Alaska State Library
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

Kelly, William A.

William A. Kelly Photograph Collection, ca. 1885-1904

PCA 427

90 images (1 album + 23 photos)  
Processed by: Gladi Kulp  
April 2002


ACCESS: The collection is available for viewing; however, the photographs may not be photocopied.

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

PROCESSING: The collection images were numbered. Photographs not in the album were sorted into Alaska and non-Alaska images and housed in Mylar. Album cover is fragile and may require conservation work.
BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

William A. Kelly, a lawyer from Puxatawney, PA, is listed in the U.S. Bureau of Education report, *Education in Alaska, 1898-1898*, under “Employees and Teachers, Presbyterian Missions, Sitka.” From 1898-1903, Kelly was the Superintendent of Sitka Training School. In 1904 until 1907, he was Superintendent of Schools in the Southern District, which is probably southeast Alaska. An *Alaska Life* article purports that William A. Kelly was Judge Sheakley’s successor, ca. 1893 as James Sheakley was appointed Territorial Governor in 1893. (“The Law Came to Wrangell,” by Richard Suratt, *Alaska Life*, February 1945, p. 45-49). In 1905 the GPO published William A. Kelly and Frances H. Willard’s *Grammar and Vocabulary of the Hlingit [Tlingit] Language of Southeastern Alaska*.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE

The collection contains 90 images, most are black and white prints; a few are sepia. Many of the photos, though unsigned, are probably by Elbridge W. Merrill and depict the Sitka area, native culture, Sheldon Jackson Museum, the Sitka Industrial School, and scenic views, ca. 1885-1904. Non-Alaska photos include groups of people, some school children, and several unidentified portraits. Some negatives may be found in the E.W. Merrill Photograph Collection, PCA 57.

INVENTORY

*Photographs in album*

1. [Totem pole in fenced area, girl sitting in background]. faded
2. Industrial Training School, Sitka, Alaska. [illustration]
3. Old log cabin, Juneau City, Alaska, church. [illustration]
4. Steamer “Queen” in ice, Glacier Bay, Alaska. [illustration]
5. [Sitka waterfront, buildings, mountain in background.]
6. [Group of people in front of frame building; illustration.] The F. Gutekunst Co.
7. [Softball game in Sitka, government buildings in background.]
8. [Scenic of ocean, mountains; Mt. Edgecumbe in background.]
9. [Sitka government buildings and partial view of St. Michael’s cathedral with mountains in background.]

10. [Native dwellings and people on beach.]

11. [Non-natives in Tlingit canoe on Sitka waterfront.]

12. [Canoe on beach, two people sitting by canoe, one man standing inside.]

13. [Three-masted ship anchored in Sitka harbor.]

14. [Buildings in Sitka.]

15. [Group of children posed in front of Superintendent’s Office.]

16. [Native band in uniform, holding instruments posed in front of building.]

17. [Scenic of creek running through woods, mountains in background.]

18. [Two women, one with bicycle, in front of Sitka Mission Hospital.]

19. [Four men, two with poles, on top of raft of logs.]

20. [Sheldon Jackson Museum and Library building.]

21. [Exterior of frame building.]

22. [Houses along boardwalk, four native children, one woman on boardwalk.]

23. [Bridge over Indian River.]

24. [Sitka Trading Co. building.]

25. [Four people standing along road through woods.]


27. [Scenic of river, woods, mountains.]

28. [House with five children outside in flower garden.]

29. [Tlingit blanket, baskets, and wood carvings.]

30. [Three-masted ship and smaller ships anchored offshore.]
31  [St. Michael’s Cathedral and Alaska Herald Office.]
32  [Russian blockhouse.]
33  [Scenic along Indian River.]
34  [Young man holding pole in river rapids.]
35  [Scenic in woods.]
36  [Road through woods.]
37  [Son-i-yat or “Gov. Brady” totem pole and four house pillars.]
38  Garden of Governor Brady "Old castle Sitka". - verso
39  [Houses along the waterfront, boats anchored nearby.]
40  [Boats with flags atop, filled with people, arriving at dock, probably for 1904 potlatch.]
41  [Native women selling berries in front of Russian Trading Post.]
42  [Far view of Sitka waterfront with Mt. Edgecumbe in background.]
43  [Fish camp with fish-drying on poles and small boat on beach.] Merrill, Sitka
44  [View looking underwater at fish swimming through coral.]
45  [Tlingit man and woman with hides stretched on frames for drying and scraping.]
46  [Path through woods, probably along Indian River.]
47  [Three Tlingit women weaving baskets.] Copyright by Merrill
48  [Five spruce root (?) baskets.]
49  [Portrait of woman.]
50  [Group of people posing on the beach.]
51  [Four men in canoe, rowboat in foreground.]
[Tlingit wood carver at work. Also see Alaska Natives – Tlingits – Individuals – 21.] Copyright by Merrill

