

Alaska State Library
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

Shattuck, Mrs. Allen (Agnes Swineford), 1879-1973, Collector

**Album: Cruise to Alaska aboard the *U.S.S. Thetis*, 1887,
and other Alaska scenes, through 1920**

PCA 424

1 album (41 photographs)

Processed by: Laura Wood
November 2001

ACQUISITION: The album was created by Mrs. Swineford (Wilhelmina "Minnie") and donated by her daughter Agnes (Acc. No. 2001-091). Other Shattuck/Swineford collections include MS 150 and PCA 27.

ACCESS: The album is available for viewing, however, the photographs 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 have been individually numbered. Descriptions are taken from captions on the photographs or album pages. Supplied information indicated by brackets. The photographer's name, when noted, is given at the end of the description.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Agnes Swineford was born in Cleveland, OH, Oct. 23, 1879. Her mother, Mrs. Wilhelmina ("Minnie") Smith, later married Alfred P. Swineford. They came to Alaska in 1886, when Alfred Swineford was appointed first resident Governor of Alaska. Agnes lived in Sitka and Ketchikan until 1901, then married Allen Shattuck of Juneau. She lived in Juneau until his death in 1960. Agnes died in San Rafael, California, March 15, 1973. [From: *Juneau Empire*, 3/26/1973, MS 150.]

HISTORICAL NOTE

The *Thetis*, a three-masted, wooden-hulled steamer was acquired by the U.S. Navy in 1884 to search for Lt. Adolphus W. Greely's polar exploration party. In 1887, the *Thetis* sailed to Alaska and Gov. Alfred P. and "Minnie" Swineford were invited on a short cruise to visit southeast Alaskan villages. In May, 1888, Gov. Swineford accompanied a more extensive voyage of the *Thetis* (PCA 27), lasting four months and five days, exploring 10,000 miles of Alaskan coastline from Sitka to Point Barrow. It joined with the Revenue Cutter *Bear* to search for the missing schooner, the *Jane Grey*. The *Thetis* was transferred to the Revenue Cutter Service in 1899 to transport Siberian reindeer to Alaska. It served under the American flag for 32 years before becoming a sealer for the next 34 years. In 1950, the *Thetis* was grounded outside of St. John's, Newfoundland where it finally broke up.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE

The album was created by Agnes Shattuck's mother, "Minnie" Swineford, for her grandson, Allen Shattuck (Jr.), one of Agnes' three children, who died at age 17 of spinal meningitis or encephalitis. (DeArmond, R.N., *Shattuck & Grummet, Inc., a History*, 1991).

Most of the album documents a trip taken by Gov. and Mrs. Alfred P. Swineford aboard the U.S.S. *Thetis* during the summer of 1887. The photographs (41) include scenes of Yakutat, Nushagak, Unalaska, Kodiak, Alaska Native villages, Cape Prince of Wales Is. and others. Some of the photographs were taken by J.E. Thwaites and collected by Mrs. Swineford. The final page of the album contains a poem titled "Other Woman in Alaska," written by Ulu M. Thompson.

INVENTORY

1. Valdez Harbor.
2. "A.C" Point, Iliamna Bay, Alaska.
3. Valdes [Valdez] Dock, Valdez Harbor, Alaska.
4. Port Graham, Alaska. Thwaites.
5. Eyak Lake, Cordova, Alaska.
6. Karlak Straits, Kodiak, Alaska. Thwaites.

7. Chignik, Alaska. Thwaites.
8. Russian Church, Kodiak, Alaska. Thwaites.
9. Chignik, Alaska. Thwaites.
10. Unalaska, Alaska. Thwaites.
11. Pictures [numbered 11-32] taken summer of '87 - when on board *U.S.S. 'Thetis'* - as far north as Whale Bay, Alaska. Natives of [?chek], Alaska.
12. Group of natives, Yakutat, Alaska.
13. Camp Hard-a-Ground.
14. Natives and native house - Kenai, Alaska.
15. Unalaska, Alaska.
16. Esquimaux settlement - Cape Pr. [Prince] of Wales.
17. King's Island.
18. Natives of King's Island.
19. Nushagak -1887.
20. Most-northerly habitation on continent, Point Barrow.
21. Killing seal on St. Paul's Island.
22. Mining coal on beach-Arctic Ocean.
23. Oomiak [umiak]-converted into tent.
24. An Aleut barrabara.
25. Natives of Cook's Inlet.
26. Eskimos killing birds. [photo of drawing]
27. Captain and crew of Arctic Whaler, rescued by *U.S.S. Thetis*.
28. A double-hatch bidarka.
29. Aurora Borealis.
30. Arctic Eskimos.
31. Native women in canoe, Alaska.
32. "Too big for the basket." [unidentified man with fish]
33. Native church (Greek). [remainder of caption illegible]. Thwaites.
34. Russian church, Unalaska. [interior view, altar] Thwaites.
35. *S.S. Perry, R.C.S.* Unalaska, Alaska. Thwaites.
36. [Ships, numbered] 1. *Nitto Maru*. 2. *Kiowa Tokiyo* [Tokyo]. 3. *S.S. Manning R.C.S.* Thwaites.

37. Unalaska, Alaska. [Sailors and crowd gathered on dock; ships in harbor] Thwaites.
38. *U.S.S. Tahoma*, R.C.S. Shishaldon [Shishaldin] Volcano, Alaska. Thwaites.
39. Ship, *Star of Alaska*, entering Chignik Bay, Alaska. Thwaites.
40. *S.S. Manning* and *S.S. McCulloch*, U.S.R.C.S. Unalaska, Aug. 1907. Thwaites.
41. Brown bear cubs, Kodiak, Alaska. Thwaites.
42. [poem] "Other woman in Alaska," by Ulu M. Thompson.