

Alaska State Library  
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

Kootznoowoo, Inc.

Angoon and Killisnoo Papers, 1878 -1911

MS 193

16 items

Processed by: Kay Shelton, Oct. 2001  
Updated by: Connie Hamann, Aug. 2018  
Updated by: Jacki Swearingen, Sept. 2018

**ACQUISITION:** The Alaska State Library purchased the collection from Kootznoowoo, Inc., in October 2001, with a signed agreement regarding policies. Kootznoowoo, Inc., purchased the collection from Emily Williams, widow of Father J. Michael Williams. Previously, in 1984, Emily Williams gave the Library a typescript catalogue of these documents (MS 4-6-8). Accession # 2001-99.

**ACCESS:** Copies of the collection are available to researchers. Originals are stored separately because they are fragile. Under no circumstances may the originals be photocopied.

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

**PROCESSING:** There was no original order to the collection. The items were numbered by staff and housed in mylar. For additional security, the items were scanned by Kootznoowoo, Inc., and placed on a CD-Rom by Art Sutch. The document scan number from the Kootznoowoo CD-Rom is noted in the inventory. The two photocopied items were re-copied onto acid free paper.

## Background Note

Kootznoowoo, Inc., is the for-profit native organization established under ANSCA in 1970. Its home base is the city of Angoon on Admiralty Island in Southeast Alaska. Kaajaakwti\* was one of the chiefs in Angoon during the latter half of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. His name is translated into English as "Manslayer." Several of the letters identify him as a Tlingit chief of the Kootznoowoo (Huchinew or Hootchenoo) tribe or the Killisnoo or the Neltuskin Village.

## Scope and Contents Note

Papers focus on several Tlingits from Angoon on Admiralty Island beginning at the time when the Navy was in charge of the territory in 1878-1884 and on through the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Two letters and the "Lost" note relate to the bombardment of Angoon by the Navy vessel U.S.S. ADAMS in 1882. Others mention a coal mine discovery on Admiralty Island and the Indian Police Force. Several of these letters can be termed "skookum papers," since they provide a testament to the good character of the bearer. Names of authors and others either mentioned or associated with this collection include John G. Brady, E.C. Merriman, William A. McDougal, Charles W. Bartlett, Edward deGroff, Alaska Salmon Company, Governor James Sheakley, L. C. Dennis, R. Willoughby, Kokesh, Kaajaakwti, Alexis Kahaoochkoo, Peter and Anna Thomas, Carl Spuhn, and Rev. A.P. Kashevaroff.

The Papers total 16 items, some with accompanying envelopes. All except for the last three items are original documents. The thirteen original (holograph) documents are arranged chronologically, beginning in 1878.

### \*NOTES:

Kaajaakwti is the spelling according to the Sealaska Heritage Foundation. George Thornton Emmons in *THE TLINGIT INDIANS* (1991) refers to him as Kahjocktee (p. 48). Emmons states that he was chief of the middle-of-the-town House of Raven 14 at Angoon. Variations in the spelling of this name in the letters include: Kah Yauti, Kah-chuck-tee, Kah-chuc-tee, Ca-chuck-tee, Kahchucktee, Kah-Jac-ta, Kahchuti, Cadocky, and Cachucktee.

**Neltuskin:** "Neltushkin (Orth, p. 681): "*locality*, on N. Shore of Whitewater Bay, on W. coast of Admiralty I ...Tlingit Indian village reported as "Nel-tuschk-an," meaning town on outside of point," in 1885 by Aurel Krause..."

**Killisnoo:** (Orth, p. 519): "*locality*, on E coast of Killisnoo I., 2 mi. S of Angoon...Former village established about 1881 when members of the Hutsnuwu tribe of Tlingit Indians were brought from the villages of Angoon and Nahltushkan to work in a fish rendering plant..."

The relevance of these documents to Tlingit history and to the bombardment of Angoon in 1882 is explored in Steve Henrikson's "The 1882 Bombardment of Angoon: New Developments." Papers presented at the annual meeting of the Alaska Historical Society, Anchorage, October 4-6, 1999. Published in *Our Stories: Voices from Alaska's Museums and Historical Societies, Proceedings of the Alaska Historical Society Annual Meeting, October 4-6, 1999*. Anchorage, Alaska Historical Society, 2000, pp. 60-75

