



Notable Women of Alaska Subject Guide

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This guide is intended to assist researchers in locating materials at the Anchorage Museum Archives & Library that pertain to notable women of Alaska. It is not necessarily a complete listing of all such holdings. Please contact archives staff at resourcecenter@anchagemuseum.org or 907-929-9235 for assistance in locating other collections of interest.

Using this Guide

The images listed below illustrate notable woman of Alaska from various fields, professions, and time eras, highlighting women’s important impact on Alaskan society. Most of the images depict these individuals or the work they performed. The list is currently limited to individuals who have photographs or items within the Anchorage Museum’s archives and/or collections. Due to the nature of the history of the United States, and Alaska in particular, this guide features a combination of Indigenous women and women colonists. The latter may be referred to as colonists or settlers in this guide; terms including pioneers, frontier women, and homesteaders, are not used, as they may glorify the harmful effects of colonization.

The guide consists of three sections: Notable Women, which lists notable Alaskan women alphabetically by given name, including collections in which they are depicted, biographies, and keywords; Archival Collections, which lists the collections that depict these notable women by collection ID*, with brief descriptions and relevant item IDs; and Related Materials, which lists museum exhibits/content, vertical files, and library publications that are relevant to the notable women included in this guide and the theme of notable Alaskan women in general. If online biographies exist of any of the women listed, they are hyperlinked. If finding aids exist for the archival collections, they are hyperlinked.*

**Collections marked with an asterisk (*) do not have an online resource guide. For more information, please contact archives staff.*

**Please note, if a hyperlink is broken, this means the URL has changed, but the finding aid is still accessible. Please refer to the Finding Aids page of our website for an updated link.*

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NOTABLE WOMEN

[Ada Blackjack](#), Arthur Eide Collection, B1970.028.487, FIC Collection, B2008.013.45

Ada Blackjack (1898-1983) was an Iñupiaq woman who was the sole survivor of a doomed Arctic expedition to Wrangel Island in the 1920s.

Ada was born in a small village southeast of Sit̄asuaq (Nome, Alaska). At 16, she married a dog musher and had three children. In 1921, her husband abandoned the family. Ada walked forty miles to Sit̄asuaq with her only surviving child, Billy. She was forced to place him in an orphanage because she couldn't afford his tuberculosis treatment.

In September 1921, Ada was recruited as a seamstress for an expedition to Wrangel Island that promised a \$50-per-month salary. She joined with the understanding that there would be other Iñupiat people involved, but later found that she was the only Indigenous Alaskan and the only woman on the expedition.

In 1922, a resupply ship failed to arrive, due to extensive sea ice, and the expedition ran dangerously low on food. In January of 1923, three of the five members of the expedition team left camp to find help, never to return. Ada cared for the remaining man, who was sick with scurvy, until he died in June. Alone except for the company of the expedition cat named Vic, she trapped, picked roots, hauled wood, made her own clothing, and defended the camp from polar bears. A rescue ship arrived in August of 1923.

Upon her return, Ada received a flurry of press attention for her resilience and will to survive. Despite her renown, Ada did not receive the full wages she was promised and did not profit from stories and books that covered the hardships she endured. However, Ada did reunite with Billy and was able to pay for his tuberculosis treatment in Seattle.

Keywords: Arctic regions—Discovery and exploration; Indigenous orphanages; Iñupiaq territory; Iñupiat people; Orphanages; Resilience; Scurvy; Sit̄asuaq (Nome); Tuberculosis; Wilderness survival; Women dressmakers; Women tailors; Wrangel Island (Russia)

[Ada Wien](#), Wien Collection, B1985.027, Fran Durner Collection, B2016.004.793-794

Ada B. Wien (1907–1984) was born and raised in Sit̄asuaq (Nome) and became interested in the debate on Alaska statehood from an early age. As an adult, she was one of six women elected as delegates to the Constitutional Convention. On Day forty of the Convention, she responded to a male delegate's criticism that she was being influenced on how to vote, stating: "I would just like to go on record as saying I do my own thinking."

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Ada and her husband Noel, the founder of the first airline in Alaska (Wien Air Alaska), attended the passing of the Alaska Statehood Bill in the United States Senate on June 30, 1958. In a later interview, Ada said statehood was an achievement that she was proud to be a part of as an Alaskan and as a United States citizen.

Keywords: Alaska Constitutional Convention (1955-1956)

[Agnes Harrison](#), Steve McCutcheon Collection, B1990.014.5.People.14.293, .5.People.14.299

As a young woman, Yup'ik Agnes Harrison of Tevyaraq (Crooked Creek) moved to Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage) to attend high school and work.

Agnes learned that Indigenous Alaskans from rural parts of the state were being arrested for “indigency” on the streets of Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage) because they carried no cash (which was not a particularly useful commodity in village life, traditionally based on economies of barter and exchange). When she earned her first paycheck, she took one dollar to the bank and exchanged it for 100 pennies, which she proceeded to freely distribute, preventing further arrests.

Agnes continued to fight for Indigenous rights throughout her life, working to promote language, culture, and education.

Keywords: Education—Alaska; Indigenous activists; Indigenous culture; Indigenous peoples—Civil rights; Social justice; Tevyaraq (Crooked Creek); Yup'ik people

[Alaskeros](#), Wien Collection, B1985.027.1012

Soon after the Philippines became a US territory in the Spanish-American War of 1898, young Filipinx workers, who became known as “Alaskeros,” started arriving in Alaska’s canneries, and within a few decades Filipinx people came to dominate the cannery workforce.

Cannery workers were often hired for three-month contracts to process fish seven days a week for shifts of fourteen hours or more. Like many immigrants, they faced discrimination and inadequate access to basic services and healthy living conditions. Most came as seasonal workers for the summer, but some chose to make Alaska their home. Today, the Filipinx community is a thriving part of Alaska’s social and cultural landscape.

Keywords: Communities; Filipinx Americans; Fish canneries; Immigrants—United States—Living conditions; Philippines; Race discrimination; Spanish-American War, 1898

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Alberta Pyatt, Pyatt-Laurence Collection, B1983.146, Alberta Pyatt Negative Collection, B2009.057

The life dates of Alberta Pyatt (née Bouthillier) are not currently known. Alberta worked as an assistant to Sydney Laurence in his photography business, the Sydney Laurence Company, in Anchorage, Alaska. Laurence was working under contract with the Alaska Engineering Commission to photograph the early Anchorage town site and railroad construction, but it is not clear which photos were taken under contract for the AEC and which are for Laurence's own studio. Pyatt's extant photos include people, views, and activities from the Anchorage area during the years 1915 and 1916.

Keywords: Anchorage; Alaska Engineering Commission

[Alice Brown](#), "Moosemeat" John Hedberg and Alice E. Hedberg Brown Collection, B2001.011

Alice Brown (1912–1973) (Kenatize Dena'ina) was born in 1912 in Shk'ituk't (Kenai). A strong advocate for Indigenous rights, Alice was involved in numerous organizations, including serving on the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) board of directors, the board of the Alaskan Native Political Education Committee, and the Rural Affairs Commission.

In 1966, Alice became the first woman to serve on the AFN Board of Directors. The following year she was appointed by Governor Walter J. Hickel to join 36 Indigenous Alaskan representatives in the creation of the Land Claims Task Force. The Task Force made land claims recommendations and requested that hearings be held to approve the distribution of land, which laid the groundwork for the eventual passage of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) in 1971 (for more information on ANCSA, see our educational resources).

In 2010, Alice was posthumously inducted into the Alaska Women's Hall of Fame in recognition for her activism and advocacy.

Keywords: Alaska Federation of Natives; Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA); Hickel, Walter J., 1919-2010; Indigenous activists; Indigenous peoples—Civil rights; Native Political Education Committee; Rural Affairs Commission; Shk'ituk't (Kenai); Social justice

Alice Puster, Fran Durner Collection, B2016.004.1191.1-4, Alice Puster Collection, B2019.017

Alice Jean Puster (1927-2011) was born in Pomona, California. As a young woman, Puster and her sister Florine traveled through 33 states, where she photographed the entire trip. In 1962, she moved to Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage) with Martha Brewer and got a job as a photographer for The Anchorage Times. Her photographs of the 1964 earthquake were world-renowned, and she received a congratulatory letter from The Associated Press. Puster was also on the board of the

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Anchorage Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and the Anchorage Zoo. She was chosen as Alaskan of the Year in the 1970s for her photography and her work with the Humane Society. Puster retired from The Anchorage Times in 1990 and moved to Cooper Landing. There, she became a member of the Cooper Landing Senior Citizen Corporation, Inc., and the Sexy Senior Dumpster Cleaners.

Keywords: Alaska Earthquake, Alaska, 1964; Anchorage times; Animal welfare; Associated Press; Cooper Landing (Alaska); Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage); Photojournalists; Voluntarism; Women photographers; Zoos

[Anfesia Shapsnikoff](#), FIC Collection, B1981.019.171

Anfesia Shapsnikoff (1901-1973) was an Unangan cultural authority who spoke, read, and wrote the main dialects of her language, Unangam Tunuu, as well as English and Russian. As a master weaver, Shapsnikoff traveled extensively to communities all over Alaska to teach Unangan basketry techniques.

Shapsnikoff was born on Atan (Attu Island) but moved with her family to Iluuluġ (Unalaska) in 1905, where she served as a nurse, teacher, church member, and community leader for most of her life. Before the federal government forcibly removed the Unangaġ peoples to Southeast Alaska during WWII, Shapsnikoff supervised the burial of most of the Iluuluġ church treasures, fearing that they would be looted or bombed. When she returned home after years of hardship in internment camps, her fears of damage to cultural heritage were confirmed. Shapsnikoff became a vocal critic of the continued presence of the US military in Iluuluġ, citing lack of respect and care for the land, waters, and people. She spoke with researchers and politicians to educate white settlers on Unangaġ history and culture.

