

**REFERENCE CODE:** AkAMH

**REPOSITORY NAME:**

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**TITLE:** Frank H. Nowell Prints

**COLLECTION NUMBER:** B2013.072

**OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION**

Dates: circa 1906

Extent: 25 plates

Language and Scripts: The collection is in English.

Name of creator(s): Frank H. Nowell, Beverly B. Dobbs

**Administrative/Biographical History:**

Frank H. Nowell was born on February 19, 1864, in New Hampshire, and first came to Alaska in 1886, at age 22, to join his father in business. Sometime after 1900, Nowell began taking photographs of Alaskan scenes, and eventually opened a studio in Nome. By 1908, Nowell was spending most of his time in Seattle. About that time, Nowell was appointed official photographer of the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition. After the fair, Nowell remained in Seattle, running a commercial photography studio for 25 years. Nowell died on October 19, 1950.<sup>1</sup>

Beverly Bennett Dobbs was born in 1868 in Missouri. In 1900, he came to Nome, Alaska, to work as a photographer. By 1903, he was working with photographer A.B. Kinne. Around 1907, Dobbs sold his negatives to Lomen Brothers and returned to the lower 48. He died at age 69 in 1937.

The album likely belonged to William A. Eastman, who traveled to the Nome area circa 1900-1910, and subsequently worked in real estate in Seattle. A textual sheet bound at the end bears the title *Art work of the Inland Empire: Eastern Washington, Northern Idaho*, which may have

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<sup>1</sup> "Guide to the Frank H. Nowell Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition Photographs, 1908-1909." Seattle: Museum of History & Industry. Web. As viewed online November 4, 2013.

been an advertisement for an upcoming installment of the Harney Photogravure Co.'s series of portfolios of Western American photography. The prints in this album may have come from an edition of Harney's *Art work of Seattle and Alaska*, which was printed in 1907.

**Scope and Content Description:**

The collection consists of 25 collotype or photogravure plates housed in a leather album measuring 14.5" x 10.5". Most of the plates are signed by F.H. Nowell; one does bear the name of Beverly Dobbs on the original photograph. For more information, see Detailed Description of Collection.

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:**

Frank H. Nowell Prints, Anchorage Museum, B2013.072

**ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

**Acquisition and Appraisal Information**

Donated by Richard York, Jr., in October 2013. The album was found in his grandmother's home at the time of her death. It likely belonged to York's grandfather, William A. Eastman.

**Processing Note**

Album disbound to allow relieve pressure on plates and allow interleaving with tissue. Some of the original guard sheets were removed prior to donation.

**SUBJECTS**

Nowell, Frank H., 1864-1950

Amundsen, Roald, 1872-1928

Inupiat—Alaska

Dwellings—Alaska  
Umiaks—Alaska  
Reindeer herding—Alaska  
Logging—Idaho  
Gjøa (Ship)  
Nome (Alaska)  
Unalaska (Alaska)  
Teller (Alaska)  
Saint Michael (Alaska)  
Yukon River (Yukon and Alaska)

#### Detailed Description of the Collection

- .1 – Boating on the Yukon [sternwheeler *White Horse*]
- .2 – Moonlight on Bering Sea. Copyright F.H. Nowell, '06 [text on original photograph reads “Moonlight on Bering Sea, Aug. 15th, 1905.” View of dock]
- .3 – An Eskimo belle. Copyright F.H. Nowell [Alaska Native woman in fur parka sitting next to wheeled wagon]
- .4 – Bird’s eye view of Nome, Alaska [text on original photograph reads “Bird’s eye view of Nome from Lane’s derrick, 1903, Dobbs”]
- .5 – Kow Kow Pe Chuk Tuk, “Too many cooks spoil the broth.” Copyright F.H. Nowell [three Alaska Native women squatting around a cooking fire, one at left carrying a baby on her back, with a canvas tent behind them and buildings in background]
- .6 – Bird’s eye view of Unalaska
- .7 – Six little Arctic natives. Copyright F.H. Nowell [three young girls holding puppies]
- .8 – Automobiling by Eskimos in the Arctics. Copyright F.H. Nowell [men, women, and children in vintage automobile, buildings in distance]
- .9 – The dividing line between Canada and Alaska. Copyright F.H. Nowell [man and woman with dog team pulling sled, stopped outside log cabin with American flag on pole]
- .10 – Eskimo skin boat or omiak. Copyright F.H. Nowell [men, women, and children in large umiak with mast]
- .11 – Native house, Captain’s Harbor, Alaska. Copyright F.H. Nowell [grass house with wooden fencing, outbuilding, several wooden barrels, possibly Captain Harbor near Cold Bay or Captains Bay on Unalaska Island]
- .12 – Eskimo women and “mickaninies’ nook,” Teller, Alaska. Copyright F.H. Nowell [large group of women and children in front of canvas tents]
- .13a – Cape Prince of Wales reindeer herd, largest in America. Copyright F.H. Nowell, '06 [on same plate as 13b]
- .13b – Reindeer obtaining food by pawing snow from the moss. Copyright F.H. Nowell, '06
- .14 – St. Michael’s, Alaska, old Russian fort and cannons [Russian block house, with steamship visible on open water in background]
- .15 – Play time in Alaska. Copyright F.H. Nowell [young boy on small sled being pulled by two dogs, stopped on winter trail]
- .16 – Clean-up of \$28,000 on Bessie Mine, Nome, Alaska, May 26, 1906 [men working mining operation, with flume emptying in lower right corner of image]

- .17 – Mickaninies' laundry, Alaska. Copyright F.H. Nowell [young child in fur parka sitting in washtub with washboard]
- .18 – Keat Kona. Copyright F.H. Nowell [text on original photograph reads "Keat-Kona, Copyright 1905 by F.H. Nowell, Nome."] Portrait of long-haired young Alaska Native woman in kuspuk]
- .19 – Eskimo friends. Copyright F.H. Nowell [portrait of two young women, one in kuspuk and one in fur parka; Cape Prince of Wales?]
- .20 – Moonlight on Bering Sea at Nome. Copyright F.H. Nowell, '06 [view of dock area, ships visible on open water]
- .21 – Captain Amundsen on his ship the "Gjoa" [text on original photograph reads "5161. Capt. "Amundsen" arrives in Nome, Aug. 31st, 1906, on his ship "Gjoa" after 3 years in Arctic, determined magnetic pole and found Northwest Passage. Copyright by F.H. Nowell, 1906"]
- .22 – Captain Amundsen and crew of the Gjoa, Nome, Alaska, Sept. 1, 1906 [text on original photograph reads "Capt. Amundsen and his crew on board the "Gjoa" Nome, Sep. 1st, 1906. Photo by F.H. Nowell, Nome, Alaska, Copyright 1906"]
- .23 – Log slide in Northern Idaho [passengers in two canoes in water at base of logging chute]
- .24 – Combined harvester at work near Walla Walla [large team of horses pulling farming equipment in grain field, horse and buggy with rider at right]
- .25 – Summer scene at Haydens Lake [image with text, section title "Inland Empire: Eastern Washington – Northern Idaho." Two small boats and diving platform in lake, Idaho]

Guide written: November 5, 2013