

E. C. Waters, the E. C. Waters boat, and the Zillah

[In 1895,] E. C. Waters's boat operation on Yellowstone Lake was running smoothly, transporting guests from Thumb to Lake, and he also provided a side trip to Natural Bridge, just west of the Lake area. Waters also ran a small shop where he sold grocery items to camping parties and provided blacksmithing to those parties.

From: *A HISTORY OF CONCESSION DEVELOPMENT IN YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK, 1872–1966* By Mary Shivers Culpin

The 1871 Hayden Survey was the first to sail a boat, the *Anna*, on the **Waters** of Yellowstone Lake, although some fur trappers or Indians may have floated rafts on the lake much earlier. Other early boats used to explore the lake were the *Topping* in 1874 (see Topping Point), a raft containing government surveyors in 1874, the *Explorer* in 1880 (see Explorer's Creek), a USGS boat destroyed by lightning in 1885, the *Zillah* in 1889, and the *E.C. Waters* (test runs only) in 1905. A boat piloted by Billy Hofer and William D. Pickett made at least one trip on the lake in 1880.

From: <http://www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/ngrant.htm>

Historically, visitors travelling to Yellowstone would arrive at West Thumb via stagecoach from the Old Faithful area. At West Thumb, they had the choice of continuing on the dusty, bumpy stagecoach or boarding the steamship "**Zillah**" to continue the journey to the Lake Hotel. The boat dock was located near the south end of the basin near Lakeside Spring.

From: <http://www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/grant-area-nat-highs-2.htm>

E. C. Waters and E. C. Waters

Letter Box 2

Document 549--E.C. **Waters** to Anderson '93 on boat co. employee.

Document 550--long explanation by E.C. **Waters** '93

Documents 551-560--E.C. **Waters** handwritten letters

Document 607-E.C. **Waters** to Boutelle regarding number of cattle, sheep, and hogs brought into the park and killed, 1890.

Document 608—E.C. **Waters** to Sect of the Interior regarding permission to build an elevator at the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone, 1891.

Document 609—**Waters** to Boutelle regarding selling of coated specimens in the Mammoth Hotel, 1890.

Document 611--E.C. **Waters**/W.G. Johnson are top managers of YPA '90.

Document 624--E.C. **Waters** on Stivers incident 9/88.

Documents 625-627---E.C. **Waters** and Stivers incident; Ed Lamartine.

Letter Box 3

Document 1029--complaint on E.C. **Waters**

Document 1272--EB Rapley says EC **Waters** has not paid him '93.

Letter Box 4

Documents 1708-1718--EC **Waters**

Documents 1719-1727--EC **Waters**

Document 1726--**Waters** asks to keep animals on Dot Island '94

Document 1813--complaints against EC **Waters** '96

Document 1987--EC **Waters** employee arrested for poaching '93

Letter Box 6

Document 2798--JW Kendrick on E Burton Holmes and EC **Waters** '96.

Letter Box 7

Document 3072--DC Terry says a white man and a negro who worked for EC **Waters** stole a brace and bit from him, '96.

Documents 3097-3133--All from EC **Waters**

Documents 3120-3131--**Waters** pays drivers 50 cents for putting people on the **Zillah**.

Document 3359--EC **Waters**' application to place Indians on Dot Island has been approved.

Document 3761--employee of EC **Waters** thinks work is too hard. 1900

Letter Box 8

Document 3795--EC **Waters** employee denies charges.

Document 3925--JW Zevely special report on EC **Waters** boat business

Letter Box 9

Document 4102--Complaint on EC **Waters**.

Documents 4177-4178--EC **Waters** trying to prosecute Pitcher '02

Letter Box 10

Document 4625--long letter from EC **Waters** '01

Documents 4626-4661--all letters from EC **Waters** or about him. Complaints and refutations.

Documents 4662-4666---EC **Waters** correspondence

Letter Box 11

Document 5254--EC **Waters** stock at Lake, gives numbers, '02

Document 5256--Long report by 1st lieut. on investigation into EC **Waters** '02.