Keywords: Atan (Attu Island); Basket making; Church buildings; Community; Iluuluġ (Unalaska); Indigenous culture; Indigenous language and education; Master artists; Unangam Tunuu language; Unangaġ people; Unangaġ territory; United States—Armed Forces; World War II

[Barbara Andrews-Mee](#), Steve McCutcheon Collection, B1990.014.5.People.14.6

Barbara Andrews-Mee (1938-2017) was born in Madison, South Dakota, and moved to Alaska with her family in April 1960. She found work with the Alaska Department of Aviation, and in 1962 began working for the law office of Ted Stevens. When Stevens was appointed to the US Senate in 1968, Barbara went with him and continued to work for the Senator until she retired in 1997.

As the Office Manager of the Anchorage Senate Office, Barbara handled everything from

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picking the Senator up at the airport to being a representative for his office on official visits. When she retired, Senator Stevens gave a speech on the Senate floor in Washington, D.C., praising Barbara's many talents and her work above and beyond the call of duty. In this speech, Senator Stevens said: "Mr. President, it's impossible to sum up 36 years of association in one small tribute...the words 'thank you' are too small to convey the depth and breadth and length of the gratitude I have for all of the wonderful years Barb Andrews-Mee has shared with me, with my family, and with Alaskans."

In 2010, Barbara published a memoir about her career and friendship with Senator Stevens titled, "Ted Stevens and Mee." Barbara was one of the first women in Rotary and a member of the Athena Society of Anchorage.

When Barbara passed in 2017, Senator Lisa Murkowski gave a speech acknowledging Barbara's contributions to Alaska, reminiscing that she had a great sense of humor and a huge, welcoming personality. Regarding her impact on Alaskan politics, Senator Murkowski said, "She was regarded as a mentor and grandmother-like figure to generations of young staffers who went to work for Senator Stevens."

Keywords: Alaska. Department of Aviation; Office management; Stevens, Ted, 1923-2010; United States. Congress. Senate.

[Bessie Kendall Couture](#), Bessie Kendall Couture Collection, B1987.002.44c, B1987.002.44e

Bessie Couture was the owner and operator of two restaurants in Skagway, Alaska. The Kitchen was the name of her first restaurant, which she ran during the Klondike Gold Rush, between 1897 and 1900. Her second restaurant, co-owned with her husband, was the Broadway Restaurant and Bakery, which served customers in the 1920s.

Bessie was the first Black business owner in Alaska. Despite this remarkable achievement, not much is known about her in the historical record. A letter from the donor of these archival images, as well as a marriage license housed in the University of Alaska Anchorage/Alaska Pacific University Consortium Library provide some clues that help shed light on Bessie's story. We know that she married Frenchman William Couture in 1920, and they both lived in Skagway working as cooks. We know that Bessie was married two times prior marrying William, the first marriage ending in divorce and the second marriage, to a man named Kendall, ending in tragedy with his death in the shipwreck of *The Princess Sophia* in 1918. We know that in her later years, Bessie divided her time between Alaska and Seattle, spending winters in the Lower 48.

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Keywords: African Americans; Black Americans; Businesspeople; Businesswomen; Cooks; Gold mines and mining; Restaurateurs; Skagway (Alaska)

[Bettye Davis](#), Ed Wesley Collection, B2021.004.160

The late Bettye Davis was a long-serving Anchorage School District Board president, Alaska State Representative, and Alaska State Senator. Born in Louisiana in 1938, Bettye Davis came to Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage) to attend the University of Alaska. After college, she worked at the Alaska Psychiatric Institute as a social worker. In 1982, she was elected to the Anchorage School Board, serving two terms as board president.

In 1990, Bettye became the first Black woman elected to the Alaska State House of Representatives, serving for three terms. In 2000, she became the first Black person to be elected to the Alaska State Senate, where she was referred to as the “conscience of the Legislature,” advocating for school funding, economic development, and programs to support vulnerable Alaskans.

Keywords: Alaska. Legislature. House of Representatives; Alaska. Legislature. Senate; Alaska Psychiatric Hospital; Anchorage School District (Alaska); Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage); School board presidents; University of Alaska Anchorage; Women social workers

[Blanche McSmith](#), Ward Wells Collection, B1983.091.C184, B1983.091.C259.9.3

Blanche McSmith (1920–2006) was the first Black representative in the Alaska State Legislature. Blanche moved to Alaska with her husband in 1949, where they opened McSmith Enterprises, a television and radio service store.

In 1951, Blanche worked with others to establish the Anchorage branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), serving as branch president in 1959. Later that year, Gov. William Egan appointed Blanche to fill a seat in the 10th District of the Alaska House of Representatives.

During her tenure in the State Legislature, Blanche promoted fair housing, proposing an ordinance that was later adopted by the Anchorage City Council in 1967. Blanche continued to promote equality in the public and private sectors, moving to Dzánti K'ihéeni (Juneau) in 1972 to serve as Public Employment Program director in the Office of the Governor, where she worked to end employment discrimination in Alaska.

Keywords: African Americans; Alaska. Legislature. House of Representatives; Black Americans; Businesspeople; Discrimination in employment; Discrimination in housing; Dzánti K'ihéeni

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(Juneau); Egan, William A., 1914-1984; National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; Radio—Repairing; Television—Repairing

[Carolyn Jones](#), Fran Durner Collection, B2016.004.38.6, Eleanor Andrews Collection, B2021.009.12, .56

Born in 1941 in Tarrytown, NY, Carolyn Jones was the first in her family to attend college, graduating with distinction from Stanford University in 1963 and attending Yale Law School on a full scholarship. Carolyn was the first woman president of the Yale Law School Student Association—one of many glass ceilings she would shatter in her career.

After graduating in 1966, Carolyn confronted rampant workplace discrimination. She says that, for her, “being a woman was harder than being Black” because hiring committees were more interested in her male counterparts, despite her accomplishments. Frustrated by the lack of opportunity in the US, she returned to Italy, where she had been an exchange student, and worked as an interpreter. By that time, the Civil Rights Movement was in full swing, and the urgency of the moment brought Carolyn back home to the US. “My country was burning, and I wanted to be a part of the solution,” she said. She found work in legal services as a poverty attorney in the San Francisco Bay area.

In 1975 Carolyn was hired as an Alaska assistant attorney general to represent the Alaska State Commission for Human Rights, a position she held for the next nine years. She later went on to represent the Alaska Energy Authority and the Department of Transportation.

In 1987 she joined Rotary, an international service organization providing humanitarian services to promote peace. She was the first woman to hold the position of club vice president. In 1997 she became the first woman district governor within Rotary District 5010 – at that time the largest Rotary District in the world, encompassing Alaska, the Yukon Territory, and eastern Russia. During her term, Carolyn visited all 25 eastern Russian Rotary chapters and created the Children of Russia project, which focused on bringing humanitarian relief to children in distress. In one year, her district funded 30 projects with financial aid of over \$600,000. In 2005, Carolyn became the first woman in the Rotary world to serve as a director of The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International.

Carolyn continues to serve her community speaking to the Rotary world about diversity, equity, and inclusion. Her advice for others? “You only have one life so reach for the moon. You might miss, but you’ll get a handful of stars.”

Keywords: Alaska. Department of Law; Alaska State Commission for Human Rights; Civil rights; Equity; Human rights; Lawyers; Peace; Rotary Foundation; Social justice; Women lawyers

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[Changunak Antisarlook Andrewuk](#), **The Ickes Collection, B1975.175.157, .159**

Known as Sinrock Mary and the Queen of the Reindeer, Changunak Antisarlook Andrewuk was born in 1870 to an Iñupiaq mother and Russian father. She grew up in Taciq (St. Michael) at the mouth of the Yukon River at a time when the Iñupiat people saw a great influx of whalers, missionaries, gold miners, and traders to the region. In 1889 she married her first husband Charles Antisarlook and the couple moved to Cape Nome.

She spoke Iñupiaq, Russian, and English. She served as a translator for Michael A. Healy. Healy brought the first Siberian reindeer to Alaska to help feed and sustain Indigenous communities. Her husband served as a reindeer herding apprentice and after years of assisting with government reindeer herds, they became the first Indigenous Alaskan owners of their own private herd. The herd was originally based around Sinuk, a small settlement also called "Sinrock," from which Mary took her nickname.

After her husband's unexpected death during a measles epidemic in 1900, Changunak was disqualified from legally owning property both as a woman and as an Iñupiaq, but she fought to keep her half of the reindeer herd. She succeeded and eventually became one of the richest women in Alaska. Changunak saw the effect of disease and unlawful activity on her people. And while she welcomed the miners' business and the friendship of some, Changunak constantly had to protect her herd from those who wanted to take the animals to haul loads or for food.

A savvy businesswoman, she sold meat to local businesses and the Army station and made her own fortune during Sitḡasuaq (Nome)'s gold rush. In 1901, she moved her herd to Uḡalaḡliit (Unalakleet), where she married again. Her second husband wasn't interested in herding, but Mary trained some of her children and many other Iñupiat people to become reindeer herders. She is remembered as a hero for her tenacity, generosity, and friendship.

Keywords: Businesswomen; Cape Nome; Gold mines and mining; Indigenous communities; Iñupiat people; Iñupiaq territory; Reindeer herders; Sexism; Sinuk (Alaska); Sitḡasuaq (Nome); Taciq (St. Michael); Translators; Uḡalaḡliit (Unalakleet); Yukon River

[Clarissa Rizal](#), **"Copper Woman" by Clarissa Rizal c. 2000, 2002.038.001ae**

Clarissa Rizal (1956–2016) was a Raven of the T'akdeintaan (black-legged Kittywake) Clan. Rizal was a multidisciplinary artist, writer, and entrepreneur. She was mentored by several Tlingit elders, including the late master weaver Jennie Thlunaut, who was one of the last of the traditional Chilkat weavers.

