

REFERENCE CODE: AkAMH

REPOSITORY NAME:

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Guide prepared by: Ivy Turinsky, Archivist

TITLE: CIHS Brazil

COLLECTION NUMBER: B1967.017

OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION

Dates: 1915-1917

Extent: 10 items

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).¹ He and Morse specialized in hand-coloring photographs. Thwaites died in 1940.²

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

² <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 Elnena 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 Elnena, 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:

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 Ełnena, 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 Ełnena. 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 Ełnena, 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 & 5th Ave, Anchorage, Alaska 1915]
- .4 – [Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage), Dena'ina Ełnena, 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 Ełnena, 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 Ełnena, 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 Ełnena]
- .8 – A City taken from the pile driver on the wharf [Dgheyaytnu (Ship Creek, Anchorage), Dena'ina Ełnena, 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 Ełnena, 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 Ełnena, 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 5th & 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; June 23, 2026