Alaska State Library
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

Becker, Ryland and Lillian

Ryland and Lillian Becker Photograph Collection, 1890-1901

PCA 395

1 album (104 photos) + 3 items
1.2 linear ft.

By: Deborah Finley
Gladi Kulp

ACQUISITION: George A. Lineer, Ryland Becker's grandson, and his wife, Lorraine M., donated the images to the Historical Collections in October 1998. (Acc. No. 1998-048.)

ACCESS: The photos may be viewed, however they may not be photocopied.

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

PROCESSING: The photographs remain in their original condition - glued to album pages which have been sleeved in Mylar. No additional conservation measures have been taken. The album pages were inscribed in ink by the creator. An inventory has been prepared by from an index donated with the album; numbering slightly modified by Historical Collections staff.
Biographical Note

Ryland Johnson Becker, born in Watertown, NY, came to Alaska with his brother, Julian, in the 1890’s to mine for gold. He also took the census for the Northern district, Nome area, in 1900. After corresponding with Ryland in Alaska, Lillian D. Curran, of Rochester, left New York for Alaska in 1898 and married him in Sitka on November 24, 1898. Lillian remained in Sitka when Ryland went north to Nome in 1899 and was alone when their daughter, Dorothy Alden, was born in Sitka January 12, 1900. Dorothy was the first infant to be baptized at St. Peter's-by-the-Sea (April 1900). Lillian and Dorothy left Alaska for Seattle in the late spring of 1900 when a small pox epidemic broke out and did not return. Ryland followed them in 1901.

Scope and Content Note

The photographs, from the 1890’s to the 1900’s, are part of a photograph album which also contains images from Egypt. The album may have belonged to Lillian's father who was with the National Art Co. The Alaskan images include Sitka, the Greek Russian Orthodox Church in Sitka, Muir Glacier, mining activities in Nome and some of images of the Becker’s. Information in brackets was supplied by the librarian.

Inventory

1. Madonna - icon
2. Russian church - The Interior.  Sitka.  Taken in 1899
3. The front of Muir Glacier, from the water.  Alaska.  Taber Photo, San Francisco, Cal.  #4559
4. Ice Floe in Glacier Bay, Alaska.  Copyrighted by I. W. Taber, 1889 #4727
5. View near junction of Morain [moraine] and Ice Muir Glacier.  c.  I. W. Taber, 1889 (#4573)
6. Mouth of sub glacial Stream, Muir Glacier, Alaska.  Copyright by I. W. Taber, 1889 #4551
7. Egyptian hieroglyphics (2 pages)
8. Egyptian picture
9. Egyptian picture
10. Glacier near Pyramid Harbor, Alaska.  Taber Photo, San Francisco, Cal.  #4720
11. Egyptian - temple at Karnak
12. Sitka, Alaska.  Indian huts & Canoes.  1898
13. Egyptian - Ile de Philae
14. Sitka, Alaska, wharf & warehouse; to the left is the Indian village.  1898
15. Egyptian - Temple at Mediat Abou
16. Channel as you enter Sitka by Steamer taken in 1898
17. Picture showing Castle on hill built when Russia owned Alaska, since burned.  1890.
18. Egyptian - Temple d'Edfou
19. Greek church.  Taken in 1900, Sitka, Alaska
20. Egyptian - Temple d'Hathor a Denderah
22. Egyptian - Temple d'Edfou
24. Egyptian - Les Colossus de Memnon, Thebes
25. Interior of St. Peters by the Sea.  Taken 1900
26. Egyptian - the Sphinx
27. Sitka, Alaska.  Taken 1900
28. Egyptian - the Sphinx

