

Alaska State Library
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

Simson, Aaron Taylor & William Albert, Collectors

Aaron S. and William A. Simson Photograph Collection, ca. 1892-1905

PCA 382

1 box (25 images)
0.5 cu. ft.

Processed: May 1998
By: India Spartz
Inventory: L. Spear, 12/99

ACQUISITION: Peter Corey of the Sheldon Jackson Museum facilitated the acquisition of this collection, donated by Mrs. Grace Alexander, granddaughter of Aaron Taylor Simson on Jan. 20, 1998 (Acc. No. 1998-003).

ACCESS: The images 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 are studio-mounted. An item-level inventory is available. Many of the images have faded.

Biographical Note

Aaron Taylor Simson was born in Rayne Township, Pennsylvania in 1848. His date of arrival in Alaska is unknown. However, he and his first wife, Maggie, worked at the Indian Training School at Sitka until 1894. Shortly afterward, Maggie died and Simson returned to Pennsylvania. He remarried Alma Hamill and had two children, including the donor's father, William Albert Simson (deceased 1989). Aaron Simson collected artifacts and photographs while in Alaska; he died in Pennsylvania on May 31, 1920. Mrs. Alexander donated the remaining artifacts to the Sheldon Jackson Museum at Sitka, Alaska.

Scope and Contents Note

The collection includes Southeast Alaska, the Sitka mission school and students. Locations are, primarily, Juneau and Sitka, views by Moosbauer, Reuben Albertstone, F. Jay Haynes and Y. Eaton of Native Photo. The photographs were taken primarily between 1890-1905.

Inventory of Photographs

Photos:

- 1 [Verso] Coronet band Mission Training School, Sitka Alaska (Albertstone and Moosbauer)
- 2 [Verso] Interior Greek Catholic[church], Sitka, Alaska (Albertstone)
- 3 [Verso] Princess Tom and Indian Girl in Dancing Costume, Sitka Alaska (Reuben Alberstone)
- 4 [Verso] Boys and girls at Mission Training School, Sitka, Alaska (Reuben Albertstone)
- 5 [Verso] Girls in Mission Training, Sitka, Alaska (Reuben Albertstone)
- 6 [Verso] A.T. Simson, Healy Wolf (Albertstone and Moosbauer)
- 7 [Verso] A.T.Simson, Healy Wolf, Geo. Fredrick, L.Moosbauer, Sitka, Alaska (Albertstone and Moosbauer)
- 8 [Verso] A.T. Simson, Geo. Fredrick, L. Moosbauer, Healy Wolf, Sitka, Alaska (Albertstone and Moosbauer)
- 9 [Verso] Interior of shoe shop, Mission Training School, Sitka, Alaska (Albertstone and Moosbauer) [A.T. Simson, Right Rear]
- 10 [Verso] Totem Poles, Ft. Wrangle [Wrangell], Alaska (F. Jay Haynes)
- 11 [Verso] Totem Poles, Ft. Wrangle [Wrangell], Alaska (F. Jay Haynes)
- 12 [Verso] Sitka, looking up Lincoln St. (F. Jay Haynes)
- 13 [Verso] Tredwell [Treadwell] Mines, Douglas Island, Alaska (F. Jay Haynes)

- 14 [Verso] Juneau, Alaska (F. Jay Haynes)
- 15 [Verso] Mission Hospital
- 16 [Verso] Girls in Trining School, Sitka Alaska
- 17 [Verso] Bridge over Indian River, Sitka
- 18 Dr. Jackson's Museum, Sitka, Alaska
- 19 [Verso] Steamer *George W. Elder* at Sitka Harbor, Alaska (Y. Eaton, Native Photo, Sitka, Alaska)
- 20 [Verso] Mission Training School, Sitka, Alaska
- 21 [Verso] Indian Town, Sitka
- 22 Sitka Alaska and Three Sister Mts.
- 23 Government Buildings, Sitka Bay
- 24 [Verso] Sitka, Alaska
- 25 [Verso] (Louis Moosbauer, Sitka, Alaska)