Nowell Family

Nowell Family Photograph Collection, ca. 1880-1950

PCA 402

54 photographs

Processed: December 1999
By: Mary Claire Harris Gladi Kulp

ONLINE ACCESS: Partial Collection
http://vilda.alaska.edu/cdm/search/collection/cdmg21/searchterm/ASL-P402-*/order/nosort

ACQUISITION: The collection was donated in September 1999 by J. Roger Nowell and Robert J. Curry.

ACCESS: The photographs 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: Photographs are numbered and sleeved in Mylar.
BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

The Nowells were a mining family active on Douglas Island, Gold Creek, Sheep Creek, and at Berners Bay in the 1890’s and early 1900’s. Nowell Avenue in West Juneau is named for this family. Thomas S. Nowell was born in Massachusetts in 1832. He came to Alaska in 1885 and became one of the first mining men to settle in Juneau, joining his brothers George and Benjamin S. He was father to six sons including Willis and Frank.

Willis E. Nowell was an internationally known virtuoso violinist when he came to visit his father in Juneau at age 41. He abruptly switched careers and went into mining operations with his family. Later he entered the steamship business and was agent for the Alaska Steamship Company at Juneau for almost a quarter of a century. It should be noted he continued playing the violin delighting local audiences at special occasions throughout his time in Juneau.

Frank H. Nowell was first associated with mining on Douglas Island with his father around 1886. In 1900 he went to Nome to work for a mercantile company. It was in the Northwest region of Alaska that he turned to his hobby in photography and became a noted photographer. His photographic work forms a separate collection, PCA 48.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE

This collection is a Nowell family “album” spanning the years from ca. 1880 to 1950. Family members and others are identified whenever possible. Papers form a separate collection, MS 181.

INVENTORY

Folder 1: Photos:


2 Identification same as photo #1

3 Willis E. Nowell with violin – copy of tin type in London

4 Juneau, Alaska – taken midnight June 21, 1928

[Unknown and ]Willis [E. Nowell, Sr. – Evergreen Bowl area]


Willis E. Nowell [and unknown – Juneau]

Thomas S. Nowell

Thomas S. Nowell & Lydia Hamm, ca. 1880, Boston

Willis E. Nowell, Sr.

Frances [Eletta Newton] Nowell


Willis E. Nowell, Sr.

Frances Nowell, daughter of Willis and Frances Nowell, granddaughter of Thomas S. Nowell, sister to Willis E. Nowell, B. 1902 or 1903

Willis Everett Nowell, Jr., son of Willis Nowell & Frances, grandson of Thomas Nowell, brother to Frances. B. 7/17/1905 in Juneau

Frances [Eletta Newton] Nowell

Willis E. Nowell, Sr.

Willis Everett Nowell, Jr., 6 years & sister, Frances R. Nowell, 8 yrs. [ca. 1911]

Bottom right: Willis Everett Nowell, Jr. & sister Frances R. Nowell. Other children unidentified.

Frances R. Nowell by Wickersham House, [Juneau]

Frances Nowell Curry [Frances R. Nowell] daughter of Willis Nowell (son of Thomas S. Nowell) 16 or 17 yrs. old ca. 1927

Frances R. Nowell
26  Frances [R.] Nowell with unidentified man
27  [Willis] Everett Nowell [Jr.]
28  Dick – Robert’s [Curry] brother
29  Robert J. Curry [husband of Frances R. Nowell]
37  Frances [R. Nowell], Robert [Curry Jr.], Willis [Nowell, Sr.], grandfather to Robert
38  [Robert Curry Jr. and Willis Nowell Sr.] – Bobby-8 months old
39  [Robert Curry Jr.] & Frances [Eletta Newton Nowell] Sr. – upper Main St., [Juneau] ca 1930
40  Everett (Willis Jr.) & [Robert] Bob Curry
41  Emma [Elizabeth Helen Davis] and Frank Nowell
42  Frank Nowell’s wife, Emma
43  l to r: Willis [E. Nowell, Sr.], Dorothy [Nowell], Frank [Nowell], Frances [Elleta Newton Nowell], front: Robert [Curry, Jr.]
44  Frank Nowell and daughter Dorothy
45  Dorothy Nowell and friends
46  l to r: Willis [E. Nowell, Sr.], Robert J. Curry, Sr., Dorothy [Nowell] and Frank [Nowell]
47  Sisters, Helen Sjursen and Sarah Sjursen Nowell.  Sarah is  [Willis] Everett [Jr.’s] wife and Roger’s mother
48  Roger, Sylvia, & Philip [Nowell]
49  Back: Willis [E. Nowell, Sr.], Frances [Eletta Newton Nowell], Robert [Curry, Jr.], Front: Roger, Sylvia, & Philip [children of Sara & Willis Everett Nowell Jr.]
50 Back row: “Doc” Helling, [Dorothy’s husband], Frank Nowell, Willis Everett [Nowell] Jr.; middle row: Dorothy [Nowell Helling], Raymond [Helling] (Doc’s son), Sara [Nowell] (Roger’s mother), R[obert] [C]urry, [Jr.]; Front row: Sylvia (Roger’s sister) and Phillip (Roger’s brother)

51 Phillip [Nowell], Robert [Curry Jr.], Frank [Nowell]

52 [Robert] Bobby [Curry Jr.] and Frank [Nowell], 1939

53 Frances [Eletta Newton Nowell] with unidentified baby

54 Willis [E. Nowell, Sr.] and Frances [Eletta Newton Nowell] in front of Willis’s home in Edmonds, [WA]

Folder 2: Duplicates

Folder 3: Photocopies, some include notations
GENEALOGICAL NOTE

Key: --child
\=spouse

--George Nowell ( ? –1909)
--Thomas S. Nowell (1833-1942)
\=Lydia Hamm
   --Frederick D. Nowell
   --Willis E. Nowell (1859-1942)
      \=Frances Eletta Newton (1873- ? )
         --Roger C. Nowell
         --Frances R. Nowell (1903-1929)
            \=Robert James Curry
               --Robert J. Curry, Jr.
   --Willis Everett Nowell, Jr. (1905-1980)
      \=Sarah Sjursen
         --J. Roger Nowell
         --Sylvia Nowell
         --Phillip Nowell
--Frank H. Nowell (1864-1950)
   \=Elizabeth ‘Emma’ Helen Davis
      --Dorothy Nowell (ca.1898- ? )
         \=”Doc” Helling
            --Raymond Helling
--Arthur Nowell (1866-1904)
--George M. Nowell
   \= ? Ames
\=Harriet C.
   --Ethel Sims (adopted by Thomas S.)