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Following the teachings of Thlunaut, Rizal dedicated herself to educating others in the techniques of Chilkat, Ravenstail, and button robe making through workshops and apprenticeships. In addition to teaching, she founded non-profit arts organizations and initiated projects such as Artstream Alaska, the Biennial Northwest Coast Native Artists' Gathering, and the Shaax 'SaaniKeek' Weavers' Circle of Chilkat and Ravenstail weavers. Rizal authored "Jennie Weaves An Apprentice – A Chilkat Weavers' Handbook" which received a HAIL (Honoring Alaska's Indigenous Literature) Award in 2008 and serves as practical guide for Chilkat weavers of all experience levels.

For Rizal, weaving was inseparable from culture, kinship, and knowledge production. She said: "It's not just weaving an art form. You're weaving an entire culture. You're weaving an entire family clan. You're weaving energies that pass between the worlds. You're in connection with all the past weavers."

This biographical statement was written in collaboration with Rizal's daughter, Lily Hope, who is an accomplished weaver herself and continues the work of sharing her knowledge with future weavers.

Keywords: Artstream Alaska; Biennial Northwest Coast Native Artist' Gathering; Businesspeople; Chilkat textile fabrics; Indigenous artists; Indigenous arts; Indigenous weavers; Indigenous writers; Nonprofit organizations; Ravenstail; Regalia; T'akdeintaan Clan; Tlingit people

[Cornelia Templeton Hatcher](#), **Cornelia Templeton Jewett Hatcher Paper, B2008.015.1.8.4, .2.37.1**

The struggle for true suffrage and equality didn't end in 1920 – it continued with the Civil Rights and American Indian Movements of the 1960s. People are still fighting many structural inequalities that disproportionately affect women of color.

Cornelia Templeton Jewett Hatcher was born in 1867 in Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, and became interested in journalism from an early age. She recognized the power of the press as a tool for advocacy. Her journalism career led her around the country, including a trip to Alaska, where she relocated in 1909.

Cornelia believed that women should have the right to vote for representatives in Alaska's Territorial Legislature. Although her fight for women's rights did not come easy, she remained passionate about the cause and wrote a petition to the legislature. To one skeptic she remarked, "There are thousands of women like me who are honestly interested in their government and believe that they should have an equal voice in its affairs..." Months after

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Cornelia's initial petition, Alaska's representatives drafted a bill that gave women the right to vote in territorial elections. This bill was the first passed by Alaska's legislature, predating the ratification of the 19th amendment to the US Constitution in 1920.

Cornelia continued the pursuit for equal rights and prohibition throughout her life, holding many leadership roles in Women's Clubs across the country. She left Alaska in 1922. In 2009, Cornelia was inducted to the Alaska Women's Hall of Fame.

Keywords: Alaska. Territorial Legislature; American Indian Movement; Civil rights; Equality; Prohibition; Women – Suffrage; Women and journalism; Women journalists

[Dora Keen](#), [Dora Keen Collection](#), [B2015.008](#), [Dora Keen Albums](#), [B2023.005](#)

Born in 1871 in Philadelphia, Dora Keen graduated from Bryn Mawr College in 1896 then set off to explore the world. She became interested in alpine climbing, summiting many peaks in the Swiss Alps. Her travels eventually brought her to Alaska, where she set off to climb K'ats'I Tl'aadi (Mt. Blackburn), which had no official first ascent records at the time.

Dora first attempted to climb K'ats'I Tl'aadi (16,390 ft), the fifth highest peak in the United States, in 1911. The journey was unsuccessful, but it was a landmark in many ways: the first expedition to use dogs on a mountain, the first to succeed without Swiss guides, the first to camp in snow caves, and the first to make a prolonged night ascent. Her second attempt in 1912 utilized a smaller team of locals, including German adventurer George Handy. They endured blizzards, dodged avalanches, and were trapped in ice caves for days at a time. Some team members abandoned the trek fearing that it was too dangerous. On May 12, 1912, Dora and George finally summited K'ats'I Tl'aadi, after 33 days on the mountain, with 22 of those spent in snow caves. Dora described the summit as "the most superb view of my life."

Dora and George later married in McCarthy, Alaska, with K'ats'I Tl'aadi in the background. While they did not remain in Alaska, and eventually went their separate ways, Dora continued to adventure around the world. She returned to Alaska in 1961 at the age of 91 as part of a world tour. Dora's courageous spirit inspired subsequent generations of adventurous women.

Keywords: Adventurers; K'ats'I Tl'aadi (Mount Blackburn); Women mountaineers

[Eleanor Andrews](#), [Eleanor Andrew Collection](#), [B2021.009](#)

Eleanor Louise Andrews (née Poole) was born April 12, 1944, in Los Angeles, California. She grew up in the Compton neighborhood with her sister Jacquelin Poole and graduated from Compton Senior High School in 1962. She completed courses at California State University, Los

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Angeles, before she married Franklin Andrews and gave birth to her son, Franklin Andrews, Jr. and her daughter, Marti Andrews. In 1965, she traveled to Fairbanks, Alaska, to visit her biological father and decided to move there with her family. They lived in Fairbanks for three years before moving to Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage) in 1968 where Andrews began working as a counselor at McLoughlin Youth Center for the State of Alaska.

During her career, she also worked for the Alaska Public Employees Association, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, and served as the Director of Human Resources for the Municipality of Anchorage. In 1982 she was appointed to work for the State of Alaska as a deputy and then commissioner of the Alaska Department of Administration. In 1987, she moved from the public to the private sector when she started her own business, the Andrews Group. The Andrews Group was a management services company, which engaged primarily in U.S. government service contracting in Alaska and across the United States. The company started with only Andrews and grew to employ thousands as an award-winning business for its excellence and support of the community. Throughout her career, Andrews assisted numerous women-owned and Indigenous-owned businesses with guidance and partnerships to bid and fulfill federal government service contracts through what became the 8(a) procurement program of the government's Small Business Administration. Andrews retired in 2007, but she continues to be actively involved in her community and to give back to Alaska.

Andrews built her life and career in Dgheyaytnu, working in both the public and private sectors while serving and investing her time and knowledge to organizations she believes in. She served on the Alaska Judicial Council from 2001-2007, where she gave her time to review and deliberate the application of all judges applying to serve in the Alaska court system. She has also served on boards that initiated the Foraker Group, the ATHENA program of the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce, and the Anchorage Urban League. Andrews raised and contributed funds for organizations to build the Dr. Etheldra Davis Fairview Elementary school, to strengthen the Anchorage Neighborhood Health Clinic, and develop affordable housing programs in the state. Additionally, Andrews has served on advisory boards for the University of Alaska Anchorage, Providence Alaska Foundation, and Commonwealth North, the Anchorage Parks Foundation Board, and the Providence Alaska Region Ministry Board.

Andrews is regarded as a successful Black businesswoman and civic entrepreneur, as well as inspiration to institutions, businesses, and individuals to excel in their work and invest in the community. She leads others in the understanding that it is good business to develop quality schools, affordable housing, accessible economic opportunities, safe neighborhoods, and a just and fair city and state. She has given her own time, money, and talents for decades, but has also inspired others to participate in advancing our communities. She is a gifted and fair public servant, a volunteer, a philanthropist, a mentor, a board member, a loyal friend, and a loving

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mother and grandmother. Andrews credits Alaska with providing opportunities for women and “anyone with curiosity” to succeed.

Keywords: Alaska. Department of Administration; Alaska Public Employees Association; Anchorage (Alaska); Anchorage Chamber of Commerce; Athena Society; Businesswomen; Community; Civic improvement; Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage); Human rights; International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers; Management; Personnel departments—Employees; Philanthropists; Voluntarism; Women civic leaders

[Eliza Ruhamah Scidmore](#), FIC Collection, B2001.002.24

Eliza Ruhamah Scidmore (1856-1928) was an author, journalist, and the first woman to serve on the board of the National Geographic Society. Eliza first came to Alaska in 1883 after reading John Muir’s writings about his adventures in the North. Traveling by steamship, Eliza recorded her experiences in the first Alaska travel guide, published in 1885. Of Muir Glacier in the Tlingit region of Glacier Bay, Eliza wrote: “Words and dry figures can give one little idea of the grandeur of this glacial torrent flowing steadily and solidly into the sea, and the beauty of the fantastic ice front, shimmering with all the prismatic hues, beyond imagery or description.”

In addition to Alaska, Eliza traveled extensively throughout Japan. It was her advocacy that led to the planting of Japanese cherry blossom trees around the National Mall in Washington, D.C. In 1890, Eliza joined the newly formed National Geographic Society, serving as a writer, editor, photographer, and lecturer. Two years later, she became the first woman to serve on the board.

Eliza continued to write travel guides, catalogues, and articles on Alaska throughout her life, all of which became popular with the growing Alaska cruise industry at the turn of the 19th century.

Keywords: National Geographic Society (U.S.); Travel; Travel writers; Women authors; Women editors; Women journalists

[Elizabeth Peratrovich](#), AHFAM FIC Collection, B1992.016.3

Alaska civil rights leader Elizabeth Peratrovich (K̄ax̄gal.aat) (1911–1958), who was Raven of the Tlingit Lukaax.ádi clan, was a major force behind the passage of Alaska’s Anti-Discrimination Bill in 1945. During public comments, Peratrovich famously approached the podium and responded to concerns that the measure would aggravate racial tensions, saying: “I would not have expected that I, who am barely out of savagery, would have to remind the gentlemen with 5,000 years of recorded civilization behind them of our Bill of Rights.”

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Governor Ernest Gruening signed the bill into law on Feb. 16, 1945, which preceded the US Civil Rights Act of 1964 by nearly 20 years. The day is now celebrated as Elizabeth Peratrovich Day in Alaska.

