

**REFERENCE CODE:** AkAMH

**REPOSITORY NAME:**

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**TITLE:** Earl Malcolm Hennen Collection

**COLLECTION NUMBER:** B1992.003

**OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION**

Dates: 1902-1905

Extent: 43 items

Language and Scripts: The collection is in English.

Name of creator(s): Earl Malcom Hennen

**Administrative/Biographical History:**

Earl Malcolm Hennen was born in Monongalia county, West Virginia on July 12, 1882. He attended Lebanon Valley Business College, West Virginia University, and Elliot's Business College. In April 1902, Hennen enlisted in the Signal Corps of the United States Army. At the end of his training in June 1902, Hennen was ordered to foreign service in Alaska and arrived at Fort Liscum near Suacit (Valdez) in July the same year. Hennen served for two years and nine months along the Valdez section of the military telegraph lines and was promoted from the rank of private to first class sergeant during his service. At the end of his three year service, Hennen received an honorable discharge and returned to West Virginia in April 1905.<sup>1</sup>

Hennen married Josephine Marie Stenger on August 15, 1911, and they had four children. Hennen passed on June 24, 1941 and is buried in Morgantown, West Virginia.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Bernard L. Butcher, ed. *Genealogical and Personal History of the Upper Monongahela Valley, West Virginia*. Lewis Historical Publishing Company, 1912.

<sup>2</sup> <https://ancestors.familysearch.org/en/M7KD-29Z/earl-malcolm-hennen-1882-1941>

Scope and Content Description:

This collection consists of 43 photographs of Copper Center, Alaska, the progress of a pack train from Valdez to Fairbanks, United States Army scenes, as well as photos of Copper River Valley and Ahtna peoples from 1902 to 1905.

Arrangement: Arranged by previous archivist.

**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: Earl Malcolm Hennen Collection, Anchorage Museum, B1992.003

**ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

Acquisition and Appraisal Information

Transferred to the Anchorage Museum from The Cultural Center, West Virginia Division of Culture and History in February 1992. Original donor was Michael Hennon, the grandson of Earl Malcolm Hennen and an archivist at the Mississippi State Archives who sent the materials to The Cultural Center because of the family connection to West Virginia.

Processing Note

Previous processing did not include item level description.

**RELATED MATERIALS**

B1969.013 CIHS Hall Collection

B1977.107 AHFAM Roe Photographs

B1992.024 Cornelia Lincoln Martin Collection

**SUBJECTS**

Hennen, Earl Malcolm, 1882-1941

Ahtna (Indigenous peoples)

Copper Center / Tl'at'icac'e (Alaska)

Fort Liscum (Alaska)  
Freight and freighting—Alaska  
Military – Alaska  
Military Telegraph – Alaska  
Pack animals (Transportation) – Alaska  
United States. Army – Communication systems  
Valdez / Suacit (Alaska)  
Valdez-Fairbanks Trail

#### Detailed Description of the Collection

- .1 – [two Ahtna individuals wearing suit jackets, vest, holding hats at their thighs, pose in front of small trees, possibly aspens. Circa 1902-1905]
- .1.1 – [one Ahtna individual wearing what appears to be military uniform stands near trees with river, possibly Copper River, in background. Circa 1902-1905]
- .2 – [four Ahtna youth pose in front of log cabin porch with one individual standing in the doorway and another to the right of the porch with a dog. Circa 1902-1905. Ahtna Territory, Tl'atitca'e (Copper Center)]
- .3 – [three Ahtna youth pose in front of log cabin porch; broom, shovel, other implements in view; structure at far right. Circa 1902-1905. Ahtna Territory, Tl'atitca'e (Copper Center)]
- .4 – Copper Center [ten Ahtna individuals posed on porch of log cabin with a dog at right. Circa 1902-1905. Ahtna Territory, Tl'atitca'e (Copper Center)]
- .5 – [winter scene with at least three individuals standing in front of log structure with sign that reads, "Hotel Holman," and skis crossed above porch and flag. Packed sledges with horses and dogs also around cabin]
- .6 – [winter scene with two individuals in tent entries with boxes and a sled to the right]
- .7 – [six individuals posed wearing fur hats, jackets, and winter gear at a camp with supplies. Two individuals holding pairs of snowshoes]
- .8 – [four individuals, including Earl Malcolm Hennen third from left, posed in snow with trees and hills in background. One individual second from left holding a rifle and wearing snowshoes]
- .9 – [one individual identified as Earl Malcolm Hennen standing on porch in suit with hat. Sign on wall obscured but possibly reads, "U.S. Military Telegraph Corps Office"]
- .10 – [scenic view of frozen river with at least one structure on left bank]
- .11 – [scenic view of frozen river with structures on the bank with trees in the background]
- .12 – [scenic view of river with flood plain, trees, and mountains in the background]
- .13 – [pack train with horses or mules crossing a log bridge over a river with mountains in the background]
- .14 – [view of log structure at left with dog and at least two individuals on porches with trees and hills in the background]
- .15 – [waterfall with rocks and tree in top left]
- .16 – [scenic winter view of snow covered valley with mountains in the background]
- .17 – [one individual posed in snow with rifle and wearing fur hat. Possibly same individual from .8]

- .18 – [one individual, possibly Earl Malcolm Hennen, standing in front of log cabin with antlers above the doorway and possible supplies in front]
- .20 – [scenic view of valley with snow on mountains in the background]
- .21 – [view of log bridge over river with ravine in the background]
- .22 – [scenic view of valley covered in snow with mountains in the background]
- .23 – [scenic view of valley covered in snow with mountains in the background. Similar to .23]
- .24 – [view of camp with individuals seated in clearing next to a tent with covered backs visible along with other tents and possible telegraph pole and line in the background]
- .25 – [view of camp with pack horses or mules tied to a line with individuals standing in the background next to a log cabin]
- .26 – [scenic view of valley covered in snow with mountains in the background. Same as .23]
- .27 – [view of pack train with horses or mules harnessed to sleds or sledges with a tent or canvas covered structure in the background]
- .28 – [view of cliffs with vegetation]
- .29 – [log structure with sign that reads, “U.S. Commissioner”]
- .30 – [interior view bar counter with alcohol along wall and on shelves]
- .31 – [four individuals and dogs posed in front of log structure with sign that reads, “Hotel Holman,” and skis crossed above porch and flag]
- .32 – [log cabins with sign above door to far left that reads, “Saloon.” Similar to .14]
- .33 – [dog team in harness posed on bridge pulling logs on sled with two individuals seated and standing]
- .34 – [one individual posed in hat, coat, mittens, and snowshoes in snow]
- .35 – [log cabin with three moose skulls and antlers mounted to exterior wall with canvas tent at right with boxes and logs in foreground]
- .36 – [two individuals posed in snow wearing fur hats and holding rifles. Same individuals from .8 and .17]
- .37 – [scenic view of river with trees and mountains in the background]
- .38 – [scenic view of snow covered valley with trees and mountains in the background]
- .39 – [scenic view of valley with small lake at center left and mountains in the background]
- .40 – [interior view with one individual seated next to wall with furs to the right, and various printed materials on the wall including a shelf with books, a map, calendar, advertisement, and portrait of Theodore Roosevelt]
- .41 – [view of pack train with horses or mules on trail with fence rails moving up hill]
- .42 – [two log structures, one with an open door, and possible snow or frost on the ground]

Guide written: 2003

Guide updated: April 23, 2026