OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION

Dates: circa 1894-1901
Extent: 1 box; 0.4 linear feet
Language and Scripts: The collection is in English.

Name of creator(s): Winter & Pond; Vincent Soboleff; C. W. Mathers; Elbridge W. Merrill; W. A. McPherson

Administrative/Biographical History:

Winter & Pond were the premier photographers of Juneau and are especially known for portraiture of Tlingits.
Vincent I. Soboleff was the son of Russian Orthodox priest John Soboleff, who had moved to Killisnoo from San Francisco in the early 1890s. In about 1896, Father Soboleff purchased a camera for his three children. Vincent took most of the views and retained the camera until the 1920’s.

Charles Wesley Mathers photographed many Klondikers during the gold rush. In 1901, he reached Fort McPherson on the Peel River and took some of the first professional photographs of Inuit in the region. Mathers sold his business in 1904 and moved to Vancouver, B.C. In 1920 he moved to Taft, California, where he worked briefly as a photographer.

Elbridge Warren Merrill came to Alaska in 1897. He settled in Sitka and operated Merrill Studio. Merrill died in 1929.

William Alexander McPherson was a photographer in Alaska in the early 1900s. He worked as a photographer for the Alaska Central Railroad from 1903 to 1906 and was based in
Seward. He may have been working for the North American Transportation and Trading Company when he was in Nome, 1899-1901.

Scope and Content Description:
The collection consists of 149 black-and-white photographs. Images 51-144 are mounted on cardboard. Sixteen of the loose prints are stereographs. The images primarily depict Nome and Southeast Alaska between 1894 and 1901. Of note are several images of gold seekers traveling up the Valdez Glacier and down the Tazlina River, probably in 1898 or 1899. For more information, see Detailed Description of Collection.

Arrangement: Loosely arranged by subject

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:
Minnesota Historical Society Collection, Anchorage Museum, B1970.073

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Acquisition and Appraisal Information
This collection was transferred to the Anchorage Museum in 1970 by the Minnesota Historical Society.

Processing Note
Loose photos might have been removed from albums prior to accessioning.

Separated Materials
Mounted enlargements removed to oversize.
SUBJECTS
Chilkat Indians—Alaska
Haida Indians—Alaska
Tlingit Indians—Alaska
Tlingit Indians—Funeral customs and rites
Ahtena Indians—Alaska
Totems—Alaska
Slavey Indians—Northwest Territories
Gold mines and mining—Alaska
Alaska—Gold discoveries
Fort Davis (Alaska)
Kasaan (Alaska)
Ketchikan (Alaska)
Klukwan (Alaska)
Long Island (Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area, Alaska)
Metlakatla (Alaska)
Nome (Alaska)
Valdez (Alaska)
Wrangell (Alaska)
Klondike River Valley (Yukon)—Gold discoveries
Fort Resolution (N.W.T.)
Dawson (Yukon)