At the time, Peratrovich was also the Grand President of the Alaska Native Sisterhood (ANS), which is one of the oldest-known Indigenous civil rights organizations in the world. Founded in 1915 as an auxiliary of the Alaska Native Brotherhood (ANB), both groups achieved major accomplishments for Indigenous rights and social justice, including the voting rights for Indigenous Alaskans prior to the Citizenship Act of 1924, civil rights reform (such as the Anti-Discrimination Act of 1945), land claims extinguishment efforts leading to ANCSA, and social reforms in health care, education, and services for Indigenous Alaskans. More than 100 years later, the ANS and ANB continue to advance Indigenous Alaskan rights.

In 2020, the United States Mint collaborated with ANS and ANB to commemorate Peratrovich on a \$1 coin, becoming the first Indigenous Alaskan to appear on US currency. Peratrovich may not have received the recognition she deserved in her lifetime, but her lasting impact will be felt for generations to come.

Keywords: Alaska Native Sisterhood; Discrimination—Law and legislation; Gruening, Ernest, 1887-1974; Indigenous Law; Indigenous peoples—Civil rights; Indigenous peoples—Suffrage; Racism; Social Justice; United States. Indian Citizenship Act of 1924

[Emily Ticasuk Ivanoff Brown](#), Point Hope Photographs, B1996.034.7, Mary Barr Jackson Album, B2015.007.67, Kay McFarland Jackson Slides, B2018.029.919

Emily Ticasuk Ivanoff Brown was born in Uᅇalaqtiit (Unalakleet) in 1904 and raised in Saktuliq (Shaktoolik) on the Norton Sound coast. Emily's family is of Russian and Iñupiaq descent, and her Iñupiaq name, Ticasuk, means: "Where the four winds gather their treasures from all parts of the world . . . the greatest of which is knowledge." When Emily was about 15, she was sent to Chemawa Indian School in Salem, Oregon, where she stayed for 9 years, completing her elementary, high school, and teaching certificates. Emily returned to Alaska and began her long teaching career in Qikiqtaᅇruk (Kotzebue).

As a teacher for over 30 years, Emily developed a passion for both health and bilingual language learning. In 1954, after 10 years of taking summer courses while working full-time during the academic year, she received her Bachelor of Science degree in education. She continued her education, even into her retirement, earning a second bachelor's degree and a master's degree in the Iñupiaq language from the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

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Emily passed away in 1982, just a few weeks before the University of Alaska Fairbanks recognized her contributions with an honorary doctorate in the humanities. She is remembered for her lifelong dedication to education and Iñupiaq language and cultural revitalization. She was awarded a presidential citation by President Nixon for her “exceptional service to others, in the finest American tradition” and was cited by the Alaska State Legislature for preservation of Indigenous Alaskan culture and language multiple times.

Keywords: Chemawa Indian School; Education, Bilingual; Inupiaq language; Inupiat people; Language revival; Norton Sound (Alaska); Qikiqtaġruk (Kotzebue); Saktuliq (Shaktoolik); Uᅇalaqtiit (Unalakleet); University of Alaska Fairbanks

[Florence Napaq Malewotkuk](#), Steve McCutcheon Collection, B1990.014.5.AKNative.2.8, .5.People.3.42, Ward Wells Collection, B1983.091.S1867.C41

Siberian Yupik artist Florence Napaq Malewotkuk was born in 1906 in Sivuqaq (Gambell, St. Lawrence Island) and began drawing as a child. She later pursued a career as an artist, depicting scenes of everyday life in her village on paper, canvas, and skin.

Florence gained recognition as an artist at a time when gender discrimination and racism presented major barriers to professional success. Her work reflects her experience of the people, animals, and social customs of Sivuqaq during a time of pivotal change, providing a lasting testament to her tenacity and drive to document the world around her.

In a letter to University of Alaska Fairbanks president Charles Bunnell, Florence described some of the challenges she faced as an artist: “...it is sometimes very hard to draw in the agra, our winter houses, because we just have the light of three seal oil lamps and I have to lay on the floor, which is made from walrus hide, and my eyes hurt me sometimes.” She often struggled to obtain supplies to create her artwork.

Keywords: Discrimination; Indigenous artists; Racism; Sexism; Siberian Yupik people—Manners and customs; Sivuqaq (Gambell); Sivuqaq (St. Lawrence Island); Women artists

Fran Durner, Fran Durner Collection, B2016.004

Award-winning photojournalist Fran Durner came to Alaska in 1973. She worked for the *Anchorage Times* from 1976-1979 and the *Anchorage Daily News* from 1979-2010. She did freelance work for numerous publications including *Life*, *National Geographic*, *Time Magazine*, and *Der Spiegel*.

Keywords: Anchorage Daily News; Anchorage times; Photojournalists; Women photographers

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[Genie Chance](#), Steve McCutcheon Collection, B1990.14.5.Pol.1.30; Truth Coven Gray Earthquake Album, B2009.56.30b

Genie Chance (1927–1998) was born in Texas in 1927 and moved to Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage) in 1959. One of Alaska’s first women in broadcast news, Genie worked for stations KENI and, later, KFQD as an editor and journalist. She is most well known for her coverage of the 1964 earthquake.

In a time of crisis and panic, Genie was a calm and reassuring presence. Within minutes of the earthquake, she was in the streets reporting on the natural disaster and connecting people through her coverage. Reflecting on this time, Genie remarked, “I was responsible for reassuring [Alaskans] that the world had not come to an end.”

Genie’s measured approach in such a volatile time made her one of the most trusted public figures in Alaska. In 1968, she was elected to the Alaska House of Representatives, and, in 1974, to the state Senate, where she championed education and women’s rights. Genie’s legacy reminds us of the importance of doing what is right in times of upheaval. In her words: “We must be together. As long as we are together, we are confident of the future.”

Keywords: Alaska Earthquake, Alaska, 1964; Alaska. Legislature. House of Representatives; Alaska. Legislature. Senate; Education; News radio stations; Radio broadcasters; Radio journalists; Women editors; Women’s rights

[Helen Fischer](#), Steve McCutcheon Collection, B1990.014.5.People.14.221.8, .5.People.14.221.13

Helen Fischer was one of six women Alaska Constitutional Convention delegates, and a staunch advocate for women’s rights. Helen came to Alaska in 1945 and quickly became involved in promoting Alaska statehood.

She served as the first secretary for Operation Statehood, with E.L. “Bob” Bartlett, traveling across Alaska and applying much-needed pressure on Washington, D.C. officials for Statehood. She was a member of the Democratic National Committee from 1956-1963 and served in the Alaska State House of Representatives from 1957-1961, and again from 1971-1975. Between her State Legislature terms, Helen worked for the U.S. Treasury as the state director of Bond Savings.

These images, taken by Steve McCutcheon on Oct. 30, 1964, show Helen in her office in Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage).

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Keywords: Alaska Constitutional Convention (1955-1956); Alaska. Legislature. House of Representatives; Democratic National Committee (U.S.); Statehood (American politics)—Alaska; United States. Department of the Treasury. Women’s rights

[Irene Ryan](#), Lu Liston Collection, B1989.016.784.2

“I have found that the best way to be accepted on equal ground is to go ahead and quietly do the job at hand.” – Irene Irvine Ryan, 1959, from "Women Pilots of Alaska," by Sandi Sumner.

Born in Boston in 1909, Irene Irvine Ryan relocated to Alaska in 1931 after hearing stories of bush pilots from her uncle. On June 23, 1932, Irene became the first woman to successfully complete a solo flight in the Territory of Alaska.

Irene also accomplished many other amazing feats during her life. She was the first female geologist to graduate from the New Mexico School of Mines. After graduating, Irene returned to Alaska and worked for the Civil Aeronautics Authority (CAA), designing airfields throughout Alaska, including the Anchorage International Airport. She also served in the Alaska Territorial House of Representatives, and later served in the state Senate after Alaska became a state. She received an honorary doctorate from Alaska Pacific University in 1985 and the following year was named Alaskan of the Year. She passed away in 1997 at the age of 88.

Keywords: Alaska. Legislature. House of Representatives; Alaska. Legislature. Senate; Anchorage International Airport; Pilots; Geologists; United States. Civil Aeronautics Authority

[Jacquelin Poole](#), Eleanor Andrews Collection, B2021.009.05, .41, .42

Jacquelin Poole was born in Compton, California, with her sister Eleanor Andrews. She came to Alaska as a single parent of two young daughters in 1972 and started working for Alaska Mutual Savings Bank and First National Bank of Anchorage. In 1976, Jacquelin was hired as the first Black woman to work for Atlantic Richfield Company (ARCO) in Prudhoe Bay.

While working in the ARCO Anchorage Office, Jacquelin helped a technician in Prudhoe Bay establish phone line connections to Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage) and was offered a job on the slope as Communications Operator. During her time with ARCO, she also worked as an Oil Plant Operator at the Crude Oil Topping Plant and a Production Operator for one of the Flow Station Plants.

As a single mother, Jacquelin’s schedule of one week on/one week off was difficult, especially when arranging childcare, but Jacquelin says she and her daughters made it work. Few women

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worked on the slope when Jacquelin started, but by the time she left in 1984, she says there were more and more women in field.

After leaving ARCO, Jacquelin stayed in Dgheyaytnu for six years before moving to Fairbanks where she worked for the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Family and Youth Services. During her time there she was inspired to attend the University of Alaska Fairbanks where she received a degree in social work. Upon graduation, Jacquelin worked in Utqiagvik for three years until she moved to Minnesota in 2001 to try something new. Jacquelin is now retired and lives near both her daughters, three grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren in Minneapolis. She says that whenever she tells people she lived and worked in Alaska, they remark on/about how tough she is.

Keywords: Alaska. Department of Health and Social Services; Alaska. Division of Family and Youth Services; Atlantic Richfield Co.; Banks and banking; Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage); First National Bank Alaska; Prudhoe Bay (Alaska); Single mothers; Social workers; University of Alaska Fairbanks

[Jane Hafling](#), Ward Wells Collection, B1983.091.C3067.7

Jane Hafling came to Alaska in 1941 at the age of 18, working for the Civil Aeronautics Authority (CAA) as a bookkeeper.

