

Alaska State Library
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

Greene, Mary

Mary Greene Photograph Collection, 1922-1930

PCA 132

ACQUISITION: The collection was donated Dec. 1, 1969 by Stanley T. Rowe from the Historical Society of Battlecreek, Michigan. Manuscripts form a separate collection, MS 4-1-2.

ACCESS: The images may be viewed however, they may not be photocopied.

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PROCESSING: Mary Greene described the photographs in detail. The descriptions were photocopied onto acid free paper and the photographs attached with archival photo corners.

Biographical Note

Little information has been found on Mary Greene except that she served as a missionary for the Methodist Episcopal Church at the Lavinia Wallace Young Mission in Nome, Alaska from 1922 to 1930. She corresponded in detail to a person named Inez, describing her daily life and the people with whom she lived and worked. These manuscripts form a separate collection, MS 4-1-2.

Scope and Content Note

The photographs, some of which are faded and or blurred, record Mary Greene's daily life as a missionary in Nome and include many of the women and children (identified) with whom she lived and worked. Included are images of Abraham Lincoln, Nome's chief reindeer herder, Beth Stewart, the Lavinia Wallace Young Mission, the Catholic and Methodist Episcopal churches in Nome, Flora Eroeruk, Jim Sogragok (Sinuk), Edna Murray (registered nurse), the Tattok family, the Beeson family and others.

Inventory

Captions by Mary Greene; complete information in the collection. Text supplied by staff is in brackets.

- 1 As I dress in winter. Mary Greene. My roommate 1921 & 1922, Wash. D.C. [in fur parka].
- 2 In the good old summer time [Mary Greene in skirt and scarf, standing on ice].
- 3 As we dress in spring [Mary Greene in parka in front of church in Nome].
- 4 Church and hospital. Nurses' Home in rear of hospital [Methodist Episcopal Church in Nome].
- 5 Coming from church. M.E. Church, Nome, Alaska [people on steps, Methodist Episcopal Church].
- 6 The mother holding the baby was buried last week. T.B. She was one whom I especially visited... The old woman is her grandmother [two women seated on steps of house or structure, holding babies, and child standing behind].
- 7 Miss Morgan putting a baby on the back of an Eskimo mother in front of the hospital.
- 8 Flora Eroeruk (?) and baby May. Nome, Alaska [baby on back of woman; head and shoulders portrait].
- 9 This picture is poorly printed, but it will give you an idea of the location of the camp; Nome is west of this hill, fourteen miles...[beach view taken in June, with notes on annual weather conditions].

- 10 This is a picture of the camp that I took this spring... [large dormitory building and tents behind a fence].
- 11 In the corral at Cape Nome [herd of reindeer].
- 12 The reindeer herd in the corral to be marked by cutting an ear of each one in a certain manner... [includes more notes].
- 13 Abraham Lincoln, the chief herder, embarking on the river to go up after the deer... [five men with "white man's boat" at water's edge, and description of herding trip].
- 14 Skin boats, made by stretching walrus skin over a frame. These are some of the King's Island people coming to Cape Nome to pick berries. There were 42 men, women and children on this boat. They had come 14 miles from Nome towing the boat along the beach nearly all the way. They fastened a rawhide line to the stanchion on the side of the boat, and a number run along the beach with the tow line.
- 15 Billy Kowmanaseuk painting the [oomiak] frame before putting on the skins; before the advent of white men the natives use a red clay for paint, something like red ocher; it is abundant at home and we children used to play with it, we called it keel.
- 16 Boats still in winter dock. Hauled up on the river bank until navigation opens; they are being repainted, calked [caulked] and overhauled. When the river is open they will be pulled into it.
- 17 The frame of a skin boat; there is not a nail in these boats, the timbers are bored and bound together with sealskin thongs, then the skins are sewed together by the women and stretched on the frame, lacing them fast on the inside. It takes four to five skins for a large boat, about thirty feet long... [includes more notes on skin sewing]
- 18 I took this on the beach here on the 5th of July, 1926. But this was unusual, the ice had not hung on so long for thirty years... [three people in open boat amid chunks of ice].
- 19 These are skin boats, oomiaks, on another part of the beach [looking toward houses].
- 20 This kayak was turned up on the beach and I tried to get an interior view without much success for it was a rainy day. That line across one end is a seam where the skin is sewed.
- 21 There are a few wolves out in the country following the reindeer, and Sam Nuipok shot this one in April, 1928...
- 22 This is sunset, 10 miles from Nome where I was squirrel hunting with two women... This was taken the 15th of May 1928 [structure on tundra].
- 23 Mrs. Becker, seated and skinning squirrels; Mrs. Sims, standing with baby Johnny, on her back... [on tundra].

