

Alaska State Library
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

Call, Samuel J., photographer

Samuel J. Call Photograph Collection, ca 1880-1908

PCA 181

1 Box
77 b&w photoprints
Biographical material

Processed by: Staff

ACQUISITION: These photographs were donated to the library some years ago and filed by subject. Photographs attributed to Dr, Samuel J. Call, or believed to have been taken by him, are now together as a collection.

ACCESS: The photos may be viewed. However, because of their fragile condition, they may not be photocopied.

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PROCESSING: The photographs were numbered, placed in Mylar, and put into acid free folders. The folders were put into an archival box. A finding aid is available.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Dr. Samuel Johnson Call was born in Missouri in 1858 and lived most of his early years in California. He went to work for the Alaska Commercial Company (headquartered in San Francisco) in 1880 and was sent to Unalaska where he worked for about 5 years. In 1890 he left the Alaska Commercial Company to work as a company surgeon aboard the U.S. Revenue Cutter *Bear*. He played an active role in the 1892 reindeer acquisition program in Siberia. The *Bear* was based in San Francisco but traveled to Sitka, Kodiak, and spent summers and early falls in the Arctic. In August of 1899, Dr. Call resigned from the US Revenue Cutter Service and sometime later went to Nome. There he practiced medicine and served as Quarantine Officer for the Marine Hospital Service and later as City Health Officer of Nome. In 1902 he became Collector and Inspector at the subport of Nome. He left Nome in August 1903 to go back to sea as surgeon on the U.S. Revenue Service Cutter *Thetis* and, later, in 1905, on the *McCulloch*. That year he received a gold medal for heroic service in the whalers' relief expedition to the Arctic. He was forced to retire for health reasons during 1908 and died in Hollister, California, February 6, 1909, five days before his 51st birthday. [From: "Dr Samuel J. Call," by Albert K. Cocke. *The Alaska Journal*, v. 4, no. 3, Summer 1974, pp. 181-188.]

SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE

This collection contains photographs of: the Aleutian Islands, Pribilof Islands, King Island, Siberia, Eskimos, and scenic views. Also included is the following biographical information:

- Bibliography of: Call-Booth Family Documents, Books, Papers, and Photos
- Memorabilia of our Famous Ancestor Dr. Samuel Johnson Call (Sam); Volume 1 and Volume 2
- Information about and color photocopies of the two gold medals Dr. Call received for heroic service as a member of the Overland Expedition for the Relief of the Whalers in the Arctic Ocean from November 27, 1897 to September 13, 1898.

INVENTORY

1. Atka [view from water of village with houses and church on rocky slopes, treeless hills behind, two skiffs in foreground rowing towards village].
2. Tschernofsky Station [now "Chernofski", shows view from water of huts, sheds, and two buildings, one with American flag on pole, on shore of treeless slope].

3. Oomnak Station now "Nikolski" or "Umnak", shows view of huts and two buildings, one a church with 'onion' tower and crosses, in grassy field, low hills behind].
4. Sanak Station [view from water of houses, huts and church on shore, single mountain peak behind, six single kayaks approaching village],
5. Sanak Trading Station, Alaska [huts, houses, tents, and church just past sandy shore; beached boats, skiffs, and kayaks, group of people near beached boat at right, mountain slopes at left].
6. Nushagak River & Cannery [view from water of several distant buildings and skiffs near low horizon line],
7. Nushagak [view of wooden buildings atop and at base of bushy slope: one of the higher buildings is a church with "onion" tower, another has flagpoles, there are some crossed poles in foreground near what may be a boat or kayak].
8. Nushagak Cannery [view from water of two buildings, one quite large, two distant tents, two skiffs and one small boat in water with four men on them, low hill in distance].
9. Nushagak - looking across the river [view from the top of hill in #7, looking the other way: log church in foreground two buildings visible down the hill, two-masted ship in distant water],
10. Russian Burial Ground at Saint Paul's Island [picket fence surrounding graveyard marked by many Russian Orthodox-style crosses: houses below cemetery hill, and shoreline in distance].
11. Landing at Walrus Island [2 long skiffs next to rocky shore, 25 men and 3 women? on shore and in boats],
12. Fur Seals on the Rocks, St. George's Island [view of seals from above]. *No neg.*
13. Fur Seals at St. Paul's Island [seals on sand beach and in nearby water, building and flagpole on promontory across water].
14. [group of buildings at St. Michael 's?, including church and gravesites in foreground, flag on pole, two-masted ship in water, treeless hill on opposite shore (left), and large mountains in distance on right].

