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12 Pioneer Native Alaskan Nurses

By: **Dr. Phoebe Ann Pollitt, R.N.**

Abstract

This document contains primary sources with comments and context regarding the first 12 Native Alaskan Registered Nurses.

12 Pioneer Native Alaskan nurses

Available records provide a glimpse into the lives and careers of 12 pioneer Native Alaskan nurses. These Eskimo, Haida, Indian and Aleut women graduated from nursing schools in the “lower 48” between 1928 and 1951. A few have all but disappeared from the historical record, most married and had children, and as many women and nurses did in the 1950s and 60s, most dropped out of the paid work force to dedicate themselves to their families. A small number spent their lives in service to others through nursing, education and/or cultural advocacy. Below are brief biographies of each of these brave and devoted young women who ventured to unfamiliar territory to pursue a dream of becoming a Registered Nurse. The biographies are in chronological order by graduation date.

Nan Palan and Jennie Brower

The first two Native Alaska nurses who can be documented are Nan Palan and Jennie Brower. Palan was a full-blooded Eskimo and Brower a white father and an Eskimo mother. Both were subjects of newspaper articles when they were students but only scant information about their lives after nursing school is available.

Nan Palan

In 1928, newspapers across the country published photographs and captions about Nan Palan, a “full blooded Eskimo” who was studying nursing at the Oakland Hospital in California. The author could find no other information about Nan Palan from newspapers.com, ancestry.com or a google search. Here are two examples of the stories published in March 1928.



The Cincinnati Inquirer, 3-4-1928, p.115

The Los Angeles Times, 3-3-1928, p.8

Jennie Mae Brower Dimond

The second Native Alaskan nurse in the historical record is Jennie Mae Brower Dimond. She was born in Barrow on May 1, 1909 to Charles and Mary Ahsiangatak (also spelled as Assinatak in some records) Brower.



[Salt Lake Telegram](#)

30 Jan 1932, Page 5

The 1930 Oakland City Directory lists her as a nurse, although she was a nursing student at the time. She remained in the San Francisco area and married Albert Dimond in 1935. Both the 1940 and 1950 census lists her as the wife of Dimond who was "keeping house". The Dimonds had two sons, one born in 1966 and the other in 1938. She died on November 26, 1995.

The Sage Memorial Hospital School of Nursing (SMHSON) Alaskan graduates

In the 1800 and 1900s the Presbyterian denomination was very active establishing schools and churches, and occasionally hospitals in rural areas and among those they deemed to be in need of evangelism and social services. Presbyterian sponsored institutions of particular interest to the discussion of Native Alaskan nurses are the Sheldon Jackson School (SJ) in Sitka, Alaska and the Sage Memorial Hospital School of Nursing (SMHSON) in Ganado, Arizona (or as many people would say, in Navajoland).

White Presbyterian missionaries opened a grade school in Sitka in 1878. Over the decades the school evolved into an accredited and respected High School and Junior College. The SJ High School operated from 1917-1967. The website SJ Voices (<https://www.sjvoices.org/sheldon-jackson-high-school.html>) describe the High School this way:

Few options for high school existed for Native people in the early 20th century. Sheldon Jackson High School was one of the better schools available.

Students had to apply to "SJ" and pay tuition, and, they had to be able to cope with being away from family and community. Students took pride in their school and the excellence of the basketball and choir programs, and made lifelong bonds that built a sense of Alaska Native identity across tribal and geographic boundaries.

However, the school punished students for speaking their language. Like nearly all boarding and public schools, and society in general, they saw no value in Native language or culture and believed it would hold children back.

In 1901, white Presbyterian missionaries built a church and grade school in Ganado, AZ on the Navajo Reservation. In 1927, Dr. Clarence Salisbury and his wife Cora Salisbury, RN went to Ganado to build a modern, well-equipped hospital to replace the small 12-bed infirmary that had served the Ganado Mission, and to establish a nursing school for Native American young women. At that time, almost all nursing schools in the United States accepted either white or African American students, rarely both. Few nursing schools accepted students of other ethnicities. The Salisbury's and the Presbyterians saw a need and provided a much-needed school of nursing for students from Native, Hispanic, Asian and other minority communities. White and African American applicants were turned away because there were other opportunities for them to study nursing. Nine Native Alaskan women graduated from SMHSON between 1934 and 1951. Most, if not all, had graduated from SJ High School. Undoubtably, the faculty and staff at SJ were aware of the Presbyterian Mission in Ganado and encouraged their students who were interested in nursing careers to attend SMHSON.

Unfortunately, this author has yet to find any accounts left by the Native Alaskan Nurses about the "culture shock" they must have experienced going from their childhoods in rural, traditional Alaskan villages with distinct languages and cultures to the English-only SJ High School in Sitka where they studied and lived with a group of diverse students and a white Christian faculty and staff. Going from SJ High School to a nursing school in the desert southwest, caring for a primarily Navajo population and living with students from across the country and from many different tribes and cultures must have been an eye-opening and at times jarring experience.

Brief biographies of each Sage Memorial Hospital Native Alaskan graduate are below. These nine students were (married name in parentheses): Elizabeth Hamilton, Cornelia Phillips (Hendrickson), Genevieve Evangeline Ross (Soboleff), Juanita Beaver, Harriette Loretta Young (Olsen), Anna Grace Johnson (Benton), Anna Beyer (Philbin), Hilda Charlotte Jacobsson (Severance), and Elaine Abraham (Ramos).

