

# Elinor W. Senkler photograph collection, approximately 1870-1908

## Overview of the Collection

<b>Collector</b>	Senkler, Elinor W.
<b>Title</b>	Elinor W. Senkler photograph collection
<b>Dates</b>	approximately 1870-1908 (inclusive) 1870 1908
<b>Quantity</b>	14 photographic prints (1 box, 2 oversized folders)
<b>Collection Number</b>	PH0351
<b>Summary</b>	Photographs of Yukon gold commissioner Edmund Senkler, Roderick MacFarlane and John Rae of the Hudson's Bay Company, Eleanor Senkler, and other unidentified individuals in Dawson City and the Yukon Territory.
<b>Repository</b>	<a href="#">University of Washington Libraries, Special Collections</a> Special Collections University of Washington Libraries Box 352900 Seattle, WA 98195-2900 Telephone: 206-543-1929 Fax: 206-543-1931 <a href="mailto:speccoll@uw.edu">speccoll@uw.edu</a>
<b>Access Restrictions</b>	Entire collection can be viewed on the Libraries' Digital Collections website. Permission of Visual Materials curator is required to view originals. Contact Special Collections for more information.
<b>Languages</b>	English

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## Historical Background

The Klondike Gold Rush began in August 1896 when gold was discovered in Rabbit Creek, near Dawson City in the Yukon region of Canada. While locals began staking claims immediately, word spread relatively slowly until 1897. News reached the United States in July 1897, when the first successful prospectors arrived in San Francisco and Seattle. This set off the Klondike stampede, as thousands of gold-seekers set off for the Yukon.

The route to the Yukon was a difficult one, and many Klondikers died on the trail or turned back along the way. Of the 100,000 gold-seekers who made the attempt, approximately 30,000 made it over the rough trails to arrive in Dawson City. Originally a native summer fishing camp, the gold rush made Dawson temporarily the largest city north of San Francisco, with 40,000 residents. The town blossomed as elaborate hotels, theaters and dance halls were erected. Dawson also had fire hydrants on the streets, and was the first city in western Canada to have electric lights. It also included such amenities as telephone service, running water and steam heat. The growth of Dawson was largely responsible for the creation of the Yukon Territory as a new Canadian Province on June 13, 1898.

Unfortunately, not all who reached the Klondike became rich. By the time the masses arrived, all the creeks had been claimed, and most new arrivals found themselves working for others rather than themselves. With the news of gold in Nome, Alaska, people started to leave in large numbers, with 8,000 people leaving Dawson in the summer of 1899 alone. By 1902, the population was less than 5,000.

## Content Description

The collection contains images of Roderick MacFarlane, Edmund C. Senkler, Dr. John Rae, and Eleanor Senkler; also pictured are unidentified individuals and groups in Dawson City, Canada, and the Yukon Territory.

## Use of the Collection

### Alternative Forms Available

[View the digital version of the collection](#)

### Restrictions on Use

Restrictions may exist on reproduction, quotation, or publication. Contact Special Collections, University of Washington Libraries for details.

## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Donor: Elinor W. Senkler, August 1991.

### Processing Note

Processed by Shannon B. Lynch and Solveig K. Ekenes, 2006.

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## Detailed Description of the Collection

Container(s)		Description	Dates
Box/ Folder	Item		
1/1	1	Edmund Cumming Senkler with group of men in St. Catherines, Ontario <a href="#">[view]</a> Edmund Senkler is in the center row, second from the right	between 1870 and 1879?

Container(s)	Description	Dates
1/1 2	Edmund Senkler and group of men <a href="#">[view]</a> Edmund Senkler is in the front row in the center	between 1870 and 1879?
Box- folder:Oversize		
OS3 3	Edmund Senkler, Gold Commissioner, with other men in Dawson City <a href="#">[view]</a> Edmund Senkler was gold commissioner of Yukon Territory from 1898-1901.	between 1898 and 1906?
Box/ Folder		
1/2 4	Roderick MacFarlane and Eleanor Senkler as young girl <a href="#">[view]</a> Roderick MacFarlane joined the Hudson's Bay Company in 1852 as a 19-year-old assistant clerk. He held the position of clerk at several forts, including Fort Rae, Fort Resolution, and Fort Good Hope. After working with naturalist Robert Kennicott, MacFarlane became an enthusiastic collector of scientific specimens for the Smithsonian Institution. Later in his career, MacFarlane was Chief Factor at the Hudson's Bay Company's Fort Chipewyan. He retired as Chief Factor in 1894, but remained with the company until 1913.	1908?
Box:Oversize		
OS3 5	Cartoon of Roderick MacFarlane <a href="#">[view]</a> Note on verso: "Cartoon appeared in Winnipeg newspaper on his retirement. Bird's nest reflects his interest in natural history."	between 1905 and 1910?
Box/ Folder		
1/3 6	Women around table raising glasses in a toast, Dawson City, Yukon <a href="#">[view]</a>	1907
1/3 7	Men sitting around table in Dawson City, Yukon <a href="#">[view]</a>	December 1907
1/4 8	Dr. John Rae, with relics from the Franklin Expedition, gold medal, and map <a href="#">[view]</a> Byrne and Co., Richmond, Surrey (photographer)	August 1886

Container(s)	Description	Dates
	<p>Dr. John Rae (1813-1893) was hired by the Hudson's Bay Company in 1833, and participated in four Arctic expeditions beginning in the fall of 1846. Among his chief accomplishments are discovering the last missing link in the mapping of the Northwest Passage, and, in 1854, discovering the fate of the long-lost Franklin Expedition, who had disappeared in 1847. For this discovery, Dr. Rae received a reward of £10,000 and a gold medal from the Royal Geographic Society.</p> <p>Next to Rae are relics from the Franklin expedition, which he recovered in 1854, and a gold medal from the Royal Geographic Society, presented to Rae for his discovery. The map shows the location where Franklin's ship was abandoned in 1848. Extensive notes on verso relating to Rae's various expeditions.</p>	
1/4 9	Man with dog <a href="#">[view]</a> Notman and Sandham, Montreal (photographer)	between 1885 and 1900?
1/5 10	Postcard of aerial view of Dawson City, Yukon <a href="#">[view]</a>	between 1900 and 1905?
1/5 11	Men and women with bicycles <a href="#">[view]</a>	between 1900 and 1905?
1/5 12	Men and women on summer outing <a href="#">[view]</a>	between 1900 and 1905?
1/5 13	Family portrait <a href="#">[view]</a>	between 1885 and 1890?
Box- folder:Oversize		
OS3 14	Men and women on horseback <a href="#">[view]</a>	between 1980 and 1900?

## Names and Subjects

### Personal Names :

MacFarlane, Roderick Ross--Photographs

### Geographical Names :

Dawson (Yukon)--Photographs

### Other Creators :

#### Personal Names :

Senkler, Edmund C.--Photographs  
Senkler, Elinor--Photographs

2008 (Last modified: 7/5/2019)



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