

**Alaska State Library
Historical Collections**

Guide to Collection

Nowell Family

Nowell Family Photograph Collection, ca. 1880-1950

PCA 402

54 photographs

Processed: December 1999
By: Mary Claire Harris
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ONLINE ACCESS: Partial Collection

http://vilda.alaska.edu/cdm/search/collection/cdmg21/searchterm/ASL-P402-*/order/nosort

ACQUISITION: The collection was donated in September 1999 by J. Roger Nowell and Robert J. Curry.

ACCESS: The photographs 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: Photographs are numbered and sleeved in Mylar.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

The Nowells were a mining family active on Douglas Island, Gold Creek, Sheep Creek, and at Berners Bay in the 1890's and early 1900's. Nowell Avenue in West Juneau is named for this family. Thomas S. Nowell was born in Massachusetts in 1832. He came to Alaska in 1885 and became one of the first mining men to settle in Juneau, joining his brothers George and Benjamin S. He was father to six sons including Willis and Frank.

Willis E. Nowell was an internationally known virtuoso violinist when he came to visit his father in Juneau at age 41. He abruptly switched careers and went into mining operations with his family. Later he entered the steamship business and was agent for the Alaska Steamship Company at Juneau for almost a quarter of a century. It should be noted he continued playing the violin delighting local audiences at special occasions throughout his time in Juneau.

Frank H. Nowell was first associated with mining on Douglas Island with his father around 1886. In 1900 he went to Nome to work for a mercantile company. It was in the Northwest region of Alaska that he turned to his hobby in photography and became a noted photographer. His photographic work forms a separate collection, PCA 48.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE

This collection is a Nowell family "album" spanning the years from ca. 1880 to 1950. Family members and others are identified whenever possible. Papers form a separate collection, MS 181.

INVENTORY

Folder 1: Photos:

- 1 Back row: brother Fredrick? [Nowell], Thomas' wife, Harriet C., adopted daughter of Thomas Nowell – Ethel Simms Nowell; Front row: T[homas] Nowell, Dorothy N[owell], daughter of Frank, Frances [R.] N[owell], daughter of Willis [born] 1902-3 Juneau, Frances [Eletta Newton] N[owell] wife of Willis, Willis E. N[owell Sr.], & Willis Everett Nowell, Jr. – born 7/1904, Juneau
- 2 Identification same as photo #1
- 3 Willis E. Nowell with violin – copy of tin type in London
- 4 Juneau, Alaska – taken midnight June 21, 1928

- 5 [Willis] Everett [Nowell Jr.], Thomas [S. Nowell], Frances [Eletta Newton Nowell] wife of Willis, Willis [E. Nowell Sr.], Frances [R. Nowell] daughter
- 6 [Unknown and]Willis [E. Nowell, Sr. – Evergreen Bowl area]
- 7 T[homas] S. Nowell, W[illis E.] Nowell, John Cobb, Frank Nowell, G[eorge] M. Nowell [Juneau – downtown street]
- 8 Willis E. Nowell [and unknown – Juneau]
- 9 Thomas S. Nowell
- 10 Thomas S. Nowell & Lydia Hamm, ca. 1880, Boston
- 11 Willis E. Nowell, Sr.
- 12 Frances [Eletta Newton] Nowell
- 13 Frances [Eletta] Newton Nowell married to Willis Nowell in S[an] F[rancisco] – children Willis Jr., 4 yrs and Frances, 6 years [ca.1909]
- 14 Willis E. Nowell, Sr.
- 15 Frances Nowell, daughter of Willis and Frances Nowell, granddaughter of Thomas S. Nowell, sister to Willis E. Nowell, B. 1902 or 1903
- 16 Willis Everett Nowell, Jr., son of Willis Nowell & Frances, grandson of Thomas Nowell, brother to Frances. B. 7/17/1905 in Juneau
- 17 Frances [Eletta Newton] Nowell
- 18 Willis E. Nowell, Sr.
- 19 Willis Everett Nowell, Jr., 6 years & sister, Frances R. Nowell, 8 yrs. [ca. 1911]
- 20 Bottom right: Willis Everett Nowell, Jr. & sister Frances R. Nowell. Other children unidentified.
- 21 Frances R. Nowell by Wickersham House, [Juneau]
- 22 Frances Nowell Curry [Frances R. Nowell] daughter of Willis Nowell (son of Thomas S. Nowell) 16 or 17 yrs. old ca. 1927
- 23-25 Frances R. Nowell