After WWII, Jane was hired by Bob Atwood to draw weekly cartoons for the Saturday edition of the "Anchorage Times." Signing her cartoons "J. Hafling" to avoid the stigma in the male-dominated profession, Jane continued to contribute her "Review of the Week" cartoons for the Times for the next 18 years. She also designed the logos for many prominent Anchorage businesses, including the Lucky Wishbone.

In 1958, Jane, along with her husband Steve, opened Color Art Printing, which is still in operation today.

Keywords: Bookkeepers; Sexism; United States. Civil Aeronautics Authority; Women artists; Women cartoonists; Women graphic artists

[Jewel Jones](#), Eleanor Andrews Collection, B2021.009.12, .32, .34, .56

Jewel Jones is a community leader and the first Director of Health and Human Services in Anchorage. Born in Oklahoma City, Jones received her undergraduate education from Langston University, the only historically Black university in Oklahoma. She then became the first Black

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woman probation officer in San Bernadino County, California, in 1965. Jewel moved with her military-employed husband to Alaska in 1967.

Upon arriving, she attended a meeting of the Anchorage Community Action Agency, where she met Blanche McSmith. Thanks to Blanche's advocacy, later that month Jewel was hired as the grass-roots director of the agency where she later became its deputy director. In 1970, Jewel was invited by Anchorage mayor George Sullivan to work for the city to improve equity in hiring. In this position, Jewel created an exam prep course for applicants to the police and fire department. The course successfully helped bring more BIPOC individuals into police and firefighter positions in the city.

After the merger of the City and Borough in 1975, Jewel become the first Director of Social Services. When the departments of Health and Social Services merged into the Department of Health and Human Services in 1984, Jewel became the department's first director. In 2007, she became the executive director of the Anchorage Community Land Trust, an organization committed to the revitalization of Mountain View. Now officially retired, Jewel continues to support her community through service on several nonprofit boards.

Keywords: Alaska. Department of Health and Social Services; Alaska. Division of Social Services; Community; Community Action Agency (U.S.); Community Land Trust; Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage); Education; Equity; Fire fighters; Police—Examinations, questions, etc.

[Katie John](#), Anchorage Daily Times Dunlap-Shohl Political Cartoon Collection,

B2009.017.2000.10.17, .2000.10.21, .2001.06.28, .2001.07.17, .2001.08.05, .2001.08.30,

.2001.10.13Katie John (1915-2013) was born in 1915 on Ahtna land near the confluence of Tanada Creek and Copper River within what is now the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park. Katie was the daughter of the last chief of the Village of Batzulnetas, which means "Roasted Salmon Place." Katie and her family fished at Batzulnetas for years until the State of Alaska closed this area and many others to all subsistence fishing in 1964. Twenty years later, Katie and Ahtna elder Doris Charles wrote to the Alaska State Board of Fisheries to re-instate subsistence fishing in their village, prompting the "Katie John Cases" which set into motion a long battle for the subsistence rights of Indigenous Alaskans. She shared many of her subsistence traditions with her family and others until she passed away at the age of 97 on May 31, 2013. In 2019, the State of Alaska officially designated May 31 as "Katie John Day."

Keywords: Indigenous peoples—Civil rights; Subsistence fishing

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[Lidia Selkregg](#), Fran Durner Collection, B2016.004.195

Dr. Lidia Lippi Selkregg (1920–1999) was born in Florence, Italy, and came to America after the end of World War II. She attended the University of Illinois, where she studied geology and earned her doctorate. In 1958, Lidia and her family moved to Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage) where she worked as a city planner. She wrote the Economic Development Administration Grant for the Port of Anchorage and pushed for city officials to set aside land for the watershed. In 1964, after the 1964 Anchorage Earthquake, Lidia and other geologists formed the Engineering Geology Evaluation Group, mapping the entire earthquake area in two days.

After the earthquake, Lidia continued to serve the Anchorage community. As a geology professor at the University of Alaska Anchorage, she helped develop the graduate planning program, she served on the Anchorage Assembly and established the trail and park system, and she advised President Jimmy Carter on national land use issues.

Keywords: Alaska Earthquake, Alaska, 1964; College teachers; Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage); Economic development; Engineering geology; University of Alaska Anchorage; Women geologists

[Lusiana “Lucy” Tuga Hansen](#), Polynesian Association of Alaska Collection, B2023.001

Lusiana “Lucy” Tuga Hansen was born in Ta'u Manu'a, Pago Pago American Samoa in 1962. In 1985, she moved to Alaska to be close to family.

In the early 2000s, Hansen began teaching elders in the Pacific Islander community computer literacy courses. In 2005, she became the founder and CEO of the Polynesian Association of Alaska, a nonprofit organization with the mission to support individuals, improve families by promoting education, and instill cultural pride in youth. Hansen also started a Polynesian Culture Saturday School in partnership with the Anchorage School District and served as the vice president of Bridge Builders of Anchorage. In recognition of her advocacy for the Polynesian community, she was honored with a Chief Samoan Title Name, Muaimalae Tuga Hansen, as well as many other awards, including the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Women “Champions of Change” Award from the White House, the “Women of Achievement Award” from the YWCA of Alaska, and the Presidential Award from Bridge Builders of Anchorage.

Keywords: Anchorage School District (Alaska); Asian America; Community; Computer literacy; Culture; Pacific Islander Americans; Polynesian Americans; Polynesian Association of Alaska; Samoan Americans; Teachers; Women immigrants

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[Mahala Ashley Dickerson](#), Fran Durner Collection, B2016.004.1021

Mahala Ashley Dickerson (1912–2007) was a prominent lawyer and civil rights advocate. Mahala was born in Montgomery County, Alabama, and moved to Alaska in 1958. She was the first Black settler in the Matanuska-Susitna valley. That same year, Mahala became the first Black woman admitted to the state bar.

She was dedicated to human rights causes and as a lawyer she often took on the cases involving the rights of women and people of color. She found time to mentor young minority lawyers throughout her long career. Mahala recognized the shortcomings of her city and worked tirelessly for decades to make Alaska better for everyone. In a 1999 interview for the Matanuska-Susitna Historical Commission, she said that Alaska was “the best place in the world, the best people, the most beautiful place in the world.”

Keywords: Civil rights; Colonists; Communities; Human rights; Lawyers; Mentoring; Minorities; Women, Black

[Mary Jane Fate](#), Wien Collection, B1985.027.1938

Indigenous Alaskan Rights leader Mary Jane (Evans) Fate (1933-2020) was born in Dleł Taaneets (Rampart), a Koyukon Athabascan village on the Yukon River. She attended high school at the Bureau of Indian Affairs’ Mount Edgecumbe boarding school in Sheet’ká (Sitka) before becoming one of the first Indigenous Alaskan women to attend the University of Alaska Fairbanks, where she studied accounting.

Mary Jane was one of the original lobbyists for the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, helping advocate for the legislation in Washington, D.C. Following the Settlement, she spent decades serving on the board of the Rampart Village Corporation. She helped found the Fairbanks Native Association and served as one of the first co-chairs on the Alaska Natives Commission, created by Congress in 1990. In Fairbanks, Fate co-founded the Breast Cancer Detection Center in the 1970s along with Nancy Murkowski. She also co-founded the Tundra Times newspaper. She served on many boards, including on the Alaska Airlines board for 25 years and on the University of Alaska Board of Regents for eight years. She served for four years as the only Indigenous member of the U.S. Arctic Research Commission and was a member of the U.S. Census Advisory Committee on Indigenous populations.

Because of her numerous accomplishments, she was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Law degree from UAF in 1992. In 2012, Doyon Ltd., the regional for-profit Native corporation for Interior Alaska, named her its Citizen of the Year. She was inducted into the Alaska Women's Hall of Fame in 2014. Mary Jane loved the outdoors, her culture, and her family. She led from a

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place of love and respect and enjoyed teaching her children and grandchildren about Athabascan culture.

Keywords: Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA); Indigenous peoples—Civil rights; Koyukon people; Leaders; Lobbyists; United States. Arctic Research Commission

[Mary Louise Rasmuson](#), FIC Collection, B1981.019.164, Mayor George Sullivan Photograph Collection, B1984.055.8a, .8b, .12-.20, .23, .248, .249, Brian and Sharon Davies Collection, B2021.007.2

Mary Louise Rasmuson was born in 1911 in East Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Mary graduated with a bachelor's degree in education from the Women's College at Carnegie Mellon University and went on to obtain a master's degree in school administration from the University of Pittsburgh. She worked as a secretary, teacher, school administrator, and was one of the first two women awarded an honorary Doctor of Law degree from Carnegie Mellon University.

During World War II, she enlisted in the US Army, joining the Women's Army Corps (WAC) as a private. In 1957, President Eisenhower appointed her director of the WAC, and she was reappointed in 1961 by President Kennedy. During her time in the WAC, she advocated for the integration of Black women in the Corps and worked to change laws that deprived military women of promotion opportunities and service credits. Mary rose to the rank of Colonel and was awarded the Legion of Merit for her contributions.

In 1962, she retired from the Army and moved to Dghetyaytnu (Anchorage) with her new husband, Elmer Rasmuson. In Alaska, Mary and her husband championed philanthropy and community wellness. She served as head of the Municipality of Anchorage Historical and Fine Arts Commission and later as Chair of the Anchorage Museum Foundation. Mary gave 45 years of service on the board of the Rasmuson Foundation, to direct more than \$200 million in grants to Alaska nonprofit organizations.

Mary passed away in her home in Dghetyaytnu on July 30, 2012, at the age of 101. She is remembered for her many accomplishments, but above all, as a barrier-breaking champion of women's rights and education.

