

**Alaska State Library
Historical Collections**

Guide to Collection

Alaska Photo Company

Alaska Photo Company Photograph Collection, ca. 1890s

PCA 288

33 photographs, b&w

Revised: 7/11/2005

ACQUISITION: Esther M. Crofts and Mr. and Mrs. Donald Urban donated the collection March 3, 1987. Mr. Urban's uncle, John Urban, collected the views and may have been associated with the Alaska Photo Company. (Acc. No. 1987-016.)

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

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

PROCESSING: The studio mounted photographs, 8 x 10 inch and smaller, are individually sleeved in Mylar and housed in acid neutral folders.

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

John Urban was born in 1882 and came to Alaska as a youth, with his family during the gold rush. In later years, he was a photographer for a railway, possibly the White Pass and Yukon Railroad, and lived in Skagway in the late 1890's. It is not known whether he worked for Alaska Photo Co. during his life. The Alaska Photo Company had a studio in Douglas in 1897, but its time of operation is unknown.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE:

The studio-mounted photographs in this collection are from the Alaska Photo Company, which operated a studio in Douglas, Alaska, in 1897. Individual photographers are not identified. Images include Douglas, Sitka, Ft. Wrangel (Wrangell), scenics, ships, people, and Alaska Native culture. The majority of the original photographs are mounted on boards and many are badly faded.

INVENTORY

1. The "AL-KI" . . . at new Douglas warf [wharf], June 13, 1897. [View from shore].
2. [St. Ann's Hospital, Douglas; stumps in foreground. Ca. 1890 's?]
3. [J. M. James store, Douglas; people on boardwalk in front. Ca. 1890's?]
4. "Treadwell" Looking North, S.S. MEXICO at Dock [Treadwell Mine buildings in the foreground]. Faded
5. Treadwell [view over mine buildings; superintendent's house at right]. Faded
6. Electric Lighting Plant, A.M.G.M. Co., Douglas Id., Alaska. Photo by Electric Light [three men near machinery inside plant]. Faded
7. Juneau [winter view of city and harbor, ca. 1890]. Faded
8. Juneau [overall view from Douglas Island, ca. 1900]. Faded
9. Juneau, Alaska [overall view of harbor; first courthouse at left].
10. Juneau [boats in harbor and docks on waterfront]. Faded
11. Log Cabin Church, Juneau [exterior view]. Faded

12. [Altar area inside the Log Cabin Church in Juneau.]
13. Gastinaux Channell [Gastineau Channel] between Juneau and Douglas [docks on shore at left, icebergs in the foreground, ca. 1897].
14. Iceberg at Juneau [group of five people on large iceberg in harbor].
15. [Two-story building at Sitka with frog totem in foreground.]
16. Sitka [view from water; Baranof's Castle on hill at left].
17. Sitka [from the water; four people in boat in foreground].
18. Sitka [overall view from Castle Hill].
19. Interior Greek Church, Sitka [altar of St. Michael's Cathedral].
20. "The QUEEN" at the Sitka Harbor [looking over dock toward islands]. (No. 70C)
21. Fort Wrangle [Ft. Wrangell; view across water from brushy shore].
22. Totem Poles, Fort Wrangle [(sic) three men with logs in front of Chief Shakes' house and totems].
23. [Chief Kadashan's house and totems, Wrangell.]
24. Takou Glacier [Taku Glacier visible in background, behind large iceberg].
25. Iceberg near Takou Inlet [fourteen people posed on iceberg, Taku Inlet]. Faded
26. [Twenty-three people on a beached iceberg.]
27. [Studio portrait of three Alaska Indian women; small totemic figures at left, basket on floor in front.]
28. Indian Curios, Sitka [display of furs, boxes, totems, paddles, etc.].
29. [Totem pole and rock display against studio backdrop.]
30. CITY OF SEATTLE [ship] from the Douglas Wharf [side view, in Gastineau Channel]. Faded
31. CITY OF TOPEKA [side view of ship at dock]. Faded

32. S.S. VICTORIAN at Juneau [ship at dock, side view].
33. Skagway [looking down wharf on mudflats towards town]. Faded