

Alaska State Library
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

Peratrovich, Stanley D. and Evelyn Taber

Peratrovich Family in Alaska, 1880s-2001

MS 205

6 boxes
6 linear ft.

Processed by: Gladi Kulp, May 2004
Updated by: Jacki Swearingen, Nov. 2018

ACQUISITION: The collection was donated by Evelyn, wife of Stanley Peratrovich, in 2003. Accession #2003-55. Transferred binder titled *John Peratrovich: Croatian Immigrant to Alaska: An Account of His Life and Descendents* (CS71.P41 1988) from the library stacks to MS 205 Box 4 #43a on 5/17/11.

ACCESS: The collection is unrestricted.

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

PROCESSING: Processing was completed primarily to the folder level. Conservation work was minimal and only done for the most fragile or original materials. Most albums remain in original housing. Original order of albums and folders was maintained. Loose correspondence and paperwork was filed in chronological order when there was no apparent order.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

John Peratrovich, a Croatian (also referred to as Austrian, Yugoslavian, Dalmatian, and Slavonian) immigrant, was an early settler in Klawock, a village in the Territory of Alaska. He was a skilled net maker who taught netmaking and made nets for the seine fishing industry. He also worked for the canning industry in Klawock and San Francisco including the North Pacific Packing and Trading Co. He married Catherine "Kitty" Snook Skan (later married to Tecumseh Collins) with whom he had four sons: Jack, James, Nick, and Robert J., Sr. who brought development to Klawock as an innovative leader. Robert's son, Robert J. (Edison), Jr. became a Tlingit chief. John subsequently had 13 more children with Mary Skan and Nellie Skan. Two sons of John and Mary also were prominent -- Frank was a territorial and state Alaska legislator, founder and leader of the Purse Seiners' Union, mayor of Klawock, and a founder of statehood. Roy was a territorial and state legislator as well as Grand President and Grand President Emeritus of the Alaska Native Brotherhood. He and his wife Elizabeth were leaders in the anti-discrimination movement. Elizabeth's impassioned speech before the Alaska legislature in 1945 was the final catalyst for the passage of the anti-discrimination bill in Alaska. John and Catherine's second son was James, father of Stanley. James married Kathryn Jackson (name changed from Sumdum) of Kake. Stanley, born in 1919 and raised in Klawock, attended Wrangell Institute and served in the U.S. Army in World War II in Alaska. He did tourist boat charters, and later, some commercial fishing. Stanley Peratrovich died in 2002. As of 2004 his wife, Evelyn Taber Peratrovich, continued to reside on Bainbridge Island WA.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE

The collection evolved as Stanley and Evelyn Peratrovich researched the genealogy of James Peratrovich and Kathryn Jackson Peratrovich -- parents of Stanley. The collection includes a set of albums containing genealogical material for individual family members, related research notes and images collected for the genealogy. The collection also includes information on Tlingit-Haida and Sealaska organizations, Celebration 90, 92, 94, 96 (Juneau), Wrangell Institute, Sitka Training School, and Chemawa School (Oregon). Research notes on Klawock and Kake include U.S. census materials and official documents. Other than some of the above mentioned in the Biographical Note, family members included in albums are: Josie, Jennie, Ann, Agnes, Sarah, and Bertha. Also included in the research notes are: Roseanna Peratrovich Roberts, 1893-1980, and George Peratrovich, 1899-1966.

[Taken from notes written by Evelyn T. Peratrovich, 2003]

INVENTORY

BOX 1

Albums:

John Peratrovich (1851?-1915) descendants' albums include biographical information, genealogy, photographs, correspondence, birth and death certificates, clippings, and memorabilia. Albums are labeled with given names only and not all descendants are included.

- 1 Jack Peratrovich, 1874-1946
- 2 James Peratrovich, 1882-1954
- 3 Nick Peratrovich, 1883-1955
- 4 Robert J. Peratrovich, Sr., 1884-1972, native leader
- 5A Josie Peratrovich Smith, 1893-1984; Frank Peratrovich, 1894-1984, Alaska legislator and native leader; Sarah Peratrovich Wigg, 1898?-1975; Jennie Peratrovich Lund Bust, 1899-1975
- 5B Ann Peratrovich Dexters, 1901-1997; Agnes Peratrovich Oskolkoff, 1904-1975; Roy Peratrovich, Sr., 1907-1989, legislator and ANB Grand President and wife Elizabeth Wanamaker Peratrovich, 1911-1958, native rights leaders; Bertha Peratrovich, 1913-1992

BOX 2

Research notes:

Notebooks and file folders labeled by Evelyn and Stanley Peratrovich. Folders contain correspondence, images, clippings, publications, and memorabilia. Any notes added by staff are enclosed in brackets. Some original and/or fragile documents and photographs were removed from original housing and placed in acid-free sleeves.

