

**Alaska State Library
Historical Collections**

Guide to Collection

Duncan Cottage Museum

Duncan Cottage Photograph Collection, ca. 1857-1916

PCA 43

101 photographs (1 box, .25 lin. ft.)

ACQUISITION: The Duncan Cottage Museum in Metlakatla, Alaska, made the images available for the Historical Library to reproduce in 1976. The images were made from glass plates, which are the property of the church.

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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

William Duncan (1832-1918), of Beverly, England, abandoned a promising career at age 22 to train as a missionary for the Church Missionary Society. After completing his studies at Highbury College in London, he was sent to Fort Simpson, British Columbia, to work with the Natives of that region. By 1859, he had established a schoolhouse where he taught reading, writing, counting and singing, in English, and religion in the native Tsimshian language.

In May, 1862, Duncan left Fort Simpson with 50 Tsimshians to escape the influence of white culture. They established a community at Metlakatla, British Columbia. In 1867, he and 800 others moved again, this time to Annette Island, Alaska, and created a New Metlakatla. Duncan Cottage was built for him in 1891.

William Duncan died August 30, 1918 and was buried next to the church in Metlakatla. [*From The Devil and Mr. Duncan, by Peter Murray, 1985, and William Duncan, Founder and Developer of Alaska's Christian Mission, by Edward Delor Kohlstedt, 1957.*]

SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE

The collection includes 101 prints of Metlakatla, Alaska and B.C., William Duncan, the church, schoolhouse and other structures and the Tsimshian Indians who lived there at the time. Includes the signatures of the Tsimshians who moved from Metlakatla, B.C. to Metlakatla, Alaska.

INVENTORY

Numbers in parentheses are photographer's numbers.

- 1 Formal portrait of William Duncan in 1898 (#7)
- 2 Victorian style homes of Thomas Hansbury, Pat Verney, Sr., and John and Rod Davis, date unknown (#191)
- 3 President Harding and party at William Duncan's grave July 8, 1923 (#382)
- 4 Metlakatla Mission buildings from church tower ca 1896 (#153)
- 5 View of Metlakatla with church, ca. 1890 (#2202)
- 6 Five Tsimshian men hewing out a cedar log for a canoe, ca. 1890 (#699B)
- 7 Exterior of a two story building housing medical consulting room, Dispensary, Domestic Training Center, and Teachers Dormitory (#154-24)

- 8 First major building for church and socials erected at new Metlakatla with a large crowd in the foreground (#236)
- 9 First town hall, church, and miscellaneous buildings, winter 1897 or 1898 (#143)
- 10 Exterior side view of Metlakatla church.
- 11 Interior classroom, also used for Wednesday evening prayer (#310)
- 12 Settlement after fire, Feb. 12, 1893 (#250D)
- 13 Wm. Duncan standing on a boardwalk in Metlakatla (#30-3)
- 14 Copy of Wm. Duncan's written declaration of intent for his U.S. citizenship (#1056)
- 15 Ruins of Wm. Duncan's cannery from fire, May 16, 1916 (#291)
- 16 First converts to Christianity, Old Metlakatla, B.C (#2135)
- 17 Panorama of Metlakatla, late 1890's (poor reproduction) (#75)
- 18 Boardwalk street at Metlakatla, ca. 1916 (#BI73)
- 19 Formal portrait of Metlakatla Football Team, late 1890's (#670)
- 20 View of Metlakatla with mill and cannery (#234-4)
- 21 Wedding of unknown Tsimshian couple including Metlakatla Indian Police, in party (#-396)
- 22 Early Metlakatla buildings, and people in clearing (poor quality reproduction) (#2165)
- 23 Fire destroying Wm. Duncan's cannery and wharf, May 16, 1916 (#128)
- 24 Views of Metlakatla with wharf and cannery.
- 25 Wm. Duncan's guest house, Fire Dept., cottage, store, and library located in foreground, with Bell Tower opposite cottage, at Metlakatla.
- 26 Metlakatla mission buildings including fire dept., from church tower (#151)
- 27 President Harding, wife, and party in front of unknown building at Metlakatla (#392F)
- 28 Sydney Campbell in tribal costume "Neesh-Loot", late 1880's or 1890's.(#476)
- 29 Independence Day with band at playground showing houses and mission buildings in background, late 1890's (#646)

