

ORAL HISTORY 78-40-07

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Pioneer Women of Alaska

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Mike continues reading entries in the Pioneer Women of Alaska register.

Augusta Annette Waechter Courtney arrived in Alaska in 1898. Mike reads from the biography from her funeral. In 1900 she was married to Zen Jewell and had two sons Walter and Wilber. In 1905 she moved to Fairbanks. In 1916 she married Grant Courtney.

Rae B. Carter arrived in Nome in 1900. Her maiden name was Boas. She arrived in Fairbanks in 1906. She joined the Iditarod and Ruby stampedes. Ella Card Clark arrived in Alaska in 1895. Anna E. Creamer arrived in Nome in 1903 with her sister and brother-in-law. She came to Fairbanks in 1904, but left during the years 1920-1928. She returned to Fairbanks in 1928 with her husband and bought a business on College Road. She was president of the Pioneer Women of Alaska. Her father was Captain James Carr from Ireland and her mother was named Anne. She had a business from 1907-1920. She was queen regent during 1959 and Peter Steiger was king regent.

Anna Penketh Caskey was from Sheffield Yorkshire, England and arrived in Skagway in 1899. She was the first president of Auxiliary no. 3 when it was first organized in 1916 at Fairbanks, Alaska. She was elected queen of the carnival at the first celebration of the festival of the midnight sun in 1912. She was chosen arctic queen at the installation ceremonies of Camp Cleary no. 16 Arctic Brotherhood held at Chatanika in 1912. She directed the first opera ever given in the north in December 1906 in Fairbanks where she also sang the contralto part. She had her music education at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, Mass.

Martha J. Cox was born in Pleasant Plains, Illinois and came to Alaska in October of 1900.

Corinne Call came to Alaska in July of 1904. A clipping from the News-Miner is read by Mike. Corinne had adopted seven Eskimo children. She adopted the girls during her thirty years of teaching. The girls were sent to Seattle for their education.

May Kimbell Collins was born in Marysville, California in 1872 and arrived in Alaska on September 1, 1906. She arrived in Fairbanks on the steamer Tanana. She lived in Fox until 1918 when they moved to Fairbanks. Her daughter was Margaret Henshaw Collins Cooper. She was a school teacher until 1930 and was one of the first teachers to receive a pension from the Alaska Territory. She was married to E.B. Collins in 1900. She was a president of the Pioneer Women of Alaska.

Helen Moore Bachman Carlyle was from Portland, Oregon and arrived in Skagway in 1899 and went to Lake Bennett. She went to Nome in 1917. She graduated from the University of Washington in 1915 and taught school. She married Frederick Bachman in 1921 and had three children, Frederick Marcus, Roger W. and Judith T. She went to Teller Mission, Alaska to teach in 1929. Her husband died in 1929. She taught for four years in Teller Mission and then taught in Nome for ten years. In 1943 she worked for the Land Office and transferred to Fairbanks. She

married Harvey K. Carlyle in 1955 and went to Nome again to teach in 1955-1956 and then returned to Fairbanks. Her husband passed away in 1962. She was queen regent in 1963 and Irving McKay Reed was king regent. He worked as a mineral surveyor and mining engineer for the FE Company, assistant mining engineer for the territorial mining department, territorial highway engineer and was an Alaska game commissioner. Irving Reed was instrumental in getting the buffalo herd transplanted to the Big Delta area from a Montana reserve in the 1930s. He and his wife have three children Irving, Nancy Bauer, and Cynthia Carlson. Margaret Henshaw Collins was born in Chico, California and came to Alaska with her family in 1906. She is the daughter of E.B. Collins and Mary Kimbell Collins. She graduated from University State College at Pullman, Washington and taught in Pullman, Washington.

Mary Elizabeth Chadwick was born in Michigan in 1856. She married Hiram Chadwick in 1881. In 1902 she came to Alaska to join her husband. They engaged in mining and came to Fairbanks in 1909. She died in 1922.

Henrietta DeWree was born in 1879 in Belgium. She married in 1901. In 1905 she came to Goldbun, Yukon Territory. In 1907 she moved to Seattle until returning in 1908 to Bolt Creek near Fairbanks. In 1919 they moved to Fairbanks until 1944 when they moved to Redwood City, California. Her husband died in 1947. Her children were Henry DeWree, Mrs. Virgil Bailey, Frank DeWree, and Mrs. Leslie Anquist.

Adrianna Coyle was born in Tacoma, Washington and arrived in Alaska in 1900 [Mike says she arrived in Dawson in 1900] Gertrude Clemens was 81 years old in 1941. She was born in 1860 in Wisconsin and arrived in Alaska in 1898. She arrived in Ketchikan and lived in Haynes Mission, then Bear Creek in B.C., and floated down the Yukon River to Rampart. In 1938 she arrived in Fairbanks. Mike reads about Mrs. O.C. Clemens from a newspaper article written by Lulu Fairbanks. Her husband died in 1923. He was the nephew of Samuel Clemens. There is a story about Mrs. Clemens trapping lynx. She operated placer claims by herself and hunted her own meat.

Ida E. Crook was born in Michigan and arrived in Alaska in 1900. She arrived in Fairbanks in 1904. She writes about making all of her children's clothing and footwear. Deliah Dunham was given life membership to the Pioneer Women of Alaska in 1937. She died in 1948. She married Frank Dunham in Fairbanks shortly after arriving in the territory. In 1910 they went to Iditarod and returned to Fairbanks in 1912 or 1913. They moved to Seattle in 1946 but returned to Harding Lake in the summer.

Clonday N. Dufresne was born in Deadwood, S.D. and arrived in Alaska in 1902.

Lucy Duree was born in Michigan and arrived in Dawson in 1905. She came to Fairbanks in 1908.

Mary DeCamp was born in Iowa and arrived in Wrangell, Alaska in 1898 and Fairbanks in 1903. Mary Driscoll arrived in Alaska in 1900.

D.H. Delaney was born in Ireland and arrived in Alaska in 1896.

Mrs. John Durand was born in Ireland and arrived in Alaska in 1904.

Mrs. Joe A. Davis was born in Iowa and arrived in the Fortymile region in 1896 and went on to live in Circle City and then Dawson. She arrived in Fairbanks in 1936. She left Fairbanks in 1944 to move to Seattle.

Lulu Ann Fairburn was born in Missouri and arrived in Alaska in 1903. She arrived in Fairbanks

in 1904. Her son was Orville G. Fairburn. Her husband was David J. Fairburn. She was a teacher in Fairbanks for twenty-two years. She died in Seattle in 1933.

Laura Hagin Foster O'Flannigan was born in Illinois and arrived in Alaska in 1898. She had been shipwrecked on the steamer Corona and stayed on Lewis Island with other survivors for a week. The steamer Oregon picked them up and they went as far as Wrangell and headed for Skagway on July 4. They marched over the Chilkoot Pass to Lake Bennett and built two boats and sailed for Dawson. They stayed in Dawson and then moved to Fairbanks. They arrived in Chena and walked to Fairbanks. She died in 1952 and was about 75 years old. She served as queen regent three years before her death.