

People of the North / Pioneers

Winter & Pond, Frontier Photographers

By Tricia Brown

Alaska history buffs who appreciate outstanding archival photography are familiar with the studio name of Winter & Pond. In a career spanning more than fifty years, Lloyd V. Winter (1866-1945) and Edwin Percy Pond (1872-1943) compiled a vast catalog of photographs depicting the people and places of the North, particularly around Southeast Alaska and into the Klondike.

San Francisco artist Lloyd Valentine Winter was the fourth of five children born to Englishman Robert Winter, an artist and “picture dealer,” and his wife, Josephine, of Maryland. The Winters cultivated their children’s strengths in art, music, and the trades. Their eldest, Emma, was a music teacher; William worked as a plumber; Charles went to school, as did Lloyd. The youngest child, Henry, was born when Josephine was in her 40s and Robert in his 50s. In the 1880 federal census of San Francisco, when Lloyd was 14, the Winter family was sharing a home with an Edward Gage, a 40-year-old man who worked in a photograph gallery, which perhaps influenced the youngster in his future career choice.

Winter arrived in Juneau in March 1890, and later was invited to work with photographer George M. Landerkin. Together they established the Landerkin & Winter studio, a partnership that lasted until 1893, when Winter’s longtime friend Percy Pond landed in Juneau. In 1894, Pond bought out Landerkin’s interests and the Winter & Pond studio eventually expanded to include sales of Alaska curios as well as special-order photography and other commercial assignments.

Unlike other photographers of their time, many of whom traveled only in the summer months, Winter and Pond stayed in Alaska year-round, photographing diverse subjects, such as Tlingit families arriving for a potlatch, miners pausing on the trail with their laden sleds, workmen laying the Juneau-Skagway Telegraph Cable, and Chilkat dancers

in their fine regalia. The Winter & Pond photograph collection, held at the Alaska State Library in Juneau, also is rich with early scenes of Juneau, its people, local celebrations, the Klondike gold rush, and other mining activity.

Winter's ability to speak a Native language was helpful when the duo surreptitiously observed a Haida dance ceremony in 1894. When the men were discovered, the dancers warned them that it was a secret ceremony for Haida eyes only. In time they were adopted into the tribe, however, and each received a Native name. Winter was given the name Kinda, the word for winter. And Pond was dubbed Kitch-ka, or Crow Man. Their keen interest in photographing Alaska Natives before, during, and after the great Klondike gold rush, in both formal and informal settings, made a significant contribution to Alaska Native cultural studies. And through many years of interaction with Tlingit people, the photographers gained knowledge about certain traditional practices and cultural history. They published a handful of books on Alaska Native subjects, and anthropologist Edward L. Keithahn, author of a 1945 book about totem poles titled *Monuments in Cedar*, acknowledged Winter and Pond as a source for information about the early Chilkat people.

Winter followed the Trail of '98 into the Yukon himself in the winter of 1897-98, creating stereographic images for Underwood & Underwood, and providing the nationwide readers of *Leslie's Weekly* with up-to-date images of Gold Rush activity. Winter & Pond also were named the official Alaska photographers for the Alaska-Yukon Pacific Exposition, held in Seattle in 1909.

Community service in Juneau was important to both men. They served as volunteers in the Juneau Fire Department, Hose Company No. 1. And in 1915, Winter accepted the post of Patron in the Order of the Eastern Star, Juneau Chapter No. 7. Pond married a woman named Hattie, who appears in several images in the Winter & Pond collection, and they became parents.

Between 1915 and 1925, the Winter & Pond Company also owned and operated mining claims near Juneau, and a collection of photographs of their mining activity is included in the Alaska State Library archives.

The partnership of Winter & Pond ended with Pond's death at age 71 on June 1, 1943. He was buried four days later in the Pioneer section of Juneau's Evergreen Cemetery. Lloyd V. Winter died in November 1945 at age 79, and was buried on November 13 in the Masonic section of the same cemetery. Earlier that year, Winter had passed the Winter & Pond Company to Francis Harrison, who continued to operate the business until 1956.

Images from the Winter & Pond Studio may be found on the walls of the Alaska State Capitol building in Juneau, as well as in private and public collections all over the country. The Alaska State Library in Juneau holds the bulk of the Winter & Pond Collection, numbering about 3,000 images dating from 1893 to 1943.

LINKS:

Alaska Humanities Forum, Alaska History & Cultural Studies, *Alaska's Heritage*:
<http://www.akhistorycourse.org/articles/article.php?artID=184>

VISIT THE LIBRARY FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Alaska's libraries hold audio, visual, and written material about the history of these Alaska photographers. Visit your local library or go online to see what's available in holdings all over the state. Take these simple steps:

1. Access **SLED** (State Library Electronic Doorway) at
<http://sled.alaska.edu/library.html>.

Click on the listing for **ALNCat** (the Alaska Library Network Catalog) to view the Basic Search window. Go to the Keyword field, and type in **WINTER POND ALASKA**.

MORE READING:

Alaska Historical Library. *A Preliminary Guide to the Photographs of Winter and Pond (PCA 87) in the Alaska Historical Library*. Juneau: Alaska Division of State Libraries, 1986.

Cunkle, Wendy L. *Winter & Pond: Pioneer Photographers in Alaska, 1893-1943*. San Francisco: San Francisco State University, 1979.

