

**Alaska State Library  
Historical Collections**

Guide to Collection

**Simeonoff, Helen J.**

**Helen J. Simeonoff Collection, 1778-2000 (bulk 1900-1963)**

**PCA 445**

115 images + genealogy.

Processed by: Gladi Kulp  
Dec. 2003

**ACQUISITION:** The Alaska State Library received the collection from Helen J. Simeonoff in 2003. Accession no. 2003-61.

**ACCESS:** The collection is available for viewing, however, the photographs may not be photocopied.

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**PROCESSING:** The images and genealogy were organized by Helen Simeonoff. She numbered and inventoried the photographs and housed in a notebook.

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Helen J. Simeonoff was born October 23, 1941 in Kodiak, Alaska to William Simeonoff, Jr. and Alexandra Knagin; both are of Sugpiaq-Russian descent. She was a legal litigation secretary for over 25 years working at major litigation firms in San Diego, California; Waukegan, Illinois and other cities in the U.S. In 1993 Helen left her position as a warrant data entry clerk for the Anchorage Police Department to become a full time self-employed watercolor artist focusing on the Sugpiaq culture of Kodiak and Afognak Islands. Her hobby when not painting is genealogy and photography. Helen Simeonoff currently lives in Anchorage.

## SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE

The photographs include family members of the Simeonoff, Ponomarev, and Knagin families with genealogy dating back to the Russian American Company in the early 1800's. Photographs were taken in and around Kodiak and also include Woody Island, Afognak, Eklutna, Ouzinkie, Port Lions, Kenai, and Uganik mostly from 1900 to the 1960's. A few photos were taken outside Alaska, including Washington, D.C., San Diego, and Albuquerque. Photos in the Chateau de Musee, Boulogne sur Mer, France were taken by Helen J. Simeonoff to document Sugpiaq masks collected by Louis Alphonse Pinart, 1872-1873, in Kodiak, Afognak, Katmai; and Unga.

## INVENTORY

1. 3 Sugpiaq men in 3 hole bidarka traveling from Woody Island to Kodiak; dock at Woody Island shows in lower left corner. Upper left corner shows part of Three Sisters Mountains behind City of Kodiak, Alaska. Photo about 1910.
2. Two Anglo females (school teachers?) and Peter Kewan; a Sugpiaq (in rear of bidarka) born in Afognak or Katmai area about 1873; died in Afognak area about 1921; killed by a bear. Photograph is taken about 1910 at "Aleut Town" beach near Graveyard Point in Afognak, Alaska. Peter Kewan's grandson: Peter Kewan lives in Port Lions, Alaska (permission granted by Peter Kewan to use photograph; verbal communication 11-25-2003).
3. Great grandfather of Helen Jane Simeonoff; Ivan Semenovich Semenov; Russian; born October 13, 1835; Kodiak, Alaska; died about 1897 in Kodiak. Retired soldier; 10th Squadron; 13th Russian Fleet. Ivan Semenov's father was Stefan Semenov (born about 1795; died on May 5, 1840 in Kodiak, Alaska) who was Russian American Company employee stationed at Fort Ross, California. Photograph taken about 1900 inside Kodiak, Alaska Russian Orthodox church.

4. Ivan Semenovich Semenov and William Simeonoff, Sr. (son of Ivan Semenov; William Semenov, Sr. born April 14, 1884 in Kodiak, Alaska; died October 1, 1965 in Anchorage, Alaska). Photo taken on Kodiak waterfront about 1904; home Ivan Semenov built is shown in background.

4.A.B.C. Genealogy of Ivan Vasiliev Semenov. Irene Ponomarev; Iakov Knagin.

5. William Simeonoff, Sr.; photo taken about 1937; Kodiak, Alaska waterfront. Home that Ivan Semenov built is shown in background.

5.A.B.C. Genealogy notes for William Simeonoff, Sr. and Irene Ponomarev Christoffersen Simeonoff.

6. William Simeonoff, Sr. (third from left standing with foot on rail; white shirt with suspenders) photo taken 1899; Kodiak, Alaska inside the B & B Bar. This photograph was published in the *Alaska Magazine* April 1969. It is a copy of a postcard. Included in photo are August Heitman, Speridon Patarochin, Alex Woche, "Frenchie," Efka Anderson.

7. William Simeonoff, Sr. walking on boardwalk next to Breakers Bar with his dog "Tuffy;" Kodiak waterfront is in background. Photo taken about 1938.

