

Alaska State Library
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

Alaska Historical Society

Alaska Historical Society Photograph Collection, ca. 1898

PCA 009

203 photoprints : b&w

Processed By: Staff

Introduction

In 1975 Robbie Collins donated the glass plate negatives from which these prints were made; the donation was made to the Alaska Historical Society. The glass plates are at the Elmer E. Rasmuson Library, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701; copies of photographs can be ordered from the University.

The Alaska Historical Society has 134 prints which include views of the church and graveyard at St. Michael, store and buildings at Nulato, Athapascan Indians, steamboats Aurora, Jennie M.,-Research, Sunflower, dog teams , groups of people, and interior views of cabins and their occupants, as well as fish camps and scenics along the river.

There is some additional information on the views; that information is included with the collection.

HISTORICAL NOTE

Comments by R. N. De Armond:

“These pictures seem to have been taken by a member of a party of goldseekers bound up the Yukon River, probably for Dawson and probably in the summer of 1898. It is surmised that they owned or traveled on the steamboat JENNIE M., since she is the vessel most often shown in the pictures. They wintered at some point along the river. It was hoped, in examining the pictures, that they might be numbered serially from the start to the end of the Yukon trip, but this does not seem to be so. Identification of most of the pictures is difficult. An individual thoroughly familiar with the Yukon River,

and particularly with the section of it below the Tanana, might very well be able to identify some of the locations. I have made comments on individual pictures - by the number on the picture -- only when I could offer some identification or when there is something about the picture that seems worthy of comment.”

Inventory

13. This is undoubtedly the old Russian fort at Saint Michael, at the beginning of the trip.
14. Russian Orthodox Church at Saint Michael.
15. Probably the graveyard at Saint Michael.
24. An excellent picture of two birchbark canoes in use. Must have been taken fairly far up the river despite the low number.
29. A sizeable settlement. There is a large white cross at the left, but nothing that appears to be a church. Several large log buildings, many tents and a row of caches. The buildings look very much like those in No. 146 but are somewhat different.
30. Woodpiles, perhaps at same site as No. 29.
33. An excellent view of a fish camp, with some fish drying on the racks, birchbark canoes, and caches.
37. Another settlement, perhaps a trading post.
38. Probably a fish camp.
43. An Indian camp.
45. A good picture of the steamboat AURORA. One AURORAT owned by Captain Williams, was reported at Rampart May 30, 1901, getting ready for a trip up the Tanana. She could carry 30 tons of freight and 10 passengers, which might fit this vessel.
47. A camp with four men and one woman, probably gold-seekers. The case in the foreground is addressed to “_____ Exploration & Mining Co., Seattle.”
51. A fairly good picture of Indian women in birchbark canoes, apparently alongside a steamboat.
53. Lining a boat upriver, with 4 men on the tow line-and one on the sweep to steer.
55. Several log cabins.
- 56A. A group of at least 10 people outside a log cabin with a large unstacked woodpile.
57. Three men harnessed to a sled, with another man standing by-.
60. Large group of men on the ice.

61. Two sleds, one pulled by 3 men, one by 2 men.
67. Miners at work. They have just hoisted a bucket of dirt with a hand windlass. The dump is at the right. Cabin in background.
68. Cabin with three men, but not same cabin as No. 67.
77. Men moving sled downgraded perhaps down a river bank.
79. Sleds, one apparently with 2 dogs hitched to it.
80. Steamboat JENNIE M. of Philadelphia. (The missing part of the name in No. 47 could be Philadelphia). The boat had an iron hull and was put together at Saint Michael in 1898. She measured 49 tons gross. In 1944 the hull was in use as a barge by the Black Transportation Company (MacBride's list, Alaska Weekly 8/11/44)
81. Another view of the JENNIE M.
83. Steamboat NORTH STAR.
84. Log cabin and sled.
85. A large and well-built log cabin.
86. Another view of same cabin and adjoining storage shed.
87. Probably steamboat SUNFLOWER of Saint Michael, shown in No. 88.
88. Steamboat SUNFLOWER of Saint Michael.
90. Travelers. A poor negative.
91. Steamboat JENNIE M. being jacked up so blocks can be put under the hull.
93. Loaded sled pulled by two men and a dog leaving the JENNIE M.
94. Three-dog team.
95. JENNIE M. in winter quarters, apparently with set piling to protect her from ice.
97. Native man and woman at the JENNIE M., showing woodpile.
96. Whipsawing lumber.
98. Indian man and woman with dogs at the JENNIE M.
99. Indians.
100. Indians and white man, with one Indian woman smoking a pipe.

