

**Alaska State Library
Historical Collections**

Guide to Collection

Sheldon, Stephen

Sheldon Museum (Haines, Alaska) Photograph Collection, 1898-1976

PCA 93

72 photographs

ACQUISITION: Elisabeth Sheldon Hakkinen, of The Sheldon Museum in Haines, Alaska, donated these images over a period from 1975-1977. The images were primarily collected and or photographed by her father, Stephen Sheldon. Acc. Nos. 1975-007, 1976-022, 1977-039.

ACCESS: The collection is available for viewing; however, the photographs may not be photocopied.

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PROCESSING: Copy prints were made from original glass plates and film negatives, loaned from the Sheldon Museum. The images are sleeved in Mylar and stored in archival housing.

HISTORICAL NOTE

Stephen Sheldon was born in Ohio in 1885. After attending Ohio State University's school of engineering, he went to work on the *S.S. Northwestern*. He made seven trips to Nome aboard the *Northwestern*, then moved permanently to Alaska and went to work with Michael J. Heney, building the Copper River and Northwestern Railroad. Between seasons, he worked as a storekeeper in a remote supply station. After the railroad was completed, he moved to Haines where he later became Deputy U.S. Marshall for Haines and Skagway.

He married Elisabeth Neidly Birkinbine (Bess) in 1913 in Haines and had four children: Elisabeth Anne, Harriet Louise, Frederick Beaumont, and Stephen, Jr. Both Stephen and his wife were collectors, Stephen beginning at age 8. Bess had collected in Pennsylvania before coming to Alaska, but the bulk of her treasures were beadwork and baskets from Haines and Klukwan. Their artifacts were displayed in the family's general store (which was also the post office and stove shop) and in a living room they had added on to the building.

When Bess died in January 1950, the oldest daughter Elisabeth and her husband, Felix "Whitey" Hakkinen bought the family store. Steve died in August of 1960, and the Sheldon daughters inherited the family's collection which became the nucleus of the current Sheldon Museum and Cultural Center. [From: *The Sheldon Museum and Cultural Center web site*
<http://www.sheldonmuseum.org/sheldonfamily.htm>]

SCOPE AND CONTENTS

The collection includes views of Haines and Fort William Henry Seward, the Chilkoot trail, Chilkat and Klukwan Natives, potlatch preparations, and Porcupine. Photographers represented in the collection include Stephen Sheldon (donor's father), J. M. Blankenberg, H.C. Barley, Frank LaRoche, Elisabeth Sheldon Hakkinen.

INVENTORY

- 1 [Fort William Henry Seward ca 1920. Winter view from hill behind fort.]
- 2 [Old village of Chilkat taken from across river. c. 1900-1910.]
- 3 [Army troops newly arrived at Fort William Seward from transport ship, c. 1920.]
- 4 [Inspection of troops, Fort Seward, early 1920's. Hospital in center background.]
- 5 Haines, Alaska. July 4, 1922. [Front and Main Streets from roof of Sheldon Hotel. Photo shop, right foreground, was formerly Blankenberg's.]
- 6 Fort W. H. Seward, Haines, Alaska [view from watertower, summer, c. 1920.] (Jo-Car-Co. photo)

- 7 [N. G. Hansen Hardware Store fire, c. 1922. Charred remains of store, center, early car on left.]
- 8 [Porcupine, c1900. Mining town northwest of Haines.]
- 9 [1928 convention of Alaska Native Brotherhood / Alaska Native Sisterhood in Haines. Group pictures of delegates taken in Haines ANB Hall.]
- 10 [Smoking and drying fish, Mile 7, north of Haines. 1927. Elevated rows of fish; a person beneath.]
- 11 Five adults and one girl in Tlingit costumes; Klukwan, early 1920's; from left to right: Emma Vermiere, Nell Stansfield, Elisabeth Sheldon, Mike Kadanaha [Kadonaha?], Mrs. Steve Sheldon, and Maggie Kadonaha [Kadanaha?]. Two lines across photo from cracked glass plate.]
- 12 [Two Klukwan natives in ceremonial dress; one on right kneeling and holding a rifle.]
- 13 [Chilkat Indians in Haines dressed in ceremonial costumes; standing on porch of building.]
- 14 [Close-up view of Chilkat blanket being held by Mildred Willard Sparks (on the right), Klukwan and another woman.]
- 15 [Similar to #14, more distant view.]
- 16 Potlatch canoes at Kluk-too (Kalwatu) three miles down river from Klukwan [Chilkat natives in costume seated in canoes; houses and mountains in background.]
- 17 Klukshu Village, mile 119, Yukon Territory [several tents on right; on Dalton Trail; 1945].
- 18 [Members of Haines Native band, with instruments; standing in street at 2nd and Main, c. 1915.]
- 19 [Four Tlingit women sitting behind display of baskets, horn spoon and other craft work; all wearing capes and have nose rings.]
- 20 [Row of buildings at Hindustake – (one spelling)--4 miles out of Haines.]
- 21 [Pleasant Camp from across the Klehini River; Canadian Customs building; left; American Customs, right.]
- 22 [Looking down "The Village". Front Street from corner of Front and Main, Haines, late 1920's.]
- 23 [Haines House and other Presbyterian Mission buildings, early 1930's. Left to right: Mission barn, silo, cottage; Masonic Club; Wheeler Hall and Haines House.]