Detailed Description of the Collection

Loose prints
F1
.1 – 202. Old totem poles in chief’s house, Chilkat. Copyright 1895 by Winter & Pond [child wearing Chilkat robe seated in front of totems, interior of Klini’s House, Frog House of Klukwan]
.2 – 197. Old totem poles in chief’s house, Chilkat. Copyright 1895 by Winter & Pond [interior of Klini’s House, Frog House of Klukwan, including Cannibal giant with child totem, Frog totem, spruce root baskets and cookware]
.3 – 199. Images on Indian doctor’s grave, Chilkat. Copyright 1895 by Winter & Pond [Gow-ga-deh-Iktuk grave; close-up of one large, two small human figure totems; two other carved objects, Klukwan. Cf. B1972.046.010]
.4 – [on verso:] Totem poles at Howkan village, Alaska [four poles amid buildings and graves, Watchman pole at left, Whale and Grizzly Bear second left, Eagle mortuary pole second right, possibly Killer Whale mortuary pole right]
.5 – [on verso:] Totem poles at Howkan village, Alaska [three poles in front of buildings, Watchman pole at left, Whale pole center, Eagle pole right]
.6 – 287. Totem poles, Kake, Alaska. Copyright 1895 by Winter & Pond [three mortuary poles, one Russian Orthodox cross, and carved eagle on fence of grave in cemetery]
.7 – [on verso:] Bear totem, Indian cemetery, Ketchikan, Alaska [bear totem on grave, fences and shelters over graves in background. 2 copies]
.8 – [on verso:] Totem of Chief Kian, Ketchikan, Alaska [side view of Kyan totem pole along boardwalk between buildings. 2 copies]
.9 – [on verso:] Totem of Chief Kasheesh, Ketchikan, Alaska [Chief Johnson pole next to house with whale totem painted on front, house of Chief Kadashan behind]
.10 – [on verso:] Totem of Hydah chief at old Kasaan, Alaska, said to be best carved and longest totem pole in Alaska [Chief Skowl totem in low brush]
.11 – [on verso:] A section of old Kasaan, Indian village on Prince of Wales Island, Alaska, the village of totem poles [seven totem poles in front of buildings, Chief Son-i-yat’s house and Governor Brady pole at right. 2 copies]
.12 – [on verso:] Native house and totem poles at old Kasaan village, Alaska. The group composed a part of the Alaska exhibit at the St. Louis Exposition. Situated about 30 miles from Ketchikan on Prince of Wales Island [three poles in front of house, Watchman pole in center, flanked by two chiefs’ poles]
.13 – 388. Chief Shakes totem, Wrangel, Alaska. Copyright 1898 by Winter & Pond [totem, with corner of house at right, Wrangell]
.14 – 117. Chief Shake’s totem poles, Fort Wrangle. Copyright 1895 by Winter & Pond [man sitting on bench between Bear-up-the-Mountain and Go-na-ka-dot or Gunakadeit totems, Wrangell]
.15 – 120. Chief Kat-a-shan’s house, Fort Wrangel. Copyright 1895 by Winter & Pond [two poles in front of Chief Kadashan’s house, Cane totem on left, Red Snapper totem on right, Wrangell]
.16 – [on verso:] Large totem (no date or area), Wrangell [Kiksadi totem in front of Sun House]
.17 – Three chiefs. V.I.S. [mounted enlargement. Three men in Tlingit regalia posed next to house, masks and potlatch bowl set on chairs and table. Vincent Soboleff, photographer. Identified as: Dick Yelth nahwoo (Yéil naawú, Tleix'yaanag'ut) of the Deisheetaan Raven House wearing the Raven Hat. Alfred Perkins Sr. (Kwaal Éesh) of the Deisheetaan Needlefish House wearing the Beaver Chilkat Tunic. William Peters I (Kaa Ikáawu Tlein) of the Deisheetaan Basket Bay Arch House wearing the Beaver Hat. Taken on the porch of the Raven House. Also in the picture is the Beaver Dish that was saved from the October 22, 1882 bombardment, and the “Raven Cape” which is actually a Tahitian ta'umi acquired before European contact. Clan and name identification courtesy of Harold Jacobs.]
.18 – 203. Indian dancers at potlatch, Chilkat, Alaska. Copyright 1895 by Winter & Pond [male dancers posed in ceremonial dress, some holdings masks or dance fans, large white house of Kowshte in background, Klukwan. same as B1970.080.44]
.19 – Naturally stoned [on verso:] Aged couple of Hydah Indians, Ketchikan, Alaska [man and woman sitting outside house, woman weaving basket. 2 copies]
.20 – 58. Group of Indians [on verso:] Copper River Indians [stereograph. Ahtna Indians standing outdoors]

F2
.21 – Trading with the Esquimaux. Observe the stone ornaments the man has in his lips. They are inserted from the inside, a shoulder preventing it from coming all the way through. Photo
by C.W. Mathers, Edmonton [man wearing parka with tusk gussets and labrets with woman wearing Canadian Inuit-style parka, both standing next to tent, child peeking out from tent flap, trader at right holding scrimshawed knife or story knife]

.22 – The midnight sun (copyrighted). Photo by Mathers, Edmonton, N.W.T., 2000 miles north [scenic of sun low over water]