Elizabeth Frances Hamilton (born as Elizabeth Kenowan) (Lund)

Elizabeth Hamilton was born in 1911 to John and (mother's name unknown) Kenowan. Her mother died before Hamilton's 20th birthday. The family was Haida and from the Aleutian Islands. The 1930 census lists her as a student at SJ High School in Sitka. Hamilton was the first Native Alaskan to attend SMHSON. She graduated in 1934, passed the Registered Nurse examination and returned to Alaska. Hamilton married William Lund on November 14, 1942 in Ketchikan. She is listed as a "medical technologist" on the marriage license. The 1950 census shows the Lunds with 3 small children and Elizabeth with no outside employment. Both her marriage certificate and the 1950 census list her race as white. She is mentioned in R. A. Trennert's 2003 article *Sage Memorial Hospital and the nation's first all-Indian school of nursing* this way:

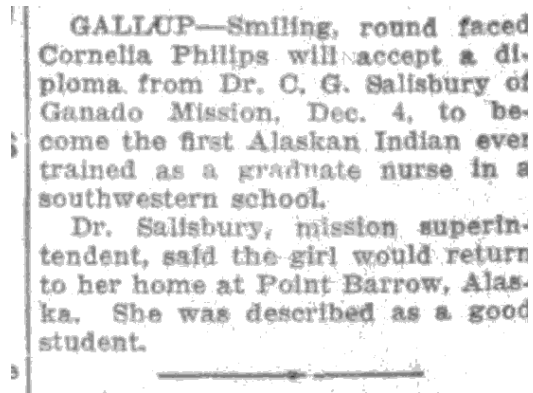
"Elizabeth Hamilton of Alaska was the first Haida woman to become a nurse. Although how she was recruited or why she chose nursing are unclear, she elected to return to Alaska after graduation, where she undertook pioneering medical work among her own people." P. 362

Cornelia Esauawruk Phillips (Hendrickson)

Cornelia Phillips was born on December 22, 1907, at Point Barrow, Alaska to Philip and Nora Aiahna Igana Paeoneo (sometimes spelled Paniunayuk and Paneonayrik). White missionaries and government officials often renamed Native Alaskans with familiar-to-them first and last names. Indian, Aleut, Haida, Tlinglit and other native Alaskan birth, family and tribal names were often "lost" as they were rarely included in official documents for many generations. The family spoke Ootkavik. She was the eldest of at least 4 siblings. She graduated from Sheldon Jackson High School in 1932 and from SMHSON in 1935. According to Robert Trennert

Meanwhile, Sage Memorial Hospital's third nursing class graduated on December 4, 1935, in what had become an annual celebration. Cornelia Phillips was by far the most distinctive of that year's three graduates. From Point Barrow, Alaska, she was the first full-blood Eskimo to become a nurse. Although she had been away from home for more than a decade, Phillips planned to take up her profession at Point Barrow's Presbyterian Hospital. She envisioned a dual role for herself. "I can see how I can bring Christ to the Eskimo through my profession," she explained. Fayth Barrach-

In addition to (??? Misspelings, Americanizations and usurptation of family names), racial identities of Native Alaskan nurses were often confused and incorrect in official documents and written accounts of missionaries, newspapers and other writings. For instance, this newspaper article describes Phillips as an Alaskan Indian while Trennert describes her as a “full-blooded Eskimo”.



The Albuquerque Tribune

14 Nov 1935, Page 5

The 1940 census lists Phillips as a 31-year-old Eskimo nurse working at the Government Hospital for Natives in Juneau. Here is an early photograph of that hospital:



[Enlarge](#)

Early twentieth-century Bureau of Indian Affairs school (on left) and U.S. Public Health Service hospital in Juneau, Alaska.

Courtesy Alaska State Library, Juneau-Schools-12, Alaska State Library Photograph Collection

On August 25, 1947, she married Ernest Walter Hendrickson (a white man) at the Memorial Presbyterian Church in Juneau. In the 1950 census, she is listed as the wife of Ernest

Hendrickson, and living with him and a step-son in Juneau and not working outside the home. She died on November 22, 1993 in San Mateo, California

Genevieve Evangeline Ross (Soboleff)



Photo from: [Tundra Times Photograph Project \(tuzzy.org\)](http://tuzzy.org)

Genevieve Ross was born on December 17, 1914, to William Edward and Evangeline (Eva) Vandell Ross in Howkan. Her parents died before her 5th birthday and she was raised by an aunt and uncle. The family spoke Hyda. When she was 12 years old, in 1926 or 1927, she went to the Sheldon Jackson School in Sitka in 1933 and then from SMHSON in 1936. After graduation, she worked at Sage Memorial Hospital and then returned to Alaska to marry her high school sweetheart, Walter Soboleff. He was very accomplished and well known in many fields. In an oral history of Walter Soboleff he briefly discusses Genevieve's time at SMHSON and mentions Cornelia Phillips and Elizabeth Hamilton who all graduated from SJ High School and whose time at SMHSON overlapped. See minutes 26-28

<https://digital.history.pcusa.org/islandora/object/islandora%3A285859>

The Soboleff's had four children. Mrs. Soboleff worked in hospitals in Juneau and later for the Juneau Police Department. In 1974, after the Soboleff's retired and moved to Tenakee Springs, Mrs. Soboleff worked as a health aid and the local public health clinic, which now bears her name. Her life story is recounted in her obituary:

Services Scheduled for Genevieve Soboleff

A memorial service for Genevieve Evangeline Soboleff will be held 12:30 p.m. Monday at the Yaw Chapel on Sheldon Jackson College campus.

