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REPOSITORY NAME:

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TITLE: Thomas and Martha Fellers Schultz Collection

COLLECTION NUMBER: B1970.042

OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION

Dates: circa 1909-1964

Extent: 3 boxes; 1.2 linear feet

Language and Scripts: The collection is in English.

Name of creator(s): Thomas Schultz, Martha Fellers Schultz, Elizabeth Fellers

Administrative/Biographical History:

Thomas W. Schultz came to Alaska as a schoolteacher after graduating from Bucknell University. He first taught in Unalakleet (1908-9), where he married music teacher Kiatehee Ivanoff. The couple later taught in Kanakanak (1909-12), Shishmaref (1914-17), Elim (1917-22), and Igloo (1923-24), before Kiatehee's death in 1927. Thomas returned to Alaska in 1930 and taught at Iliamna Lake (1930-31). He married Martha Fellers in 1933. Martha had taught in Newhalen (1931-33). After the couple married they taught together at Ekwok (1933-39), Hooper Bay (1939-41), Shaktoolik (1941-43), Levelock (1943-46), and Port Graham (1946-47).

Scope and Content Description:

The collection consists of the papers of Thomas W. Schultz, teacher in Unalakleet in 1909, his second wife, Martha Fellers Schultz (married 1933) and her mother Lizzie Fellers. Thomas's manuscript gives his background and the history of his family, then broadens to include a standard history of Alaska, in which he opines no government failure to develop the school system and law enforcement in the early days of Alaska. His interest in the church and its missions, educators he came in contact with, and the reindeer industry are reflected as well.

The diaries give a good idea of the conditions at the time and what daily life was like. With activities of the village centering around the teachers, they not only taught school but held Sunday school. They were the caretakers of the sick, disbursed medications, and notified health authorities of contagious disease. They talk of the visitors to the village and births, deaths, and marriages of villagers. They tell of the arrival of food supplies, the teachers' involvement with the reindeer industry, and an occasional account of the herds.

For more information, see Detailed Description of Collection.

Arrangement:

Arranged by subject and format as follows:

Box 1: Collection information. A. Articles. B. Manuscripts. C. Poems. D. Publications. E. Stories.

Box 2. A. Certificates and legal documents. B. Personal papers. C. Photographs. D. Small notebook contents.

Box 3: A. Address books. B. Diaries of L.E. Fellers. C. Diaries of Martha Fellers Schultz.

CONDITIONS GOVERNING ACCESS AND USE

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

Physical Access: Original items in fair to good condition.

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

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Preferred Citation:

Thomas and Martha Fellers Schultz Collection, Anchorage Museum, B1970.042

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Acquisition and Appraisal Information

Donated by Roy E. Fields in December 1970.

Processing Note

The collection was organized by their granddaughter, Esther Randle at the Southern Oregon Historical Society in Medford in the early 1990s. Guide updated with minor corrections from Randle in 2017.

SUBJECTS

Schultz, Thomas Wayne, d. 1964
Schultz, Kiatehee Katherine Ivanoff, d. 1927
Schultz, Martha Ella Fellers, 1900-1965
Fellers, Elizabeth, 1869-1954
Teachers—Alaska
Education—Alaska
Reindeer herding—Alaska
Ekwok (Alaska)
Homer (Alaska)
Hooper Bay (Alaska)
Kanakanak (Alaska)
Kasilof (Alaska)
Levelock (Alaska)
Moses Point (Alaska)
Newhalen (Alaska)
Port Graham (Alaska)
Shaktoolik (Alaska)
Unalakleet (Alaska)

Detailed Description of the Collection

B1

A. Articles

1. "Alaska." A short article on the sections of Alaska, the start of the reindeer industry in Alaska, mail service, revenue of seal skins on the Seal Islands.

2. "Alaska's Value and Worth." Thomas tells of the value and worth in the late 1800s and early 1900s. He covers fish statistics, newspapers, schools, the reindeer industry, mail system, and animal skins revenue.

3. "Commemorative Service on Gustavus Schultz." This article is about Thomas Schultz's grandfather. It tells how he left Warsaw, Poland and joined the French Army. He became a captain and led his men with Napoleon into Russia. He was captured and was a prisoner for a year. After the war he left France and came to America. He became a Lutheran minister and started sixteen churches in Pennsylvania.

4. "Difficulties as a woman, teaching alone in Alaska." Martha Schultz' difficulties encountered when teaching at Newhalen. The previous teacher Ward Walker had killed a man and was jailed in Anchorage where he died. The Bureau of Indian Affairs needed a teacher quickly to replace him so Martha Schultz taught at Newhalen while her husband

Thomas Schultz taught at Levelock, Alaska. She had lots of stove difficulties. (Also see Martha Schultz Diary, Sept. 27, 1943 and Lizzie Fellers Diary, 1943-44, page 33.)