.23 – 241. Indian doctor, healing, Dyea, Alaska. Copyright 1894 by Winter & Pond [on verso:] This man in Skan-Doo, “Notorious Medicine Man” [Tlingit shaman Skan-Doo or Skundoo, one of the headmen of the Kaagwaantaan, wearing button vest and headdress and holding crane rattle, kneeling over man lying on floor. Cf. B1972.027.210]

.24 – 65. Foot of rapids, Copper River [stereograph. scenic]

.25 – 60. Copper Center [stereograph. Tents and boats along shore of Copper River]

.26 – Copyright by Merrill [mounted enlargement. Tlingits in full regalia, with robes, headdresses, carved paddles, and face paint; behind is a large replica of a dragon fly, guests from Angoon at 1904 Sitka potlatch. Elbridge W. Merrill, photographer]

.27 – Greeting from Wrangell, Alaska. H.C.C. [on verso:] Stikine [photographic postcard. Interior of house, man seated on bench at left, with Tlingit regalia, Chilkat blanket, masks, hats, and paddles. Verso addressed to Captain Wm. B. Folwell, Minneapolis, Minnesota, postmarked Skagway, May 20, 1907]

.28 – [on verso:] View up Front Street, Ketchikan, Alaska [street scene, laying boardwalk in front of businesses including Hotel Revilla, Alaska Restaurant. Earlier than 1905]

.29 – [on verso:] Front view business section, showing German cutter “Falke,” Ketchikan, Alaska [waterfront as seen from ship. Circa 1891-1907]

.30 – [on verso:] Front view business section, Ketchikan, Alaska [waterfront as seen from ship. Circa 1891-1907]

.31 – [on verso:] Falls on Ketchikan Creek, Ketchikan, Alaska [scenic with waterfall]

.32 – [on verso:] View looking south down Tongass Narrows, Ketchikan, Alaska [bird’s eye view of Ketchikan, with boardwalks under construction at right]

.33 – [on verso:] Dock Street, Ketchikan, Alaska [street scene, group of men standing outside The Stedman, fire hydrant at left, dogs on boardwalk, signs for The Sideboard and Horse Shoe]

.34 – [on verso:] Wharf, warehouse, cannery and store at Metlakatla, Alaska, native village in charge of Rev. Wm. Duncan [bird’s eye view of beach, buildings, canoes and other boats]

.35 – 10. Madonna, Greek church, Sitka, Alaska. Winter & Pond, Photo. [icon, St. Michael the Archangel Cathedral. 2 copies]

.36 – 18. Foot of glacier [on verso:] Tazlina [stereograph. Tent camp in winter. Probably Valdez Glacier]


.38 – 22. Foot of third bench [on verso:] Tazlina [stereograph. Tents and men with loaded sleds on glacier. Probably Valdez Glacier]

.39 – 26. City of tents at foot of glacier (fine) [on verso:] Tazlina [stereograph. Bird’s eye view of tent camp in winter. Probably Valdez Glacier]

.40 – 33. Camp at first timber over glacier [on verso:] Tazlina [stereograph. Man hauling loaded sled into camp. Probably Valdez Glacier]
F3
.41 – 34. In water from 8 in. to 2 feet deep, going from first lake to second [on verso:] Tazlina [stereograph. Men standing in water with loaded sleds]
.42 – 53. Fish trap set on Tazlina [on verso:] Tazlina [stereograph. Native fish weir on Tazlina River]
.43 – 48. Taking goods across Tazlina [on verso:] Tazlina [stereograph. Men lined up shoulder-to-shoulder on bank of Tazlina River]
.44 – 51. Camp at mouth of Tazlina [on verso:] Tazlina [stereograph. Tent camp on beach]
.45 – 15. In camp at Port Valdes [stereograph. Men sitting on sleds in front of tents, clothing drying on tents, sled in foreground, Valdez]
.46 – 13. Landing of rival at Port Valdes, Alaska [stereograph. Passengers standing on snow next to large sailing ship, Valdez]
.47 – [stereograph. Bird’s eye view of unidentified town, utility poles in foreground, children gathered in open area with horses, horse-drawn carts lined up along businesses in distance]
.48 – Indians landing at Great Slave Lake with birch bark canoes, coming to trade at Resolution. Photo by C.W. Mathers, Edmonton [Dene Indians with supplies and canoes on lake shore]
.49 – 1. Main street, Port Townsend [stereograph. Street scene, Washington State]
.50 – 347. Towing traders boats down Slave River[. Photo by C.W. Mathers, Edmonton, Alta. [view from skiff at back of line of boats being towed by river steamer, seen in distance]