Mrs. Soboleff died Jan. 27 in Ketchikan following an extended illness.

She was born Dec. 17, 1914, in Howkan, the daughter of William Edward Ross, a Hoka merchant, and Eva Skulka. She was a member of the Ts'eilaanaas (Eagle) tribe of the Haidas, and was a member of the Frog Clan, entitled to use the Eagle, Frog and Sculpin crests.

Her parents died when she was young and she was raised by relatives in Hydaburg, Kasaan and Craig. When she was about 12 she boarded the boat Princeton to come to Sitka to attend Sheldon Jackson School. The Leslie Yaw family served as her loving guardians throughout her early school years.

During summers she worked in salmon canneries in Kasaan, Waterfall and Craig, and as a housekeeper at Goddard Hot Springs near Sitka.

She received a scholarship to attend Sage Memorial Hospital in Ganado, Ariz., following her graduation from high school. In 1937 she graduated as a registered nurse.

While at Ganado, she became fluent in the Navajo language and assisted the medical staff in translating the language.

She married Walter A. Soboleff June 1, 1938, in Sitka, and the two returned to Dubuque, Iowa, where he completed his last year of seminary. In 1940 they moved to Juneau where he became minister at Memorial Presbyterian Church.

Mrs. Soboleff worked as a registered nurse for many years, with the U.S. Government Hospital in Juneau, St. Ann's Hospital in Juneau and as a matron and nurse for the Juneau Police Department.

She became the health aide for Tenakee Springs, where she and her husband lived following his retirement in 1974. Southeast Regional Health Corporation, which had set up the health aides program, presented her with a distinguished service award when she retired. The medical care she gave her patients was considered first-rate, and she practiced conscientiously until her retirement, forced by the onset of Alzheimer's Disease.

She was a member of the Alaska Native Sisterhood, Order of the Eastern Star, a life member of the National Congress of American Indians and the American Legion Auxiliary.

She often noted with pride that she

was a charter member of the Craig Presbyterian Church.

Besides her work as a nurse, she provided loving care to hundreds of foster children and others who passed through the Soboleff family home at 1003 B St. in Juneau.

She had a gift for languages and could understand and speak Inupiaq, Tlingit and Chinook, and one of her treasures was an old Haida Bible in the Masset dialect.

In 1971, when she and her husband were at the University of Alaska in Fairbanks where he was serving as the first director of Native studies, she worked with Dr. Michael Krauss, a linguist, in developing an alphabet for the Kaigani Haida dialect.

Using the alphabet, she helped other Haida speakers pull together some of the first Haida language symposia, which led to the production by the Society for the Preservation of the Haida Language of the first Haida books published in 70 years.

Survivors include her husband, Juneau; sister Olive Natkong of Ketchikan; children Janet C. Burke of Monument Beach, Mass., Sasha I. Soboleff of Puyallup, Wash., Walter A. Soboleff Jr. of Douglas and Ross V. Soboleff, Juneau; and grandchildren Dorene, Deborah, Christopher and Leanna Burke, Sasha Soboleff II, Maynard M. Soboleff and Sasha Soboleff, Steven Patrick Soboleff and Nathan J., Jacob I. and Madeline M. Soboleff.

She also is survived by many nieces and nephews as well as many people who called her mother and grandmother.

Those wishing to make memorial contributions may make them to the family, care of Walter Soboleff, Box 535, Tenakee Springs, Ak. 99841.

Contributions will go to the founding of a scholarship fund for those studying to become registered nurses or enter other health professions. The fund will be administered through the Alaska Native Brotherhood-Alaska Native Sisterhood scholarship fund.

Funeral services will be held 7 p.m. tonight at Northern Light United Church in Juneau. Interment will be at Alaska Memorial Park in Juneau.



Here is a link to a vimeo she "starred in" circa 1982 about the importance of clean water to the health of the people and environment in Alaska: <https://vimeo.com/39655386>

In addition to her work as a nurse, she was very interested and well known for her language abilities:

Haida Indians try to save language

Their language fast fading, the state's Haida Indians, assisted by the University of Alaska, have organized language workshops they hope will revive and encourage speaking, reading and writing in Haida.

"It seems funny to be learning your own language," commented Mrs. Helen B. Sanderson, a retired Hyaburg school teacher who with three other representatives of Haida language groups in Southeastern Alaska traveled to the campus here last week for a six-day workshop sponsored by the university's new Alaska Native Language Center.

Ironically, a decision of the Haida themselves hastened the decline of the language, said Mrs. Sanderson. In 1915, Haida leaders were persuaded by the federal government to sign a resolution asking upon their people to relinquish their customs and language and learn the ways of the white man, she explained.

"The language was practically beaten out of the kids," she said. Additionally, only books written in English were issued in the Bureau of Indian Affairs and tribal publications.

Dr. Michael Krauss, professor of linguistics and director of the university's language center, estimated there are between 100 and 140 persons in Alaska, about 100 in Canada, and 10 to 20 in Seattle who can speak Haida.

"The language is now on its last legs if nothing is done," he said.

The Haidas came to Alaska from Canada many years ago and about 1,000 still reside there, said Krauss.

Charles H. Nakagawa Jr., president of the newly formed Hyaburg Haida Society, was another of those who came to Fairbanks last week for the Haida workshop. He estimated there are some 25 persons in Hyaburg who can speak Haida well, the knowledge of no one who can write in the language.

"I can understand it," Nakagawa said. "My mother and father speak Haida and Tlingit. I was going to school mostly and learned to speak only a little Haida. I'm sorry I didn't take time to learn. The language is fading out and there are not many now Haidas left. Dad (who died in January) was full Haida and Mother Tlingit and Tlingit."