5. "How to do it" articles by Martha Schultz. These are very short articles she did for sending into magazines. She tells how to make or do different things.

6. "Life of a teacher". This is a newspaper article written by Martha and Thomas Schultz when they were teaching at Hooper Bay, Alaska. Beyond education, they taught hygiene to help fight against diseases. They encourage people to build homes above ground, feeling it will improve general health.

7. "Life of Thomas W. Schultz teaching in Alaska." This article was probably done for the Montoursville, Pennsylvania newspaper when he was home visiting in 1952. It tells of his life from when he graduated from Bucknell University in 1907 to 1950 when he left Alaska where he was a teacher and missionary. He was involved in the reindeer industry, built schools and homes, and lost several children.

8. "Lizzie Fellers History". This article was probably written by Martha Schultz, when Lizzie died in 1954. It tells a little about her life and family. She was a widowed teacher with seven children.

9. "Reindeer Fair of 1917." With the reindeer industry came the reindeer fair. Some felt the reindeer could replace dog teams and that there were advantages in using reindeer instead of dogs. Going to the winter fair was a feat in itself because of poor weather conditions. The fair was a show of pride for the people. They worked long and hard to prepare for it.

10. "Tooth pulling". This article tells of Mr. Schultz pulling a tooth for a native boy. There were no doctors, dentists or nurses most of the places they taught so the teachers took care of the people's needs.

11. "Reindeer". This article tells of the change made from the Alaskan native owning the reindeer herd to the government owning the herds.

B. Manuscripts

1. "Early career of Thomas W. Schultz as an Alaskan teacher."

Thomas Schultz's early life in Pennsylvania where he grew up and got his schooling. He goes to Alaska for adventure and stays. He tells the story of Alaska's purchase and of the gold rush to Nome. He tells of the development of education in Alaska and how the churches and missions were involved. He tells of the start of the reindeer industry, mentioning both Sheldon Jackson and William Lopp and the interrelationship of the reindeer industry and the educational system.

He tells of the living conditions of native people. He and his wife teach music, sewing, reindeer herding and the word of God. He is a commissioner at Kanakanak, Alaska where he helps build the school and teacher's living quarters.

2. "Manuscript notes"

Rough notes on the above topic, with the help of Martha Schultz.

C. Poems

Poems written by the family or collected by them.

D. Publications

1. Alaska Nuggets

Winter 1960

Winter 1961-62

Winter 1963-64

2. Alaska Sportsman

July, August 1945

September 1949

July 1958*

*Has an article about Thomas Schultz - "A Cheechakos Escapade on the Arctic Ice" (see also: Stories Box 1, Section E, Story 1)

3. "Education in Northwestern Alaska"

This Bureau of Indian Affairs booklet tells about the educational system and the recent changes.

4. Eskimo Quarterly

July 1944 - about reindeer industry

July 1939 - about reindeer industry and Mr. Lopp

January 1945 - about reindeer industry

5. Newspaper and magazine clippings.

Various clippings on topics like buckskin tanning and reindeer meat.

6. Mission pamphlets

Good source of information about the native people and mission involvement.

7. "Reindeer - the proper dressing and butchering." (1945)

Explicit article on how to set up a butchering place, how to butcher a reindeer, and the tools and people needed to do it.

8. Seward Post News - Special Edition (1964)

Special edition on effects of the 1964 earthquake on Seward.

9. William T. Lopp

The articles on Mr. Lopp tell about the introduction of reindeer in Alaska in 1892. He worked with Sheldon Jackson who appropriated funds through Congress for this purpose. Mr. Lopp was sent on a rescue mission to Point Barrow with 448 reindeer to rescue 265 stranded whalers. Mr. Lopp was also involved in education in Alaska. His daughter, Lucy, was the first white child to be born at Cape Prince of Wales.

E. Stories

1. "A Cheechakos Escapade on the Arctic Ice" by Thomas W. Schultz.

This was probably a rough draft written for the Alaskan Sportsman Magazine (July 1958). This tells of his experience during spring ice breakup, hunting oogrük seal with a native man. His inexperience could have lost him his life.

2. "A Teacher" by Martha Schultz.

They were just finishing teaching at Shaktoolik, Alaska in 1943 during the war. A school of killer whales was mistaken for Japanese or German submarines. This article gives family information as well as information on the Army at Moses Point. Because of the war there was difficulty with traveling, getting transportation, hotels, searches of belongings, etc. It tells of native food. It mentions the measles and diphtheria epidemics. It tells of the Fourth of July celebration at Unalakleet, Alaska.