Photos mounted on cardboard pages
B4
.51 – Main street, Nome, Alaska, in 1900 [street scene with businesses including Samuels & Co., Nome Commission and Storage Co., The Yukon, Kentucky Lodging House, and Dye Signs. W.A. McPherson, photographer. Same as .85]
.52 – Part of Nome south of N.A.T. Store in 1900. W.A. [bird’s eye view of tent city, with signs for Lion Bakery, L Str. Bakery, Stewart and Scott Lumber Co. W.A. McPherson, photographer. Same as .140]
.53 – Scene on Snake River in Aug. 1900 [waterfront, with steamboats including the Lotta Talbot, docks, tents, and buildings. W.A. McPherson, photographer. Same as .115]
.54 – Nome beach waterfront, Alaska, 1900 [bird’s eye view of tent city and boats along shore, with lighters coming in for landing at right. W.A. McPherson, photographer. Same as .114]
.55 – Mining at the [Snake?] River in 1899. Nome mine in Alaska in [Apr.?] 1899 [distant view of conveyor belt, dredge, tents and buildings in distance. W.A. McPherson, photographer. Same as .88]
.56 – Building Fort Cape Nome in 1900 [men laying lumber framing on ground, partially completed building in right background, tent in center background, pile of lumber in left foreground, Fort Davis. W.A. McPherson, photographer. Same as .117]
.57 – Fourth July, Nome, Alaska, 1901 [soldiers carrying firearms parading past spectators and grandstand, Fourth of July celebration. W.A. McPherson, photographer]
.58 – Going up the Klondike Ri[vy]er, 1898 [man paddling long canoe down river past ice chunks. W.A. McPherson, photographer]
.59 – Part of main street, Nome, 1901 [two children standing between snowbanks and buildings in winter, sign at left for Standard. W.A. McPherson, photographer. Same as .139]

.60 – Going from Nome to Council City, 1901 [three men with dog team pulling two loaded sleds. W.A. McPherson, photographer. Same as .110]


.62 – Cabens at Nome, Alaska in 1900 [men standing in front of wooden buildings and a walled tent, laundry hanging from clothesline at right. W.A. McPherson, photographer. Same as .89]

.63 – Nome, Alaska, near Nome Sity, 1900 [men walking on beach past piles of supplies, small business stand. W.A. McPherson, photographer. Same as .144]

.64 – North end of Nome, Alaska, in August 1900 [bird’s eye view of tents and wooden buildings. W.A. McPherson, photographer. Same as .83]

.65 – [Co.?] builders in Nome, Alaska, in 1900 [five men standing in front of tent with sign for JT Cosgrove Architect and Builder. W.A. McPherson, photographer]

.66 – [street scene, Nome, with houses and signs for Pioneer Western Lumber Co., Tin Shop, Dyer Bros., Stewart and Scott Lumber]

.67 – Dawson City, 1897 [bird’s eye view of city and river valley. W.A. McPherson, photographer. Same as .70]

.68 – [cabin nearly buried in snow. W.A. McPherson, photographer. Same as .69]

.69 – [same as .68]

.70 – [same as .67]

.71 – Forth of July, Nome, Alask[a] in 1900 [street scene with horse-drawn carts and carriages, Nome Meat Market at left, Fourth of July celebration. W.A. McPherson, photographer. Same as .121]

.72 – Bark Allaska racked in Nome harbor, 1900 [wreck of the sailing ship Alaska near Nome, many ships at anchor nearby. W.A. McPherson, photographer. Same as .86]

.73 – Nome miners return from th[e] N[o]rth Pole in the spring of 1900 [six men posed with dog team hauling two sleds next to wooden cabins. W.A. McPherson, photographer. Same as .141]