15. St. Michael's [distant view from water of group of buildings (including church with onion tower and flagpole) and numbers of tents along water's edge, low treeless hills behind]. 2.25x2.75 *neg.*
16. Trading camp near St. Michael 's [view of eight tents, one striped, by water's edge below bushy slope: 3 kayaks and 2 larger boats on beach, one person walking along shore, another stooping near tent], 2.25x2.75 *neg.*
17. Wharf at Ounalaska [now, "Unalaska": buildings and construction? on beach, wharf with three-masted steamer (BEAR?) docked, treeless hills behind].
18. Ounalaska [long row of huts, houses, church & other buildings along shore at base of partly-snowcapped mountains: view from water], 2.25x2.75 *neg.*
19. Ounalaska [twin rows of houses, church top in middle distance, children playing on left, mountains rising behind and to left],. 2.25x2.75 *neps.*
20. [angled view of town in valley with water next to town, between mountains, stream on other side of town]. 2.25x2.75 *neg.*
21. Ounalaska #12 [close-up of several wood houses, with church on right, some water in foreground, mountains behind], 2.25x2.75 *neg.*
22. Barabara. Ounalaska, Rufe's Place, [sixteen people and one dog posed outside cabin with sod roof and underground cache?, kayak in foreground, grassy slopes, treeless hill behind left], 2 *neps.*
23. Ounalaska [view from water of row of houses and buildings along beach, with treeless hills behind and partly-snowclad mountain left rear].
24. [curve of beach line leads to village along shore, treeless hills and mountains behind, water in front].
25. Ounalaska - winter [view from water of dock and buildings along water's edge, snow-covered treeless hills and mountains behind].
26. Sealers seized by U.S.R. Cutters in Behring's Sea [three 2-masted ships beached along shore, water foreground, treeless mountains behind].
27. Unalaska [5 multi-masted vessels side-by-side at wharf, most with smokestacks-two buildings at right end of wharf, several skiffs and stacks of supplies near wharf; low treeless hills behind, partly snow-clad mountain distant].

28. Unalaska [double row of frame houses, with clotheslines and fish-drying lines?, water and partly snow-clad mountains distant]. *No neg.*
29. Unga [foreground of simple crosses on gentle rolling treeless hills, town in middle distance surrounding low hill on right, harbor beyond with one ship? at anchor, rocky promontory encloses harbor from right]. c. 1910?
30. Civilized Indian of the Yukon River [native man stands posed on deck of ship?, w/clasped hands, wearing Western clothes, flat round cap].
31. Eskimo Woman - St. Lawrence Island [native woman with pigtailed, dressed in parka, bloused leggings & mukluks, stands in front of vertical white columns of wood or whalebone?; the columns are topped with sod].
32. "Tar-tar'-ock." Guide and Interpreter for Lieut. Cantwell, summer of 1885 [mustachioed native stands with hands at sides, dressed in light parka, leggings, blouse & mukluks, in front of conical tent, dogsled runners on left].
33. Eskimo men wearing lip ornaments [two men face camera in head-and-shoulders view: one with a fur-side parka, one with a skin-side parka, one holds barbed harpoon or fishing spear with line to barb, both with plugs apparently drilled through the lower left corners of their mouths (below lip), one plug of ivory?].
- 33A. An Eskimo Couple seen at Cape Lisburne, Alaska [head and shoulders view of man and woman wearing striped cloth garments with buttons (woman's is hooded): man has plugs (2), one through the lower corner of his mouth on each side].
34. Cape Navarin (Siberia) natives [group of about 30 natives, men, women, and children (several of the children on adults' shoulders) in parkas, standing posed, but looking suspiciously? to the left].
35. Indian Trading and Fishing Party moving along the Alaskan Coast [about 21 native men and women in oomiak or large boat, several paddling, pulling a skiff along; there are several floats or air bladders evident and supplies are in the boat].
36. Indian Trading Boats alongside U.S. Str. "BEAR," Kotzebue Sound. Alaska [at least six native boats are gathered alongside the davits of a large vessel, a lifeboat? and a power skiff or launch are also evident; perhaps 30-40 natives are on the various vessels and two Caucasian males in the launch].

37. Eskimo Grave [whalebone and driftwood platform stands on flat land, several other decaying platforms or vertical supports for platforms also evident].
38. Eskimo Grave, Hotham Inlet [driftwood platform on flat tundra holds cloth-wrapped object].
39. Eskimo Graves, Point Hope, Alaska [driftwood and whalebone platforms holds skeleton; vertical supports from other decayed platforms are visible as are five skulls on the flat ground] (#50).
40. Remains of an Eskimo family who perished from starvation near Cape Thompson, Alaska [at least three skulls and strewn bones lie scattered on grassy slope with beach and water in background: bones are inside circle of vertical twigs].
41. Native Houses at Plover Bay, Siberia [at least 4 houses visible: they are skin-covered over wooden frames, with roofs sloping to rear, and all walls sloping slightly inward so roof is smaller than floor- adults, children, and dogs walk along flat rocky ground near houses: distant mountains on right].
42. Portion of Eskimo Village Pt. Hope, Alaska [several underground houses are surrounded by bones and/or driftwood; there are drying racks above the houses with skins, brackets, and fish? drying; some materials are stored on platforms in the air also; grass and sandy ground, no background (white)].
43. Indian Village, Pt. Belcher, Al. [similar to #42, except ladders are visible to drying racks/caches, the houses are somewhat more aboveground, and there is a dog in the foreground].
44. Eskimo Summer village at Point Belcher, Alaska [ten tents visible on flat land (ocean in distance left); tents are generally either conical or rounded, though one may be triangular: several drying racks or caches of driftwood are visible, as are two dogsleds, perhaps ten people (some in native dress and some in Western garb), and some unident-ified supplies at far left]. 2 negs.
45. Winter House, Pt. Belcher, Alaska [driftwood lines entrance to sod-covered house with hatch-cover? doors; ladder leads from back to two-story cache, some of whose vertical supports are quite tall poles; there appear to be two barrels in the distance and two multi-masted vessels on the left horizon].
46. Eskimo Dogs [two Malemutes chained to ground- one strains at leash].

