

Alaska State Library
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

Kepner / Crane Family, Collectors

Kepner/Crane Photograph Collection, ca. 1900

PCA 260

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ACQUISITION: The Kepner/Crane family papers and photographs were transferred from the Alaska State Museum to the Historical Library Oct. 8, 1985. Manuscripts form a separate collection, MS 95.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Alfred Kepner came to Alaska in 1895 to work for the North American Transportation and Trading Co. (NAT&T). Nora Kepner, Alfred's sister, and John Edward Crane were married in 1896, and came to Circle City, Alaska in 1897 where Crane was to manage the new trading post established by the NAT&T. He also served as U.S. Commissioner for the territory of Circle City, Birch Creek and surrounding country. Late in 1899, he was transferred to St. Michael to manage the NAT&T store. In the spring of 1900, Crane and Nora went to Nome where he opened his own mercantile store. By 1906, they had left Alaska and were stopping at the Palace Hotel in San Francisco when the earthquake razed the city. Alfred Kepner remained in Alaska working for NAT&T and practicing law in Circle City, Nome and Candle, Alaska. [*Information from Otilie Kepner Markholt, niece of Nora Kepner Crane and daughter of Alfred S. Kepner and "Alaska Sources," Bradbury & Hales, 2001. More extensive biographical information may be found at MS 95.*]

INVENTORY

- 1 [Full length portrait of woman and man believed to be Mrs. John E. Crane and her brother Alfred Kepner; both dressed in fur parkas. At Circle City (?) 1898-1899.]
- 2 [Eskimo woman, with child on lap, seated on beach; umiak on side behind her; clothes hanging in boat; at Nome.] Dobbs photo.
- 3 [Waterfront, Nome; stores beyond surf.]
- 4 [Snake River (?), Nome, center; buildings on either side; horse-drawn wagons on narrow bridge.]
- 5 [Eskimo family of four beside store.]
- 6 Group of Eskimos in umiak; three men with oars.]
- 7 [Ice floes in choppy water.]
- 8 [Three women and two men in canoe which is partly hidden by an iceberg; Nome (?) in background.]
- 9 [Steamer SARAH unloading at Eagle in 1898 or 1899; houses on bluff, left.]
- 10 Steamer SARAH and crowd, including Nora Kepner Crane probably at Circle City about 1898 [seven men on dock with Nora Crane].
- 11 Group of men at Circle City--1898 or 1899 [standing in front of U.S. Marshall's (?) office].
- 12 NAT&T "mess hall" at Circle City -- about 1898 [exterior view of North American Transportation and Trading Co. building]. Dark image.
- 13 [Unidentified steamship in open water.]
- 14 [Eskimo woman beside log building.] Fading image.
- 15 [Lumber on dock with boats in water beyond dock.] Fading image.
- 16 North Am. T&T [North American Transportation & Trading Co.] building at Circle City ca. 1898-1899 [front of log building covered with tin siding; U.S. Marshall's office, left].
- 17 Nulato [and] woodpiles for steamers [steamer, left; wood piles and buildings, right].

- 18 Lower Ramparts [river steamer, right; log buildings, left; men near lumber pile, center].
- 19 St. Michaels [St. Michael tents and buildings along shore]. Fading image.
- 20 Bird's-eye of Unalaska [view from above with houses right and center; Russian Orthodox Church, left center; dock, left].
- 21 Dawson [view from hill on opposite side of river]. T.P. Andrews (San Francisco) photo. Laminated circuit photo.