8. Kodiak Fisheries Company letter dated October 20, 1960 addressed to Mr. William Simeonoff, Sr.

9. Photograph taken about July 1960 at Port Bailey, Alaska where William Simeonoff, Sr. (middle) is standing looking at Governor Egan; person to right is probably Kodiak Fisheries employee.

10. William Simeonoff, Sr. standing 3rd person from left wearing hat, bow tie; photo taken about July 1939; Kodiak, Alaska.

11. Photograph Kodiak, Alaska main street about July 1939; Kodiak Hotel top left corner. Building top right was an apartment complex on second story; bottom was Dime Store.

12. Unidentified Sugpiaq man standing in front of home of William Simeonoff, Sr.; Kodiak, Alaska about 1939. May be Waska Romanov of Ouzinkie, Alaska.

12. (a.) Left to right: William Simeonoff, Jr. (arm around unknown male); Alex Saracoff of Seldovia; William Simeonoff, Sr.; Dennis Knagin of Afognak; Benjamin Hall; Ronald Wayne Simeonoff; Flora Knagin Christofferson Saracoff with arm on her

niece Irene Simeonoff Hall; kneeling in front white shirt young boy Edward James Spracher; Kodiak, Alaska; home on Alder Lane about 1958.

12. (b) Left to right: William Simeonoff, Sr.; William Simeonoff, Jr. holding daughter of Helen Jane Simeonoff Luther, Sharon Lee Luther; photo taken Springhill apartment; Kodiak, Alaska about December 1963.

13. William Simeonoff, Sr. (left) and his son William Simeonoff, Jr. (right); Kodiak, Alaska; cabin was located below Mission Road where Russian Seminary now is located. John Chya's house would be behind them. Photo taken about 1958.

14. Alexandra Napifuvak Channa Chernikov Knagin Simeonoff (left); born: March 17, 1919 at Afognak, Alaska (Sugpiaq/Russian); died July 8, 1999 in Kenai, Alaska. To Alexandra Simeonoff's right is standing her mother-in-law: Irene Ponomarev Christoffersen Simeonoff (mother of William Simeonoff, Jr.); born May 17, 1879 at Karluk, Alaska; died in Kodiak about 1939. Irene Ponomarev Christoffersen Simeonoff was the daughter of Grigorii Andreianov Budilov Ponomarev born June 13, 1842 in Sitka; died June 5, 1879 in Three Saints (Old Harbor), Alaska. Her mother may have been Elena Petellin Kashevarov born January 22, 1847 in Unalaska.

15. Irene Ponomarev Christoffersen Simeonoff (left) to her right is her daughter-in-law: Alexandra Knagin Simeonoff. Photo taken in Kodiak about 1938.

16. Irene Ponomarev Christoffersen Simeonoff holding her granddaughter Irene Simeonoff who was born May 30, 1937 in Kodiak; died July 1977 in Kodiak.

17. Left: Irene Ponomarev Christoffersen Simeonoff and to her right unknown female who may be a Helen Kashevarov wife of Walter Kashevarov. 18. Left: unknown female who may be Nidiia Ponomarev Christoffersen daughter of Irene Ponomarev.

18. Irene Ponomarev Christoffersen Simeonoff who lived with Helen and Walter Kashevarov. Right: unknown female who possibly may be Helen Kashevarov.

19. Left: Probably Emil Christoffersen man; right: William Simeonoff, Jr. (probably about age 9) boxing; photo taken about 1928 in Kodiak, Alaska.

19. (a) Left: unknown: right: William Simeonoff, Jr.; Kodiak, Alaska (about 1926).

20. School photo year about 1929 or 1930. Front row: Nick Lohr (lifelong friend of William Simeonoff, Jr.); unknown female; unknown female; looks like a Rockstad woman; far right Neil Sargent; second row standing: left: William Simeonoff, Jr.; all others unknown.