47. Eskimo Dogs [adult Malemute and pup lie on grass, facing each other, sticks form a low pyramid behind (potassium ferrocyanide used to lighten pup? or else excessive dodging)]. *No neg.*
48. Whaling station near Pt. Barrow [2 Western men and an Eskimo couple look at walled 2-story structure topped by upside-down kayak; in front of the tower is a flagpole from which a dark flag with single five-pointed star flies; behind the tower is a large, low wood building with gently sloping roof; there is a small shed to the right front and another to left rear of the central tower and building].
49. King's Island - Showing Village [view from water of steep rocky, snowy cliffs, with dwellings built on the nearly vertical walls, using poles for vertical supports].
50. [House and several cabins/shed among mounds on near shore of harbor; two-masted ship and dinghy at anchor in water, partly snow-covered tundra beyond]. *No neg.*
51. [Small cluster of houses at base of partly snowy hills; view from water is partly obstructed by another hill or island in front of the town].
[Note from Carol Smith: Unga, Unga Island, Alaska, ca. 1885] *No neg.*
52. [Row of buildings at base of snow-covered mountain begins with sod-covered church topped with unusual cross (no dome or tower) and small open roofed structure with crosses top and in front; other buildings are cabins, houses, and sheds] *No neg.*
53. [View from water of row of buildings on shoreline in front of snow-covered hills, mountains to right; appears to be front view of buildings in #52]. *No neg.*
54. Belkofsky [distant view from water of group of buildings below tall ridge or mountain range: summer scene]. *2 negs.*
55. Mount Pabyloff, Alaska ["Mt. Pavlov?"; view from water of several snow-covered volcanic mountains (perfect conical sloping sides); no snow lower elevations]. *No neg.*
56. Walrus Island mst ind (???) [two low rocky islands, one with seagulls and cormorants perched along ridge, water in front and behind].
57. Cape Navarius, Siberia [view from water of large rocky, partly snow-clad promontory mountains and hills to left, open water to right past separate rock].

58. Residence and School House. Ounalaska [frame house, building, and shed, all behind picket fence; hills in background on left].
59. [view from hillside of town along banks of a channel, hills and mountain opposite, mountains distant; similar to #20].
60. Ounalaska, - East end [winter view from opposite shore of channel, town along other side shoreline, snowy mountains behind].
61. Dwellings made from walrus skins [Eskimo houses, 1890's ca.] *No neg.*
62. Burying on the low ground northern Alaska to be away from the dogs. [Probably Point Hope.] *No neg.*
63. Native village northern Alaska, with cemetery and drifted wood for fuel piled up. U.S.A. Reindeer Station, Port Clarence. [Alaska 1890's ca.] *No neg.*
64. Eskimo girls, St. L. I. [St. Lawrence Island, 1890's ca.] *No neg.*
65. Game of tossing a woman in a walrus skin. St. L. I. [St. Lawrence Island, 1890's ca.] *No neg.*
66. Wandering Esquimeaux (sic) of a camp at Cape Beaufort. [1890's ca.] *No neg.*
67. An Arctic Steam whaler. *No neg.*
68. Indian dog sled [probably Eskimo, 1890's ca.] *No neg.*
69. Collection of Eskimo pipes. *No neg.*
70. Natives of Hotham Inlet [Alaska.] *No neg.*
71. Winter Houses - St. Lawrence I. [Eskimo-dwellings, 1890's ca.] *No neg.*
72. Indian (sic) Trading Party on the ice near East Cape, Siberia. [Eskimos.] *No neg.*
73. Indian (sic) Group, taken near Icy Cape, Alaska [Eskimos.] *No neg.*
74. "Warpuco" and "Robinson" Siberian Coast Indians (sic). [Eskimos.] *No neg.*
75. Ounalaska (sic) Back of Village. [Unalaska.]
76. Aleuts [Native peoples in skin kayaks.]

77. Sam. [Samuel J. Call sitting in chair playing guitar in his apartment at Paso Robles, California]. M. Fischer, El Paso de Robles Gallery. From the Michael Booth Sanson collection.