Keywords: Anchorage Historical and Fine Arts Museum; Anchorage Museum Association; Civil rights; Dghetyaytnu (Anchorage); Education; Philanthropists; Rasmuson Foundation; United States. Army. Women's Army Corps; Women's rights

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Mattie “Tootsie” Crosby, KNIK Pioneer Audio Reels, B1963.012.Reel7.1.2

Mattie “Tootsie” Crosby (1884–1972) was born in Maine and came to Alaska during the early 1900s with her adoptive family. After a brief stay in Skagway, Mattie hiked the Chilkoot Trail to Dawson City, later settling in the small town of Iditarod in 1910. She was a tenacious and adaptive businesswoman. She worked as a ‘lady of the night’ and as a madam and pursued many other memorable business ventures as well. Some these included hauling supplies by boat and dog team, boarding sled dogs and miners, establishing a bathhouse and brothel called “The Crosby,” prospecting, catering, and bootlegging during the Prohibition era, for which she served a jail sentence in 1925.

After her release from jail, Mattie moved to Flat, where she lived and worked for four decades, opening Tootsie’s Tavern, renowned for its food, music, and genial atmosphere. She also continued mining and developing side businesses. In the 1960s, Mattie moved to the Sitka Pioneer Home, and later to the Fairbanks Pioneer Home, where she passed in 1972.

Mattie’s hand-written autobiography documenting her experiences in Alaska was lost when she lent her only copy out for typing and review. However, her memory is preserved in oral histories, archival records, and reports that relay her entrepreneurial endeavors during a time of great change in Alaska. The Anchorage Museum Archives houses a recording of Mattie which aired as part of an interview series conducted by Ruth Briggs of KNIK Radio in 1961 and 1962.

Keywords: Hotelkeepers; Prohibition; Prostitution; Sex workers; Taverns (Inns)

Mahyuqgiak (Miowak), “Miowak” by Fred Machetanz 1937, 1972.106.001, “Miowak the bootmaker” by Fred Machetanz 1956, 1994.004.016

Depicted in Fred Machetanz’s (1908-2002) oil painting, Mayugiak (Miowak) was the eldest daughter of the last chief of Uᅇalaq̄iit (Unalakleet) and an important leader in her community. In a [video](#) about the painting, one of Mayugiak’s great granddaughters, Ella Anagick, provides a narrative about her life and relationship with Fred Machetanz.

In many communities throughout Alaska and the North, women hold powerful positions of leadership. Often, this leadership is cultivated and expressed through informal relationships: offering wisdom and counsel, delivering babies, teaching skills to young people, and caring for the elderly. Although it often goes unrecognized in history books, this leadership is critical for community health and survival.

Keywords: Community; Leaders; Painting; Public health; Uᅇalaq̄iit (Unalakleet)

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[Nellie Neal Lawing](#), Fred Henton Collection, B1965.018.740, B1965.018.741; and John Urban Collection, B1964.001.588

Alaska Nellie (1874–1956), was an Alaska colonist, hunter, and roadhouse operator. Nellie Neal Lawing was born in 1874 in Saint Joseph, Missouri. From an early age, Nellie dreamed of going to Alaska, eventually making her way in 1915. Less than one year later, Nellie became the first woman employed by the federal government in Alaska, with a contract from the Alaska Engineering Commission to provide food and lodging to Alaska Railroad employees. She operated three roadhouses along what is now the Seward Highway, serving workers fresh-caught game and vegetables from her garden.

Nellie quickly became well-known for her hospitality and her skill at big-game hunting. She was a gifted storyteller, and visitors came from far and wide to see her pet bear cub and hunting trophies and to hear her stories. She was a respected hunting guide and, on one occasion, saved a mail carrier during a blizzard when he became lost.

Her final roadhouse was located on Kenai Lake, in an area later renamed Lawing, after Nellie married Bill Lawing. The roadhouse, located along the train stop, was turned into a museum to display Nellie's hunting trophies and memorabilia collected throughout her life. She kept a register of her visitors, which numbered over 15,000, and included two US presidents, the Prince of Bulgaria, and numerous celebrities. The Lawing property changed hands over the years and was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1975.

Nellie passed away in 1956 and was buried next to Bill Lawing in Seward Cemetery.

Keywords: Alaska Engineering Commission; Alaska Railroad; Colonists; Dena'ina territory; Hospitality industry; Hunger; Roadhouses

[Olga Katherine "Katie" Torkelsen Alexander Hurley](#), Steve McCutcheon Collection, B1990.014.5.ConConv.15.6, .5.ConConv.10.17a, .5.ConConv.10.37, Alice Puster Collection, B2019.017.F261, Eleanor Andrews Collection, B2021.009.26-27

Olga Katherine "Katie" Torkelsen Alexander Hurley was chief clerk of the Alaska Constitutional Convention and "the grand dame" of the Alaska Democratic party. Katie was born in 1921 in Dzánti K'ihéeni (Juneau) and began her long career in politics at 19, when she was hired to be the stenographer for Territorial Governor Ernest Gruening. She went to work for Gruening for 12 years as his assistant and executive secretary. In an interview for KTOO's Alaska Statehood Pioneers series Katie stated that working for "EG" was "a big adventure" and that it was then she realized she was "a part of history."

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In 1955 and 1956, Katie served as chief clerk for the Alaska Constitutional Convention, recording meeting minutes and taking copious notes. She reflected on that time as “the biggest thrill” of her life. Following Statehood, Katie served as Secretary of the Senate during the first Alaska State Legislature (1959-1960).

In 1971, Katie was chosen to lead the State Board of Education, a position she held for the next 7 years. She retired from the Board of Education to run for lieutenant governor in 1978 and was the first woman to win a statewide partisan race, becoming the Democratic nominee for the position. The Democratic party lost the race to Republican incumbent, but that did not discourage Katie. She went on to serve as the executive director of the Alaska Commission on the Status of Women from 1980 to 1984.

In 1984 Katie ran for the Alaska state House and was elected representative of Wasilla, appointed to the State Affairs and the House Education Committees. In 1987 she was appointed to the Commission for Human Rights. Katie continued to serve on boards and committees well into the 2000s, even running as a write-in candidate against House District 14 incumbent Vic Kohring in 2006 at the age of 85. In 2009, she was inducted into the Alaska Women’s Hall of Fame.

Katie Hurley passed away in February of 2021. Governor Mike Dunleavy had ordered all U.S. and Alaska state flags to fly at half-mast on March 30th, on what would have been Katie’s 100th birthday.

Keywords: Alaska Commission on the Status of Women; Alaska Constitutional Convention (1955-1956); Alaska. Legislature. House of Representatives. Committee on Health, Education, and Social Services; Alaska. Legislature. House of Representatives. State Affairs Committee; Democratic Party (Ala.); Elections; Gruening, Ernest, 1887-1947; Human rights; Wasilla (Alaska); Women political candidates; Write-in political candidates

[Sadie Neakok](#), Jane Pender Photographs, B1970.060.3, Fran Durner Collection, B2016.004.12.6, Joseph S. Rychetnik Collection, B2017.024.1024-1158

Sadie Neakok (1916-2004) was born in Utqiagvik, Alaska in 1916. Her father, Charles D. Brower, arrived in Utqiagvik as a commercial whaler, where he met Sadie’s mother, Ahsiangatok (*Asianjataq*). One of 10 children, Sadie grew up in a multicultural household. She went to boarding school in San Francisco for high school before moving back to Alaska to attend the University of Alaska.

When Sadie returned home, she used her Western education to help advocate for the rights of her people. She started off working in social work and education before becoming a magistrate

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in Alaska's Second District when the Alaska territory became a state in 1959. While in her position, Sadie presented in court in both English and Iñupiaq languages and advocated for defendants to participate in court even if they did not understand English. Fighting against discrimination and supporting fair hunting, subsistence, and game regulations were just a few of the issues she championed.

When asked in 1983 what the best part of her work was, she replied, “gaining the respect of my people.” In 2009, Sadie was inducted into the Alaska Women’s Hall of Fame. In her Hall of Fame profile, Sadie remarked on the advice she gave to all women no matter where they lived: get involved in your community and work to make it a better place. Sadie passed away in 2004, leaving her legacy as a mother, educator, and advocate.

Keywords: Alaska. Department of Fish and Game. Subsistence Section; Community; Discrimination—Law and legislation; Iñupiaq people; Justices of the peace; Social service; Subsistence hunting; Utqiagvik (Barrow); Women educators; Women social workers

Susan Butcher, Doris Rhodes Slides, B1993.020.2774, Joe Redington Sr. Family Collection, B2006.023.2685, .3448, .6683, .6685, .6752, Anchorage Daily News Dunlap-Shohl Political Cartoon Collection, B2009.017.1988.03.19, .2006.08.08, Paul Felter “Faces of the Iditarod” Collection, B2014.027.17, .112, Fran Durner Collection, B2016.004.826-.831, .864, .1185.35-69, .1185.97-126, Randy Brandon Collection, B2016.019.1.07d.05704.03, .1.07d.05704.10, .1.07d.05704.35, Michael Barron Collection, B2017.001.210, George Darrow Slides, B2019.006.586, Jeff Schultz Collection, B2023.006

Susan Howlet Butcher was born in 1954 in Cambridge, MA. After studying at Colorado State University to become a veterinary technician, Butcher moved to Alaska to pursue her love of dogsled racing and husky breeding.

Susan won the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race in 1986, the second woman ever to do so, and then went on to set more records: she was the second 4-time winner in 1990, and the first to win 4 out of 5 sequential races. She ran the race 17 times, with 15 finishes in the top 10 and 12 in the top five. Butcher was awarded nationally for her achievements and was inducted into the Iditarod Hall of Fame in 1997. She was the first and only recorded person to take a sled dog team to the top of Denali.

Susan Butcher passed away in 2006 after battling cancer. In 2008, the State of Alaska designated the first Saturday of every March, coinciding with the start of the Iditarod, Susan Butcher Day.