- 21.-29. William Simeonoff, Sr.; Kodiak, Alaska; about 1938.
30. William Simeonoff, Sr. (left) on fishing boat; man on right hauling in seal. Fishing in Karluk, Alaska area about 1938.
31. Irene Ponomarev Christoffersen Simeonoff (left) mother of William Simeonoff, Jr. (right); Kodiak, Alaska; about 1938.
32. William Simeonoff, Jr. (left); right: his mother Irene Ponomarev Christoffersen Simeonoff.
33. William Simeonoff, Jr. (left) and Alexandra Napifuvak Channa Chernikov Knagin Simeonoff (right) about 1938, Kodiak, Alaska.
34. Group photo: Left to Right: Alexandra Knagin Simeonoff holding son Ronald Wayne Simeonoff, Theodore Sheratine (playing guitar), William Simeonoff, Jr. (playing mandolin); his sister Nellie Simeonoff Anderson, her husband, Charles Anderson; taken about 1945, Kodiak, Alaska waterfront home of William Simeonoff, Sr.
- 35.-37. William Simeonoff, Jr. holding his daughter Irene Simeonoff about 1938, Kodiak, Alaska waterfront home.
38. William Simeonoff, Jr. holding his daughter Irene Simeonoff, his wife Alexandra "Alice" Knagin Simeonoff, by 1937 sedan vehicle; Kodiak, Alaska; photo about 1938.
39. Left: Kelly Simeonoff, Sr. (left); William Simeonoff, Jr. (right); first cousins. Kodiak, Alaska about 1938.
40. William Simeonoff, Jr.; about 1958, Kodiak, Alaska. Home on Alder Lane.
41. William Simeonoff, Jr.; about 1958; Kodiak, Alaska; taken on Alder Lane.
42. Left to right: Alexandra Knagin Simeonoff, baby Sharon Lee Luther (daughter of Helen Jane Simeonoff Luther); Ronald Wayne Simeonoff, William Simeonoff, Jr.; 1963; Kodiak, Alaska. Springhill apartment.
43. William Simeonoff, Jr. holding his granddaughter Sharon Lee Luther; taken Springhill apartment, Kodiak, Alaska about 1963.
44. Left to right: (photo of Kathryn Moran Luther of Clinton, Iowa); standing: Ronald Wayne Simeonoff, Irene Simeonoff; Edward James Spracher; Alexandra Knagin Simeonoff Spracher; Helen Jane Simeonoff Luther; William Simeonoff, Jr.; William

Simeonoff, Sr.; sitting on floor daughter of Helen Jane Simeonoff Luther and Robert Martin Luther, Sharon Lee Luther; taken at Springhill apartment, Kodiak, Alaska about 1963.

45. Alexandra Knagin Simeonoff holding her daughter Irene Simeonoff; about 1938; Kodiak, Alaska.

46.-47. Left: Irene Simeonoff; right: Robert Norton; Kodiak, Alaska about 1939; standing on porch of home of Norton family which was near the Russian Orthodox parsonage.

48. Left: Irene Simeonoff; right: Harold Unger; Kodiak, Alaska about 1940.

49. Left: unknown; right: Irene Simeonoff, Kodiak, Alaska about 1940.

50. Left: Irene Simeonoff; right: unknown adult male; Kodiak, Alaska about 1940. Photo taken below Pillar Mountain at about Alder Lane.

51.-52. Left: Ellen Mae Simeonoff; right: Irene Simeonoff (first cousins); Kodiak, Alaska about 1940.

53. Irene Simeonoff wearing her father's hat; Kodiak, Alaska about 1940.

54. Irene Simeonoff; Kodiak, Alaska; below Pillar Mountain; about 1940.

55. Irene Simeonoff, Kodiak, Alaska.

56. Irene Simeonoff; Kodiak, Alaska about 1942; Rockstad barn in background.

57. Left: Fred Ambrosia Pestrikoff; right: Irene Simeonoff; first cousins; Kodiak, Alaska about 1941.

58. Left: William Simeonoff, Jr.; right: Alexandra Knagin Simeonoff; daughter Irene Simeonoff; Mount Barometer in background; Kodiak, Alaska; about 1942.

59. Irene Simeonoff; Kodiak, Alaska, about 1942.

60. Left: Roy (Weeda? Christoffersen?); Irene Simeonoff; Kodiak, Alaska about 1943.

61. Irene Simeonoff; Kodiak, Alaska about 1943; standing next to Bettinger Bottling Works where William Simeonoff, Jr. and Dennis Knagin worked. This land was sold to Lee Bettinger by William Simeonoff, Sr.