"I can understand Haida and speak fairly well," said Mrs. Sanderson. "My parents spoke Haida to each other. That's how I picked it up, listening to them. They wouldn't encourage me to learn."

Chairman of the Hyaburg Haida Society's history and legends committee, Mrs. Sadlerman told of the decision of the leaders of the Haida villages of Skowas and Klakwan to merge and found the one, larger community of Hyaburg in 1911.

"They wanted a new site, a better education for their children, and Hyaburg had a good harbor," she said. "Following the signing of the 1915 resolution, they still adhere and emotional Haidas. I have a blanket that may be 200

years old. Collections used to come around and buy them really cheap. A lot of history is lost."

Mrs. Sanderson and Nakagawa met with Krauss with the invited interest in their native language in Hyaburg. The linguist went to the village in January to try to persuade the Haida-speaking residents to work with their language.

"I wasn't interested at first," Mrs. Sanderson recalled. "I thought the language was dead and it wasn't possible to revive it. But he (Krauss) convinced the people otherwise and now we're very enthused."

Dr. Krauss came out to Hyaburg and started working to us in Haida, which surprised everyone," said Nakagawa. "He showed us the Haida alphabet and we started to work from there. Now there is quite a bit of interest and good participation in the workshop."

Classes are now held weekly in Hyaburg in which participants are learning to read and write as well as speak Haida. Special materials developed by the Alaska Native Language Center, a division of the university's Center for Northern Educational Research, are being made available to the Haida society.

"We're thinking of sending a person who can speak and good down to the local (Haid) school so the children can become used to hearing the language," said Nakagawa. The possibility of introducing the language in the lower elementary school grades is also being explored, he said.

Nakagawa summed up his feeling of the effort to revive the language.

"It's important to me because no one has written our history in Haida or told how we came over from the Queen Charlotte Islands. We migrated from the islands, some people figure, about 250 to 500 years ago. What I hope to do is to get it on tape, then write it down in Haida and then translate it into English."

Nakagawa has two sons 8 and 13 years old in the Hyaburg school and says they are also interested in learning Haida. "My dad would tell them stories and teach them Haida songs," he said.

The principal value of the effort to teach Haida, Mrs. Sanderson believes "is that it will preserve the language and give the young people a better understanding of their heritage."

Viola Lockhart, vice president of the Hyaburg Haida Society, and Vera Johnson of the Ketchikan Haida Society also attended last week's workshop on the campus here. The visiting group studied with the university's new Haida language class.

A Haida language workshop arranged at Sitka in 1971 by Elaine Ramos, vice president of Haidas Johnson College, herself a Tlingit, on Krauss' suggestion was followed by a Tlingit-Haida workshop in Sitka the following year.

Krauss and Mrs. Walter Soboleff, who teaches Haida at the university and is the wife of the director of Alaska native studies, hurriedly worked up a Haida reading and writing system for the workshop.

"There was nothing available in Haida and we had to do a lot of research," said Krauss.

The Sitka workshop, which attracted Haida Indians mostly from Ketchikan, was the

beginning. From there Krauss went on to Ketchikan and Hyaburg in the hope of building an interest.

The university's native language center is providing financial and technical assistance to the Ketchikan and Hyaburg programs in this initial stage but Krauss is confident the Haidas will be able to work independently in the future.

The center's work with the

Haidas is in keeping with its purpose: "to study and cultivate and help maintain the life of all the native languages of the state through research and training of native speakers, and production of written materials; and to help coordinate native language programs throughout the state in an effort to reverse the pattern, hitherto neglected or worse, that have adversely affected their culturally important heritage of Alaska's native civilizations."



Haida Workshop Members—Members meet with University of Alaska Haida language class. Clockwise around table, Mrs. Walter (Genevieve) Soboleff, Haida instructor at university; Vicki Zaleski, university student from Hyaburg; Viola Lockhart, vice president of Hyaburg Haida Society; Nancy McRoy, graduate student in university native language program; Helen B. Sanderson of Hyaburg; Bill and Della Chisney and Mrs. Chisney's sister, Cheryl Evan, university language students (Mrs. Chisney and Miss Evan are from Kake); and Vera Johnson of Ketchikan. Standing, from left, Charles H. Nakagawa Jr., president of Hyaburg Haida Society, and

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Graduated from Sage Memorial Hospital in 1939.

Sage Nurses Exercises Set

(Exclusive Republic Dispatch)

GANADO, Aug. 24—The seventh annual Commencement Week of the Sage Memorial Hospital School of Nursing opened here today with Class Day, and will continue through August 29, according to Dr. C. G. Salsbury, hospital superintendent.

Today's activities were the first of many which will be held here the remainder of this week and early next week, including the Fourth Harlow Brooks Memorial Clinical Conference, which will attract Dr. George W. Crile, famous Cleveland Clinic founder, and fine Arizona doctors, as well as noted medical men from the Midwest and Pacific coast.

The nursing school graduating class includes Cora Cecilia Adams, Juanita Beaver, Consuelo Lopez Castro, Nora E. Fulton, Regina Cruz Gonzales, Esther Thompson and Mae S. Trujillo.

Baccalaureate services will be held at 11 a. m. Sunday, with Dr. Richard H. Pousma preaching the sermon, "Knowing and Serving the Lord."

The nurses glee club will give a recital at 8 p. m. Monday. Lena Grant is president and Catherina Culnan and Phebe A. Rogers are directors.

