

REFERENCE CODE: AkAMH

REPOSITORY NAME:

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TITLE: Alice Swanson Collection

COLLECTION NUMBER: B1972.038

OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION

Dates: circa 1910-1968

Extent: 22 items

Language and Scripts: The collection is in English.

Name of creator(s): Elbridge W. Merrill, Reeve Aleutian Airways, Louis H. Pedersen, Winter & Pond, Lee, William H. Case, H.G. Kaiser, Robinson Studio, C.P. Johnston

Administrative/Biographical History:

Alice Swanson was born on January 12, 1895, in Stanwood, Washington. In 1913, at eighteen, Swanson relocated to Petersburg, Alaska with her family where her parents later operated a bakery.¹ Swanson married Carl Edwin Swanson on September 30, 1914, and the two would later own and operate a grocery store in Petersburg, AK.² While in Petersburg, Swanson dedicated part of her life to mission work, traveling to towns north of Petersburg such as Skagway.³ She was also a member of the Petersburg Emblem Club.⁴

¹ "Alice Swanson died in Tucson," 9 January 1980, *The Petersburg Pilot*, [Digital Archives of the Petersburg Public Library](#). Accessed June 2026.

² "Alice Swanson died in Tucson".

³ "Of Local Interest," 15 March 1918, *Petersburg Weekly Report*, [Digital Archives of the Petersburg Public Library](#). Accessed June 2026.

⁴ "Personals", 25 April 1941, *Petersburg Press*, [Digital Archives of the Petersburg Public Library](#). Accessed June 2026.

Swanson, along with her husband, later moved to California before settling in Tucson, Arizona in 1959.⁵ Despite relocating out of Petersburg, Swanson was still connected to the town through visiting friends and life updates via the Petersburg society papers. She remained in Arizona until her passing on December 21, 1979, at age eight-four.⁶ She was laid to rest in Tucson, AZ, in Evergreen Memorial Park, next to her husband who she was married to for fifty-two years.⁷

Scope and Content Description:

The collection consists of 17 postcards and 5 publications. For more information, see Detailed Description of Collection.

Arrangement: Arranged by format

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.

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Preferred Citation:

Alice Swanson Collection, Anchorage Museum, B1972.038

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Acquisition and Appraisal Information

Donated by Alice Swanson in July 1972.

Separated Materials

Two news clippings and Nome Kennel Club booklet removed, possibly to Vertical Files. Not located with collection in 2003.

⁵ "Alice Swanson died in Tucson".

⁶ "Alice Swanson died in Tucson".

⁷ "Alice O Swanson," *Find A Grave*, [Alice O Swanson \(1895-1979\) - Find a Grave Memorial](#). Accessed June 2026.

SUBJECTS

Duncan, William, 1832-1918
Al-Ki (Ship)
Fishing—Alaska
Glaciers—Alaska
Inupiat art
Inupiat Territory
Ivory carving—Alaska
Juneau / Dzánti K'ihéeni (Alaska)
Lingít Aaní
Metlakatla / Maxtakxaata (Alaska)
Nome / Sitŋasuaq (Alaska)
Petersburg / Séet Ká (Alaska)
Pribilof Islands (Alaska)
Shipwrecks—Alaska
Sitka / Sheet'ká (Alaska)
Skagway / Shgagwei (Alaska)
Sled dog racing—Alaska
Lingít baskets
Taku Glacier / T'aakú Kwáan Sít'I (Alaska)
Totem poles—Alaska—Wrangell
Unanga Territory
Wrangell / Shtax'héen (Alaska)

