

**REFERENCE CODE:** AkAMH

**REPOSITORY NAME:**

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Guide prepared by: Heather McClain, Archivist

**TITLE:** Howling Dog Canyon Photograph Album

**COLLECTION NUMBER:** B2020.003

**OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION**

Dates: 1927-1929

Extent: 1 album

Language and Scripts: The collection is in English.

Name of creator(s): Gertrude ?, Asahel Curtis, Walter P. Miller

**Administrative/Biographical History:**

Nothing is known of the provenance of the individual images in this collection. The donor found the album in a thrift store. A note at the beginning of the album indicates that it was compiled by Gertrude to send to her brother Carl and family for the holidays in 1929.

Most of the photographs in the album appear to be personal photographs but there are several commercially produced photographs, including one by Curtis & Miller. Asahel Curtis was born in Minnesota in 1874; the family moved to the Puget Sound area un Washington State in 1888. His older brother, Edward S. Curtis, opened a photo studio in Seattle in 1892, and Asahel began working there in 1895. He went to the Klondike in 1897 to take photographs for the studio. Differences over credit for this work later led to a break with his brother. Involved in a number of partnerships throughout his career, Curtis engaged in a partnership with Walter P. Miller as Curtis & Miller in the early 1900s. In 1920, Curtis established the Asahel Curtis Photo Co., under which name it operated until his death in 1941.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> University of Washington, Asahel Curtis Photo Company Photographs,  
<https://content.lib.washington.edu/curtisweb/index.html>

Scope and Content Description:

This collection consists of 21 black and white photographs and typed descriptions pasted onto black paper in an album with laced covers, 21 x 14.5 cm (8 x 5 ¾ in.). For more information, see Detailed Description of Collection.

Arrangement:

Album is in original order.

**CONDITIONS GOVERNING ACCESS AND USE**

Restrictions on Access: The collection is open for research use.

Physical Access: Original items in good condition.

Technical Access: No special equipment is needed to access the materials.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use:

The Anchorage Museum is the owner of the materials and makes available reproductions for research, publication, and other uses. Written permission must be obtained from the Anchorage Museum before any reproduction use. The Anchorage Museum does not necessarily hold copyright to all of the materials in the collections. In some cases, permission for use may require seeking additional authorization from the copyright owners.

Preferred Citation:

Howling Dog Canyon Photograph Album, Anchorage Museum, B2020.003

**ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

Acquisition and Appraisal Information:

Donated by Corey Chivers in February 2020.

Notes:

Album is friable and flaking and should be handled with care.

**SUBJECTS**

Curtis, Asahel, 1874-1941

Miller, Walter P., c. 1887-1938

Chilkoot Pass

Dogs

Dogsledding

Gold mines and mining – Alaska

Gold mines and mining – Yukon

Gold rushes – Alaska

Log cabins  
Transportation – Alaska  
Dawson (Yukon)  
Fort Yukon (Alaska)  
Howling Dog Canyon (Alaska)  
Porcupine River (Yukon and Alaska)  
Portage Lake (Alaska)  
Rampart Hills (Alaska)  
Seward (Alaska)  
Skagway (Alaska)

### Detailed Description of the Collection

F1

- .1 – Niel and his dog team in Howling Dog Canyon [one man standing behind sled and dog team on frozen river in a canyon]
- .2 – Arriving at Howling Dog Camp. Unloading our selves and our supplies, September 7, 1928 [one man standing next to boat at river edge with supplies and dogs on board]
- .3 – Doing the family washing in the Porcupine River, Sept. 18 [one white woman standing with feet in the river and holding a textile in the water with a metal tub next to her]
- .4 – Niel and one of the caribou he killed before he was 16 years old [one white man in a fur trimmed jacket and hat holding a rifle in his left hand. A caribou carcass is on the ground to his right. Behind him is a sled with a dog team lying in the grass]
- .5 – On Portage Lake, bringing home the caribou meat for our winter supply [One white woman standing on ice behind a sled and dog team. One white man standing in front of the dog team]
- .6 – A camp eight miles from home and twenty-five miles from anyone else where Niel spent a night alone [a sled and dog team lying in the snow with a tent in the background]
- .7 – Howling Dog Camp. Niel bringing in a load of wood and I am on snowshoes [one white woman standing in the snow in the foreground. One white man in the background with a dog team standing in the snow]
- .8 – One of the Rampart Hills and Niel with his dog team [one white man standing next to a sled and dog team on frozen river]
- .9 – Dode and I out snow shoeing [one white woman and one white man standing in show shoes]
- .10 – Niel and I came down the Porcupine River in this launch in 1919 from Howling Dog Camp to Fort Yukon [two boats, one with a cover and the other with two dogs and supplies at the bow. One person is bent over on the boat on the left and another person standing on shore to the right]
- .11 – Niel and I at the cabin he helped his dad build [two people standing next to a cabin with snow on the roof and a dog team sitting in a line facing the camera. A pair of snowshoes are placed next to the cabin]

- .12 – A relic of the gold rush in Dawson 1897. It ran between Dawson and the Klondike camps [two railway cars in a grass covered field]
- .13 – This inverted tub and hose were used to wash gold out of the ground on this lot where a saloon has been in the early days. We saw the man get three dollars a day from the dirt. The gold got into this ground from the gold dust spilled when they paid for drinks. [a metal tub sitting on a block with a hose to the right and wood debris surrounding it. Buildings in the background]
- .14 – Placer mining near Dawson, Canada. I took this picture in 1927 [a hose spraying water, possibly towards a sluice]
- .15 – A crack dog team, Alaska [a dog team with two people, one sitting on the sled and the other standing behind]
- .16 – The inland passage on the way to Alaska [landscape view of a water and mountains]
- .17 – Over Chilkoot Pass during the Gold Rush in Alaska. Thousands of gold seekers used this trail. Dode climbed over this trail in 1897 [view of a line of people climbing mountain pass]
- .18 – Taken at midnight in Fort Yukon, Alaska [landscape view of river with trees and brush along riverbank]
- .19 – Launching the boat built at Fort Yukon [a group of people next to a boat under construction]
- .20 – Seward, Alaska. Photo by Curtis & Miller [view of downtown Seward and waterfront, likely from a ship]
- .21 – Skaguay, Alaska [view of Skagway, Alaska with docks and railroad in the foreground]

Guide written: June 17, 2022