intended to assist researchers in locating archival materials pertaining to the First World War (WWI) in the holdings of the Bob & Evangeline Atwood Alaska Resource Center of the Anchorage Museum at Rasmuson Center. It is not necessarily a complete listing of all WWI related holdings. Please contact ARC staff at resourcecenter@anchagemuseum.org or 907-929-9235 for assistance in locating other collections of interest.

CIHS Barnet Collection, B1963.019

James and Elizabeth Barnet lived in Anchorage during the period 1916-1918. This small collection includes an image of the first draft for military service, taken on Fourth Ave. in Anchorage in 1917. [Same image as B1977.038.2]

Fred Henton Collection, B1965.018

Fred Henton was born in 1889 or 1890. He travelled Alaska as a mail-carrier, game guide, prospector, explorer, and dog musher. Henton became a stowaway on the S. S. "Corwin" in 1905, arriving in Nome at just 15 years old. In 1913, he took charge of the 42 sled dogs travelling with the Stefansson Canadian Arctic expedition. He was on board the whaling ship "Karluk" when it became trapped in ice, and was one of few crewmembers to survive the ordeal. He had a lodge at Kanatak, and charted Kodiak Island on foot, a project which took 9 years. From 1942-44, Henton ran the Van Glider Hotel in Seward. Later in his life, he established a lodge at the confluence of the Kenai and Russian Rivers on the Kenai Peninsula. His collection of over 700 photos includes two images related to World War I.

.117 – Selective Draft registrants, Nome, Alaska, Memorial Day – 1918

.370 – Parade in Honor, Nome's First Contingent of "Sammies," Nome, Alaska, June 20th, 1918, Lomen Bros. Nome [copy neg, men marching through street]

Alaska Railroad Collection, B1979.001

The Alaska Railroad Collection includes thousands of images documenting the work of the Alaskan Engineering Commission to construct the railroad in the period 1914-1923. Of interest for World War I research include the following:

.G829 – A.E. Commissioner Col. F. Mears leaves Anchorage for the war front, Jan. 1918.

- .G863 – Employees of the A.E. Commission leaving for Seattle to join the 31st Regiment of Engineers.
- .G872 – Ladies Red Cross Auxiliary (May 25, 1918) at the Red Cross benefit baseball game, "Masons vs. Elks."
- .H65 - A.E.C. Hospital beds. Neuilly, France.
- .H76 – “Parade” held in honor of “recruits” about to depart for their training stations, June 30, 1918
- .H113 – Growing vegetables in one of Anchorages [sic] war gardens. Sep. 22-1918.

Vern Brickley Collection, B1998.014

Vern Brickley came to Valdez, Alaska from Tacoma, Washington, in 1936 to work on a movie set. He lived through one winter on Fox Island in Prince William Sound, where he was involved in the herring fishery and raising foxes. Just prior to WWII he moved to Fairbanks, then was drafted into the Army as a photographer, and moved to Anchorage in 1940. He was in the Army at Fort Richardson for about three years, and discharged in 1945. He traveled throughout the Aleutians during the Japanese invasion, and many of the photographs of Attu from the campaign bear his name. It is thought that he traded for some of these images, since he was printing them commercially. The collection contains over 12,000 images created or collected by Brickley. Box 24, images .9211-9650, include some negatives of World War I scenes that Brickley presumably purchased. For more information, please contact staff.

Fred Letter to Dearest Mother, B2013.020

This typescript letter, signed “Fred” and addressed to “My Dearest Mother & All at Home,” is dated Anchorage, Alaska, November 22nd, 1917. The letter discusses entry of the United States into World War I and its effect on the Anchorage economy. He writes: “The war has caused the Gov. to about decide not to finish the Railroad into the Interior until after the war is over – they just figure on completing the road to the coal fields and connect up with Seward, if such is the case we will find business all in for a while.” Later he comments: “You can’t tell where the war will hit – we thought at one time the war would help this project, but politics and the great distance caused us to be forgotten down in Washington. Of course don’t say anything about our prospects as we are supposed to say that Government ownership is a big success and that we are all ‘doing fine’ under the system.”

Juliet Steinmetz Frawley Albums, B2013.058

Juliet Steinmetz was born in 1898. In the 1910 Federal Census, she was listed as stepdaughter in the household of Adam E. Black and Mabel M. Black in Portland, Oregon. In the 1910s, Juliet moved to Cordova, Alaska, where she might have worked in a cannery. She married Kenneth Earl Frawley of Cordova on November 3, 1920. This collection consists of three photo albums and loose photographs, including eight images of men wearing World War I-era uniforms.

.23 – [tinted portrait. A young man in a World War I era Army uniform. The crossed cannons on the collar button indicate that he was in the artillery corps. The patch on his left shoulder is that of the 27th Infantry Division circa 1918.]

.54 – [two unidentified men sitting on a wooden bench. The man on the left is wearing a World War I era Army uniform]

- .62 – [two unidentified men on a wooden bench. The man on the left is wearing a World War I era Army uniform with a private or corporal's chevron on his right sleeve.]
- .70 – [two unidentified men, man on left wearing a World War I Army uniform]
- .73 – [two unidentified men, man on left wearing a World War I Army uniform]
- .85 – [two young men fishing from a half-sunken boat. The one on the left is wearing a World War I Army uniform.]
- .87 – [young man fishing from a half-sunken boat, wearing a World War I Army uniform]
- .97 – [four unidentified women and three unidentified men. The man on the left is wearing a World War I era Army uniform. He has a corporal's chevron on his right sleeve]

A. E. Languille Album, B2015.022

A. E. Languille was a bookbinder in Seattle whose sales territory covered the Pacific Northwest and Alaska. This might be the same person as Albert E. Languille, listed in the 1910 census as resident of Washington state, born 1886. The collection includes 13 World War I-era postcards from Europe, possibly indicating that Languille served overseas during the war.

- .33 – L'orgie [collotype postcard]
- .34 – L'incendie de Visé [collotype postcard]
- .35 – Tournai, Hôtel de Ville. Nels, Bruxelles, serie 48 no. 34 [collotype postcard]
- .36 – 44. Liège, Le Monument Rogier [collotype postcard]
- .37 – Bombardement de Malines [collotype postcard]
- .38 – L'exode [collotype postcard]
- .43 – Liège, L'Observatoire de Cointe. No. 657, héliotype de Graeve, Gand [collotype postcard]
- .44 – [reindeer herd in winter, trees in background. Postcard]
- .45 – 5. Liège, Monument Zenobe Gramme [collotype postcard]
- .138 – 84. Bruxelles, Fontaine de Broukère [Color halftone postcard]
- .147 – Sur la tombe des martyrs [collotype postcard]
- .148 – Le pillage [collotype postcard]
- .149 – Ougrée, Rue de la Station. 13975, Edit Papeterie Choteau [collotype postcard]

Joseph Horrocks Collection, B2019.004

This small collection contains one photograph of Joseph Horrocks in military uniform shortly before being shipped to the front in 1917. Horrocks had been a businessman in Anchorage prior to enlistment.