Commencement exercises will be held at 8 p. m. Tuesday. Dr. Salsbury will preside and Dr. Crile will deliver the commencement address, "Trends in the Art and Science of Medicine." Dr. Crile is chairman of the board of regents of the American College of Surgeons. Pins will be presented by Anita O. Salazar, R. N., superintendent of nurses, and Dr. Salsbury will present diplomas. The class motto is "A Task to Do and a Goal to Reach."

[Arizona Republic](#)

Phoenix, Arizona

25 Aug 1939, Page 9

In 1940, she served on a committee to raise funds for a new gymnasium at the Ganado Mission.

Gymnasium Aid Pledged

(Exclusive Republic Dispatch)

GANADO, Jan. 30.—More than \$1,500 has been realized and several hundred days of work have been pledged by Indians as a result of Ganado Mission's efforts toward building a new gymnasium.

The mission is operated by the Presbyterian Church. Dr. C. G. Salisbury is superintendent.

Dr. Salisbury said today that Indians also had contributed sheep, rugs, jewelry and coins toward the project.

The \$1,500 came from Indian and white residents here and in nearby areas.

Committee members in charge of raising the fund are Miss Phebe Rogers, chairman, Keith Webster, Miss Leola Freeman, Mr. and Mrs. Karl Dalton, Mrs. Louise Varner, Charles Hagerdon, Mr. and Mrs.

Quintet Will Play

GILA BEND, Jan. 30.—A blind quintet from the Piney Woods School for Colored Boys, Piney Woods, Miss., will present a musical program beginning at 8 o'clock tomorrow night in the Gila Bend School auditorium under auspices of the Ladies Aid Society of Gila Bend.

Robert Wood, Miss Mae Trujillo and Miss Juanita Beaver, Dr. Wing Yan Tse, though not a committee member, was responsible for many of the contributions coming from outside the mission district.

"Ganado Mission is grateful to all who made possible the success of this venture," Dr. Salisbury said.



[Arizona Republic](#)

Phoenix, Arizona

Wed, Jan 31, 1940 · Page 9

By 1944, Beaver was working at the Presbyterian Sanatarium in Albuquerque.

! Miss Juanita Beaver, nurse at the Presbyterian Sanatarium in Albuquerque, attended the commencement exercises at Sage Memorial hospital on Saturday, returning Sunday to her work.

[The Gallup Independent](#)

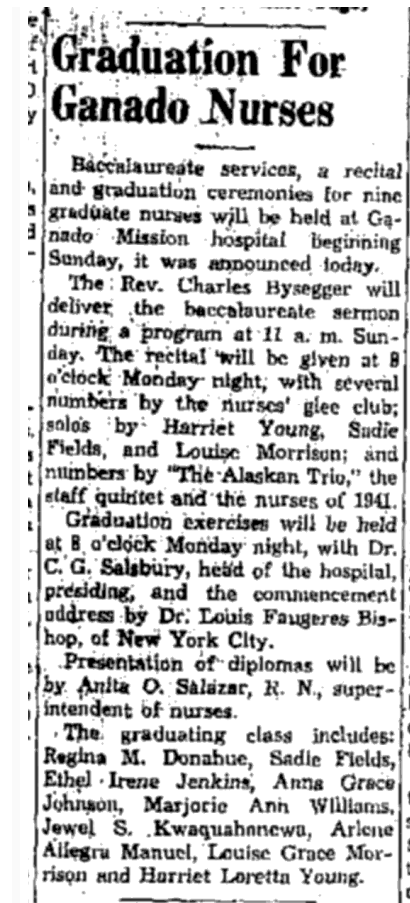
01 Sep 1944, Page 2

This is the last record the author could find pertaining to Juanita Beaver.

Harriet Loretta Young (Olsen)

Harriet Young was born on February 6, 1919 in Hydaburg, Alaska to James and Martha Logan Young.

She graduated from SMHSON in 1941.



The Gallup Independent

Gallup, New Mexico

22 Aug 1941, Page 1

By 1944 she was living in Ketchikan and working as a Registered Nurse. On March 28, 1944, she married Norman Olsen, a white, divorced, self employed fisherman, who was serving in the Army in Alaska during WWII. She is listed as white and a Registered Nurse. The 1950 census lists her as an American Indian and shows the Olsens living in Ketchikan. She is not shown as having any employment outside the home. She died on November 28, 2003.

Anna Grace Johnson (Benton)

Anna Johnson's birth name was "Ukla Muzluk". She was born on April 17, 1914 in Bethel, Alaska and at some time lived at the Moravian Mission Orphanage School. Martha and Martin Johnson took her in and gave her the name Anna Grace Johnson. She graduated from the Sheldon Jackson High School in Sitka in 1938 and then from SMHSON in 1941 (with Harriet Young – see above).

After graduation she joined the Indian Health Service and worked in Tuba City, Arizona. There she met Dorsey Allen Benton, a white man who worked for an oil company. They married on April 9, 1942 and both soon joined the Army during WWII.

The 1950 census shows the Benton's living in Albuquerque, New Mexico with three young children and Mr. Benton's father. Anna Benton is listed as "keeping house". The author cannot

find any records of Anna Benton working as a nurse after WWII. She died in New Mexico on

Ganado Nurses Are Graduated

(Exclusive Republic Dispatch)

GANADO, Aug. 26 — Graduation ceremonies of the Ganado School of Nurses featured the second day of the Harlow Brooks Clinic, with nine nurses receiving their diplomas.

