

Guide to the Benjamin Frank Heintzleman Papers

MS 275



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Table of Contents

Collection Overview 3
Requesting Instructions 3
Administrative Information 3
 Immediate Source of Acquisition 3
 Conditions Governing Access 4
 Conditions Governing Use 4
 Preferred Citation 4
Biographical / Historical 4
Scope and Contents 4
Arrangement 5
Collection Contents 6
 Series I: Correspondence, 1936-1965 6
 Series II: Topical Files, 1921-1965 7
Selected Search Terms 8

Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 275

CREATOR: Heintzleman, Benjamin Frank, 1888-1965

TITLE: Benjamin Frank Heintzleman papers

DATES: 1921-1965

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 3 linear feet (8 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The papers consist of correspondence, diaries, writings, clippings, photographs, and topical files documenting the career of Benjamin Frank Heintzleman, particularly his term as territorial governor of Alaska (1953-1957) and his work promoting industrial growth and economic development in Alaska.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0275>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0275>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html. The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Ava Grove, 1966.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Copyright status for collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

Preferred Citation

Benjamin Frank Heintzleman Papers (MS 275). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical / Historical

Benjamin Frank Heintzleman was a career forester. Following graduation from the Yale School of Forestry in 1910, he joined the United States Forest Service. He was sent to Alaska in 1918 and became regional forester for Alaska in 1937. In 1953 he was appointed territorial governor and served in that capacity until January 3, 1957.

Scope and Contents

The Benjamin Frank Heintzleman Papers consist of personal papers that document Heintzleman's career as a forester and territorial governor of Alaska. The papers span the years 1921 to 1965, but are most complete for the period of Heintzleman's term as governor (1953-1956). They attest to Heintzleman's efforts to bring industry to Alaska and develop its economy. Ava Grove, Heintzleman's sister, donated the papers, including correspondence, diaries, photographs, writings, clippings, and topical files, to the Yale University Library in 1966. Heintzleman's official gubernatorial papers and family correspondence are not included.

The papers are arranged in two series:

- I. CORRESPONDENCE, 1937-1965
- II. TOPICAL FILES, 1921-1965

Series I, which is arranged by topic, includes correspondence with accompanying background material, such as minutes of meetings, printed material, press releases, and legislation. Series II, which is arranged by topic or record type, includes diaries, a scrapbook, sound recordings, subject files, photographs, writings, and printed material. Each series contains substantive material on Alaska and Heintzleman's activities as governor. Series II has relatively more material on Heintzleman's activities as a forester.

The papers include material on Alaska's history and development. In folder 27 there is an album of photographs from the 1920s showing scenes of Alaska's towns, harbors, industry, and rough glaciated terrain. Later scenes of Alaska can be found in folder 32 and in undated Christmas cards at the end of folder 2. Printed material in folders 33-38 discusses Alaskan history, economy, and progress towards statehood.

In 1953 Benjamin Frank Heintzleman was appointed territorial governor of Alaska, succeeding Ernest Gruening. The clippings in box 7 document the intense speculation generated at the prospect of the first Republican appointee in twenty years. Correspondence in folders 3-4 records the efforts of Heintzleman's supporters to procure the nomination for him, without his active campaigning. Heintzleman's inaugural address is in folder 46. The papers also contain photographs, memorabilia, and speeches from other gubernatorial appearances. Correspondence following the announcement of Heintzleman's decision to resign (1956) is in folders 5-7.

Issues which arose during Heintzleman's term are discussed in correspondence in Series I and in the clippings, scrapbooks, and topical files in Series II. The development of highways, a tax incentive program to attract industry, and the Aluminum Company of America's proposal to generate electric power at the Taiya site were all matters of concern to Heintzleman. Folder 10 includes material on gubernatorial appointees and written criticisms of the governor by a group of discontented Anchorage Republicans. In 1954 Heintzleman advocated partitioning the territory to insure passage of a statehood bill for Alaska's most populated areas. Folders 12-13 and clippings in box 7 document this controversial stance. There are detailed exchanges on the subject with the president of the University of Alaska, Ernest Patty.

Following his retirement, Heintzleman became a fund-raiser for the Yale Forestry School. Folders 14-16 include minutes of the University Council Committee for the Forestry School, committee reports, and correspondence with the dean of the School of Forestry, George A. Garrett.

A summary of Heintzleman's career can be found in the biographical material in folder 20 and on a tape in box 6. In a radio interview recorded in 1964, only a few months before his death, Heintzleman reviewed his career and hopes for the future of Alaska.

Arrangement

Arranged in two series: I. Correspondence, 1937-1965. II. Topical Files, 1921-1965.

Collection Contents

Series I: Correspondence, 1936-1965

.5 linear feet (2 boxes)

The series is arranged in two sections: *General* and *Select*. *General* is arranged in chronological order, while *Select* is arranged alphabetically by topic.

b. 1, f. 1-2	General	1937-1965, undated
	Select	
	Governor	
b. 1, f. 3-4	Appointment	1952-1953
b. 1, f. 5-7	Resignation	1956-1957
b. 1, f. 8-9	Highway planning	1933-1952
b. 1, f. 10	Politics	1953-1956
b. 1, f. 11	Taxes	1953-1956
b. 1, f. 12-13	Territory question	1953-1954
b. 1, f. 14-17	Yale School of Forestry	1951-1964, undated
b. 2, f. 18-19	Yukon-Taiya Project	1948-1957, undated

Series II: Topical Files, 1921-1965*2.5 linear feet (6 boxes)*

The series is arranged in alphabetical order by topic or record type.

b. 3, f. 20	Biographical data	1914-1964, undated
b. 3, f. 21	Business cards, calling cards	undated
b. 3, f. 22	Chamber of Commerce	1962-1965, undated
b. 3, f. 23-24	Clippings	1953-1965
b. 8	Diaries	1921-1965
b. 3, f. 25	Land acquisition	1964
b. 3, f. 26	Memorabilia	1944-1960
b. 3, f. 27	Notebooks	undated
b. 3, f. 28	Personnel notification forms	1937-1953
b. 3, f. 29-30	Photographs See also: MG Common Folio 58	[1920s-1950s]
b. 4, f. 31-32	Photographs	[1920s-1950s]
b. 4, f. 33-38	Printed material	1923-1965, undated
b. 5, f. 39-47	Speeches, articles, essays	1937-1964, undated
b. 5, f. 48	Tax incentives	1954-1957
b. 5, f. 49	Teen Age Club (Juneau) See also: MG Common Folio, 58	1964
b. 5, f. 50	Transportation	1940-1960
b. 7	Scrapbook	1937-1956
b. 6, f. 51	Sound recordings	1954-1955
b. 9	Juneau files	

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

Conservation of natural resources
Forests and forestry -- Alaska

Geographic Names

Alaska -- History
Alaska -- Politics and government -- 1867-1959

Genres / Formats

Diaries
Photoprints

Occupations

Foresters
Public officers

Names

Garratt, George A. (George Alfred), 1898-1984
Heintzleman, Benjamin Frank, 1888-1965
Patty, Ernest N. (Ernest Newton), 1894-1976

Corporate Body

Yale University. School of Forestry