3. "Daring Daughters Meet their Match" by Martha Schultz.

This story tells of their retirement from teaching on the Kenai Peninsula (Kasilof, Alaska). They built their own home using their own sawmill to cut lumber. Their girls were taking correspondence courses. The winter of 1949 was a severe winter causing starving animals, especially the moose, to be temperamental. People were trapped in their homes because animals were coming close to the homes for food. She calls the girls Bette and Bernie who were actually Esther and Elizabeth Schultz. On their way home from the post office, the girls encounter a moose. The moose approaches, Bette falls, and Bernie scares his away with a big stick.

4. "Exciting Escapade" by Martha Schultz

This is the same story as "Daring Daughters" in a slightly longer version.

5. "German or Jap Submarines"

This is a short story of mistaken identity when killer whales came into the bay and were thought to be submarines.

6. "Happy and the Bat" by Thomas W. Schultz

This is the story of Happy Hansen who lived at Levelock, Alaska (see Martha Schultz diary, November 1945 through May 1946). The story is about Happy who mistreats his son and nephew and was choking his sister. When he was encountered by Mr. Schultz a bat in

his hand, he turned and ran like a coward. He was taken to prison and, while there, lost his son to pneumonia. The diary does not tell of the bat incident but it tells of Happy being jailed for mistreating his son.

F. Song Books

The four books belonged to: Berna Roehl, Elizabeth Schultz, Esther Schultz, and Martha Schultz. The books contain words to both school and church songs. Martha Schultz hectographed some of them. Some of the songs have been adapted to Alaska.

B2

A. Certificates and legal documents

1. Birth registration of Martha Fellers Schultz
2. Burial or removal permit for Lizzie E. Fellers
3. Death certificate of Thomas W. Schultz
4. Teaching certificates, contracts, social security cards of Martha Schultz
5. Sale agreement for Harrisburg home
6. United States Civil Service Papers.

This is a good source for telling where and when they taught.

7. United States Department of Interior Papers.

Listing teaching locations, dates and salary

B. Personal Papers

1. Banking papers
2. Checks and bank credits/ shows places they lived
3. Correspondence of Lizzie Fellers (incoming)
4. Correspondence of Harlie Fellers (incoming)
5. Correspondence of Martha and Thomas Schultz (incoming)

Good source of addresses and family history

6. Correspondence of Martha and Thomas Schultz (outgoing)
7. Eskimo words
8. Greeting Cards
9. Groceries supplies
10. Income tax withholding, M & T Schultz
11. Miscellaneous
12. Receipts
13. Recipes
14. Songs

C. Photographs

1. Thomas and Martha Schultz (4)
2. Reindeer herd, moose (2)

D. Small Notebook Contents

1. Radio transmissions to and from Hooper Bay - 1941

a. There are messages regarding the health of the villagers. Diphtheria and German measles were a problem. Dr. Stephen was the doctor trying to care for the situation (see also L.E. Fellers diary, 1940-41)

b. T. Schultz gives school enrollment monthly to Juneau, probably to BIA

c. Father Sifton passes away (see L.E. Fellers diary, 10-17-40)

d. Family messages.

2. Miscellaneous

B3

A. Address Books

1. L.E. Fellers

2. Martha and Thomas Schultz

B. Diaries of L.E. Fellers

Summary of content of diaries in Collection Guide.

1. June 14-19, 1934. [Sounds like Kanakanak. ER]

2. Feb. 14 - Sept. 20, 1935. Ekwok

3. March 2, 1939 - April 29, 1940. Hooper Bay

4. January 1940 - July 1941. Hooper Bay

5. September 26, 1940 - January 8, 1941. Hooper Bay

6. May 17 - September 29, 1941. Shaktoolik

7. June 24 - November 23, 1943. Chelan, WA and Newhalen

8. September 13, 1943 - December 4, 1944. Newhalen

9. April 1947 - August 1948, Kasilof

10. June - November 1953

[I believe she had a stroke at this point. She died January 1954. ER]

C. Diaries of Martha Fellers Schultz

Summary of content of diaries in Collection Guide.

1. August - November 1935. Ekwok

2. July 1, 1943 - July 9, 1946. Portland, OR

One year at Newhalen, 2 years at Levelock.

Extra copy on legal paper, July - September 43

3. July 1946 - June 1948

Summer in Kasilof where they built a home.

School year 1946-47 at Port Graham

Winter 1947-48 at Homer (not teaching)

4. August 4, 1952 - August 31, 1952.

Lakeside Resort at Eagle Mere, PA. She and her daughter were working as maids. This booklet also shows the expenses they had coming and going to Pennsylvania. Motel, food, gas.

Guide updated: June 14, 2017