

**REFERENCE CODE:** AkAMH

**REPOSITORY NAME:**

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**TITLE:** CIHS Brazil

**COLLECTION NUMBER:** B1967.017

**OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION**

Dates: 1915-1917

Extent: 9 photographic prints

Language and Scripts: The collection is in English.

Name of creator(s): P. J. McDonald, John Edward Thwaites

**Administrative/Biographical History:**

Patrick James McDonald prospected in the Willow Creek District (Peters Creek). Later, he and Emerelda Longmire, his wife, ran the Mt. McKinley Fox Farm. McDonald worked at the ARR power plant until 1929. They later moved to Fairbanks.

John Edward Thwaites was born in Eastwood, Ontario, Canada in 1863. He immigrated with his family to Michigan around 1871 and married Carrie Warne in 1885. Thwaites worked for the federal government as a clerk in the Railway Mail Service, delivering mail from Suacit (Valdez) to Iluuluġ (Unalaska) on the S.S. *Dora* mailboat between 1905 and 1912. He was also an amateur photographer, whose photos are well known for their popularity in the early postcard market. In 1914, he transferred to the Seward-Seattle mail route, operating his photography business out of Seward. He remarried to Isabelle Morse in 1909 or 1915 and in 1919 retired from the Mail Service, opening a photography shop in Kichġáan (Ketchikan).<sup>1</sup> He and Morse specialized in hand-coloring photographs. Thwaites died in 1940.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://researchworks.oclc.org/archivegrid/data/50772387>

<sup>2</sup> <https://content.lib.washington.edu/thwaitesweb/index.html>

#### Scope and Content Description:

The Herbert Brazil collection consists of 9 photographic prints of early Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage), Dena'ina Etnena from 1915 to 1917. Subjects include the first water system in Anchorage, the first Labor Day Parade (1916), Emerelda and Patrick James McDonald, a refreshment booth at a ladies baseball game in Nughay Bena (Knik), Dena'ina Etnena, Joe Curten and builder of first residence on Government Hill, Ship Creek Valley, Third Avenue in Anchorage, and Hulda and Faye Lawthrape. For more information, see Detailed Description of Collection.

#### **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: CIHS Brazil, Anchorage Museum, B1967.017

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

##### Acquisition and Appraisal Information:

Donated by Don L. Irwin (from Herbert Brazil) April 17, 1967, to the Cook Inlet Historical Society. Transferred to the Anchorage Museum.

##### Processing Note:

9 photographic prints counted at time of finding aid update, 2026. 10 images listed in old version of finding aid and in catalog entry for collection. B1967.017.07 was and is missing at time of update, 2026.

#### **RELATED MATERIALS**

- B1957.005 Jack H. Floyd Collection
- B1961.005 CIHS Collection
- B1962.007 CIHS Bowman Collection
- B1963.016 Marie Silverman Collection
- B1963.018 Porter Anchorage Photograph

B1963.019 CIHS Barnet Collection  
B1964.x.003 CIHS Nielsen  
B1965.003 Fred B. Wood Collection  
B1966.010 CIHS Anderson  
B1967.007 CIHS McCrady  
B1967.019 CIHS Isaacs  
B1969.022 Levi-Sellin Collection  
B1971.071 Alice Butler Photograph Collection  
B1972.088 Mueller Collection  
B1974.016 Blote Collection  
B1976.014 FIC CIHS Photographs  
B1977.090 CIHS Miscellaneous Photographs  
B1978.092 Sydney Laurence Copy Photographs  
B1979.001 AHFAM FIC Collection  
B1979.002 Alaska Railroad Collection  
B1980.194 Hedla Collection  
B1981.019 FIC Collection  
B1981.036 Early Alaska Photograph Collection  
B1982.066 Alaska Stationers Collection  
B1984.075 Gunnar Lexin Collection  
B1984.081 Robert Culver Collection  
B1989.011 Donald V. Johnson Collection  
B1989.016 Lu Liston Collection  
B1993.005 AHFAM FIC Collection  
B1994.017 Robinson Collection  
B1994.023 FIC Collection  
B1994.026 Candace Waugaman Copy Photograph Collection  
B1995.013 John Knox Collection  
B1995.025 Jessie Noble Collection  
B1997.022 August Cohn Collection  
B1998.009 Patricia McDonald Collection  
B1998.010 Nellie Brown Panorama  
B2001.002 FIC Collection  
B2008.013 FIC Collection  
B2010.022 Anchorage Assessment Records  
B2011.008 Annabelle Ward Photographs  
B2012.012 Anchorage, Alaska May 1, 1916  
B2013.027 Labor Day Sep 3 1917 Anchorage Alaska Photograph  
B2013.029 Anchorage Panorama Collection  
B2013.062 Gilbert and Lucy Whitehead Collection

