

**Alaska State Library
Historical Collections**

Guide to Collection

DeGroff, Edward, 1860-1910

Edward DeGroff Photograph Collection, ca. 1886-1900

PCA 91

ACQUISITION: The views in the collection were gathered from the general photograph collections. Some images were donated by Agnes Swineford Shattuck in 1979 (see also PCA 27). Other views have been donated through the years.

ACCESS: The photographs may be viewed, however, the images may not be photocopied.

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PROCESSING: Photographs are sleeved in Mylar and added to the collection in sequential order as they are received. The collection guide indicates the DeGroff numbers when apparent. Duplicate views are filed at the end of the collection.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Edward DeGroff was born in 1860 at Staten Island, New York. He first came to Sitka in 1880, and later managed the Northwest Trading Company post at Killisnoo, Alaska. By 1881, DeGroff was transferred to Harrisburg (now Juneau) to manage the company store there. He was later appointed the first postmaster of Harrisburg and deputy recorder of the Harris Mining District. In 1882, he returned to Killisnoo, and by January of 1886 had purchased the Northwest Trading Company store in Sitka.

Edward DeGroff began taking photographs of Sitka in 1886. His hobby turned into a profitable venture as he sold the photographs at the Northwest Trading Company store in Sitka until 1890.

In addition to being a prominent Sitka merchant and photographer, DeGroff also served as Commissioner for 1893 Alaska to the Chicago Columbian Exposition, U.S. Commissioner to Sitka, and was president of the Chichagoff Gold Mining Company. [Source of information: *Alaska-Yukon Magazine*, October 1907, pages 139-140.]

INVENTORY

1. Russian Block House, Sitka, Alaska. (Edward DeGross #8)
2. Greek church, Sitka, Alaska (Edward DeGross #2)
3. Greek Church Interior, Sitka, Alaska (DeGross #3)
4. [Sitka, Alaska, parade grounds showing firing salute in front of Governor's residence. Russian blockhouse in background.] (Edward DeGross)
5. Lincoln Street, West, Sitka, Alaska [Baranof's Castle, old Russian Building, hotel and Cohen residence in view]. (Edward DeGross #6)
6. Custom House, Castle and Barracks, Sitka, Alaska. (Edward DeGross #5)
7. [Sitka; Lincoln Street in winter, looking toward Russian Church. Barracks and Custom House in view.] (Edward DeGross)
8. [Sitka; wooden homes of Indian Village, Lynde B. Houch Building and dock in view.] (Edward DeGross)
9. Indian Training School, Sitka, Alaska [Presbyterian Mission House]. (DeGross)
10. [Crescent Bay (Sitka) with Russian Church and Baranof's Castle in background. View taken from the Indian Training School.] (DeGross)
11. Sitka and Mt. Edgecumbe, Sitka, Alaska [view of Crescent Bay, rocks in foreground]. (Edward DeGross #1)
12. [Sitka; three boys and dog on grass, looking across cove toward mountains.] (Edward DeGross)
13. [Indian River at Sitka; rustic upper bridge.] (Edward DeGross)
14. [Sitka; lower bridge over Indian River.] (Edward DeGross)
15. [Sitka; Indian River, heavily forested on both banks.] (DeGross)
16. [Sitka; lower Indian River bridge.] (DeGross)
17. Indian River Park, Lower Bridge, Sitka, Alaska. (Edward DeGross #12)
18. [Sitka; Str. ANCON and crowd of people standing on dock.] (DeGross)

19. [Sitka, Alaska. Climbing greased pole (Parade ground). Gov's house in background . Ed. deGross ('x') and Lt. Barnett(?) ('o') are marked on photograph (from verso).] (Edward DeGross)
20. [George Kostrometinoff, Official Interpreter, Dist. of Alaska, wearing fur-trimmed coat with frogs and hat; full-length portrait.]
21. [George Kostrometinoff, Official Interpreter for Gov. Swineford, in Eskimo parka and holding snowshoes.] (Edward DeGross)
22. Indian River Road, Sitka, Alaska [four Native women sitting on road; man pushing wheelbarrow in background]. (Edward DeGross #4)
23. [Sitka; Native women sitting on boardwalk selling berries.] (Edward DeGross)
24. [Sitka; group of Natives posed outdoors with deceased man lying in state and Chilkat blankets.] (Edward DeGross)
25. [Tlingit? Indian shaman holding rattle over reclining man covered by a button blanket; studio portrait.] (Edward DeGross)
26. [Tlingit? Indian shaman holding rattle and standing over kneeling Native man.] (DeGross)
- 26a. [Title: Medicine Man. Indian shaman holding rattle and kneeling behind prisoner; studio view.]
27. [Title: Natives. Sitka Indian women and children sitting outside wooden building.]
28. [Similar to PCA 91-26, with shaman facing camera.] (Edward DeGross)
29. [Title: Medicine Man. Indian shaman standing behind prisoner in western clothing.]
30. [Title: Medicine Man. Shaman wearing mask and kneeling over a reclining man on a fur rug.]
31. [Title: Indian town, Sitka. Looking down beach. Baranof's Castle and barracks in background.]
32. Indian Graves, Sitka [looking up to grassy hill]. (#83?)
33. [Title: Indian Town. Sitka. Three houses with boat in foreground and two men at left.]
34. [Title: Training School, Sitka. Distant view across water.]
35. [Title: Greek Church. Back view of St. Michael's Cathedral, Sitka; tree and rocks in foreground.]