Biography adapted from [Alaska Women’s Hall of Fame](#)

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Keywords: Animal health technicians; Dog breeders; Iditarod (Race); Mushers; Speed record holders

[Zula Swanson](#), Zula Swanson Photographs, B1977.104.1

Zula Swanson (1891–1973) was a savvy businesswoman, born on a cotton plantation in Jackson Gap, Alabama in 1891. In 1918, she moved to Portland, Oregon, where she worked as a dressmaker, and where she married shortly after arriving. The marriage did not last, and, with limited financial resources, Zula became a sex worker and managed to amass a large savings. In 1929 she relocated to Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage) to escape charges of bootlegging and drunk driving.

Zula realized the financial opportunities of her profession in Dgheyaytnu and purchased property downtown, which she turned into a brothel disguised as a boardinghouse. She also owned the Rendezvous Hotel, which served as a meeting place for new arrivals seeking housing and job opportunities.

Zula continued to prosper in Dgheyaytnu, purchasing commercial and residential lots throughout the 1940s and 1950s, quickly becoming one of the largest landowners in the state. In 1962, she sold land on what is now 5th Avenue to JCPenney for an estimated \$250,000—equal to roughly \$2.1 million today.

While growing her business empire, Zula maintained an active role in civic life in Dgheyaytnu. She was one of the founding members of the Anchorage chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in 1951 (alongside Blanche McSmith), and was a member of various community clubs, including the Daughters of the Elks. Zula passed away in 1973, at the age of 82.

Keywords: Alcohol trafficking; Boardinghouses; Businesswomen; Brothels; Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage); National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; Plantations; Prostitution; Rendezvous Hotel (Anchorage); Sex workers; Women landowners

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ARCHIVAL COLLECTIONS

KNIK Pioneer Audio Reels, [B1963.012](#)

The collection consists of 26 7" reels of ¼" magnetic audio tape recorded by Ruth Briggs of radio station KNIK in 1961 and 1962, for the program "Alaska Speaks." The tapes contain oral history interviews with notable Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage) residents, including Mattie "Tootsie" Crosby. For more information, please refer to the collection's finding aid available on the museum website.

- Reel 7, Side 1, .2

John Urban Collection, [B1964.001](#)

The Urban Collection consists of 842 black-and-white and tinted photographs and postcards, depicting the Klondike and Nome gold rushes, construction and operation of the Alaska Railroad and the Copper River & Northwestern Railroad, and communities and locations around the state. Two photographs in this collection show Alaska Nellie and her home. For more information, please refer to the collection's finding aid available on the museum website.

- .454, .588

Fred Henton Collection, [B1965.018](#)

The collection consists of 700+ photos created or collected by Fred Henton, who travelled Alaska as a mail-carrier, game guide, dog musher, and explorer. It includes photographs of notable woman Nellie Neal Lawing. For more information, please refer to the collection's finding aid available on the museum website.

- .740, .741

Arthur Eide Collection, [B1970.028](#)

Arthur Hansin Eide was born in Norway and arrived in Alaska in 1910. He was a missionary who married Annie Koodlalook, an Inupiat woman of Point Barrow. The couple became government representatives on Injalik (Little Diomed Island), working as schoolteachers, doctors, and commissioners. Eide went on to marry four more women, living primarily in the Spenard area of Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage). He died in 1972. The collection consists of 487 photographs (black-and-white and tinted) of Alaskan land and people, as well as ephemera, newspaper clippings, and a photo album. Ada Blackjack is identified in this collection. For more information, please refer to the collection's finding aid available on the museum website.

- .487

Ickes Collection, [B1975.175](#)

The Ickes Collection consists of photographs, negatives and contact prints. This collection includes approximately 686 images and several hundred negatives. The photographs cover Ickes trip to Alaska in 1938. The collection also consists of a set of contact prints and

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descriptions of the photographs, along with a list of captions for all photographs. Notable woman Changunak Antisarlook Andrewuk, also known as Sinrock Mary and the Queen of the Reindeer, is depicted in photographs. For more information, please refer to the collection's finding aid available on the museum website.

- .157, .159

Zula Swanson Photographs, [B1977.104](#)

- B1977.104.1

FIC Collection, [B1981.019](#)

The FIC Collection is an aggregation of 178 items from scattered small collections received and/or accessioned in 1981. Anfesia Shapsnikoff is depicted in multiple photographs demonstrating basket weaving. Mary Louise Rasmuson is also depicted. For more information, please refer to the collection's finding aid available on the museum website.

- .164, .169, .170, .171

Ward Wells Collection, [B1983.091](#)

Ward Wells was a well-known professional Alaskan photographer, and his collection at the Anchorage Museum Archives constitutes one of the largest in the archive with over 120,000 negatives. The images, dating from 1948 to 1981, reflect Mr. Wells' varied interests, including Anchorage development, military exercises and special events in Alaska. It includes photographs of notable women Blanche McSmith, Florence Napaaq Malewotkuk, and Jane Hafling. For more information, please refer to the collection's finding aid available on the museum website.

- .C184, .C259.9.3, .C3067.7, .S1867.C41

Pyatt-Laurence Collection, [B1983.146](#)

The collection consists of 342 photographic prints, including some postcards, and 187 nitrate negatives depicting Alaskan scenes, primarily in and around Anchorage, in 1915 and 1916. The photographs were taken by renowned painter Sydney Laurence and his assistant Alberta Pyatt at the Sydney Laurence Company. Nearly one-third of the photographs in this collection are attributed to Pyatt, and her likeness is represented. For more information, please refer to the collection's finding aid available on the museum website.

Mayor George Sullivan Photograph Collection, [B1984.055](#)

George Sullivan was Mayor of the City of Anchorage from 1967-1975. When the City and Borough unified in September 1975, Sullivan continued as Mayor of the Municipality of Anchorage until 1981. The collection consists of black-and-white photographic prints, 35mm black-and-white negatives, color photographic prints, and 35mm color slides. Mary Louise

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Rasmuson is depicted throughout the collection. For more information, please refer to the collection's finding aid available on the museum website.

- .8a, .8b, .12-.20, .23, .248, .249

Wien Collection, [B1985.027](#)

Wien Air Alaska was founded by brothers Noel and Ralph Wien, the former of whom was married to Ada Wien. The collection consists of all formats of photography and was created solely by Wien Air Alaska from 1966 to the early 1980s when it went out of business. The collection is divided into various subjects, such as Destinations, People, and Passenger. Mary Jane Fate and the Alaskeros are included in this collection. For more information, please refer to the collection's finding aid available on the museum website.

- .1012, .1938

Bessie Kendall Couture Collection, [B1987.002](#)

- .44c, .44e

Lu Liston Collection, [B1989.016](#)

Lu Liston was the last proprietor of Hewitt's Drug Store, which operated a commercial photography business offering film supplies and services as well as stock and commercial photography. The collection includes images depicting notable woman of Alaska, Irene Ryan. For more information, please see the collection's finding aid available on the museum website.

- .784.2, .1562, .2046.4

Steve McCutcheon Collection, [B1990.014](#)

This collection is one of the largest archival holdings in the Museum archives. The photographs were taken by Steve McCutcheon, an Alaskan entrepreneur, who was a photographer, a writer and cinematographer. He was also politically engaged in the state and a member of Alaska's constitutional convention. Many subseries within Series 5 (Negatives) called *Alaska Natives*, *Constitutional Convention*, *People*, and *Politics* include notable women such as Agnes Harrison, Alexander Hurley, Barbara Andrews-Mee, Florence Napaaq Malewotkuk, Genie Chance, Helen Fischer, and Olga Katherine "Katie" Torkelsen. For more information, please refer to the collection's finding aid available on the museum website.

- Series 5 Negatives: subseries:
 - **1** (Politics General): .5.Pol.1.30
 - **2** (Artifact Carvers): .5.AKNative.2.8
 - **3** (Artists, Art by Last Name): .5.People.3.42
 - **10** (Constitutional Convention Officers): .5.ConConv.10.17a, .5.ConConv.10.37
 - **14** (People, Anchorage General A-O): .5.People.14.221.8, .5.People.14.221.13, .5.People.14.293, .5.People.14.299, .5.People.14.6
 - **15** (Constitutional Convention Staff): .5.ConConv.15.6

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AHFAM FIC Collection, B1992.016*

This collection consists of 5 prints, including one copy of a portrait of Elizabeth Peratrovich.

- .3

Doris Rhodes Slides, [B1993.020](#)

This collection consists of 3797 personal and commercially produced 35mm color slides created or collected by the Rhodes and Nye families, who were professionally involved with the sawmill industry, the Anchorage School District, and the Bureau of Land Management. The personal slides primarily depict road trips taken across the state. This collection includes an image of Susan Butcher. For more information, please refer to the collection's finding aid available on the museum website.

- .2774

Point Hope Photographs, [B1996.034](#)

This collection consists of 10 black-and-white photographs of people and places in Point Hope, Alaska, taken c. the 1930s. It includes one photograph of Emily Ticasuk Ivanoff Brown. For more information, please refer to the collection's finding aid available on the museum website.

- .7

FIC Collection, B2001.002*

This collection depicts various activities, people, and places throughout Alaskan in the first half of the 20th-century. In the collection is a studio portrait of Eliza Ruhamah Scidmore.

- .24

"Moosemeat" John Hedberg and Alice E. Hedberg Brown Collection, [B2001.011](#)

The collection consists of two looseleaf binders. Included in each book are photocopies of illustrations, newspaper articles, genealogical resources, and vital records. Alice Brown, a notable woman of Alaska, is extensively shown in this collection. For more information, please refer to the collection's finding aid available on the museum website.

Joe Redington Sr. Family Collection, B2006.023*

This collection consists of over 10,000 images created by the family of Joe Redington Sr. (1917-1999), who is known as the "Father of the Iditarod." Along with many other Iditarod competitors, this collection includes images of Susan Butcher. The entire collection is digitized and available to view [online](#).