- 30 Panorama of Metlakatla, including houses, mission buildings, and church (#185-1)
- 31 Exterior of Metlakatla sawmill showing waterpipe, ca. 1920-1940 (#364B)
- 32 Group portrait of school children in front of school house (#682)
- 33 The wedding party of Harry and Sarah Lang, a Tsimshian couple, and friends in front of church (#686)
- 34 Steamer at dock of Metlakatla's first cannery shoeing the Duncan General Store on right with view of Port Chester waterfall.
- 35 S.S. *Ancon* arriving at Metlakatla with Wm. Duncan, clergy, and other dignitaries for dedication of Metlakatla, Aug. 7, 1887.
- 36 View of Metlakatla with Wm. Duncan's home in foreground; center building contains the medical consulting room, dispensary, and domestic training center, ca. 1897.
- 37 Christmas and Patriotic exercise being given by Tsimshian Sunday School in front of Metlakatla church, ca. 1880-90 (#649C)
- 38 Temporary houses at New Metlakatla in winter showing totem pole from former summer fishing camp, abandoned by some Tlinget Indians, ca. 1887.
- 39 Wm. Duncan in his study at home, ca. 1900 (#153)
40. Studio portrait of Wm. Duncan, ca. 1885 (#5)
41. President Harding to Alaska July 8, 1923. [U.S. Navy destroyer escort in Chester Bay, Alaska, July 8, 1923.]
42. President Harding on board *Henderson* arrived at Metlakatla, Alaska, 1923. [U.S.S. *Henderson* in Chester Bay, Alaska, July 8, 1923] (#373-1)
- 43 Metlakatla Christian Mission Church under construction, ca. 1893 (#254F)
- 44 Fishing fleet of motorboats belonging to Tsimshian Indians anchored off the West end of Metlakatla beach (#197)
- 45 Panorama of Metlakatla showing mountains, ca. 1890's (75-2)
- 46 View of New Metlakatla showing the Twin Sisters (islands) in background ca. 1900.
- 47 Interior of mission school and gymnasium, ca. 1890 (#314)
- 48 Interior of mission school showing destruction attributed to Bureau of Education agents, ca. 1913.

- 49 Students in Metlakatla mission school classroom.
- 50 Formal portrait of Paul Legaic, chief of the Tsimshian Nation, after his conversion to Christianity, ca. 1880 (#473A)
- 51 Wm. Duncan's steamer *The Herald*, with crewmembers, ca. 1900 (#198)
- 52 Presentation of gold cup to Wm. Duncan by Christian groups in celebration of 60th anniversary of missionary work, ca. 1917 (#-131)
- 53 Metlakatla Choral Society Band of the Christian Church, ca. 1930 (#2225)
- 54 Wm. Duncan on steps of mission church, ca. 1900 (#276)
- 55 Boardwalk street at Metlakatla with houses, ca. 1916 (# 171)
- 56 Boardwalk street at Metlakatla with houses, ca. 1916 (#BI73)
- 57 Clah (Albert Wellington) [Arthur Wellington?], Wm. Duncan's Tsimshian interpreter and teacher
- 58 View of Metlakatla with homes and shoreline, ca. 1894 (poor reproduction)
- 59 Exterior of 1st Metlakatla hydroelectric powerhouse, ca. 1929
- 60 Tsimshian pioneers of New Metlakatla, pulling tree stumps, ca. 1887 (#241-1)
- 61 Metlakatla Band in uniforms- Benjamin Haldane, Alfred Gordon, Sr., John Hudson are identified members, 1890 (#668)
- 62 Exterior U.S. Post Office and Moses Hewson's General Store at Metlakatla (#468)
- 63 Band leading wedding procession of Sam Burton and Lucy Verney in front of Metlakatla Christian Church, ca. 1897 (#692)
- 64 Wm. Duncan's carpenter shop with Twin Sisters islands in background, ca. 1900 (#299)
- 65 Canoes on Chester Bay beach site showing cabins at Metlakatla, Alaska, titled "Landing in the wilderness", Aug. 7, 1887.
- 66 Clearing of forest at site of Metlakatla, Alaska, ca. 1888 (#235-3)
- 67 Canoes on Chester Bay beach site of Metlakatla, with steamer, *Herald*, in the bay. American flag placed on flagpole for arrival of Wm. Duncan, visiting U.S. clergy and other dignitaries for dedication services, Aug. 7, 1887 (#223A)
- 68 Houses designed by Wm. Duncan and built by Tsimshian Indians (#189-1)