## Inventory

ASL item #	Description	[CD- Rom #]
1.	<p><b>Brady, John G., Missionary to Alaska, Letter dated March 30, 1878, Fort Wrangle, Alaska</b></p> <p>"To all whom it may concern: Kah Yaukti, a chief of the Kootsanoo tribe called to see me this afternoon. He says he wants his people to have schools and churches that heretofore they have been bad and foolish but now they want to do better ...I beg of all men to treat him kindly..."</p> <p>1 leaf (26.5 x 20.6 cm.) Holograph signed</p>	[12]
2.	<p><b>Dennis, L. C., and Kah-Chock-Tee, signed notice, Wrangel Alaska, April 10, 1878.</b></p> <p>"Know ye that we the undersigned L.C. Dennis of Wrangel Alaska and "Kah-chock-tee" of Kootzenoo have located and claim Fifteen hundred feet of this discovery of coal located on Admiralty Island Alaska Territory. All persons are warned not to interfere with our rights and privileges."</p> <p>At bottom, L. C. Dennis adds: "The above is written to satisfy the curiosity of "Kah Chock tee" who claims that he has made a grand discovery of coal and desires to secure the same. Also to be able to obtain a paper from me. He promises that on his return to this port he will bring a large piece of this coal. Any white man seeing the bearer at Hootzinoo will please try and see the coal of which he speaks and if of any worth inform the undersigned."</p> <p>1 leaf (31.7 x 20.2 cm.) Holograph signed One small, yellowed <i>envelope</i>: with name "Kah-chock-tee"</p>	[13]
3.	<p><b>Bartlett, Chas. W., Lieut. U. S. Navy in charge of party from U.S. S. Adams letter dated November 9, 1882, Killisnoo, Alaska.</b></p> <p>"Kahchucktee one of the chiefs of the Neltooshkin Indians has suffered serious losses in the burning of Vangoon by the U. S. S. Adams, although not personally responsible, expresses himself</p>	[7]

ASL item #	Description	[CD- Rom #]
	<p>satisfied with the punishment, promises to encourage his tribe to be friendly and peaceable and desires to assist the whites generally." In different handwriting: note in pencil, "chief of Huchinue and Killisnoo; the true Chiefe" Penciled writing similar to penciled notes at bottom of letter for Kah-chuck-tee dated November 18,1882 (E.C. Merriman).</p> <p>[Similar to MS 4-28-010 (for Kokesh) which is signed by Bartlett on same date in Killisnoo.]</p> <p>1 leaf (31.7 x 20.4 cm.) [Under signature, lower left, bits of wax from official seal] Holograph signed</p>	
4.	<p><b>Merriman, E. C., letter dated November 18, 1882, U.S.S. Adams.</b></p> <p>Regarding Kah-chuck-tee: "The bearer Kah-chuck-tee is recognized by me as <u>Head Chief</u> of the Neltuskin villages and he will be obeyed and respected accordingly. He is to try to promote a friendly feeling between his tribe and the whites, and to keep his people from making Hoo-che-noo."</p> <p>Penciled note at bottom [handwriting differs from above]: "Kah-chuck-tee wished it understood among his people that since the death of his brother Kah-Keech he Kah-Chuck-tee assumes the power of his above mentioned brother Kah-Keech."</p> <p><i>On verso</i>: two additional endorsements: Merriman, E. C., Comdr U.S.N., dated April 10,1883, U. S. S. Adams, "I have seen a good deal of Kah chuck tee during the past 7 months. I would trust anything he says. I believe him to be friendly to the good whites and would recommend him to my successors."</p> <p>McDougal, Wm. A. (teacher), October 23,1890, "Chief Kah-chucktee informs me that he keeps a close watch after and will try to prevent the making of Hoo-che-noo and also promised to make the children attend School and so has aided me in that respect."</p> <p>2 items: 1 leaf (35.5 x 21.7 cm.)</p>	[5]

ASL item #	Description	[CD- Rom #]
	<p>Red seal and gold seal under signature, "Adams" written on each Written (different writing) in pencil at bottom: "Chief of Huchinew and Killisnoo" Holograph signed</p> <p>1 legal-sized envelope 3 names written by different hands: "Kahchucktee;" "Chief of Hucnoo and Killno," and "Alexis"</p>	
5.	<p><b>Merriman, E. C., Commander, U.S.N. Cmd'g, letter dated November 18, 1882, U. S. S. Adams.</b></p> <p>"The Chief who bears this Kokesh, one of the chiefs jointly with Kah-Chuck-tee of the Neltuskin village of Indians." They are both said to be friendly and good Indians. He promises to be friendly to the white settlers and to stop the making of Hoo-che-noo."</p> <p>2 items: 1 leaf (35.5 x 21.7 cm.) Holograph signed 1 legal-sized envelope</p>	[4]
6.	<p><b>Willoughby, R., notice July 27<sup>th</sup> 1882, Coal Creek.</b></p> <p>"Notice this man is left here to look after my interest in the coal mines for a few days until I can go and get grub and tools to open up the same. All persons are here by warned to not trespass on any of my locations as I have writ as near to the Laws of the United States as I no..." Discovery of Coal Creek 3 miles from W? Harbor, Admiralty Island.</p> <p>1 leaf (31.7 x 20.2 cm) Holograph signed</p>	[14]
7.	<p><b>de Groff, Edward, note dated February 21, 1883, Killisnoo.</b></p> <p>"This is to certify that I have known Ka-jac-to the bearer of this paper, for two years and a half and as far as I know he has been generally</p>	[3]