- 24 [Homer Berger, Superintendent of Schools, Haines, 1936-39 standing in front of school, Main Street.]
- 25 [Bee-farmer T. D. Page and Steve Sheldon, Jr.; Haines about 1925.]
- 26 Copper Mine Cave near Haines ["Maid of Erin" mine--far side of Mineral Mt. above Rainy Hollow, 52 miles north of Haines, 1920's.]
- 27 [Two men standing between 238 lb. halibut caught August 13, 1916, Ft. Wm. Seward.] (L.EF photo)
- 28 [Seven servicemen and young boy with three halibut, Lynn Canal, July 1915.]
- 29 [Lower Main St., Haines, circa 1920; Alaskan Grill on near left.]
- 30 [View of two Skagway docks from water; early 1900's]
- 31 [Two Skagway docks, center; dock form White Pass Yukon Railway near right.]
- 32 [Crane for unloading freight, WP & Y Railway dock, Skagway.]

Views 33 - 54 were taken by photographer, J. M. Blankenberg, (J.M.B.)

- 33 Indian Town, Haines Mission, Alaska.]Row of wooden houses; boats on beach, three men left center.[(JMB #129)
- 34 Pyramid Harbor, Alaska [View of harbor from above showing buildings along shore; sailing ship at anchor.] (J.M.B. #125)
- 35 Skagway [view of town from mountain on right] (JMB)
- 36 Bennett and Harbor [boats on lake shore; tents and wooden buildings beyond.] (JMB)
- 37 Dyea, Alaska [Small bridge, left; Dyea buildings beyond.] (JMB #24)
- 38 Summit of Chilkoot [Chilkoot] Pass [men and supplies; winter scene.] (JMB #79)
- 39 Freight Yard, Dyea [Miscellaneous freight, foreground, people and Dyea buildings, background.] (J.M.B. #73)
- 40 Main St. Haines Mission [row of buildings, men in street.] (J.M.B. #127)
- 41 First Haines town meeting, 1898 [large group of people in front of Spooner Hotel, dog sled foreground. Sol Ripinsky wearing fur coat and derby].

- 42 The Dead Horse Trail [Dead horses in river bed and on rocky beach; bridge and mountains beyond]. (J.M.B.)
- 43 "Ho" for the Klondike. Lake Bennett. [Men in three small boats; U.S. flag on staff of right boat]. (#82)
- 44 The Dead Horse Trail [dead horses on rocky beach in foreground; tents on either side of stream; mountains beyond]. (J.M.B.)
- 45 Steamer *Townsend* wrecked January 16, 1900 [partly submerged ship left center; men on shore, right; winter scene]. (Blankenberg photo)
- 46 Haines, Alaska [view from water; beach curving off to right; mountains beyond]. (J.M. B. #121)
- 47 Chilkoot Pass [snow covered ground with group of people in center; line of people climbing trail at left]. (J.M.B. #100)
- 48 Scales and Summit, Chilkoot Pass [men on trail, center; scales and tents, foreground]. (#109)
- 49 [Totems in front of wooden houses. Foreground blurred.]
- 50 Gold Hill. Heart of Gold Mining in the Klondyke [Buildings at base of hill, foreground; tracks down center of hill].
- 51 Dancing costumes of Chilcat [Chilkat] Indians [five costumed people, foreground; group in costume on steps of building in background]. (#160)
- 52 No. 1 below, workings of the Porcupine Mining Co. [men working in shallow pit; pile of rocks, center]. (J.M.B.)
- 53 Looking up Chilkoot River [tents on shore of river at left; river center and right; mountains beyond]. (J.M.B. #141)
- 54 Glacier on Salmon River [Face of glacier; mountains beyond]. (J.M.B.)
- 55 Haines, Alaska [Main Street, looking west; dog team sleds in street, 1930's]
- 56 Chilkoot Barracks from the north, 1938 [barracks in center, mountains beyond].
- 57 [Head and shoulder full face portraits of Rev. and Mrs. Eugene Willard, early Presbyterian missionaries at Haines].
- 58 [Sheldon Jackson, second from right, and three other men with reindeer bound for the Klondike.]
- 59 Porcupine, Alaska before the fire, 1915. [buildings on either side of narrow road].

- 60 [Team of horses pulling freight across river to Porcupine, Alaska.]
- 61 Porcupine, Alaska, July 1976 [small house on right; shed at left, background.]
- 62 Porcupine, Alaska, July 1976 [three small buildings, center; mountains beyond.]
- 63 [Frog gravestone, Klukwan, 1926, photographed by Elisabeth Sheldon.]
- 64 [Bear gravestone, Klukwan, 1926, photographed by Elisabeth Sheldon.]
- 65 [Howling wolf gravestone, Klukwan, 1926, photographed by Elisabeth Sheldon .]
- 66 Treadwell Mine, Alaska [view from water of Treadwell buildings; Glory Hole, center, with felt. Bradley, above.] (F. LaRoche #1267)
- 67 The dispatch boat carrying the Klukwan chiefs [distant view of small boats in water, many flying U.S. flags; people on shore]. H.G. Barley photo #722.
- 68 Dispatch boats, Klukwan Potlatch, Oct. 1900 [two large canoes filled with people, approaching shore, small skiff, left]. H.G. Barley photo #725.
- 69 Camp of the Sitkas at the Klukwan Potlatch [tents, right; several boats along shore]. H.G. Barley photo. (reverse print)
- 70 Ready for the Hyyoo Dance at the great Klukwan Potlatch. 1900 [large group of people, most in dance costume, in front of two story building]. H.G. Barley photo #746.
- 71 [Three men in dance costume on steps of building, probably part of 1900 Klukwan potlatch. Faded image.]
- 72 [Pyramid Harbor with ship at dock; mountains in background. ca. 1895] J.M. Blankenberg Photo.