[Native woman with dish of berries near beach.] Copyright by Merrill

[Man and woman in native dress. The man wears regalia featuring bear designs, he holds a rattle in one hand and, in the other, the Kaagwaantaan Bear Staff. Kuchein (Martin White) of the Kookhitaan or “Box House People” in Sitka with his wife Yaast’ooch whose clan was T’akdeintaan from Hoonah. Clan and personal identification courtesy of Harold Jacobs.] Copyright by Merrill

[Land mass on beach with tunnel through it.] No. 20.

[Same as #53.] Copyright by Merrill, faded

[View of coral underwater.]

[Scenic view in woods.]

[Sheldon Jackson Museum, man standing in doorway.]

[Scenic view along river.]

[Sitka harbor.]

[Twilight view of boats anchored in calm bay.]

[Buildings in Sitka.]

[Aerial view of Sitka.]

[Three native women weaving baskets.]

[Sketch of government-style building with two Tlingit buildings on either side.]

[Interior of Sheldon Jackson Museum.]

Photographs in folders

[Sheldon Jackson Museum with cannon, native children in front.]
69  [Boat, “W.A. Kelly” on water, three men standing aboard.]

70  [Boys working in shoe shop, Sitka Industrial Training School.] Photographed by E.W. Merrill, Boston, Massachusetts, on verso

71  [Verso] Industrial Training School group, Presbyterian Mission, Sitka, no. 17. [Front] Merrill, Boston [Similar to #15]

Non-Alaska photographs:

72-78  [Group photographs, includes some school classes in Pennsylvania.]

79-90  [Portraits]

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PCA 427 cross-references

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Photo Number</th>
<th>Description of Kelly photo</th>
<th>Other HL collection locations</th>
<th>Description of HL images in other collections/Comments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Totem pole</td>
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| 11           | Non-natives in Tlingit canoe| PCA 57-53                    | • Contact print
               |                             |                              | • Rather dark but shows mountains in background which purchase photo does not; mountains may have faded out of purchase photo |
| 12           | Canoe on beach, 2 people sitting by canoe, 1 man inside | Not found |
| 16           | Native band posed in front of building | Not found |
| 20           | Sheldon Jackson Museum & Library exterior | PCA 01-517
               |                             | PCA 1-478
               |                             | PCA 01-1640
               |                             | PCA 117-165
               |                             | PCA 57-129
               |                             | PCA 57-218
               |                             | • Damaged print
               |                             | • Closer view
               |                             | • Reprint
               |                             | • Similar photo
               |                             | • Original
               |                             | • Purchase photo in slightly better condition
               |                             | • Contact print
               |                             | • A bit dark
               |                             | • Similar view
               |                             | • Original
               |                             | • Photo postcard
               |                             | • A bit dark
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Finding Aid</th>
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<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>Canoes arriving for 1904 potlatch(?), people on dock</td>
<td>PCA 1-90</td>
<td>Reprint</td>
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<tr>
<td>41</td>
<td>Native women selling berries in front of Russian Trading Post</td>
<td>PCA 57-169</td>
<td>Very similar photo</td>
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<td></td>
<td>PCA 57-221</td>
<td>Photo postcard</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Slightly cropped</td>
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<tr>
<td>43</td>
<td>Sitka herring roe fish camp</td>
<td>PCA 57-207</td>
<td>Slightly faded</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>Original</td>
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<tr>
<td>45</td>
<td>Tlingit man and woman with hides stretched on frames for drying &amp; scraping</td>
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<td>Slightly faded</td>
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<td>47</td>
<td>3 Tlingit women weaving baskets</td>
<td>PCA 57-82</td>
<td>Wider view</td>
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<tr>
<td>48</td>
<td>5 spruce root (?) baskets</td>
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<td>51</td>
<td>4 men in canoe, rowboat in foreground</td>
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<td>53</td>
<td>Native woman with dish of berries near beach</td>
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<td>PCA 354-31</td>
<td>Similar (building)</td>
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<td>PCA 57-123</td>
<td>Wider view</td>
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http://www.library.alaska.gov/hist/hist_docs/finding_aids/PCA427.pdf