62. Irene Simeonoff; Kodiak, Alaska about 1943; standing next to old log building.
63. Irene Simeonoff, Kodiak, Alaska about 1953; Healy House on Mill Bay Road. Snowdrift lard can in background.
64. Anne Marie Niblock (Simeonoff) Genovess (daughter of Leigh Niblock and Irene Simeonoff); photo taken Washington, D.C. area about 1981.
65. Left to right: Alexandra Knagin Simeonoff holding Helen Jane Simeonoff; Irene Simeonoff; Nick Lohr; Kodiak, Alaska; in front of Bettinger Bottling Works on waterfront; about 1944.
66. Two unknown females; old Kodiak School top left; photo taken Kodiak, Alaska about 1941. (Possibly: Heitman, Hubley or Morrison women).
67. Alexandra Napifuvak Channa Chernikov Knagin Simeonoff Spracher taken at Eklutna; Russian Church chapel in background; taken about 1987.
68. Alexandra Napifuvak Channa Chernikov Knagin Simeonoff Spracher taken at Ouzinkie, Alaska; Ouzinkie Russian Church in background; taken about 1988.
69. Alexandra Napifuvak Channa Chernikov Knagin Simeonoff Spracher taken walking across causeway bridge at Port Lions, Alaska about 1989.
70. Left: Julia Napifuvak Channa Chernikov Knagin Ambrosia Pestrikoff and her sister Alexandra Knagin Simeonoff Spracher; photo taken at Port Lions Russian Orthodox Church about 1989.
71. Left: Sisters: Alexandra Knagin Simeonoff Spracher; to her right: Julia Knagin Pestrikoff; photo taken at grand opening of Alutiiq Museum about 1996. Photo in background to left: drying fish; to right: Supiaq man in bentwood hat.
72. Left to right: Wife and husband: Julia Knagin Pestrikoff; her husband John Chernikov Pestrikoff; Julia's sister: Alexandra Knagin Simeonoff Spracher; holding ducks: photo taken at Port Lions, Alaska about 1989.
73. Left: Paula Napifuvak Channa Chernkov Knagin Noya and her brother to her right: William Knagin; both born in Afognak, Alaska; photo taken about 1963; Afognak. Sister and brother of Alexandra and Julia Knagin. Aunt and uncle to Helen Jane Simeonoff.
74. Left to right: Julia Napifuvak Channa Chernikov Knagin Pestrikoff, Nina Knagin Olsen; to her right; Christine Napifuvak Channa Chernikov Knagin Lukin (mother of

Nina Knagin Olsen). Julia and Christine are sisters. Photo taken about 1946; Kenai, Alaska; Kenai Russian Orthodox church in background.

75. Left to right: Ronald Wayne Simeonoff, dog "Tuffy"; Irene Simeonoff; Helen Jane Simeonoff (brothers & sisters); photo taken about 1950; Healy House on Mill Bay Road (north of Russian Orthodox Graveyard); Kodiak, Alaska.

76. Helen Jane Simeonoff; Kodiak, Alaska about 1942.

77. Helen Jane Simeonoff, Kodiak, Alaska about 1942; Kraft store and Pillar Mountain in background.

78. Alexandra Knagin Simeonoff holding daughter Helen Jane Simeonoff, Irene Simeonoff; photo taken Kodiak, Alaska waterfront; about 1942.

79. Left: Helen Jane Simeonoff; right her sister Irene Simeonoff; about 1943.

80. Left: Irene Simeonoff; right her sister Helen Jane Simeonoff; about 1944.

81. Left to right: Helen Jane Simeonoff; Irene Simeonoff; Hazel Hartman; Kodiak, Alaska about 1944.

82. Helen Jane Knagin Simeonoff; Kodiak, Alaska; about 1944.

83. Helen Jane Knaign Simeonoff; Kodiak, Alaska; about 1944.

84. Helen Jane Knagin Simeonoff; Kodiak, Alaska; about 1944; Bettinger Bottling Works.

85. Left to right: Helen Jane Simeonoff; Irene Simeonoff; on swing is Ronald Wayne Simeonoff; Laura Larsen Olsen's home in background which William Simeonoff, Sr. sold to Olsen's for \$100.00. Kodiak, Alaska about 1946.

86. Helen Jane Napifuvak Channa Chernikov Knagin Simeonoff sitting in Jess Blinn yard of buttercups; Kodiak, Alaska about 1945.

87. Old Kodiak school steps: about 1948?: Front row: left to right: Luella Brown; unk; Cohen boy; unk; middle: Helen Jane Simeonoff; Carolyn Selig; Julius Anderson; Danny Olsen; unk. 2nd row: unk; unk; Herman Anderson; Paul Chya; June Magnuson; unk; unk; unk; unk; 3rd row: James Heglin; Dawn McDonald; Art Christoffersen; Merlyn Drinkall; Beoma Blinn; 4th/back row: Patricia Shuravaloff; MerriLee Rockstand, John Kilgore next to post. Photograph of Helen Simeonoff's father William Simeonoff, Jr. taken on same school steps.