30. Egyptian - a needle
31. Sitka, Alaska. Taken in 1900. Left the old Russian Trading House, now torn down; dangerous on account of fire, built of thick logs.
32. Egyptian - colonnade
34. View of Sitka, Alaska, 1900
35. Egyptian [wall]
36. Egyptian [town]
37. Egyptian [pillared entrance]
38. View of Sitka, Alaska. Showing Indian Mission to the left. Dorothy Alden Becker was born in the year 1900, January 12.
39. Sitka, Alaska - 1900 [forest view]
40. Sitka, Alaska, 1900 - Showing the Mountain with (Cross) The snow never leaves the Mt. and the Indian Mission.
41. Showing the woods near Sitka
42. Indian Mission, Sitka, Alaska - 1900
43. Through the Woods near the Mission - 1900
44. Entrance to bridge near Indian River, Sitka, Alaska 1900
45. Woods of Sitka, Alaska 1900
46. Indian River & Bridge, Sitka, Alaska 1900
47. Indian River 1900
48. Rapids - Sitka, Alaska 1900
49. The Old Russian Fort - 1900
50. Lake back of the village, Sitka, Alaska - 1900
51. Saw mill, Sitka, Alaska - 1900
52. The fire house
53. Russian Grave Yard - 1900
54. The Old Museum - 1900
55. Steamers entering Sitka
56. Steamers entering Sitka
57. [Two more steamers] Taken in 1899
58. [Two more steamers] Taken in 1890 [1899]
59. Fish eggs drying (?)
60. Cutting wood for winter; Ryland Becker and helper - 1901
61. Bill Distan & wife; Julian Becker & wife and mother. Taken in 1896, Sitka, Alaska
64. Southern Alaska Indians dressed for big pot lach [potlatch] in 1901 in Sitka, Alaska
65. Inside the Mission Church - 1900
66. Inside the Museum - 1900
67. Two Indian boys. Sitka, 1900
68. Indian Chief - Sitka, 1901
69. Old Chief in Sitka. A bad one in his day. Taken in 1890.
70. [Wonders of the world, description]
71. Near the Graveyard in Sitka, Alaska 1900
72. Sitka, sawmill in winter, 1900
73. Sitka road to Indian Mission, 1900
74. Alaska. Totem Poles. Taken in 1890.
75. Alaska 1900 [cabin]
76. Alaska 1900 [body of water]
77. Alaska 1900 [waterfall]
78. Turner’s Mining Camp. Taken 1890. Ryland J. Becker
79. Silver Bay, Sitka, Alaska. Taken 1890
80. Nome Alaska, 1900.
81. With notation "Anvil Creek where gold was discovered"
82. Nome, Alaska 1900 [miners]
84. First building in Nome, Alaska in the year 1900
85. Nome, Alaska in 1900
86. Turner Mine in 1890. Silver Bay near Sitka, Alaska
87. Ryland Becker in front of his bunk house in Nome, Alaska; the winter of 1899-1900
88. Ryland Becker inside of his bunk house in 1899 and 1900
89. Ryland Becker in front of his tent on beach at Nome, Alaska in the spring of 1899
90. KyNome & Florence Becker in Seattle - 1901
91. Nome, Alaska. Taken 1901. [2 boats beyond surf]
92. Nome, Alaska. Taken 1901. [beach with boats, men, buildings]
93. Nome, Alaska. Taken 1901. [beach, lumber piled in foreground]
94. Greek Church and fire house, Sitka, 1898
95. View of Sitka, Alaska 1898
96. [street scene with U.S. Restaurant]
97. First railroad in Nome in 1901
98. [man by tent and rocker]
99. Sitka, Alaska - Indian's home and Totem Poles - 1898
100. [2 men by tents]
101. "This is one of the dear places in Nome City, Aug 1/99" on reverse [“The Elk” sign]
102. "A comparative list . . . of the highest monuments and buildings . . . in the world"
103. "A fair view of Nome on the arrival of R. J. Becker June 22/99"
104. "Nome Aug 1/99. R. J. Becker's 16 foot beach claim and rocker. Henry Williams at its side. This is the spot where 4 men & this rocker took out an amalgam ball in 5 1/2 days that weighed 91 ounces. The best days work, the amalgam weighed, well dried, 25 ounces."