Documents 5257-5258--complaints on **Waters**

Documents 5398-5399--EC **Waters**

Document 5400--FJH on EC **Waters**

Documents 5401-5402--EC **Waters** boats passengers mentions "dead heads"

Documents 5403-5404--complaint on **Waters** not paying wages '03

Document 5405--**Waters** responds '03

Documents 5407-5408--EC **Waters**

Document 5409--**Waters** must inspect steamboat

Document 5410--**Waters** responds

Documents 5411-5429--EC **Waters** lots of stuff

Document 5462--Wylie discusses how disagreeable EC **Waters** is

Document 5501--EC **Waters** says YPT has hired away his Chinese cook

Documents 5510-5515--EC **Waters** denies he hired Lake Hotel porter

Documents 5519-5529--EC **Waters** hires YPA employees

Letter Box 12

Document 5761--Detroit Photo Co permit to sell photos through Henry Klamer, Jennie Ash, and EC **Waters**

Document 5883--complaint on EC **Waters**

Document 5928--Complains that EC **Waters** owes him \$ for new glasses.

Letter Box 13

Documents 6241-6242--SS E.C. **Waters** inspection books.

Document 6303--EC **Waters** on his Dot Island animals.

Document 6306--EC **Waters** '07 answers a complaint

Document 6312--EC **Waters** on Stebbins '07

Documents 6313, 6315-6316--same stuff--all of this relates to **Waters** having one too many steers.

Documents 6317-6321--more on EC **Waters** cattle

Document 6322--EC **Waters** says a soldier is hurting his business by renting fishing tackle to tourists

Document 6333--EC **Waters** tells what livestock he has at Yell Lake '06.

Document 6334--EC **Waters** on **Zillah** inspection '06

Document 6335--EC **Waters** passenger totals '06

Document 6336--**Waters** wants timber to build docks

Document 6337--long letter from **Waters** '06 on his operations

Documents 6338-6350--**Waters**' correspondence '06

Document 6348--Sam Link drunken employee of **Waters**

Document 6350--EC **Waters**' daughter commits suicide '05

Document 6517--Mgr of Thumb lunch station having trouble with EC **Waters** '05

Documents 6616-6617--EC **Waters** cut timber for boat dock without permission

Document 6630--on releasing **Waters**' buffalo and elk '07

Document 6925--**Waters**' cattle

Document 6933--**Waters**' cattle

Letter Box 14

Document 6991--Capt Bigelow inspects EC **Waters** cow and bison pens at Lake and finds them in deplorable condition. Cows are in pens next to bison.

Document 6992--Bigelow inspects **Waters**' game corral at Dot Island and cow corrals at LYH

Document 7001--Drunken soldier on board steamer EC **WATERS** July 23, 1907. EC **Waters** himself there too. Soldier put in jail for 3 months--was working for **Waters**.

Document 7002--disposing of **Waters'** animals '07

Document 7285--West Thumb NCO wants a boat; says EC **Waters** "is a peculiar man."

Document 7327--EC **Waters** causing trouble at West Thumb

Letter Box 18

Case of E.C. **Waters**

Item 45--Building and Building Sites, 1911 to 1916, Files No. 50-60

File 54 ¾ : Buildings & Building Sites, Yellowstone Park Boat Company. (successors to T.E. Hofer Boat Co., successors to E.C. **Waters**). Corr. re: locations of parcels of land to be leased for store and barn site, way site, and two dock sites at Lake. 1914.

Item 92A--Complaints, 1909-1914, Files No. 80, 81, 82

"File No. 80 COMPLAINTS MSCLS. 1909, 1910"

1909 Y. P. Assn., vs. Military Dept. Ft. Yellowstone re non-payment for telephone messages. D. C. booth, Supt. fisheries, vs. L. Link, re trouble in hiring his teams. 1910. Chas. Jackson vs. E. C. **Waters** for nonpayment for work performed.

Box C-17 Concessioners 1879 – 1916

Folder -- "H.L. & W.J. Henderson"

Chronology of Cottage Hotel, 1885-1893; sketch of Wakefield site at Canyon, 1888; memo from Newton Drury to NPS employees 12/21/1943, with chronology of Cottage Hotel on the back, 1885-1887; lease to Helen L. and Walter J. Henderson for hotel at Mammoth, 3/3/1885; schedule of Cottage Hotel rates, n.d.; sketch of Wakefield site at Upper Geyser Basin, 1888; letter from Joseph L. Horr to G. L. Henderson regarding coal mines near Cooke City, 11/15/1889; letter from Robert J. Burdette to G. Henderson, 8/2/1888; letter from acting superintendent to G.L. Henderson regarding restrictions on use of hotels, 1/12/1899; letter from **E.C. Waters** to G.L. Henderson, 10/17/1889.

