

MORAVIAN ARCHIVES

Inventory
Of the records
Of the

Alaska Children's Home

Thomas Ruhf
2007

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The Alaska Children's Home, 1939-1971. 5 boxes

Institutional History:

The Alaska Children's Home is an orphanage facility that was founded by Moravian missionaries in 1939 three miles up river from the town of Kwethluk Alaska located 12 miles east of Bethel. Kwethluk is a town inhabited primarily by Inuit and Yupik population. This facility was founded in an effort to provide care and education for children who were orphaned for various reasons ranging from but not singularly including specific children's loss of parents due to significant tuberculosis outbreaks in the region, abusive relationships between children and parents or because of the child was deemed unruly. Moravian missionaries had been in the Kwethluk since the early 1880's, establishing a congregation and other facilities like the Alaska Children's Home. The Alaska Children's Home ceased operating in 1971.

Archival History (History of fonds):

The Alaskan Children's Home collection contains documents that have not received any significant organization since becoming a part of the Moravian Archives in 1975. The records were organized by Thomas Ruhf, student at Moravian College, in 2007.

Scope and Content:

The records of the Alaskan Children's home deal with the process of accepting and documenting children who were under the care of the home in the years 1939-1971. There are master cards that document the specifics about the children with information ranging from when the children have been brought under the care, to personal information about why they were at this facility. Some of these master cards have lists of items and donations that these children have been given by outside benefactors who are providing the necessary funds for them to remain in the care of the facility. There are also additional correspondences between various Moravian church congregations and other Moravian groups and the Alaska Children's Home detailing specific financial costs associated with individual children. These outside institutions pledged to help with the care of the children through donating money, clothing, and other supplies. Finally there are papers that document the items that have been donated for the children.

System of Arrangement:

The cards and papers are arranged according to the following categories: master cards, master cards with lists attached, outfit information, outfitters correspondence, and miscellaneous.

Conditions Governing Access:

The Alaska Children's Home collection contains information that details situations that might be too personal for the content to be open to the public.

Language:

English.

Physical Characteristics:

In good Condition

Finding Aids:

Inventory (also online), searchable database

Related Units of Description:

Some additional documents might be located in Alaska, in public records archives in the city of Kwethluk.

1. Master Cards (Arranged Alphabetically by last name)

1. Master Cards, compiled by the administration of the Alaska Children's Home documenting children's personal information.

Contents:

Alaska Children's Home 1939-1971 Master Card File

Master Cards document detailed personal information about all children when they arrived under the care of the Moravian Children's Home in Kwethluk, Alaska. The information on these cards contains varied information, including basic background information about individual children in addition to reasons why each child is coming under the care of the facility. The cards are arranged alphabetically using the child's last name as the point of reference.

Annotation: Language: English

2. Outfitters' Correspondence (Arranged Alphabetically by correspondence destination)

2. Outfitters' correspondence between the Moravian congregation and or organizations that are contributing to the needs of the children.

Contents:

The outfitters' correspondence detail communications that took place between the Alaska Children's Home and the members of the Moravian churches that provided monetary and other forms of help for specific children under the care of at the Alaska Children's Home. This series consists mainly of letters and other communications between the donors and the administrative staff of the Alaska Children's Home discussing the various roles that these groups are agreeing to undertake in an effort to provide support for the children who are under the care of the Alaska Children's Home.

Annotation: Language: English

Folder 1:

Alberta, Canada
Allentown, Pennsylvania
Appleton, Wisconsin
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

Folder 2:

Canadnsis, Pennsylvania
Center Valley, Pennsylvania
Chaska, Minnesota
Coopersburg, Pennsylvania
Delanco, New Jersey
Dover, Ohio
Durbin, North Dakota

Folder 3:

Easton, Pennsylvania
Emmaus, Pennsylvania
Ephraim, Wisconsin
Fargo, North Dakota

Folder 4:

Gnadenhutten, Ohio
Hector, Minnesota
Kernersville, North Carolina
King, North Carolina
Kwethluk, Alaska
Lakeside, Montana
Lebanon, Pennsylvania
Leonard, North Dakota
Lititz, Pennsylvania

Folder 5:

Morrisville, Pennsylvania
Nazareth, Pennsylvania
Newfoundland, Pennsylvania
New Philadelphia, Ohio
New York, New York
North Caldwell, New Jersey
Pfafftown, North Carolina
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Riverside, New Jersey
Rural Hall, North Carolina

Folder 6:

Sister Bay, Wisconsin
St. Charles, Minnesota
Staten Island, New York
Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin
Tobacoville, North Carolina
Tuscarawas, Ohio
Uhrichsville, Ohio
Union, New Jersey
Utica, New York
Waconia, Minnesota
Wheatland, North Dakota
Winston Salem, North Carolina
Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin
York, Pennsylvania

Annotation: Language: English

3. Master Cards Accompanied By Lists (arranged alphabetically by last name)

3. Master Cards, compiled by the administration of the Alaska Children's Home documenting children's personal information with lists and correspondences attached.

Contents:

Alaska Children's Home 1939-1971 Master Cards with Lists

Master cards within this section have an identical basic description as those detailed above in the first section. The major difference within this content is the presence of various lists outlining additional information about the children who are described on the afore mentioned master cards. The information includes documents that detail the children's measurements for clothing, financial costs associated with keeping the child in the facility, and outfitters or patron information and correspondences between the administration staff of the Alaska Children's Home and the groups responsible for sponsoring the child's stay at the facility.

Folder 7:

Alexie, Alice
 Alexie, Anne
 Amukon, Patrick
 Andrew, Andrew
 Andrew, Madron
 Andrew, Sophia
 Anvil, Oscar
 Anvil, Peter
 Benn, Oscar
 Charliaga, Gabriel
 Coomara, Sonya

Folder 8:

Evan, Daniel
 Echuck, Robert
 Fox, David
 George, John

Folder 9:

Japhet, Annie
 Johnson, Charlie
 Koenig, Elmer
 Layland, Helen
 Layland, Rose
 Luckhurst, Val
 Luckhurst, Vince
 Luckhurst, Virgin
 Maxine, Eliza
 Maxine, Villie
 Nicholos, Olive
 Olson, Laurin

Folder 10:

Peterson, Joseph
 Snyder, Robert
 Snyder, Samuel

Folder 11:

Wassilie, Billy
 Wassilie, Moses
 Wheeler, Georgianna
 Wheeler, Gretchen
 Wilson, Gabriel
 Wilson, Kenneth
 Wilson, Veenen
 Wollin, Michael
 Yanko, Ocolene

Annotation: Language: English

4. Outfit Information (Arranged numerically by date)

4. Outfit information compiled by the administration of the Alaska Children's Home.

Contents:

Outfit information detail the process that the children's home went through as it accumulated clothing that it provided for the children who are under the care of he facility. The lists were prepared so that there would be enough information about the needs for the children who are being cared for detailing the various measurements for clothing, additional costs, and other information that a donor would need in order to make an outfit donation for the child.

Folder 12:

1956-1960

Folder 13:

1961-1963

Folder 14:

1964-1967

Folder 15:

1968-1969

Annotation: Language: English