- 24 I took this at Cripple River last July. The natives didn't bury underground in the early days but built a casket of driftwood... [skeleton inside broken casket].
- 25 This is a view of the same burying place... [graves on tundra].
- 26 May 1st, 1930. Nome, Alaska [houses and drifted snow]. Damaged view
- 27 This was taken in May, a mile out at sea, looking toward Nome [Mary Greene and dog sitting on ice].
- 28 These people are hooking tomcod through the ice; I was out with them that day, the middle of May... [includes more information on fishing].
- 29 Diomedes woman putting her baby into the hood of her parka.
- 30 Diomedes woman and baby in a fawn skin parka and cap [seated].
- 31 Diomedes people at Nome, Alaska [group, mostly children, lined up in front of a shack].
- 32 Eskimos and schoolhouse on Diomedes Island. Little Diomedes - Big Diomedes belongs to Siberia.
- 33 Beth Stewart [in] reindeer parka. Missionary at Mission at Nome Alaska.
- 34 Tilly Asarok, Inez Sogragok, Helen Apodruk [three girls standing in snow].
- 35 Fawn, Nome.
- 36 Jim Sogragok of Sinuk taken in Nome, in front of Eskimo pastor's house [full length portrait].
- 37 Nome, Alaska. Edna Murray, R.N., Mary Greene [both in full-length, fur parkas]
- 38 The NORTHLAND Government Cutter in Alaska Water.
- 39 Miss Morgan, Supt. of Maynard Columbus Hospital, Nome, Alaska. Panning gold on Anderson's claim, east of Nome.
- 40 Nome, Alaska. Mrs. Fred Tattok, Eskimo, married to an Eskimo. Bobbie Tattok, Edna Tattok [woman and two children in opening of tent].
- 41 Mary Greene, deerskin parka [left]. Inez Walthall, squirrel skin parka [with dogsled].
- 42 School teachers - white - at Nome. Eskimo church in background [three teachers in parkas].
- 43 Basket ball team at High School. Teachers vs. High school students. Nome, Alaska, 1922-1923 [eleven women, one man on porch of building].

- 44 Bobbie Tattok, Edna Tattok, Nome, Alaska. Bobbie wears a seal skin parka. Edna wears a fawnskin parka [two children standing next to building].
- 45 Bobbie Tattok, Edna Tattok, Nome, Alaska, showing backs of parkas. Faded
- 46 Nome, Alaska. Mrs. Beeson, Eskimo wife of a white white (sic) man. Lizzie Beeson, halfbreed daughter. Mrs. Beeson wears a brown deerskin parka; Lizzie wears a squirrel skin parka. Catholic church in background.
- 47 Kougerok [Kougarok Mountain] Mts., Alaska [three sleds and dog teams lined up below a large cliff and snow chute].
- 48 Dog team at Nome. Nome in background.
- 49 Eskimo families at Cape Nome driving to Nome. Man at head breaking trail [two dog teams; four people riding on second loaded sled in foreground].
- 50 Tundra below Cape Nome, Alaska. Snow is melting, white ptarmigan showing in near background.
- 51 Mission at Cape Nome, children and men visitors. 1925
- 52 Mission boys bringing home parcel post packages from Post Office after first boat has come in, June, 1924. Hospital in background [Nome].
- 53 Amundsen, explorer in Nome, 1923 [Roald? with sled dogs].

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