

Alaska State Library  
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

Keith, Edwin S., 1872-1946

Edwin S. Keith Photograph Collection, ca. 1898 - 1936

PCA 366

1 album (21 photographs, b&w)  
2 loose photographs (b&w)

Processed: Dec. 1995  
By: Kay Shelton  
India Spartz

**ACQUISITION:** Mrs. Ada F. Keith of Port Angeles, Washington donated the collection in 1995 (Accession 1995-049).

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

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

**PROCESSING:** The photographs in this collection are numbered. An item-level inventory is available. See Master Files for artifacts transferred to the Alaska State Museum. A published pamphlet received with the collection, *The Alaska Cook Book and Map, Mining Laws... and Useful Hints* (1898) was placed in Alaskana Collection (TX 715.A38 1898).

### Biographical Note

Edwin Spear Keith was born December 5, 1872 in Hamilton, New York and traveled over the Chilkoot Trail to Dawson in 1898. He spent three years in Alaska, in Ruby, Kotzebue and Nome. During those three years he travelled to Seattle to buy supplies needed in Nome. After buying the supplies, he had \$3.00 left over, with which he bought newspapers (all the same date) at 3 cents apiece. When he returned to Nome he sold them as fast as he could hand them over – at \$1.00 a piece. He said he was the first newsboy in Nome.

While in Nome between 1899-1901 he worked as a storekeeper for Thornton and Keith (1900) and also weighed gold dust. He returned to the Seattle area in 1901, married Miss Ada Violet Fimple in 1928, and died on June 26, 1946.

### Scope and Contents Note

This hand-made photograph album titled “Nome, 1900” was made by Vivian Leeterman or Leederman and given to Keith in 1900. The photographs are from Nome, ca. 1898 to 1900, with the exception of one image of the Chilkoot Pass and a formal portrait of Mr. Keith dated 1936. Scenes of Nome’s 1900 flood, Nome ‘sourdoughs’ and several beach mining images are included. The collection includes a few Hegg photographs and several from Hammond Photo on Steadman Ave., Nome.

### Inventory

- 1 Nome 1900. Social night. First Prespt [Presbyterian] Church. Miss McKinney sang. Preacher front and center.
- 2 Anvil Rock, Nome Alaska.
- 3 The way we looked after the first storm. What was left of the store after the flood September 14, 1900.
- 4 Dogs catching fish on the beach, Nome, Alaska. E.A. Hegg.
- 5 At the concert given by Miss McKinney and Mrs. Blurette. Aug. 2, 1900. Nome’s “400” were present.
- 6 Our crowd of the “Sour Doughs.” Taken Sept. 21, 1901. Nome, Alaska.

- 7 Before. Taken May 21<sup>st</sup> 1900. [Men, one woman and sled dogs in front of tents on (Nome?) street. Thornton & Keith General Merchandise in background.]
- 8 After. [Series of 6 images from] Hammond Photo, Steadman Ave. Nome, Alaska: Night from spit. – Tundra, beach and sea. July 4<sup>th</sup>, '00. – What was First St. – Gasoline sluicing plant at work on the beach. Aug [?]. – The Skookum, her last voyage. – The beach before the great storm Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>, 00.
- 9 After the storm, Sept. 12, 1900.
- 10 Waiting for the mail at the Post Office, Spring, 1900.
- 11 Raindeer [reindeer] in charge of the Lapp's. Herd of raindeer [reindeer] at Port Clarins, Alaska. Copyright 1900. E.A. Hegg.
- 12 Scenes of the flood. [Series of 6 photographs from] Hammond Photo, Steadman Ave. Nome, Alaska: Snake River after the flood. – Snake River at night before the Great Storm. – Catherine Suden [?]. One of many. -- Rockers in the surf. July, 00. – Main St. Nome, July 4<sup>th</sup>, 00. – Front St. meals coming down. Piece of Front St.
- 13 Rocking on the beach. Major Roth [?] in the foreground. July 1899.
- 14 The rescue of a horse from drowning in Nome mud.
- 15 The beach at Nome.
- 16 The only "cannibal" of Alaska, 1900. "Puss."
- 17 The first ladies in Nome and their restaurant, 1899. Paddy Ryan – the pugalist -- sits with his hat off.
- 18 The beginning of Nome near Claflin's Store. Front Street, Spring of '99.
- 19 Looking up Snake River from Claflin's. Spring of 1900.
- 21 Snake River showing the spit after the storm and wreckage. Sept. 1900
- 22 [Edwin Spear Keith] 1936. [Portrait in studio mount]
- 23 Summit of Chilcoot Pass. 1898 Chilcoot Trail [Chilkoot]. On way to Alaska.