- 26 Frances [R.] Nowell with unidentified man
- 27 [Willis] Everett Nowell [Jr.]
- 28 Dick – Robert’s [Curry] brother
- 29 Robert J. Curry [husband of Frances R. Nowell]
- 30-36 Frances [R.] Nowell sponsor. Photo of the launching of the S.S. Alaska, Todd Dock, Tacoma, Washington, April 19, 1923
- 37 Frances [R. Nowell], Robert [Curry Jr.], Willis [Nowell, Sr.], grandfather to Robert
- 38 [Robert Curry Jr. and Willis Nowell Sr.] – Bobby-8 months old
- 39 [Robert Curry Jr.] & Frances [Eletta Newton Nowell] Sr. – upper Main St., [Juneau] ca 1930
- 40 Everett (Willis Jr.) & [Robert] Bob Curry
- 41 Emma [Elizabeth Helen Davis] and Frank Nowell
- 42 Frank Nowell’s wife, Emma
- 43 l to r: Willis [E. Nowell, Sr.], Dorothy [Nowell], Frank [Nowell], Frances [Eletta Newton Nowell], front: Robert [Curry, Jr.]
- 44 Frank Nowell and daughter Dorothy
- 45 Dorothy Nowell and friends
- 46 l to r: Willis [E. Nowell, Sr.], Robert J. Curry, Sr., Dorothy [Nowell] and Frank [Nowell]
- 47 Sisters, Helen Sjursen and Sarah Sjursen Nowell. Sarah is [Willis] Everett [Jr.]’s wife and Roger’s mother
- 48 Roger, Sylvia, & Philip [Nowell]
- 49 Back: Willis [E. Nowell, Sr.], Frances [Eletta Newton Nowell], Robert [Curry, Jr.], Front: Roger, Sylvia, & Philip [children of Sara & Willis Everett Nowell Jr.]

- 50 Back row: "Doc" Helling, [Dorothy's husband], Frank Nowell, Willis Everett [Nowell] Jr.; middle row: Dorothy [Nowell Helling], Raymond [Helling] (Doc's son), Sara [Nowell] (Roger's mother), R[obert] [C]urry, [Jr.]; Front row: Sylvia (Roger's sister) and Phillip (Roger's brother)
- 51 Phillip [Nowell], Robert [Curry Jr.], Frank [Nowell]
- 52 [Robert] Bobby [Curry Jr.] and Frank [Nowell], 1939
- 53 Frances [Eletta Newton Nowell] with unidentified baby
- 54 Willis [E. Nowell, Sr.] and Frances [Eletta Newton Nowell] in front of Willis's home in Edmonds, [WA]

Folder 2: Duplicates

Folder 3: Photocopies, some include notations

GENEALOGICAL NOTE

Key: --child
\=spouse

--George Nowell (? –1909)
 --Thomas S. Nowell (1833-1942)
 \<=Lydia Hamm
 --Frederick D. Nowell
 --Willis E. Nowell (1859-1942)
 \<=Frances Eletta Newton (1873- ?)
 --Roger C. Nowell
 --Frances R. Nowell (1903-1929)
 \<=Robert James Curry
 --Robert J. Curry, Jr.
 --Willis Everett Nowell, Jr. (1905-1980)
 \<=Sarah Sjursen
 --J. Roger Nowell
 --Sylvia Nowell
 --Phillip Nowell
 --Frank H. Nowell (1864-1950)
 \<=Elizabeth ‘Emma’ Helen Davis
 --Dorothy Nowell (ca.1898- ?)
 \<=”Doc” Helling
 --Raymond Helling
 --Arthur Nowell (1866-1904)
 --George M. Nowell
 \<= ? Ames
 \<=Harriet C.
 --Ethel Sims (adopted by Thomas S.)