- 69 Earlier buildings of Metlakatla; including in foreground, guesthouse for visiting Indians, 1888 (#253-3)
- 70 Wm. Duncan in his later years, in front of mission buildings at Metlakatla, Ak.
- 71 Exterior of Wm. Duncan's brickyard at Old Metlakatla, B.C.
- 72 Small group of men building sidewalks at Metlakatla, Ak (#700)
- 73 Copy of Wm. Duncan's citizenship papers taken out at Sitka, Ak., May 1, 1895.
- 74 Exterior of Mission Church, dedicated Dec. 25, 1896 at Metlakatla, Ak (#92)
- 75 The Tsimshian family of John Hudson, Sr. in front of their family home in Metlakatla, Ak (#2226)*
- 76 Group portrait of Metlakatla Christian Chorus in front of the Mission Church. Benjamin Haldane, Director, in foreground center, ca. 1907 (#657)
- 77 Native home with totem.
- 78 Wm. Duncan's water sawmill at Old Metlakatla, B.C.
- 79 Wm. Duncan's funeral service in Mission Church, later known as the First Duncan Memorial Church, ca. 1918 (#354)
- 80 View of Metlakatla, Ak. from the bay, ca. 1890 (poor quality) (#80)
- 81 President Harding and Presidential party (wife and aides) in front of government school, July 8, 1923 (#389)
- 82 Interior of Wm. Duncan's Mission Library. Room was located in guest house, ca. 1900 (#220-1)
- 83 Wm. Duncan on boardwalk in-Metlakatla, Ak., Winter 1918.
- 84 First bandstand and rostrum built soon after the establishment of Metlakatla. , Ak (#655-1-R)
- 85 Metlakatla Brass Band in front of Metlakatla Mission Church - Alfred Gordon, bandleader, in the center holding baton and horn, ca. 1896.
- 86 Exterior view of destruction of 1st Town Hall by "Bureau of Education" agents to make room for school grounds, June 15, 1921 (#368)
- 87 View of Metlakatla, Ak., Winter 1897.
- 88 Interior of Metlakatla Mission Church, designed by Wm. Duncan (#104)

- 89 Drawing of 1st Town Hall and school at Metlakatla Ak.
- 90 Wm. Duncan's graveside services adjacent to Metlakatla Mission Church, Sept. 1, 1918.
- 91 Interior of Wm. Duncan's General Store with Solomon Dundas standing at counter (#166)
- 92 Wm. Duncan's cottage, General Store, and gardens (#155)
- 93 Wm. Duncan's cottage, General Store, and gardens (#155-1)
- 94 Wash drawing titled "Sea Voyage in a Native Canoe", by unknown artist.
- 95 Drawing of Fort Simpson, B.C. as it appeared when Wm. Duncan arrived there in 1857 (#2033)
- 96 Retouched photograph showing clearing with 1st buildings at Metlakatla. Ak., ca. 1888 (#235-3A)
- 97 Row of houses along beach at Old Metlakatla, B.C., ca. 1880 (#69)
- 98 Oil painting of New Metlakatla, Ak. by unknown artist, ca.1889 (#2193)
- 99 View of New Metlakatla from Purple Mountains, ca. 1900 (#1064)
- 100 Arrival of Tsimshians in canoes along beach (#2116)
- 101 Signatures of Tsimshians who migrated to Metlakatla, Ak.
- *75 Eliza Mather Baines' family. Picture taken in front of John Hudson's house. John married Eliza's daughter Mary. Late 1920's *[Additional information supplied by Mary Baines Jones, granddaughter of Eliza Baines, April 1995.]*

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