

The University of Maine

DigitalCommons@UMaine

Finding Aids

Special Collections

2015

Granby-Alaska Company Records, 1906-1933

Special Collections, Raymond H. Fogler Library, University of Maine

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/findingaids>



Part of the [History Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Special Collections, Raymond H. Fogler Library, University of Maine, "Granby-Alaska Company Records, 1906-1933" (2015). *Finding Aids*. Number 136.

<https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/findingaids/136>

This Finding Aid is brought to you for free and open access by the Special Collections at DigitalCommons@UMaine. It has been accepted for inclusion in Finding Aids by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@UMaine. For more information, please contact Special Collections, Fogler Library, 207-581-1686 or um.library.spc@maine.edu.



ArchivesSpace
a community served by ✦ LYRASIS

Granby-Alaska Company Records

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on February 19, 2020.

Finding aid written in English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Raymond H. Fogler Library Special Collections

5729 Raymond H. Fogler Library

University of Maine

Orono, ME 04469-5729

URL: <http://www.library.umaine.edu/speccoll>

Table of Contents

Summary Information	3
Historical Note	3
Scope and Content Note	4
Administrative Information	4
Controlled Access Headings	5
Collection Inventory	5
Contents of Box	5

Summary Information

Repository:	Raymond H. Fogler Library Special Collections
Creator:	Granby-Alaska Company
Title:	Granby-Alaska Company Records
ID:	SpC MS 0208
Date [inclusive]:	1906-1933
Date [bulk]:	1906-1909 (bulk)
Physical Description:	0.2 linear feet (1 box)
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	This small collection contains copies of documents concerning the founding and operation of the Granby-Alaska Company. The documents appear to have been assembled for some purpose, perhaps to prepare for the numerous lawsuits against the company.

Preferred Citation

Granby-Alaska Company Records, SpC MS 0208, [Folder No.], Raymond H. Fogler Library Special Collections Department, University of Maine, Orono, Maine

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Historical Note

The collection contains records of the Granby-Alaska Company, incorporated in 1906 to operate a gold mine in Omilak on the Seward Peninsula in Alaska. The mine was started by John C. Green who was associated with the Russian-American Mining and Exploration Company in Washington State. In 1906 Green conveyed the mining property to George Burnham, Jr. of Portland, Maine, and S.H.C. Miner of Granby, Quebec Province; Alfred D. Chandler of Brookline, Massachusetts, Charles C. Young of Ellsworth, Maine, and Webster R. Dorr of Boston also became trustees of the new company. Burnham and Miner supplied most of the money to develop and carry out mining operations, agreeing to loan the company \$65,000 to start work in Alaska. Burnham was a pioneer in the canned goods packing business and head of the Burnham and Morrill Company in Portland. He was also an investor in New York City real estate and one of the richest citizens of Maine. Miner was one of the first businessmen in Granby and operated a tannery and a rubber business there. The mining company had problems from the start

with failure to obtain working capital and dissension among the trustees and Green, who was working as general manager. Alfred Chandler traveled to Alaska in the summer of 1907 to see to the company's interests and reported favorably on its progress. However, by 1908 the company's creditors began to take legal action and after a failed attempt to mortgage the company's property, all of the trustees except John Green resigned. After this, litigation and efforts to salvage as much as possible were the predominating efforts of all involved. Georg Burnham died in January, 1909, and the administrators of his estate continued efforts to settle claims and pay expenses. Legal proceedings continued for some years and by 1923 it appears that Green had succeeded in raising some money and work had resumed at the mine. However, a letter in the collection written in 1933 indicates that no production had been reported from the property for many years.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Scope and Content Note

This small collection contains copies of documents concerning the founding and operation of the Granby-Alaska Company. The documents appear to have been assembled for some purpose, perhaps to prepare for the numerous lawsuits against the company. Included are the agreement and declaration of trust establishing the company in 1906 and documents from John C. Green outlining the requirements and costs for work on the mine in the first year. Most of the collection consists of copies of letters to George Burnham, 1906-1908, from the other trustees of the company, from attorneys, from John Green and from Green's son, Harold, who appears to have been responsible for day-to-day operations in Alaska. The collection also contains a photocopy of a report done by M.A. Floyd for Harold Burnham of Wellesley, Massachusetts, a nephew of George Burnham. Floyd outlines the history of the company and its many problems and analyzes the possibility of realizing some profit from Burnham's holdings. A letter to Harold Burnham from the Director of the U.S. Geological Survey provides information about the status of the mine site in 1933.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Raymond H. Fogler Library Special Collections

5729 Raymond H. Fogler Library

University of Maine

Orono, ME 04469-5729

URL: <http://www.library.umaine.edu/speccoll>

Restrictions on Access

Kept at Fogler Library's offsite storage facility. One week's notice required for retrieval.

Use Restrictions

Information on literary rights available in the repository.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of John P. Burnham in 1998 and 2001.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Controlled Access Headings

- Judicial records
- Obituaries
- Correspondence
- Burnham, George, 1831-1909
- Floyd, M. A.
- Green, J. C.

Collection Inventory

Contents of Box		
Title/Description	Instances	
Correspondence, Apr. 30, 1906-Dec. 31, 1907 <u>Language of the Material</u> : English.	Box 1	Folder 1
Correspondence, Jan. 14, 1908-Mar. 31, 1909 <u>Language of the Material</u> : English.	Box 1	Folder 2
Correspondence, Apr. 1, 1909-Feb. 11, 1924 <u>Language of the Material</u> : English.	Box 1	Folder 3
Brief statement relating to Granby-Alaska Co., undated <u>Language of the Material</u> : English.	Box 1	Folder 4
Report of M.A. Floyd to Harold Burnham, undated	Box 1	Folder 5

Granby-Alaska Company Records

Language of the Material: English.

Letter from U.S. Geological Survey to Harold Burnham, 1933

Box 1

Folder 6

Language of the Material: English.

Obituary of George Burnham, Jr., Jan. 1, 1909

Box 1

Folder 7

Language of the Material: English.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)