They are Regina Donahue, Sadie Fields, Ethel Irene Jenkins, Anna Grace Johnson, Jewell S. Kay, Arlene A. Manuel, Louise Morrison, Harriet Young and Marjorie Ann Williams.

Dr. Louis S. Bishop of Bellevue Hospital, New York, gave the commencement address, which traced the career of the late Dr. Harlow Brooks, founder of the clinic. Dr. Brooks was associated with Dr. Bishop at the New York hospital.

During the day, papers were presented to the assembled physicians and surgeons by Dr. Newell Jones, Hollywood, Calif., "Problems of Nutrition", Dr. Bishop, "The Senile Heart", Dr. Nichols Smith, Los Angeles, "Peritonitis", and Dr. W. W. Peter, Window Rock, "Wetzel Grid".

An outing bringing together clinicians from Ganado and Fort Defiance was held in the afternoon.

Graduation exercises were held in the old Ganado church for the last time, the new church having been completed and scheduled for formal dedication Sunday.

The clinic will close Wednesday with addresses by Drs. Clarence Reese, San Diego, A. E. Galant, Tracy, O. Powell, W. W. Hutchinson and Buell Sprague, all of Los Angeles, and a movie on "Tuberculosis Among the Navajos" taken by Dr. W. W. Peter.

More than 90 physicians and surgeons from 10 states have been in attendance at the clinic, including Dr. James P. Kennedy, founder of the Ganado Hospital in the 1890's.

October 6, 1992.

[Arizona Republic](#)

[Phoenix, Arizona](#)

27 Aug 1941, Page 5

Eskimo Nurse In U. S. Army

Boca Raton [UP] Lt. Anna G. Benton, believed to be the first woman Eskimo nurse in the U. S. Army, today was serving at the Boca Raton Air Base here.

She was sworn into the Army Air Forces last week. She is the wife of Aviation Cadet Dorsey A. Benton, of Star, Tex., who is also stationed here.

Lt. Benton said she hoped soon to be able to return to her Bethel, Alaska, home to "assist the many Americans in Alaska who are defending our shores."

Orlando Evening Star

05 Mar 1943, Page 14

ESKIMO IN NURSE CORPS.

BOCA RATON FIELD, FLA., March 8 —(A. P.)—Lieut. Anna Benton, of Bethel, Alaska, believed by army authorities to be the first Eskimo to enter the United States armed forces as a second lieutenant, is serving as a member of the army nurse corps here.

The Kansas City Times

09 Mar 1943, Page 6

Lieut. Anna Benton To Speak On Alaska

Lieut. Anna Benton, Army nurse of Eskimo birth at Boca Raton, will speak on Alaska at a meeting of the Sunday Evening Club of the First Presbyterian Church Sunday at 6:15 p. m., it was announced Friday.

Lieutenant Benton was educated at a Presbyterian school at Sitka, Alaska. She is a graduate of Presbyterian Hospital, Granada, Ariz. The public is invited to hear her speak.

The Palm Beach Post

24 Apr 1943, Page 3

Braille Club Has Election

HERALD BUREAU

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla., April 10.—At the annual election of the Braille club at its Howard park clubhouse, Miss Golden Connors was chosen president, Ira Bound and Lester Mayfield first and second vice-presidents, respectively; Mrs. Anna Lewis, secretary and treasurer, and Mrs. Rainsuch, corresponding secretary.

The members heard a talk by Lt. Anna G. Benton, nee Ukla Muzluk, an Eskimo educated at the Sheida institute at Sitka, Alaska. She spoke of her native country, its people, and their customs.

The Miami Herald

11 Apr 1943, Page 5

| | |
|---|--|
| Eskimo Girl Serves As Nurse Lieutenant | She is the wife of Cadet Dorsey A. Benton of Star, Tex. |
| BOCA RATON FIELD, Fla., Mar. 8—(AP)—Lt. Anna G. Benton, of Bethel, Alaska, believed by army authorities to be the first Eskimo to enter the United States armed forces as a second lieutenant, is serving as a member of the army nurse corps here. | Peanuts were first grown in the South merely as a curiosity. |
| Lieutenant Benton is a daughter of Anna G. Johnson of Bethel, a small village some 400 dog team miles from Nome. She credits missionaries for her early training. | The call of a trumpeter swan can be heard as far as two miles. |

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Arizona Republic

Phoenix, Arizona 9 Mar 1943, Page 3

Anna Catherine Beyer (Philbin)

In the 1920 census, Anna Beyer is listed as born on Fairmont Island, Alaska and in the 1930 census she is listed as being born in Atha-Aleut. She was born on July 22, 1919 to William and Freda Chernoff Byer (at some point her last name took on the Beyer spelling and on the 1940 census the family name was spelled Buyer). In the 1920 and 1930 censuses she was listed as “mixed race” and was the youngest of five children. In the 1940 census her race is listed as Aleut. In the 1950 census her race is listed as white.

Anna Beyer graduated from Sheldon Jackson High School in Sitka in 1938 and from SMHSON in 1942.

**Indian Nurses
Get Diplomas**

GANADO, Aug. 28—Fourteen Indian girls from 12 tribes received their diplomas Tuesday night as graduate nurses from the Sage Memorial Hospital Training School here.

The institution is the only nurses' training school for Indian girls in the United States.

The graduation address was given en by James M. Stewart, general superintendent of the Navajo reservation, and a message from Governor Osborn congratulating the graduates was read.

Cordellia Romero was presented a nurses' kit for having attained the highest class honors.