88. Helen Jane Simeonoff standing on porch; her mother in the window to the right; Alexandra Knagin Simeonoff; to the left her brother Ronald Wayne Simeonoff looking out the window. Healy House; Mill Bay Road; Kodiak, Alaska; about 1949.
89. Left to right: Photo taken at Gilbreath house (now Baranov Museum) 1955; Flora Knagin Saracoff; Helen Jane Simeonoff; Judy Gilbreath; Nina Gilbreath; Kevin Gilbreath; Joseph McCormick, Ronald Wayne Simeonoff, Edward James Spracher; Alexandra Knagin Simeonoff Spracher.
90. Helen Jane Simeonoff; 1958; Kodiak, Alaska.
91. Helen Jane Simeonoff, May 19, 1959; Kodiak, Alaska. Highschool graduation photo.
92. Helen Jane Simeonoff; December 1959; Kodiak, Alaska; old Kodiak school in left background.
93. Left to right: Ronald Wayne Simeonoff, Kelly Simeonoff, Jr., Helen Jane Simeonoff; Kodiak, Alaska; Alder Lane house; 1959.
94. Helen Jane Simeonoff Luther; San Diego, California; about 1968.
95. Helen Jane Simeonoff; April 2000; Boulogne sur Mer, France; at Chateau de Musee photographing 1872-1873 Sugpiaq mask collection by Louis Alphonse Pinart who was in Kodiak, Afognak, Katmai; Unga.
96. Baby girl Sharon Lee Luther with her father Robert Martin Luther; Kodiak, Alaska about 1963. 1955 green Chevrolet in background. Photo taken on Alder Lane below Pillar Mountain.
97. Alexandra Knagin Simeonoff Spracher holder her granddaughter Sharon Lee Luther; photo of paternal grandmother of Sharon; Kathryn Moran Luther in background; photo taken about 1963; Kodiak, Alaska.
98. Sharon Lee Luther (daughter of Helen Jane Simeonoff Luther and Robert Moran Luther); January 1963; Kodiak, Alaska.
100. Sharon Lee Luther holding her newborn brother Robert Martin Luther; San Diego; September 1964.

101. Left: Sharon Lee Luther; right: Robert Martin Luther; children of Helen Jane Simeonoff Luther and Robert Moran Luther; 3214 Northwestern Avenue; Racine, Wisconsin; 1965.
102. Left: Robert Martin Luther and his sister Sharon Lee Luther; about 1965; National City, San Diego, California.
103. Robert Martin Luther; son of Helen Jane Simeonoff Luther; Kodiak, Alaska about 1964.
104. Left to right: Sharon Lee Luther; Helen Jane Simeonoff; Robert Martin Luther; Albuquerque, New Mexico; 1976.
105. Left: Sharon Lee Luther; daughter of Helen Jane Simeonoff; Albuquerque, New Mexico; about 1976.
106. Sharon Lee Luther Schmidt holding her son Garrett Lane Schmidt; Albuquerque, New Mexico; about April 1992. Garrett Schmidt born February 13, 1992; Albuquerque, NM.
107. Left to right: Rafe Schmit, Sharon Lee Luther Schmidt (daughter of Helen Jane Simeonoff); Garrett Lane Schmidt (grandson of Helen Jane Simeonoff) ; about 1994; Albuquerque, NM.
108. Ronald Wayne Simeonoff; Kodiak, Alaska about 1962. (brother of Helen Jane Simeonoff).
109. Kodiak Russian Orthodox Church; about 1991.
110. Baranov Museum; about 1991. Helen Jane Simeonoff and family lived in the farthest right corner which was a bedroom when the Opal & Nina Gilbreath family owned this building in 1955.
111. Port Lions, Alaska; about 1991.
112. Eklutna Russian Churches; Eklutna, Alaska; about 1990.
113. Sugpiaq masks in the Louis Alphonse Pinart collection at Chateau de Musee, Boulogne sur Mer, France; April 2000; by Helen J. Simeonoff.
114. Interior of Alaskan home about 1900 showing on table: ferns, wild geraniums; hanging on wall a mandolin; on top roll top desk is a samovar (Russian tea pot).

115. Photo unknown Kodiak/ Afognak Island location about 1900 showing log cabin, log banya (steam house) and barabara in background. Might be Uganik area.