36. [Title: Sitka Training School.]
37. [Title: Greek Church. Early view of St. Michael's Cathedral, Sitka.]
38. Religious Procession, Graeco Russian, Sitka, Alaska [group on Lincoln Street]. (DeGross #76)
39. Paddle Dance, Thlingit (sic), Sitka, Alaska [two men wearing dance costumes and holding ceremonial paddles, and a boy]. (Edward DeGross #55)
40. [Canoe race; five canoes and teams.] (Edward DeGross)
41. Alaska Game, Killisnoo, Alaska [man with cleaver standing next to deer and bird carcasses]. (Edward DeGross #56)
42. Masks, Thlingit, Sitka, Alaska [display of eight masks and one rattle]. (Edward DeGross #58)
43. [Title: Training School, Sitka. Native students and teachers.]
44. [Title: Native Chief, Sitka. Man wearing coat with star and cap; full length portrait.]
45. [Dorcas Society, Sitka, 1894; group of five women identified on verso as Mmes. Williams, Rogers, Truitt, DeGross and Emmons, posed outdoors.]
46. [Nine girls wearing sailor-style outfits and hats with "USS PINTA" on band. Sitka, ca. 1887-1888. Identified on verso.] (Edward DeGross)
47. Sitka, Alaska [group of men and women on deck of ship, one man with banjo; ca. 1890's]. (Edward DeGross)
48. Public School No. 2 and Native Pupils, Sitka, Alaska [Mrs. Brady, teacher, in doorway behind; school was located across from Governor's house (see verso). Ca. 1890's]. (Edward DeGross #77)
49. Russian School, Sitka, Alaska [Native children and teacher at front of school in snow. Ca. 1890]. (Edward DeGross)
50. [Sitka; group of Naval officers and their wives on porch of the Marshall's Office. Ca. 1890.]
51. "Shelikoff" [photograph of drawing; 3/4-length portrait with Cyrillic caption]. (Edward DeGross #264)
52. Religious Procession, Graeco-Russian, Sitka, Alaska [large group with icons on curve of road]. (DeGross #78)
53. [A picnic with Governor Swineford in Sitka. Large party seated on grass around an abundantly set low table. American Flag in background, ca. 1880's.]

54. [Bird's eye view of early Sitka from Baranof's Castle. Identification of some buildings on verso.] (DeGross)
55. Skool - Kahs Totem, Howkan, Alaska [Haida village, ca. 1900; man standing next to a totem pole in front of a building]. (DeGross)
56. Howkan, Alaska [overall view of village and totem poles on beach]. (DeGross)
57. [Killisnoo; man seated in a boat with mast on beach, ca. 1880.] (DeGross)
58. Baranoff [Baranov, Aleksandr Andreevich, 1745-1819, photograph of drawing with Cyrillic caption]. (DeGross #263)
59. Public School No.1, (Scholars), Sitka, Alaska [children and teachers lined up on porch of building; identified on verso]. (DeGross #111)
60. Twin Totems, Howkan, Alaska [child seated at right in front of two totems]. (DeGross #57)
61. [Sitka harbor and islands (with Mt.) Edgecumbe in distance. Barracks and old warehouse in foreground. History on verso.] (DeGross)
62. [Killisnoo; view from water with N.W. T. Co. building at left center.]
63. [Juneau. Koehler and James store, Seward St., with large crowd.] (DeGross)
64. [Douglas, Alaska. Men lined up in front of a two-story commercial building.] (DeGross)
65. [Juneau; view south over rooftops, ca. 1880's.] (DeGross #123)
66. [Sitka, Alaska. Group of identified men and women on porch outside of U.S. Marshall's Office.]
67. Basket Makers, Sitka, Alaska [four women seated on boardwalk]. (DeGross #50)
68. Saginaw Jake, Killisnoo, Alaska [full length portrait of Saginaw Jake wearing military jacket, badges and sword]. (DeGross #87)
69. Wolf Totem, Ft. Wrangel, Alaska [carved wolf figure on top of log grave house?]. (DeGross #52)
70. Wolf Totem. Ft. Wrangel, Alaska [totem in front of two wooden buildings]. (DeGross #53)
71. Blind Shaman, Yakutat [old man with headdress and cane, seated on steps]. (DeGross #337)

72. Surf on Khantook Island, Yakutat [rocky beach]. (DeGross #34S)
73. Mt. St. Elias, 65 miles distant [distant forest and reflection]. (DeGross #338)
74. [Treadwell mill, 240 stamps; buildings along beach.] (DeGross, no number. Stamp on verso: Pacific Coast Steamship Co., Stmr. Geo. W. Elder, Aug. 11, 1890.)
75. Howkan and Totems, Alaska [beach scene]. (DeGross #33)
76. Saginaw Jake, Killisnoo. Sitka Alaska. (DeGross #85)
77. Natives, Yakutat, Alaska. (#341)
78. Early Juneau, 1880s; view of log and wood frame buildings along waterfront, looking toward Douglas; sailing ships at wharf; sign on building: C. E. Coon & Co., Wholesale and Retail Druggists