Others in the graduating class were Ruby Alonzo, Anne Bernall, Anna Beyer, Ida Birdsbill, Katherine Boone, Clara Jean Davis, Mary Etta Hillis, Carmen Meastes, Sadie Stevens, Helen Oleta Waller, Leona Weller, Vivian Danforth and Dorothy Garcia.

Tribes represented were the Oneida, Laguna, Taos, Aleut, Gros Ventre, Navajo, Nez Perce, Spanish, San Carlos Apache, Chickasaw, Caddo and Papago.

She enlisted in the Army Nurse Corps (ANC) on January 4, 1944 and was promoted to 2nd Lt on February 4, 1944. She was discharged from the ANC on February 20, 1946.

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**Hilda Charlotte Jacobsson
(Severance)**

Hilda Jacobsson as born on October 28, 1929 in Bethel Alaska to Charles and Olga Stone Jacobsson. The Bureau of Indian Affairs census of 1938 lists her as ½ white and 1/2 “Native blood”



Saturday, August 26, 1950.

13 Students Will Receive Nurse Degree

(Special To The Republic)

GANADO, Aug. 25 — Thirteen young women will receive their nursing degrees at commencement exercises at Sage Memorial Hospital Saturday. The class represents many tribes of Indians, one member being from Alaska.

The commencement address will be given by Dr. C. G. Salsbury, chief of the bureau of preventive medicine for the State of Arizona. He will talk about Trends in the Care of the Sick.

Dr. Salsbury for many years headed the hospital here which is conducted by the Presbyterian Board of National Missions.

Members of the graduating class are Katherine Ruth Acoya, Mary Billson, Gladys Lorrietta Cambridge, Helen Gegas, Hilda Charlotte Jacobsson, Florence M. Lappoo, Inez Mae Sharpe, Stella M. Maestas, Antonia Medina, Josephine Molino, Gladys Leonora Narcho, Rosa Margaret Ortega and Alph Freda Setima.

Diplomas will be presented by Joseph Poncel, superintendent of the mission. Dr. W. D. Spining is medical director of the hospital.

She graduated from Sage Memorial Hospital school of Nursing in 1950.

On June 22, 1951 she married Frank Severance at the Faith Presbyterian Church in Anchorage.

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| She died December 2, 1951 in Bethel of respiratory failure at age 22. | |
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Elaine Abraham (Ramos)

Elaine Abraham was born Chuu Shah on June 19, 1929 in Yakutat, Alaska to Teikweidi, one of the last traditional Tlingit clan leaders of the village, and his wife Susie Bremner, a descendent of early white explorers in the area.

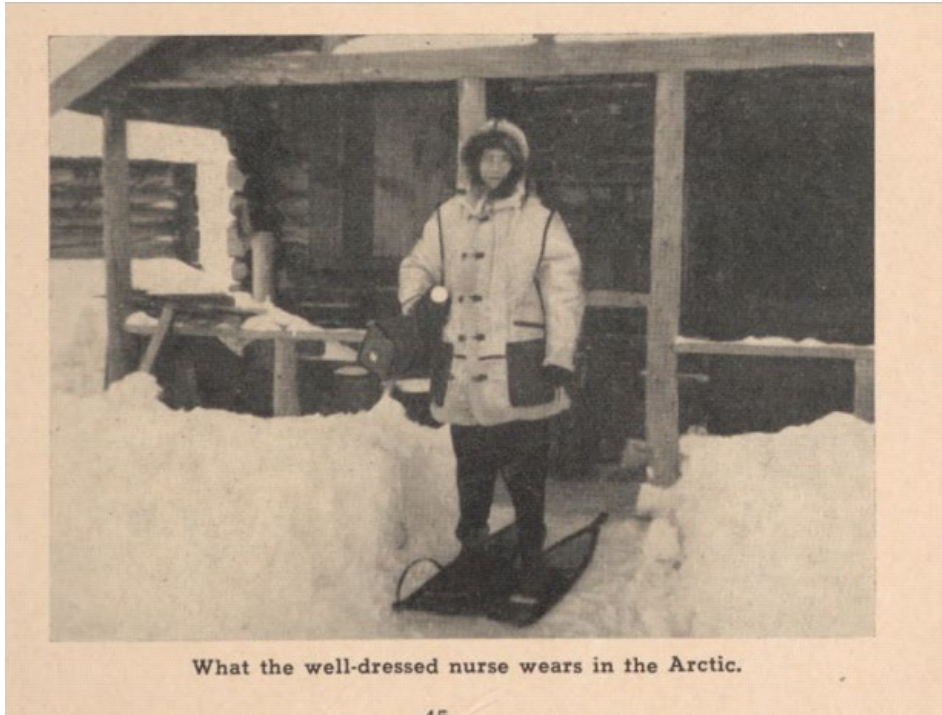
Abraham was inducted into the Alaska Women's Hall of Fame in 2011. Below is the biographical information the published on that occasion.



Elaine Elizabeth (Abraham) Ramos

Elaine was the first Tlingit registered nurse in Alaska. During her career, she worked for the Indian Health Service in Juneau, at the Mt. Edgecumbe School in Sitka, and in Bethel during diphtheria and tuberculosis epidemics. She also was instrumental in the creation of the Alaska Native Medical Center in Anchorage in 1954. In her education career, Elaine played a major role in the expansion of rural educational opportunities. She co-founded the Alaska Native Language Center, created programs to recruit and retain Alaska Native students in higher education, and, as

Vice-President for Rural Educational Affairs of the University Alaska, she was instrumental in initiating campuses in Nome, Barrow, Tanana, Kotzebue, Sitka, Ketchikan, Valdez, the Aleutians, and Kodiak. In 1976, Elaine became the Vice President for Rural Education Affairs of the University of Alaska statewide system — she was the first Native American and the first woman to hold a senior position in the statewide administration. Elaine also served as the Chair of the Alaska Native Science Commission, which supports scientific research that ensures the protection of indigenous cultures and builds bridges between Western science and traditional ways of knowing.