.75 – Snake River of the spit, Nome, in 1900 [men with boats in foreground, tents and buildings on opposite shore, paddle steamer Lotta Talbot at dock in background. W.A. McPherson, photographer. Same as .116]

.76 – To the gold fields, Seattle fleet in Nome harbor in 1900 [tents on beach in foreground, many ships at anchor in distance. W.A. McPherson, photographer. Same as .122]

.77 – Main street in April 1901, Nome, Alaska [people standing in street in between snowbanks and buildings, men at left selling groceries in open-air stand. W.A. McPherson, photographer. Same as .142]

.78 – Big lumber yard at Nome in 1900. W.A. [piles of lumber in foreground, sign for Pioneer Western Lumber Co. at left, walled tents in background. W.A. McPherson, photographer. Same as .90]
.79 – Looking east from N.A.T. Co. wharf in 1900 [bird’s eye view of piles of lumber amid tents, buildings in background. W.A. McPherson, photographer. Same as .118]


.81 – Scene on Nome beach in Aug. 1900. W.A. [men unloading flat-bottomed boat on beach, people, boats, and piles of supplies on beach. W.A. McPherson, photographer. Same as .87]

.82 – Landing on Nome beach, Alaska, in 1900. W.A. [bird’s eye view of people, boats, and horse-drawn wagon on beach, sailing ship in background, sign at left reads in part “Gold Dollar.” W.A. McPherson, photographer. Same as .143]

.83 – [same as .64]

.84 – A.C. Co.’s store, Dawson, 1887 [group of men standing outside log building on street, pile of lumber at left, Alaska Commercial Co. W.A. McPherson, photographer]

.85 – [same as .51]

.86 – [same as .72]

.87 – [same as .80]

.88 – [same as .55]

.89 – [same as .62]

.90 – [same as .78]

.91 – Main street, Nome, Alaska, April 19th, 1901. W.A. McPherson [man with small horse-drawn cart and other pedestrians on street with spring snow, building at left with sign for Warehouse Office, Central Market on right]

.92 – [seven men posed in front of small building in winter, one man wearing apron, building possibly a mess hall. W.A. McPherson, photographer]

.93 – [1899?] [scenic in winter, cabin or building at left. W.A. McPherson, photographer]

.94 – Landing lumber at Nome, Alaska, in 1900 [view down beach, small boat in surf at left, piles of lumber on shore, tents in distance. W.A. McPherson, photographer]

.95 – Gold hunters at home, Nome, Alaska, in July 30, 1900 [group of men and women posed with dog outside houses. W.A. McPherson, photographer]

F5

.96 – [Nome waterfront, showing high surf up to boats, tents, and buildings along shore. Print retouched. W.A. McPherson, photographer]

.97 – Coming ashore in the storm, Nome, Alaska, in 1900 [view down beach, small dock or barge in foreground, men pulling lighter to shore in middle ground, tents, buildings, and docks in background. W.A. McPherson, photographer]

.98 – A [s]cene on Snake River, Nome, Alaska, in 1900 [man and three children on dock, tents on opposite bank, steamer Minnesota Hos[?]tal at right. Print retouched, with building added at left. W.A. McPherson, photographer]

.99 – Scene in Alaska in 1900 [Alaska Native family on beach, skin tent at left, three white men standing at right. W.A. McPherson, photographer. Cf. .128]

.100 – July the Fourth, main street foced [sic], Nome, Alaska, 1901 [street scene with pedestrians and man on horseback in front of businesses including J.F. Giese, Alaska
Commercial Co. Transportation Dept., L Bakery, Gus Brown Clothier, Sesnon & Sutherland, Fourth of July celebration. W.A. McPherson, photographer

.101 – Mining at Nome, Alaska in 1901, taking on the Nome beach [man with rocker standing in front of tent, pick on pile of dirt at right. W.A. McPherson, photographer]

.102 – [street scene, with men walking on boardwalks along muddy street, Gold Hill Hotel at right, Nome, taken from area directly in front of North American Transportation and Trading Co. W.A. McPherson, photographer]

.103 – A group of Nome miners putting in the wentr in 1901. By W.A. McPherson [photograph of drawing of group of men lined up at bank counter, “putting in in the winter”]

