

Alaska State Library
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

Smith, Alexander Malcolm, 1858-1958

Alexander Malcolm Smith Photograph Collection, ca. 1920s

PCA 136

47 photographs (b&w, contact prints)

Revised: 5/6/2005

ACQUISITION: The photographs were made from a scrapbook loaned by Elizabeth Ann King, his wife, March 23, 1978.

ACCESS: The photographs may be viewed however they may not be photocopied.

COPYRIGHT: Requests for permission to publish or reproduce material from the collection should be discussed with the Librarian.

PROCESSING: The photographs are sleeved in Mylar. An item-level inventory is available. Notes added in pencil to the finding aid appear in italics; author unknown.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Alexander Malcolm "Sandy" Smith was born Jan. 1, 1858 in Inverness, Scotland. At the age of sixteen he served an apprenticeship with the Hudson's Bay Company in Canada for three years. His personal adventures and exploration in the North made his knowledge of Alaska and Canada of value to many seeking his services. He made gold strikes in the Klondike and Nome, built several roadhouses (including Snyder House at Flat City) and discovered oil seepages that are now the United States Naval Oil Reserve. He was second in command for the Wilkins Arctic Expedition of 1926-1927, made mineral discoveries in Siberia, and was honored by many groups, including the Royal Geographical Society, American Geographical Society, and Explorer's Club. In Alaska, Sandy Lake, Smith Bay, Malcolm River and a town named Smith, were all named in his honor.

Sandy Smith married three times during his life. He died June 24, 1957 [?], just shy of his 100th birthday. His ashes were scattered over the Brooks Range.

Manuscripts form a separate collection, MS 4-6-2.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE

Includes portraits of Alexander Malcolm Smith, Earl Rossman, the Lomen Brothers, and Sir George Herbert Wilkins. Includes photos of the Fokker aircraft from the Wilkins Detroit Arctic expedition. Information supplied by Staff appears in brackets. Additional information, from an unknown author, appears in italics, in brackets.

INVENTORY

- 1 To Sourdough Sandy Smith "Dean of Arctic Explorers" from his friend & fellow Alaskan. [Autographed picture of Earl Rossman, November 10, 1925.]
- 2 [Alexander Malcolm Smith seated behind table with Alaska literature.]
- 3 [Alexander Malcolm Smith, portrait.]
- 4 [Alexander Malcolm "Sandy" Smith seated with son, Malcolm Alexander and wife, Elizabeth Ann Smith, Aug. 15, 1946. Richmond, California.]
- 5 Ruby, Alaska. Lomen Bros. 874. [General view.]
- 6 [Alexander Malcolm Smith standing with unidentified pilot at side of helicopter.]
- 7 [Pine Creek, Atlin, B.C.]

- 8 [Heavy equipment being unloaded from vessel onto wharf.]
- 9 [Passengers unloading from FOKKER ARCTIC EXPEDITION plane, WILKIN COMMANDER.]
- 10 [Pilots and FOKKER ALASKAN plane.]
- 11 Wilken [Wilkins?] expedition at Fairbanks. [Heavy equipment on snow covered terrain.]
- 12 Captain Jensen and Sandy (Smith). [Shaking hands standing in front of Expedition equipment.]
- 13 [Steamer NORTHWESTERN at wharf.]
- 14 [Group of people, wearing parkas, standing in front of FOKKER plane.]
- 15 Hopson, Teacher (?), Brower, Wallace, Eielson, & Wilkins [in front of building.]
- 16 Wilkins overland party at Nenana.
- 17 Wilkins - Fokker wreck at Fairbanks. [4 boys and 1 man by wrecked plane.]
- 18 [Group portrait-] (Top Row:) Barry Keon, Col. Hartman, Carl Lomen, Earl Rossman, Henry Bizanion, Alfred Lomen. (Bottom Row:) Capt. A.M. Smith, Valhjalmur Stefansson, Sir Hubert Wilkins, Col. Ben Eielson.
- 19 [Group portrait. Top Row: Knud Rasmussen, Carl Lomen, Earl Rossman. Bottom Row: Cal Gonzoles, Vilhjalmur Stefansson, Ralph Lomen.]
- 20 [Group standing by plane.] To "Sandy" Smith from Brad Jones. J. Rivers, Maitland, Herman, Hegenberger, & Jones.
- 21 Col. Alfred H. Brooks and Peter's party aboard the CONEMAUGH.
- 22 [Group of eight unidentified men standing by plane.]
- 23 One of Capt. Wilkins teams (dog), Detroit Arctic Expedition leaving Allakaket going north. [13 dogs pulling two sleds. Two men are on skis.]
- 24 FOKKER "Detroiter" Cann Studio - Fairbanks No. 6.
- 25 [FOKKER on a landing approach.] [*"Alaskan"*]
- 26 [Two unidentified men working on a plane engine.] [*Wilkins on left*]
- 27 [Unidentified man standing at the plane which has printed all along its side:] FOKKER DETROIT ARCTIC EXPEDITION G.H. WILKINS, COMMANDER. [*"Alaskan"*]

- 28 [An unidentified young lady in fur parka, hood and mukluks, standing in front of the FOKKER plane.] [*Christened "Detroiter" in Fairbanks*]
- 29 [Unidentified man standing at the plane.] [*Ben Eielson*]
- 30 [Wing of the plane.] [*Wrecked "Detroiter" Fairbanks*]
- 31-32 [Plane tipped up on nose. Men in foreground.] [*Wrecked "Alaskan"*]
- 33 [Two planes, one in process of refueling.] [*"Detroiter" and "Alaskan, Fokkers, Fairbanks*]
- 34-38 [FOKKER plane] [*"Detroiter" wreck salvage*]
- 39 [Plane on skids]
- 40 [Refueling the FOKKER.] [*"Alaskan"*]
- 41 [Crowd viewing the damaged FOKKER plane.] [*"Detroiter"*]
- 42X [One man and three women-wearing parkas-beside plane; one man near propeller.] "11 x 14" photo: Located in oversize drawer. [*About 1931, Noel Wien and Ford Trimotor with the Eskimo kids from _____ who laid in the plane and arrived in Fairbanks as stowaways. See Wien's book.*]
- 43 Verso: Detroit Arctic Expedition. [Men with wrecked FOKKER ALASKAN]
- 44 [FOKKER plane loaded on train cars]
- 45 [Unidentified men standing beside plane; "Detroit Arctic Expedition, G.H. Wilkins, Commander," printed on side of plane.]
- 46 [Propeller plane without wings attached to horse-drawn sleigh on street of unidentified town. N.C. Co. and Abe Stein and Son businesses in background.]
- 47 [Similar to 46, different view.]