

REFERENCE CODE: AkAMH

REPOSITORY NAME:

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Guide prepared by: Sara Piasecki, Photo Archivist

TITLE: Nathan L. Smith Photographs

COLLECTION NUMBER: B2001.038

OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION

Dates: 1930-1936

Extent: 59 items, .01 linear feet

Language and Scripts: The collection is in English.

Name of creator(s): Nathan L. Smith

Administrative/Biographical History:

Nathan L. Smith was a school teacher in Alaska in the 1930s. He was an amateur photographer, and photographed people and activities in the communities he served.

Scope and Content Description:

The collection consists of 59 black-and-white photographs depicting Alaska Native people and culture, primarily around the village of Gambell on St. Lawrence Island, Alaska. There are several images of a whale hunt.

Arrangement:

Not applicable

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:

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Preferred Citation:

Nathan L. Smith Photographs; Anchorage Museum, B2001.038

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Acquisition and Appraisal Information

Donated by Virginia Smith Sherwood, daughter of Nathan Smith, on October 15, 2001.

RELATED MATERIALS

B2001.023, Eklutna Vocational School – Northern Light Collection

SUBJECTS

Smith, Nathan L., fl. 1930-1941
Sherwood, Virginia Smith
Yuit Eskimos--Alaska--Saint Lawrence Island
Yuit Eskimos--Dwellings
Yupik Eskimos--Alaska-- Saint Lawrence Island
Yupik Eskimos--Dwellings
Whaling--Alaska—Gambell
School buildings--Alaska—Gambell
Boats and boating—Alaska—Saint Lawrence Island
Canneries—Alaska—Sand Point
Saint Lawrence Island (Alaska)
Gambell (Alaska)
Ukivok (Alaska)
Sand Point (Alaska)
Dutch Harbor (Alaska)
Nome (Alaska)

Detailed Description of the Collection

B1/F1

- .1 – Skin tossing, 4th of July [blanket toss]
- .2 – Setting out in pursuit of whale [men in wooden boat]
- .3 – Booshu, with sealskin eyeshade to show that he is victorious captain [with other men in wooden boat, coming ashore]
- .4 – Four pokes of inflated seal skins are attached to whale to give extra buoyancy
- .5 – A successful whaler returning to the village [men in wooden boat]

- .6 – The boat which first harpooned the whale leads the procession to the ice when it is towed in for cutting [four wooden boats coming ashore]
- .7 – The whale boats maneuver the dead whale into position, alongside shore ice, where it is fastened by walrus skin rope [taken from boat: men on shore and in boats, dog]
- .8 – Cutting up a whale [taken from shore: men on shore and in boats]
- .9 – Removing whalebone (baleen) from mouth of bowhead whale
- .10 – A big seal, also called mukluk, oogorok, bearded seal
- .11 – Part of the 20,000 reindeer on St. Lawrence Island at roundup time 1933 [men removing reindeer from wooden pen]
- .12 – Splitting a walrus hide [man with hide stretched on wooden rack]
- .13 – Drying walrus meat, frame of oomiak [umiak] on top of drying rack
- .14 – Building an oomiak [umiak], Charles and Amy Slwooko's house [man and woman with umiak frame]
- .15 – Walrus stomachs drying. These are used for drum heads. Clement Ungott's grandfather's house [group of people sitting outside of wooden house]
- .16 – Jungiyan's house [man standing at window of small wooden house]
- .17 – Eskimo house – roof removed for summer during which family lives in tent or small frame bldg [wooden house with sled frames, shovel]
- .18 – Koozata's house, regular roof put on in spring of 1986 [large group with children sitting outside wooden structure]
- .19 – 1931, 4th of July games [group of boys lined up for sack race, villagers observing, next to Eskimo house]
- .20 – 1931, 4th of July, skin roof removed from house in summer [group of women, children, and man observing games, next to Eskimo house]
- .21 – Walunga's house 2/3/32 [winter scene]
- .22 – Gambell in winter, 1/25/32 [cluster of houses]
- .23 – Teacherage, winter; schoolhouse to the right
- .24 – Schoolhouse 1931, built in 1894
- .25 – School children in Gambell [large group outside schoolhouse]
- .26 – Alngiiwhtag and grandfather Tivukaroo, bird & fawn parkas
- .27 – Booshu's wife, wearing plume of white reindeer hair & walrus intestine parka in celebration of her husband's catching whale [woman, dog]
- .28 – Isabel Otiyokok and Jeanie showing Siberian Eskimo type of parka worn by St. Lawrence Is. Woman [woman and girl on steps of wooden building]
- .29 – Richard Oktiyok, wife Edna and son Frank, S.W. cape. Center parka reindeer, others are murre [group in front of building, dogs]
- .30 – Siberian Eskimo woman from Indian Point
- .31 – Baby walrus [walrus carcass strapped to man's back]
- .32 – Josephine Ungott & mother in law Alice Anasook. Note tattooed designs on arms, also on face
- .33 – Dorcas Achak 1935
- .34 – Polar bears. James Aningayou with son Norman and nephew Daniel, mother polar bear & 2 cubs [group posing with carcasses, dog]
- .35 – Mary Boolowon, later married Samuel Irigoo [woman with two children]
- .36 – Grace Kulukhon 1935
- .37 – Kuroga, about 65 years old, 1931

- .38 – Jimmie Otiyohok and family. Uniform is a cast-off from Coast Guard [man, woman, two children, buildings in background]
- .39 – Moses and Edna Soonagrok, strongest man in Gambell
- .40 – Tinmaywon, about 75 years old 1931
- .41 – Gladys and Virginia Smith in oomiak [umiak], 1933
- .42 – Annie Horace and Virginia Smith with spider crab, Spring 1936
- .43 – Bessie Kozaata & Barbara Ekeya with Virginia & Barbara Smith
- .44 – Bessie and Grace Kozaata & Virginia Smith
- .45 – Lucy Wahinga and Virginia Smith
- .46 – Nathan Smith, Feb. 1932
- .47 – Nathan Smith with dogsled
- .48 – Gladys Smith, Virginia Smith, and Sam Troutman leaving Gambell for Savoonga, 1932 [group with dog team]
- .49 – Dog team at fawning camp, St. Lawrence Island, April 1932 [several teams]
- .50 – Winter scene, shoveling boat ramp, 2/3/32
- .51 – Siberian boats with masts up
- .52 – USMS Boxer, Oct. 15, 1931, from Gambell
- .53 – Schooner C.S. Holmes, supply ship for Arctic, last full sailing ship on Puget Sound & Bering Sea
- .54 – The North Star at King Island, 1934 [ship at dock]
- .55 – Alaska Cannery, Sand Point, 1934
- .56 – Dutch Harbor 1934
- .57 – SS Victoria at Dutch Harbor, 1934
- .58 – Men at Pioneer Igloo Hotel, Nome, 1934 [five men lined up against wall]
- .59 – Dog at sunrise