Spartz, India M., ed. Lloyd Winter and E. Percy Pond. *Guide to the Winter and Pond Collection: Southeast and Alaska-Yukon Related Views, 1893-1943*, located in the Alaska State Library and Archives, Historical Library Section, Juneau, Alaska. Juneau: Alaska Department of Education, Division of Libraries and Archives, 1989.

Winter & Pond. *Types of Alaska Natives*. Juneau: Winter & Pond, 1905.

Winter & Pond. *Juneau, Alaska*. Juneau: Winter & Pond, 1909.

Winter & Pond. *The Totems of Alaska*. Juneau: Winter & Pond Co., 1915

Wyatt, Victoria. *Images from the Inside Passage: An Alaskan Portrait by Winter & Pond*. Seattle: University of Washington Press in association with the Alaska State Library, 1989.

ARCHIVAL COLLECTIONS:

Winter and Pond Photograph Collection, Lloyd Winter and E Percy Pond, 1893-1943. Alaska State Library. About 3,000 black-and-white photographs and panoramas and portraits recording Alaska's diverse population, the gold rush of the Klondike in 1898, the Juneau gold belt hard rock mining operations (1,200 mining photographs), Tlingit Indians and traditional activities such as potlatch gatherings, dances, and social conditions (350 images), frontier boom towns, ships, and scenic landscapes.

Winter and Pond Mining Property Photographs, Winter & Pond, 1915-1925. Alaska State Library. One album containing 38 black-and-white photographs. Lloyd Winter and E. Percy Pond, photographers who owned a studio together in Juneau, also owned and operated mining claims in the Juneau Gold Belt. This photo album describes work done on claims at Echo Cove, Berners Bay, north of Juneau. Detailed text accompanies the photographs. Images include the Winter & Pond Co. mining camp, claims, quartz veins in the Berners Bay mining area, Mrs. Pond at the camp, employees of the company.

Winter & Pond Publications, Lloyd Winter and E. Percy Pond, 1905-1915. Alaska State Library. This collection contains five published works of photographs from the Winter & Pond Company

Herman Ruhe Collection. Herman Ruhe, Lloyd Winter, E. Percy Pond, 1906-1909. Alaska State Library. Collection includes 35 mounted photographs of Juneau, Sitka, Skagway, Dyea, the Chilkoot Trail and the Yukon Territory (most were photographed by Winter & Pond), 12 glass plate negatives, a 28-page, bound Winter & Pond scrapbook, c. 1909, and papers (few).

Winter and Pond Photograph Collection [graphic], Lloyd Winter and E. Percy Pond, 1934. Alaska State Library. One album of 62 black-and-white photographs. Preface to the album reads: " "THE TRAIL OF '98, thirty-six years ago, portrayed in rare and original photographs direct from life by Lloyd V. Winter and E.P. Pond, is still a path

of wild charm singularly beautiful in its historical appeal. These striking pictures take you back at the almost forgotten beginning of a drama to which the future of Alaska is intimately linked. . . . Winter and Pond photographs of that dimming period afford an easy means to recapture the lost mood of thirty-six years ago, a delightful way to reconstruct the first episode—THE TRAIL OF '98—which in the retrospect of 1934 appears more pregnant than at any time since those intrepid pioneers, nourished on the yeasty word 'gold,' trekked into an untouched, primeval wilderness in quest of 'pay streaks' that were still dreams. . . . The photographs of that feverish stampede to the new bonanza are a perfect exhibit of man's courage and perseverance reduced to its crudest terms. No search of detail here. Each picture is crammed with reality which reinforces every turn of the photographic record itself."

Alaska Juneau Gold Mine Strikers and Riot, Winter & Pond, 1935. Alaska State Library. The eight Winter & Pond photographs show the AJ miners' march and subsequent violence June 24, 1935.

Verna Hurley Carrigan Photograph Collection. Verna Hurley Carrigan, Lloyd Winter, Anna Webster (nee Faulkner), George M. Landerkin, Eric A. Hegg, 1880-1945. Alaska State Library. Collection includes 168 black-and-white photoprints, 71 black-and-white and color postcards, and 54 manuscript items. Images include Juneau businesses, individuals and groups, ships, Tlingit Indians, the first official airmail plane (Juneau to Fairbanks, 1938), Juneau-Douglas Telephone Co., a Kellogg CD board, early Juneau telephone switchboard operators, switchboard at the Alaskan Hotel, strike at the AJ Mine (ca. 1930), family photos of the Webster, Hurley, Carrigan, Scott families, southeast Alaska views, letters to Edward Webster (1881-1885), stamps and postmarks, ca. 1932-1977. Photographers include Winter & Pond, Landerkin and Winter, and E.A. Hegg, and others.

Jones, Sonia H. *Alaska, July-August 1998*. Alaska State Library. Photo journal of Sonia and Gordon Harris's trip to Alaska in the summer of 1998. Granddaughter of prominent photographer Percy Pond.

VIDEO:

Winter and Pond Photograph Collection at the Alaska State Library, Historical Collections. E. Percy Pond, Lloyd Winter, Dustin Grimes, Ron Klein. VHS tape (2 min., 4 sec.) from KJUD TV. News segment from 2000 discusses the work of Juneau photographers Lloyd Winter and Percy Pond, depicting Tlingit Indians and the Juneau, Alaska, area of the early 1900s.