

Alaska State Library  
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

**Ushanoff, Vasily Vasillevich, Photographer**

**Vasily Ushanoff Photograph Collection, 1981  
Nikolaevsk, Alaska: the Old Believers community**

**PCA 188**

1 box  
22 color slides

**ACQUISITION:** Dr. Ushanoff made available these 22 transparencies after a 1981 visit to Nikolaevsk, Alaska. Acc. No. 1981-016.

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

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

**PROCESSING:** Slides are housed in acid-free slide holders. See MS 77 and PCA 149 for other Russian America materials and translations.

## BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Vasily Vasillevich Ushanoff was born Feb. 7, 1904, in Manchuria, China where his father was station master on the Eastern Chinese railroad. He graduated from a Russian high school in Harbin, boarded a Japanese ship, and landed in Seattle in 1922. He earned his way as a lumberjack until he entered dental school at the University of California, San Francisco and practiced dentistry for over 30 years in Hollywood. Following his retirement he began a concentrated study of Russian Alaska. Ten years after retiring he began to paint and completed 130 paintings before his death in 1989. His paintings portray significant events in the history of Russian America. His work also included articles for publication, manuscript books and translation of Russian works into English. Dr. Ushanoff died in 1989. Manuscripts form a separate collection, MS 77; transparencies of his paintings may be found in PCA 149.

## SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE

Dr. Ushanoff and Mrs. Ashia Doll (Dogopolov) visited Nikolaevsk on the Kenai Peninsula in August, 1981 during their trip to Alaska for the dedication of the Dolgopolov Collection. Mrs. Doll and Dr. Ushanoff looked forward to visiting Nikolaevsk as they were familiar with the area from which the Old Believers had come. Dr. Ushanoff photographed the buildings and people, the Old Believers community, of Nikolaevsk, Alaska, and made available these twenty-two 35 mm color transparencies. An account of his visit to the village describing their way of life is also included.

## INVENTORY

- 1 The street in Nikolaevsk toward church and turn [Buildings on either side of graveled street.]
- 2 Street in an opposite direction [Houses on either side of graveled street.]
- 3 School under construction [Two story structure to left of present school.]
- 4 [Close-up view of school being built and present school.]
- 5 Mrs. Kulagin [Kalugin] and her vegetable plot [Woman standing between garden rows wearing white blouse, colored skirt, apron and kerchief.]
- 6 Mrs. Kulagin's [Kalugin's] vegetable garden [Trees beyond garden.]
- 7 A teenager, Julagin's [Kalugin's] daughter [Full length view of girl in garden.]
- 8 [Kulagin's [Kalugin's] daughter leaning on garden fence.]
- 9 Kulagin's [Kalugin's] wash drying in the sun [Clothes on lines above plants in garden.]
- 10 [Chickens and a fishing net on the racks open for chickens in front of wooden building.]

- 11 An enclosure for geese [Geese in picket-fenced yard.]
- 12 [Sixteen year old girl and two children with mother and older child looking at baby on couch]
- 13 Mr. Prokhov Martushev's home [Exterior view showing decorated wooden panels around windows.]
- 14 Mrs. Galina Martusheva with her child [Full-length portrait of woman holding young child; house beyond.]
- 15 [Flower bed with yellow flowers and rock along edges - Mrs. Martusheva's yard.]
- 16 [Adults and children standing near a white picket fence.]
- 17 [Close-up of 2 young girls in front of a link fence; house beyond.]
- 18 [Row of four young girls posed for the camera.]
- 19 [Two children playing in the street.]
- 20 Young boys outside fence surrounding their church [White building in background; babushka (grandmother) with back to camera.]
- 21 [Group of seven children in garden path; buildings beyond.]
- 22 Mrs. Dolgopolov and Mrs. Martushev [Mrs. Dolgopolov on left; Mrs. Martushev holding her child on right; house beyond.]