

Alaska State Library
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

Garrett, Mabel Davis

**Mabel Davis Garrett Photograph Collection,
Nome, 1900-1901**

PCA 549

4 photographic prints

Processed by: Gayle Goedde, May 2012

ACQUISITION: Diane Haag of Juneau donated the photographs, September 7, 2011. The photographs, belonging to Mabel Davis Garrett, had been mailed to E. Robert Haag at an undetermined time and were later found in his belongings. Accession number 2011-037.

ACCESS: Access to the collection is unrestricted.

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

PROCESSING: The photographs were housed in Mylar.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Letter written by Virginia Garrett Allen of Louisville, Kentucky, on July 19, 1972: "I am hoping these photographs, taken in Nome, 1900, may be of interest to the Alaska museum. How unusual are the outdoor scenes before the Nome fire is unbeknownst to me. The photos of the ladies, of course, depict what they wore in those days in Nome.

The handwriting on the backs of the photos is in my grandmother's hand. She (Mabel Davis Garrett) would have been 100 years old this year, so they are truly documented.

My grandfather, Clarence Byrmwood Garrett, went to Nome in search of gold, with the hotel and tobacco businesses as sidelines.

Mrs. Garrett's niece, Winifred Price and her husband Till were in Nome at the same time. Winifred was the first telephone operator. Till Price's mine was the alleged one used in the plot of Rex Beach's *The Spoilers*."

SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE

Photographs from 1900, showing dogsled teams and women of Nome.

INVENTORY

1. Portrait of three women, seated, wearing fur parkas and mukluks, photographed by Sciaroni & Hammond; verso: "Taken Nome, Alaska, winter 1900-1901; Mrs. Dickey, Mrs. Garrett, and Mrs. Mercer"
2. Full length portrait of same three women as above, wearing fur parkas and mukluks; verso: "Nome, Alaska, winter 1900-1901; Mrs. Dickey, Mrs. Garrett, and Mrs. Mercer"
3. Three people with dog team; eleven dogs in harness; buildings of Nome visible through fog in background; described on verso as: "A particularly handsome and valuable dog team, [photograph] taken on the shore of the Bering Sea; also noted on verso: "This dog team belonged to the Alaska Commercial Co. at St. Michael, Alaska, [and] was brought to Nome, Alaska, the winter of 1900 by the company manager, a Mr. Hastings. In the sleigh is Mrs. Johnson, wife of Judge Johnson, then the A. C. Co. attorney at Nome. Judge Johnson was formerly the U.S. Judge in Southeastern Alaska. Mrs. Johnson, formerly Mary Davis, was a sister of Oscar King Davis, the (at that time) well known war correspondent and writer."

4. Six dogs in harness, single file; three people standing and three women and a baby in the sled; verso notes: "In the background, the United States Court House in Nome, Alaska, 1900; court room and officers on ground floor; U.S. Judge and U.S. Marshal living quarters above; this is a rear view, showing primitive cold storage food boxes. To the left of picture, Geo Leekley, formerly of Helena, Montana, then a deputy marshal at Nome (U. S. Govt.). In sleigh, called [a] dog sled: first Mrs. C. B. Garrett, then Mrs. J. F. Mercer, both of Helena; last, Mrs. Dickey and infant [named] Nome; Mrs. Dickey afterwards became Mrs. Ed [Ganat ?] of Oakland; Nome married a naval officer and lives in China."