101. Indian camp.
102. Unknown implement.
103. Indian camp.
104. Indian camp with kettle boiling.
105. Indian camp.
106. Group of Indians.
107. Indian camp with man apparently whittling out an oar.
108. Breakup, with ice cakes stranded on the river bank.
109. Breakup.
133. Small steamboat. The name on the life ring is RESEARCH. The MacBride list (Alaska Weekly, 9/1/44) lists RESEARCH as being an iron hull with propeller. Went to the Koyukuk in 1898 and returned there in 1899; went to St. Michael in 1900.¹¹ This pictures shows a stern paddle but also seems to be a metal hull.
134. Nulato. Note the fleet of small steamers tied to the bank. The more distant of the two flags stands in front of the Store and Post Office shown in No. 138. It is a busy scene with many gold-seekers bound upriver.
135. The Yukon at Nulato. Some of the fleet of steamboats shows at the right.
136. Probably the cemetery at Nulato.
137. Caches, probably at Nulato.
138. Store and Post Office at Nulato.
139. Grave of Lieutenant J. J. Bernard of H. M. Enterpri.se, killed February 16, 1851, by Koyukuk Indians while making a search for Sir John Franklin. At Nulato.
142. A church and a building flying U. S. Flag.
143. A well-built log cabin, with another cabin and a cache visible at right. Appears to be a mooring post in right foreground. Cabin has glass windows and a milled door. Probably at Weare.
144. Log cabin, perhaps headquarters of North American Trading & Transportation Co., at Weare, which was approximately a mile below Tanana where the Alaska Commercial Co. had a Post- The name of the small steamboat at the right is not clear but could be "G. Armstrong," although no vessel of that name is known.
145. Indian woman, perhaps at Weare.

146. No identification but because it is next to Weare in the file it is perhaps Tanana.
153. JENNIE M. in a slough.
158. Two Indians with a salmon.
162. Three men and a dog in a poling boat.
163. Man feeding dogs.
165. Three men in a boat, rowing and paddling. Perhaps same boat as 162.
166. Indian in birchbark canoe.
168. Grouse or ptarmigan and ducks strung on line on bow of JENNIE M.
169. Hunters and birds, bow of the JENNIE M.
170. Indian man, white man and Indian child, probably on JENNIE M. Snow on deck.
172. JENNIE M.- iii winter quarters. This may be the same slough as shown in No. 153.
175. Man and dogs.
176. Another view of man and dogs.
177. Presumably the crew of the JENNIE M. at the dinner table.
178. Another view presumably inside the cabin of JENNIE M.
179. Indian man.
180. Same man.
181. Two Indian girls with bandana handkerchiefs. This probably should follow No. 182.
182. One of crew of JENNIE M. (see No. 178) with the two Indian girls shown in No. 181, but here he holds the bandanas.
183. More birds on foredeck of JENNIE M.
184. Dog team and sleds.
185. Interior, scene (boat or log cabin) and evidently a special occasion.
186. Outside a log cabin with loaded sleds.
188. Dog team and sleds.

191. A wheel, perhaps a measuring device. The card is marked "Tens Mills Quarters" with a figure over each word. The device hangs on the wall of the cabin in No. 192.
192. Log cabin. An exterior wall of this cabin may be shown in No. 194-
193. A section of log, evidently to show growth pattern.
197. Man in bunk in log cabin.-
199. Log cabin with stack of firewood. Appears to be same cabin as No. 192.
200. Another view of cabin in 199.
203. Interior of log cabin, apparently same cabin as No. 192, etc.