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## **Preliminary Guide to the Ben Smith / Alaska Yukon Gold Rush Collection**

Processed by D. Tambo

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## Preliminary Guide to the Ben Smith / Alaska Yukon Gold Rush Collection, ca. 1882-1915

### Collection number: Wyles Mss 1

Department of Special Collections, Davidson Library, University of California, Santa Barbara

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Date Completed:  
31 October 2002  
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#### Descriptive Summary

**Title:** Ben Smith / Alaska Yukon Gold Rush Collection,

**Date (inclusive):** ca. 1882-1915

**Date (bulk):** (bulk 1898-1901)

**Collection Number:** Wyles Mss 1

**Creator:** Smith, Ben

**Extent:** .4 linear feet (1document box)

**Repository:** University of California, Santa Barbara. Library. Department of Special Collections  
Santa Barbara, California 93106-9010

**Physical Location:** Del Sur

**Language:** English.

#### Access Restrictions

None.

#### Publication Rights

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#### Preferred Citation

Ben Smith / Alaska Yukon Gold Rush Collection. Wyles Mss 1. Department of Special Collections, Davidson Library, University of California, Santa Barbara.

#### Acquisition Information

Purchase, 1980.

#### History

Information about the Alaskan Gold Rush may be found in works such as:

Becker, Ethel Anderson. *Kondike '98: Hegg's Album of the 1898 Alaska Gold Rush* (1958).

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DeGraf, Anna. *Pioneering on the Yukon, 1892-1917* (1992).  
Landru, H. C. *The Blue Parka Man: Alaskan Gold Rush Bandit* (1980).  
Littlepage, Dean. *Gold Fever in the North* (1997).  
Lung, Edward Burchall. *Black Sand and Gold* (1967).  
Lung, Velma D. *Trail to North Star Gold* (1969).

### **Scope and Content of Collection**

Papers of Ben Smith, from Redwood City, California, who went to the Alaska Yukon goldfields ca. 1898-1900, and then apparently returned to California. The collection contains correspondence, diaries/journals, documents, financial records, maps, and other ephemera, much of it relating to Smith's stay in Alaska.

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#### Series 1. **Correspondence**

Box 1: 1                   **To Ben Smith (addressed to Star City, Alaska, many relating to seeking employment), 1899-1900**  
Box 1: 2                   **To/from sister, Jessie Smith, 1899**

#### Series 2. **Diaries/Journals**

Box 1: 3                   **Diaries/Journals (including entries for Alaska), ca. 1894, 1898-1900**

#### Series 3. **Documents**

Box 1: 4                   **Notice of Location of Quartz Claim (bearing gold), City and County of San Francisco, 13 June 1882**

#### Series 4. **Financial**

Box 1: 5                   **Bills and Receipts, 1884**  
Box 1: 6                   **Bills and Receipts (Smith and Glennan, San Francisco - equipment and supplies for Alaska trip?), 1898**  
Box 1: 7 - 8               **Bills and Receipts (Mr. and Mrs. Ben Smith, Redwood City, CA), ca. 1897-1901**

#### Series 5. **Maps**

Box 1: 9                   **Klondike Gold Outside the Arctic Circle (Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railway), fragments, ca. 1898**  
Box 1: 10                  **Map of the Yukon Gold Belt, ca. 1897**  
Box 1: 11                  **Newhall's Guide to the Gold Fields of Alaska and Northwest Territory (with extensive advertising and mining information), ca. late 1890s**  
Box 1: 12                  **Pocket Map of Alaska, 1915**  
Box 1: 13                  **Sketch map of Alaska gold country river system, n.d.**

#### Series 6. **Ephemera**

Box 1: 14                  **Ephemera (includes handwritten death notice for Ed Cullen, Sheep Creek Alaska, Oct. 6, 1898)**