- .2685, .3448, .6683, .6685, .6752

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FIC Collection, [B2008.013](#)

The collection consists of 147 items from scattered small collections received and/or accessioned in 2008. Notable woman, Ada Blackjack Johnson's cemetery is shown. For more information, please refer to the collection's finding aid available on the museum website.

- .45

Cornelia Templeton Jewett Hatcher Paper, [B2008.015](#)

These papers consist of three scrapbooks including numerous photographs related to Cornelia's years as editor of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union newspaper, *The Union Signal*. Cornelia is depicted in a variety of photographs throughout her life and career. For more information, please refer to the collection's finding aid available on the museum website.

- .1.5/a, .1.5/b, .1.5/e, 1.6/c, 1.8.4, 1.7/d, 1.7/e, 1.7/f, 1.8/a, 1.8/b, 1.8/c, 1.20/c, 1.31/c, 1.31/h, 1.32/d, 1.43/c, .2.5/b, 2.6/b, 2.11/b, 2.35, 2.37.1, 2.37/b, .2.38, .2.40/a, 2.40/b

Anchorage Daily News Dunlap-Shohl Political Cartoon Collection, [B2009.017](#)

The collection contains the original artwork for Peter Dunlap-Shohl's editorial cartoons, published in the Anchorage Daily News (ADN) circa 1982-2008, as well as unfinished and unpublished cartoons. Katie John and Susan Butcher are named in some of these cartoons. For more information, please refer to the collection's finding aid available on the museum website.

- .1988.03.19, .2000.10.17, .2000.10.21, .2001.06.28, .2001.07.17, .2001.08.05, .2001.08.30, .2001.10.13, .2006.08.08,

Truth Coven Gray Earthquake Album, B2009.056*

This spiral bound photo scrapbook contains images of earthquake damage to homes and businesses in Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage); also included is notable woman of Alaska, Genie Chance.

- .30b

Alberta Pyatt Negative Collection, [B2009.057](#)

The collection consists of 32 nitrate negatives, 3.5 x 5.5 in. or 2.75 x 4.5 in., taken by Alberta Pyatt and depicting scenes in and around Anchorage, Alaska, in 1915. For more information, please refer to the collection's finding aid available on the museum website.

Paul Felter "Faces of the Iditarod" Collection, [B2014.027](#)

The collection consists of 40 8" x 12" color photo enlargements made from 35mm Kodachrome slides taken by Paul Felter during the Iditarod Races of 1977 and 1978, as well as 150 original color 35mm slides. Susan Butcher is included. For more information, please refer to the collection's finding aid available on the museum website.

- .17, .112

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Mary Barr Jackson Album, [B2015.007](#)

The collection consists of one album, measuring 9" x 7", containing 178 black-and-white photographs collected or created by Mary Jackson Barr, mostly depicting people and activities in rural Alaskan villages. It includes one image of Emily Ticasuk Ivanoff Brown. For more information, please refer to the collection's finding aid available on the museum website.

- .67

Dora Keen Collection, [B2015.008](#)

Dora Keen is best known as the first climber to summit Mount Blackburn. Her collection of photographs from her travels in Alaska and around the world include multiple self-portraits. For more information, please refer to the collection's finding aid available on the museum website.

- .430, .436, .465, .494, .628b, .967

Fran Durner Collection, [B2016.004](#)

The collection consists of 7354 color and black-and-white negatives, 35mm color transparencies, color and black-and-white prints, as well as news clippings, field notes, and other ephemera pertaining to the photojournalism work of Fran Durner in Alaska during the 1970s-1990s. Beyond representing Fran Durner and her legacy, this collection includes photographs of notable women such as Sadie Neakok, Carolyn Jones, Mahala Ashley Dickerson, Ada Wien, Alice Puster, Lidia Selkregg, and Susan Butcher. For more information, please refer to the collection's finding aid available on the museum website.

- .12.6, .12.8, .12.14, .12.37, .38.6, .14.33-34, .16.26-30, .38.6-7, .40.1.1, .40.1.2, .40.1.3, .40.1.4, .40.1.5, .195, .793, .794, .826-.831, .864, .1021, .1110-18, .1183.1-6, .1185.35-69, .1185.97-126, .1189.1-3, .1191.1-4, .1194.1-4, .1195.1, 1196.1-2, .1201,.1219-21

Randy Brandon Collection, [B2016.019](#)

Randy Brandon is a commercial photographer who has operated as Third Eye Photography in Girdwood and Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage) since 1974. This collection consists of over 22,000 photographs in various formats, depicting various people, places, and activities around Alaska, including Susan Butcher. For more information, please refer to the collection's finding aid available on the museum website.

- .1.07d.05704.03, .1.07d.05704.10, .1.07d.05704.35

Michael Barron Collection, [B2017.001](#)

Michael Barron (1947-2016) owned and operated both Snowbird Photography and Maiden Alaska Photography. The collection consists of negatives, prints, 35mm slides, medium format transparencies and publications. Susan Butcher is featured. For more information, please refer to the collection's finding aid available on the museum website.

- .21

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Kay McFarland Jackson Slides, [B2017.029](#)

Kathryn (Kay) Audrey McFarland Jackson (1918-2008) came to Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage) in 1967 and worked as Recreation Director for the city's Parks and Recreation Department until her retirement in the 1980s. She served as Ambassador to Anchorage's Sister City of Incheon, South Korea, and was director of the Anchorage Pleasure Faire (later known as the 3 Barons Renaissance Fair). She founded the Alaskanette Baton Corps and was an active member of the Alaskan Prospectors Society. This collection consists of 2991 35mm color slides taken by McFarland Jackson during her service with the city of Anchorage and during her travels throughout Alaska. It includes a photo of Emily Ticasuk Ivanoff Brown. For more information, please refer to the collection's finding aid available on the museum website.

- .919

George Darrow Slides, [B2019.006](#)

George Darrow (born 1939) came to Alaska with the Air Force in 1973 and held various jobs in Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage) after his 1978 retirement from service. This collection consists of 743 color 35mm slides of Darrow's time in Alaska, including his military work and recreational activities. Susan Butcher is depicted. For more information, please refer to the collection's finding aid available on the museum website.

- .586

Alice Puster Collection, [B2019.017](#)

This collection consists of negatives, slides, prints, proof sheets, videos, equipment, and ephemera related to Puster's career as a photographer. The items below indicate photographs of Alice's likeness. For more information, please refer to the collection's finding aid available on the museum website.

- Box 1, Folder 49
- Box 2, Folders 100, 108, 128, 131
- Box 6, Folders 229-230
- Box 8, Folders 261, 265
- Box 13

Ed Wesley Collection, [B2021.004](#)

This collection contains photographs and ephemera documenting Ed Wesley's personal life and civic and community actions and activities seeking to improve and celebrate the lives of Black people in Alaska. It includes a photograph of Bettye Davis. For more information, please refer to the collection's finding aid available on the museum website.

- .16

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Brian and Sharon Davies Collection, [B2021.007](#)

This collection consists of photographs, manuscripts, and ephemera from Brian Davies' participation in Joe Redington Sr.'s 1993 Iditarod Challenge. Mary Louise Rasmuson is depicted. For more information, please refer to the collection's finding aid available on the museum website.

- .2

Eleanor Andrews Collection, [B2021.009](#)

This collection encompasses the personal records of Eleanor Andrews, including 35 photographic prints, 21 born-digital images, 14 papers and correspondence, 5 publications, 11 newspaper articles and clippings, 13 honors and awards from the early 1950s to 2019. The geographic area of the records is primarily from Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage) but also includes materials from the donor's early life in California as well as her travels in the United States and internationally in Mexico and Italy. As the entire collection represents Eleanor Andrews and her legacy, the items below indicate depiction of other notable women Carolyn Jones, Jacquelin Poole, and Jewel Jones. For more information, please refer to the collection's finding aid available on the museum website.

- .5, .12, .32, .34, .41, .42, .56

Polynesian Association of Alaska Collection, B2023.001*

This collection consists of the records of the Polynesian Association of Alaska, donated by founder and CEO Lusiana "Lucy" Tuga Hansen.

Dora Keen Albums, B2023.005*

This collection consists of six photo albums created by Dora Keen. Images depict various locations in Alaska as well as Dora Keen.

Jeff Schultz Collection, B2023.006*

Jeff Schultz began photographing the land and people of Alaska since he first moved to the state in 1978 at 18 years old. Jeff has been the official photographer for the Iditarod race since 1982. This collection includes photos of Susan Butcher.

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RELATED MUSEUM MATERIALS

Museum Exhibits and Records

Extra Tough: Women of the North (2020-2021 exhibit and associated content)

Black Lives in Alaska: Journey, Justice, Joy (2021-2022 exhibit and associated content)

Chatter Marks, issue 2 (May 2020)

Vertical Files

Alaskan of the Year

Anchorage Women's Club

Black Community

Women—Alaska

Blackjack, Ada

Brown, Emily Ivanoff (Ticasuk)

Johnson, Ada Blackjack

Lawing, Nellie Neal

McSmith, Blanche

Peratovich, Elizabeth

Rasmuson, Mary Louise

Rockwell, Kathleen (Klondike Kate)

Sinrock Mary

Swanson, Zula (Zula Swanson Wester)

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CT3262 .A4 J66 2013

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E99 .A86 C78

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Women Who Braved the Far North: 200 years of Alaskan women, H. Wendy Jones, 1976

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The Iditarod: Women on the Trail, Nicki J. Nielsen, 1986

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Alaska Women in the Iditarod, Peg Stout, 1992

F1095 .K5 B32 2000

Women of the Klondike, Frances Backhouse, 2000

F1095 .K5 M87 1997

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- Gold Rush Women*, Claire Rudolph Murphy and Jane G. Haigh, 1997
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