- 6 Klawock Reports to U.S. Government, Dept. Interior, Re: Schools, [from] Federal Archives [microfilm copies] - (*large album located in Box 5*)
- 7 Klawock, 1984 and old snaps [photographs]
- 8 Alaska - Family/Klawock
- 9 Kake
- 10 Alaska Census copies: Klawock-Kake-Sumdum
- 11 Misc. Historical: T-H [Tlingit-Haida] Central Council
- 12 Historical Research - Alaska [Klawock history, Sitka Training School, 1900 (list of pupils), Notes from Alaska Customhouse Records, 1870-1871, Chemawa (School)]
- 13 General Alaska Native: Natives of Note Biographies by Ellen Savage [includes short biographies of: Mike Alex, Jean Marie Crumb, Frank Degnan, Chief Andrew Isaac, Mildred Jacobsson, Della Keats, Nicholas Kompkoff, Simeon Oliver, Roy Peratrovich, Mildred Sparks], Judson Brown article, and other items (*18 items*)
- 14 [Basketball, Southeast Alaska] (*9 items*)
- 15 [Wrangell Institute: Clippings] (*2 items*)
- 16 [Clippings] (*3 items*)
- 17 [Publications, 1990s] (*4 items*)

BOX 3**Research Notes (cont.):**

- 18 [Roy Peratrovich, Sr., Correspondence, 1980-1988 – arranged chronologically] (25 items)
- 19 [Roy Peratrovich, Jr.] (4 items)
- 20 [Correspondence, various] (10 items)
- 21 [Elizabeth Peratrovich] (4 items)
- 22 Research notes & letters – Jack [Peratrovich] (4 items)
- 23 General notes – Research, John Peratrovich & descendants (11 items)
- 24 Notes – Research & letters, John [Peratrovich] – Mary [Skan Peratrovich] (15 items)
- 25 Frank P[eratrovich], [including] Naval Service, 1918-1919 (23 items)
- 26 Notes – Research, letters – Jim [James Peratrovich] (17 items)
- 27 Research notes & letters – Nick [Peratrovich] (19 items)
- 28 Notes/research, letters – Bob [Robert J. (Edison) Peratrovich, Jr.; includes thesis: *Social and Economic Structure of the Henya Indians* by Robert J. Peratrovich, Jr., May 1, 1959 (9 items)
- 29 Notes – Research, letters – John [Skan] – [daughter] Nellie [Skan], [son-in-law] Gene Waid (8 items)
- 30 Research notes & letters – [Peter] Roberts (46 items)
- 31 Misc. corrections & records
- 32 [*Peratrovich Family – Abbreviated Genealogy, 1992* and an uncompleted commercial genealogy outline of John Peratrovich's grandchildren]
- 33 [*John Peratrovich, Croatian Immigrant to Alaska, An Account of His Life and Descendants* Prepared by Evelyn and Stanley Peratrovich, Ed. IV, Abridged, 194 p.]
- 34 [*English Tlingit Dictionary: Nouns*, compiled by Constance Naish Gillian Story, 1963 with Foreword insert]
- 35 [Slides of Alaska by Judson Brown]
- 36 Negatives, Peratrovich Genealogy [with index to photos]

BOX 4**Research Notes (cont.):**

- 37 Celebrations: 1990, 1992, 1994, 1996
- 38 *Honoring the ANB and the ANS: 75th Diamond Jubilee 1912-1987*, Sealaska Corporation
- 39 Wrangell Institute “Yees Kooteeyaw” [yearbook], 1937-1938; sample copy of 1938 yearbook, and reprints of 1937 and 1938 yearbooks
- 40 Wrangell Institute and School Reunions, 1985-
- 41 Wrangell Institute and Other Alumnae Addresses and Events
- 42 Alaska Friends Meetings, [ca. 1990-1994]
- 43 Peratrovich Family Album: hard copy – written pages, Ed. I, Final Edition (computer disks included using Wordstar)
- 43a The Peratrovich Family: John Peratrovich Croatian Immigrant to Alaska: An Account of His Life and Descendants Prepared by Evelyn and Stanley Peratrovich [Blue Binder, 136 leaves: ill. (some col.), maps (some col.)] (*See also MS 205 Box 3 #33*)

BOX 5**Audio-visual formats and large album**

- 6 Klawock Reports to U.S. Government, Dept. Interior, Re: Schools, [from] Federal Archives [microfilm copies] - (*large album moved from Box 2*)
- 44 Stan Peratrovich: Family History as Told by John Jackson; Scotty Jackson - interpreter, Clarence Jackson [VHS]; (*DVD copy added September 2010*)
- 45 Sealaska Heritage Foundation, Frank Peratrovich/Judson Brown [3 cassettes]; (*DVD copy added September 2010*)
- 46 Census, 1900 - Southern District and 1920 - 2nd, 3rd, and 4th judicial districts [microfilm, 2 reels]
- 47 Peratrovich Family Albums, ed. 2-4 [CD]

BOX 6**Publications**

- 48 *No Crybabies Then: A Family History and Short Stories* by Ernest Enge, 27 p.
- 49 *Fair Winds and a Following Sea* by Ernest Rosvold Enge
- 50 *Treaty Fishing Rights and the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission*, 1980, 16 p.
- 51 *Kil Kaas-Git*, 1973, 1976
- 52 *The Subsistence Lifeway of the Tlingit People* By Richard Newton and Madonna Moss, 1984, 46 p.
- 53 *Touring the Prince of Wales Island Road System* by the USFS Alaska Region, 197?, 31 p.
- 54 *Traveler's Guide: Southeastern Alaska* by Robert Hassler, 1973, 96 p.
- 55 *A Recollection of Civil Rights Leader Elizabeth Peratrovich 1911-1958*, compiled by Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Tribes of Alaska, August 1991, 36 p.