

REFERENCE CODE: AkAMH

REPOSITORY NAME:

Anchorage Museum at Rasmuson Center
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Guide prepared by: Ivy Turinsky, Archivist

TITLE: Nova Simpson Collection

COLLECTION NUMBER: B1971.011

OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION

Dates: circa 1953

Extent: 1 item

Language and Scripts: The collection is in English.

Name of creator(s): Nova Lenore Hedin Simpson

Administrative/Biographical History:

Nova Lenore Hedin Simpson was born November 28, 1913, in Portland, Oregon, and died July 13, 2002, in Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage), Dena'ina Ełnena. Her parents were Blanch Lenore Retherford and Newton Gustav Hedin, who raised her along the eastern slope of the Cascade Mountains. She was a member of Kappa Gamma Rho sorority at Willamette University in Salem, Oregon, where she earned a B.A. in sociology and a minor in education. She met her husband, Jack Raymond Simpson, at Willamette. After graduation, she taught in a one-room schoolhouse in Maupin, Oregon. After they wed, the couple moved to Denver, Colorado and had three children, Gary, Erik and Mark. During World War II, Mrs. Simpson received training and volunteered as a practical nurse aide for the Red Cross. On June 30, 1952, the family moved to Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage), Dena'ina Ełnena. She taught as a substitute teacher and worked in administration at West Anchorage High School. Mrs. Simpson was a member of the Presbyterian Church, was an active member of the women's group Circle and participated in the fish program, which gave aid to families in need. She enjoyed camping and hunting expeditions with her family. Nova adored animals all her life. She was an accomplished pianist. She was very knowledgeable about wildflowers and she enjoyed photography.¹

¹ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/48968590/nova-lenore-simpson>

Scope and Content Description:

The collection consists of one photographic print of Tikahtnu (Cook Inlet) and Niqnalchintnu (Ninilchik River) at Niqnalchint (Ninilchik), Dena'ina Etnena.

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: Nova Simpson Collection, Anchorage Museum, B1971.011

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Acquisition and Appraisal Information:

Donated by Nova H. Simpson March 12, 1971, to the Cook Inlet Historical Society. Transferred to the Anchorage Museum.

Processing Note:

Museum accession number 1971.044. Collection named Simpson in old finding aid. Previously also titled Ninilchik River, 1953. Collection title updated to Nova Simpson Collection in 2026.

RELATED MATERIALS

B1976.082 Sidney Hamilton Photograph Collection

B1985.027 Wien Collection

B1989.016 Lu Liston Collection

B1990.003 Alyce E. Anderson Photographs

B1990.014 Steve McCutcheon Collection

B1993.020 Doris Rhodes Slides

B1995.010 George E. Allen Collection

B1998.014 Vern Brickley Collection

B2001.042 Hammers Collection

B2008.005 Chester and Leah Webster Peterson Collection

B2012.014 Duane Carson Collection
B2012.030 Hobart Hyatt Collection
B2013.065 2nd Mapping Squadron Photographs
B2014.002 Walter Deane Slides
B2015.025 Ken Hinchey Collection
B2015.026 James D. and Patricia Bourbonnais Collection
B2016.004 Fran Durner Collection
B2016.006 William C. and Frances P. Ray Slides
B2016.007 William P. Freeborn Collection
B2016.019 Randy Brandon Collection
B2017.001 Michael Barron Collection
B2017.019 Elanor Marie Johnston Collection
B2017.024 Joseph S. Rychetnik Collection
B2017.029 Kay McFarland Jackson Slides
B2018.012 Nancy Lesh Collection
B2019.006 George Darrow Slides
B2019.017 Alice Puster Collection
B2020.001 Cliff and Joan Fuglestad Collection
B2023.011 Patricia A. Volkman Slide Collection

SUBJECTS

Dena'ina Ełnena
Niqnalchint / Ninilchik (Alaska)
Niqnalchintnu / Ninilchik River (Alaska)
Tikahtnu / Cook Inlet (Alaska)

Detailed Description of the Collection

.1 – [color photographic print of Niqnalchintnu (Ninilchik River) and Tikahtnu (Cook Inlet) at Niqnalchint (Ninilchik), Dena'ina Ełnena, about 1953. Buildings on shoreline, mountains across water, waterfront community. Blueprint, some fading, previously in a 1" gilt frame]

Guide written: August 27, 2003

Guide updated: June 24, 2026