**SUBJECTS**

Joe Curten

Faye Lawthrape  
Hulda Lawthrape  
Emerelda Longmire / Emerelda McDonald  
Patrick James McDonald  
Alaska Labor Union  
Dgheyaytnu / Anchorage (Alaska)  
Dgheyaytnu / Ship Creek (Alaska)  
Nughay Bena / (New) Knik / Knik Site / Old Knik Townsite

## Detailed Description of the Collection

### F1

- .1 – [Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage), Dena’ina Elnena, 1915, Tent City. Two individuals surrounded by tents, wood, logs. Individual in dress operating water pump with sign reading, “Water for Sale.” Sign in back reads, “U&I Lunch Room and Bakery.” Handwritten on back of print: First water system in Anchorage, June 1915, in the new tent town. Same as B1998.009.3]
- .2 – [Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage), Dena’ina Elnena. 1916. Individuals in parade being led by someone carrying the American flag. Buildings in background. Handwritten on back of print: First Labor Day Parade in Anchorage, Alaska, 1916. Corner 5th & F St. looking South East. Alaska Labor Union]
- .3 – [Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage), Dena’ina Elnena, 1915. Emerelda McDonald standing in front of fence, two wooden buildings behind. Handwritten on back of print: Mrs. Esmerelda (P. J. McDonald) and their home, Corner F & 5<sup>th</sup> Ave, Anchorage, Alaska 1915]
- .4 – [Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage), Dena’ina Elnena, 1915. Portrait photograph of individual in suit and tie. Handwritten on back of print: P. J. McDonald Photographer, May 1915. The First photograph made by the first studio in Anchorage Townsite]
- .5 – [Dgheyaytnu (Ship Creek, Anchorage), Dena’ina Elnena, 1915, Tent City. Tents in woods behind tree stumps. Handwritten on back of print: Anchorage (Ship Creek), April 15 – 1915. In different handwriting: Probably on the townsite re Selma Smith & M. Stalnaker]
- .6 – [Knik, Alaska, possibly Nughay Bena (Knik Site), Dena’ina Elnena, 1915. Individual, who is possibly BIPOC, standing in concessions stand behind counter with bottles. Sign above, which is partially cut off, reads, “Ladies Ba [...] Refres”. Handwritten on back of print: Refreshment booth at the Ladies baseball game, (Knik, Alaska, 1915)]
- .7 – [missing] Joe Curten and builder of first residence on Government Hill, Anchorage, 1915 [Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage), Dena’ina Elnena]
- .8 – A City taken from the pile driver on the wharf [Dgheyaytnu (Ship Creek, Anchorage), Dena’ina Elnena, 1915, Tent City. Handwritten on back of print: Anchorage Alaska Taken from the piledriver on the first wharf at Ship Creek - looking up Ship Creek valley. Note tent town where railroad yards are now located. Steel rails for the Alaska Railroad started north from this point in the spring of 1915. P. J. McDonald Photographer]
- .9 – Thwaites, 4300 In the residence district, Anchorage, Alaska. [Third Avenue, Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage), Dena’ina Elnena, 1917. Houses among trees, power lines visible. Handwritten on back of print: Anchorage, Alaska, 1917 looking toward railroad depot from end of H St and 3rd

Ave, (about where Elks Club now stands). Note curving Christenson Road. In different handwriting: (Same houses B64.x.3.10). Same houses shown in B1964.x.003.10]  
.10 – Showing Labour day parade, Hulda and Fyey Lawthrape, our Tent and Apartment house car, 5th, and F looking south on 5th, Fall 1916 P. J. McDonald [Fifth Avenue, Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage), Dena'ina Elnena, 1916. Parade on left, older woman and young girl in front of houses on right smiling at camera, standing on boardwalk over cleared ground. Handwritten on back of print: Watching Labor Day Parade Hulda & Faye Lawthrape, Corner of 5<sup>th</sup> & F Sts in front of apartment hous [sic] & tent of P. J. McDonald, - 1916 Anchorage Alaska]

Guide written: August 27, 2003

Guide updated: May 12, 2026