Detailed Description of the Collection

Postcards

- .1 – Merrill, Sitka [on back] Russian church, Sitka, Alaska. A.O.S. [interior and exterior of St. Michael the Archangel Cathedral, Sheet'ká (Sitka), Sheet'ká Kwáan, Lingít Aaní. This was possibly photographed by Elbridge W. Merrill who was a photographer in Sheet'ká in the early 20th century]
- .2 – Merrill, Sitka [on back] Old block house, Sitka, by Merrill, A.O.S. [Russian blockhouse. This was possibly photographed by Elbridge W. Merrill who was a photographer in Sheet'ká (Sitka), Sheet'ká Kwáan, Lingít Aaní in the early 20th century]
- .3 – Seal Herd, Pribilof Islands. Photography by Reeve Aleutian Airways, Anchorage, Alaska [on back] A.O.S. [one individual identified as Bob Reeve sitting on rock near herd of seals. Unanga Territory]
- .4 – First camp, Arctic Brotherhood, Alaska. 722, L.H.P. [on back] by A.O.S. [Arctic Brotherhood Hall, Shgagwei (Skagway), Jilkoot Kwáan, Lingít Aaní. Louis H. Pedersen, photographer]
- .5 – Merrill, Sitka [on back] A.O.S. [still life with Lingít spruce baskets. This was possibly photographed by Elbridge W. Merrill who was a photographer in Sheet'ká (Sitka), Sheet'ká Kwáan, Lingít Aaní in the early 20th century]

- .6 – Beaver Totem, Wrangell, Alaska. 1204, L.H.P. [on back] A.O.S. [three youth next to Lingít totem pole in front of Sun House. Shtax'héen (Wrangell), Shtax'héen K̄wáan, Lingít Aaní. Louis H. Pedersen, photographer]
- .7 – Wrangell, Alaska, old military post [on back] A.O.S. [deteriorated totem or memorial pole in clearing next to tree, boardwalk at left, buildings in background. Shtax'héen, Lingít Aaní]
- .8 – 11. “Al-Ki” wrecked on Point Augusta, Alaska, 11-1-17. W.P. Co. [on back] A.O.S. [steamship run aground]
- .9 – Miss Mary Ann Miller, “Miss Petersburg of 1955” poses with world’s record king salmon. Photo by Lee [on back] A.O.S. [one individual on dock with mounted fish, sign reading “Red King Salmon, 126 ½ lbs., largest salmon on record, caught near Petersburg, Alaska, courtesy Petersburg Chamber of Commerce.” Séet Ká (Petersburg), Shtax'héen K̄wáan, Lingít Aaní]
- .10 – Taku Glacier, Alaska. 790, L.H.P. [on back] A.O.S. [icebergs on beach, glacier terminus in background. T'aakú K̄wáan Sít'i (Taku Glacier), T'aakú K̄wáan, Lingít Aaní. Louis H. Pedersen, photographer]
- .11 – 11844. Russian Greek Church at Juneau, Alaska. Published by W.H. Case, Juneau, Alaska [on back] By A.O.S. [exterior of St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church. Dzánti K'ihéeni (Juneau), Áak'w K̄wáan, Lingít Aaní]
- .12 – C317. Main street, Juneau, Alaska [...] [on back] A.O.S. [street scene with automobiles and The Nugget Shop, Franklin Street. Color. Dzánti K'ihéeni (Juneau), Áak'w K̄wáan, Lingít Aaní]
- .13 – [on back] Father Duncan, Metlakatla. By A.O.S. [vignette portrait of man holding trophy. Maxłakxaala (Metlakatla), Tsimshian Territory]
- .14 – Fox Ramsey winning 2d money in All Alaska Sweepstakes Race, Nome, Alaska. H.G. Kaiser [on back] A.O.S. [musher bringing dog team through crowd of spectators, 1910. Sit̄jasuaq (Nome), Inupiat Territory]
- .15 – R.208. [Indigenous] woman fishing through ice. c. Robinson [on back] A.O.S. [one Indigenous individual in fur parka jigging at hole, straw laid on ice]
- .16 – P-11. [Indigenous] ivory carver, Nome, Alaska c. Robinson [on back] A.O.S. [one individual, possibly Inupiaq, using bow drill seated at worktable, tools on table. Sit̄jasuaq (Nome), Inupiat Territory]
- .17 – 1397. Polar bears on Artic [sic] ice floe, Alaska. Johnston [on back] A.O.S. [several polar bears on ice, probably composite image]

Publications

- .18 – “Handbook of vacation in Alaska and the Yukon on the White Pass and Yukon Route.”
- .19 – “The history of Alaska’s flag,” published by the Office of the Governor
- .20 – Petersburg Press news clipping – 1968 [missing]
- .21 – Petersburg Press news clipping – 1968 [missing]
- .22 – Nome Kennel Club booklet – 1910 [missing]

Guide written: November 18, 2015

Guide updated: July 21, 2025; June 25, 2026