.104 – [musher standing with dog team and loaded sled on open tundra or frozen ocean. W.A. McPherson, photographer]

.105 – Just out sunset picture taking near Nome, Alaska, 1900 [view down beach, man with wheeled cart at left, dog team lying on beach, man with mule at right, tents in background. W.A. McPherson, photographer]

.106 – Beached at Nome, Alaska, in 1900 [sailing ship Harriet wrecked in surf. W.A. McPherson, photographer]

.107 – Scene on Snake River in August 1900 [view down shore, with boats pulled on beach at left, tents at right, buildings in background. W.A. McPherson, photographer]

.108 – [large sailing ship pulled up to edge of ice, supplies and passengers being unloaded. W.A. McPherson, photographer]

.109 – Leaving Nome for the Outside in 1900 [groups of people and supplies on beach, small boats in surf, tent at left. W.A. McPherson, photographer]

.110 – [same as .60]

.111 – [group portrait of three white women and four white men posed in front of house, two women wearing fur coats. W.A. McPherson, photographer]

.112 – King Madahans home, 1901 [photograph of drawing of man leading horse-drawn sled, second man with dog, cabin at right. W.A. McPherson, photographer]

.113 – Scene on the beach at Nome in 1900 [bird’s eye view of tents, men, and supplies. W.A. McPherson, photographer]

.114 – [same as .54]

.115 – [same as .53]

.116 – [same as .75]

.117 – [same as .56]

.118 – [same as .79]

.119 – Scene on main street, Nome, Alaska in 1900 [two men selling groceries and supplies from small tent. W.A. McPherson, photographer]

.120 – [group portrait of Alaska Native men and women posed next to buildings, most wearing fur parkas with walrus tusk gussets, young woman with braided hair, two men with tonsures. W.A. McPherson, photographer. At AFN 2015, tentatively identified as Inupiaq people of Wales area]

.121 – [same as .71]

.122 – [same as .76]

.123 – [same as .74]

.124 – [same as .81]

.126 – [same as .61]

.127 – Leaving Nome for the Outside on te [sic] Lane boat in 1900. By [erased] [bird’s eye view of people, horses, carts, and boats on beach, buildings at left. W.A. McPherson, photographer]

.128 – Natives camping on the beach, Nome, Alaska, 1900 [white man standing with Alaska Native family on beach, skin tent at left. W.A. McPherson, photographer. Cf. .99]

.129 – A view of the main stree[t] of Nome City in 1899 [men and dogs on street in winter, with businesses including J.S. Kimball Co., Marie Riedeselle Massage Russian & Plain Baths, M.J. Reddy. W.A. McPherson, photographer]

.130 – [man standing next to cabins, young girl wearing fur parka standing with dog pulling young boy on small wooden sled. W.A. McPherson, photographer]

.131 – Rocking on the beach north of Snake River, Nome, in 1900 [view down beach, piles of tailings at left, small tents in center, men with equipment along shore, including windmill and steam engine]

.132 – Esqu[i]mo camp near Nome, Alask[a] in Aug. 1900 [white man with small wheeled cart being pulled by dog team stopped near skin tent. W.A. McPherson, photographer]

.133 – Soldiers & fort at Nome River, Alaska, in August 1900. By [erased] [three men standing next to river boats in foreground, tents and buildings of Fort Davis on opposite shore. W.A. McPherson, photographer]

.134 – [young girl standing next to tailings pile holding Kodak snapshot camera, dog at right. W.A. McPherson, photographer]

.135 – [men standing next to two tents on tundra. W.A. McPherson, photographer]

.136 – Driftwood harvest time at Nome, fall of 1899 [bird’s eye view of river plain in winter, with tent in foreground, piles of wood in middle ground, buildings in distance. W.A. McPherson, photographer]

.137 – Klondike girls, 1899 [photograph of drawing of two girls. W.A. McPherson, photographer]


.139 – [same as .59]

.140 – [same as .52]

.141 – [same as .73]

.142 – [same as .77]

.143 – [same as .82]

.144 – [same as .63]

Guide updated: April 12, 2017