Box H-2

File Marked "History File"---

HMA to Old Soldiers Home, Fond du Lac, Wisc asking for info on EC **Waters** who is there--returned undelivered...

WW Wylie to HMA 3/25/27--has info on origins of Ft. Ellis and death of EC **Waters**.

Box H-19

File "H14 Area and Service History, 1954-1962"

comments on photo of E.C. **Waters** launching, 1962

Box YPC-24

"86 Y.P. Boat Company 1914 to 1930"

Packet of correspondence regarding the sale of the Yellowstone Lake Boat Company by

E.C. **Waters** to The Hofer Boat Co. dated summer of 1911.

Box YPC-25

"Yellowstone Park Boat Co. 1930 to 1934"

Correspondence regarding the burning of the E.C. **Waters** by the NPS in January of 1931.

Box YPC – 90

File "51. NPS - MISC. 1930-37"

This is a very large file containing letters, telegrams, and memoranda regarding the Yellowstone Park Company and the National Park Service. Topics include: employee wages, new restroom facilities, road and parking area developments, taxes, the new Fishing Bridge, buffets at Canyon and Old Faithful, Yellowstone Park Boat Company, advertising, telephone lines, weight limits for vehicles on park roads, . . .National Park extension near Jackson, dogs in the park, fire permits, the burning of old and unsightly cabins, **the burning of a sunken Waters boat on Stevenson Island**

Zillah

Item 2--Documents 200-414, Secretary of Interior; Jan. 1, 1889-Dec. 31, 1892.

367--authorization for **Zillah** on YL, '89, a "naptha launch."

Item 3--Documents 415-648, S to Z; Jan. 1, 1881-Dec. 31, 1893

616--Gibson to Boutelle 1/90 on **Zillah** having been launched.

Item 13--Documents 2928-3299, S to Z; Jan. 1, 1896-Dec. 31, 1899.

2979--Amos Shaw asks for license to conduct parties for first time, 1897! He was boat captain of **Zillah** earlier.

3120-3131--**Waters** pays drivers 50 cents for putting people on the **Zillah**.

Item 25--Documents 6183-6566, S to Z; Jan. 1, 1905 to Dec. 31, 1907.

6240--details of **Zillah**'s inspection.

6243-6244---SS **Zillah** inspection books.

6334--EC **Waters** on **Zillah** inspection '06

Item 26--Documents 6567-6966, Secretary of Interior, Jan. 1, 1906 to Dec. 31, 1907.

6930-6931--**Zillah** must be/was inspected '06 (6925)

Item 28--Documents 7441-7983, L to R, Secretary of Interior Jan. 1, 1904 to December 31, 1908.

7857--ex-pilot of **ZILLAH** writes: ER Palmer '07

Box H-2

File "H-14 Area and Service History 1957-1962".

ALH to BO Hallin 10/10/61--wants year BO Hallin removed boilers from EC **Waters**

boat and what happened to **Zillah** after 1926 when it was sitting at Lake [probably got this from the photo in our collections which so shows it].

File "K-1435 Concerning History Matters 1960-1962"---

ALH to David Hashley 2/16/62--long history of EC **Waters** and boats **Zillah** and EC **Waters**. Says **Zillah** was broken up for scrap in 1926 which does not agree with his statements recently about it having been scuttled and sunk.

Box H-3

File "5.5.3.1. Interviews"---

ALH memo says Tom Hallin states **Zillah** was named for Mrs. Peter Yegen of Billings (not so, obscure Biblical character).

File "5.6 Correspondence"--

Peter Yegen to ALH, 12/28/62, presumably on **Zillah**.

File "5.6.1. Info Requests"---

Peter Yegen to ALH 4/19/62--Says his wife's name is ZELLAH and thanks Aubrey for the photos of the **Zillah**. He appears to believe that the boat was named for his wife.

Box H-4

File "3.1.3. Boats"---

ALH, "Coming of the Steamboats," n.d., 1960s. Gives stats on the boats and says **Zillah** was broken up for scrap in 1926.

Map Reference:

Scale blueprint drawing of the steamer **Zillah**, ca. 1904.