ASL item #	Description	[CD- Rom #]
	<p>friendly to white-men, he is a Chief of the Village of Letushken and has resided here some two months.</p> <p>1 leaf folded in half (31.7 x 20.3 cm.) Under signature to left: 1/2 circle gold paper seal; rest of circle filled in with red pen Holograph signed</p>	
8.  8a  8b	<p><b>Heading: "Lost" [list of goods], [1884? - Date that first Territorial Governor was appointed]</b></p> <p>note at bottom: "The above amount of goods is clamed to be distroyed [sic] by Capt. Merriman, commander of U. S. Navy at Sitka Alaska in the year at the huch-noo village near Killisnoo Alaska. [unsigned, undated]" [The list includes 18 categories of items, including 660 blankets, 12 "Siwash trunks," 5 large black kettles, 10 washbowls, 8 steel traps, 1 sack of shot (\$5),1 can powder (\$10),1 box syrup, 1 large clock, 30 rings, and 1 cabin (value 7 blankets).]</p> <p>Undated legal-sized envelope: "Kahchuti's: This chief claims to have been an innocent party who suffered the loss described on the within papers at the shelling and burning of the [Rancho?] by Capt. Merryman, and desires to see the Governor about making a claim for restitution from the Government" Envelope is franked: Department of Justice ...Sitka</p> <p>1 leaf folded in half (32 x 20.3 cm.) Holograph, unsigned 1 legal-sized envelope</p>	[12]  [11]
9.	<p><b>Alaska Salmon Co, unsigned note dated September 24, 1889, Fresh Water Bay</b></p> <p>"The bearer Kah-Chuc-Tee a member of the Hoo-che-noo tribe of Indians is so far as we know friendly to the whites and desirous of cultivating friendly relations. As far as our business with him has extended, we have found him trustworthy and honest."</p>	[6]

ASL item #	Description	[CD- Rom #]
	2 items: 1 leaf (26.4 x 20.8 cm) Holograph, unsigned  1 envelope, in Russian script "to Alexi Kadenokty"?	
10.	<b>Sheakley, James, Governor of Alaska, letter dated August 6, 1896, Sitka, (stationary letter head reads: District of Alaska, Executive Office).</b>  Addressed to Ca Chucktee, Chief and Indian Policeman in and for the District of Alaska "Dear Sir: Allow me to commend you for the vigilance and faithfulness displayed in destroying Hoochonoo, and taking whiskey from the Indians at Killisnoo."  1 leaf folded (24.6 x 19.7 cm.). Red paper seal adhered at end of letter, bottom left. Holograph signed	[2]
11.	<b>A. Friend, undated note</b>  "The Bearer of this, 'Cadocky,' is a Chief of the Hoodsonoe Tribe of Indians. He requested me to give him a paper. So far as the outward appearance, he seems a good inclined indian, and by his talk he wishes to be friendly to all whites. But whoever takes this in hand I guess know pretty well the character of all Indians if they are old residents on this coast."  1 leaf folded (26.3 x 21.7 cm.) red paper seal affixed to bottom left Holograph	[1]
12.	<b>Marriage Certificate Form: Alexis Kashaoochkoo to Katherine Gansheech, signed by Rev. A. P. Kashevaroff, December 10, 1905 at Sitka.</b>  Recorder stamp and signature, Edward deGross document attached to sleeve (34.9 x 21.3 cm.) envelope: "Alexis Kachakot," printed return address: John F. Malony, Glendive, Montana	[15]

ASL Item #	Description	[CD- Rom #]
	2 items: 1 certificate 1 legal-size envelope [not scanned]	
13.	<b>Marriage Certificate Form: Peter Thomas to Anna (2 copies), signed by Carl Spuhn, U. S. Commissioner and ex-officio justice of the Peace, August 14, 1911 at Killisnoo, Alaska</b>	
13a	3 items: one copy attached to sleeve (31.4 x 21.7 cm.)	[8]
13b	one copy with official red paper seal of "Carl Spuhn...First District of Alaska" affixed at bottom left	[9]
14.	<b>Travel Journal of Juneau Missionary, Priest Alexander Yaroshevich. Trip to Hoonah. 1897.</b> [photocopy of excerpts from journal, typescript]  [Mentions Hoonah school, Captain Etolin, Killisnoo, Juneau, Douglas, Sitka, relations between Orthodox Church and Presbyterian Church]  3 sheets [It is not clear that all 3 sheets are from the same source.] no author, no date no provenance	
15.	<b>KILLISNOO</b> [photocopy of excerpts in typescript]  "The incipient and somewhat irregular condition of the primary school has attracted the Bishop's attention last year." [Mentions relations between Russian Orthodox church and Presbyterian Church, Afognak, Sitka, Killisnoo, Juneau, schools]  2 sheets [It is not clear that the two sheets are from the same source.] no author, no date no source cited	

16.	Loaned for copying, and returned to donor: Letter re: Ko-kesk from JB Coghland, Whitewater Bay, April 30, 1884.	
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