Elaine was born in Yakutat of the Raven moiety, the clan of Copper River, and from the Shaman's Owl House, and is the daughter of the Brown Bear. Mount St. Elias is her clan crest. Her mother was Susie Bremmer, whose grandfather was John James Bremmer from Scotland, the guide for Lt. Allen who explored the Copper River area. Elaine's father was a Tlingit chief from Yakutat from the Brown Bear moiety. Her mother read to the children from the bible and her father introduced them to the world through National Geographic magazines.

Yakutat did not have a high school, so Elaine went to boarding school at Sheldon Jackson High School/ College. After graduation, she went to the school of nursing at Ganado, Ariz., graduated, and returned to Alaska as the first Tlingit registered nurse. She worked with the Indian Health Service in Bethel and Sitka during diphtheria and tuberculosis epidemics. While working in Sitka, she served as the school board president during the desegregation of the village school; established the Southeast Alaska Native Health Aide Program — which became the model for the statewide Alaska Native Health Aide Program — and organized the Southeast Native Board

of Health. Later, Elaine was instrumental in the creation of the Alaska Native Medical Center in Anchorage.

After her career as a nurse, Elaine initiated her career in education at Sheldon Jackson University and the University of Alaska. She earned a bachelor's degree in human resources development from Alaska Pacific University; a master of arts in teaching from APU; and is currently a doctoral student pursuing a degree in natural health. At Sheldon Jackson College, she served as Associate Dean of Students, Director of Social Services, and Vice President for Institutional Development. At the University of Alaska, she co-founded the Alaska Native Language Center. In 1976 Elaine became the Vice President for Rural Education Affairs of the University of Alaska statewide system— she was both the first Native American and the first woman to hold a senior position in the statewide administration. She created innovative programs for recruiting and retaining Alaska Native students in higher education and made path-breaking initiatives to build bridges between Alaska Native communities and the university. She brought new educational opportunities to Alaskans throughout the state by establishing community colleges in Nome, Barrow, Tanana, Kotzebue, Sitka, Ketchikan, Valdez, Aleutians, and Kodiak.

Currently, Elaine is building bridges between Alaska Natives and scientists, promoting cutting-edge approaches to understanding climate change around the globe as the chair of the Alaska Native Science Commission. The commission supports scientific research that ensures the protection of indigenous cultures and builds bridges between western science and traditional ways of knowing.

Throughout Elaine's life, she has understood the relationship between the local and the global and she is respected and influential on the village, state, national, and international levels. Her messages have global significance and have helped garner respect for indigenous knowledge and the rights of indigenous peoples. While Elaine's impact has been global and her accomplishments numerous, they only tell part of the story. She is slight in stature but when Elaine speaks, she captivates her listeners with her messages, her humility, and her enthusiasm. Forever looking for opportunities to broaden her own knowledge, Elaine has traveled to far-flung places to meet with indigenous peoples in their native lands to help them and exchange teachings. She has helped many people see that traditional observations are critically important to western scientific analysis.

Awards She is the recipient of the American Indian Achievement Award, Indian Council Fire (1973). Elaine was the first Alaska Native and the seventh American Indian woman to receive this award. It was the only award of national stature given to an American Indian. She also received the Meritorious Service Award, University of Alaska Anchorage (1996); Citizen of the Year Award, Cook Inlet Native Association (1984); Alaska Native/American Indian Education Advocate Award, Johnson O'Malley Parent Committee (1978); State of Alaska Distinguished Alaskan Title (1974).

December 1952

Miss **Elaine Abraham** of Yakutat, the first graduate registered nurse of the Tlingit race, is now employed at Mt. Edgecumbe hospital in the orthopedic division. She graduated from Sheldon Jackson School with the class of 1948, then took her nurses training at Sage Memorial Hospital, Ganado, Arizona.

40 YEARS AGO

September 1955

Mrs. Elaine Abraham Ramos, the only graduate registered nurse of the Tlingit tribe, is now a staff nurse at Mt. Edgecumbe Medical Center. She has been employed previously at the ANS hospitals at Bethel and Anchorage, and as a public health nurse at Yakutat. Mrs. Ramos is a graduate of Sheldon Jackson Junior College and School of Nursing at Ganado, Arizona, and attended the University of Colorado.

[Daily Sitka Sentinel](#)

27 Sep 1995, Page 13

Here is Elaine Abraham's Wikipedia page:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elaine_Abraham

Here is her obituary published in the Anchorage Daily News in May, 2016.

<https://www.adn.com/education/article/elizabeth-abraham-ground-breaking-tingit-elder-dead-87/2016/05/18/>

Elaine Abraham, ground-breaking Tlingit elder, dead at 87

By [Mike Dunham](#)

Updated: May 18, 2016 Published: May 17, 2016

In the Tlingit idiom, Elaine Elizabeth Abraham "walked into the woods" early Monday morning. The much-accomplished Tlingit woman from Yakutat died around 1:30 a.m. at the Alaska Native Medical Center in Anchorage. She was 87.

She was born June 19, 1929, in Yakutat, the daughter of Teikweidei, whose English name was Olaf Abraham. He was one of the last traditional clan leaders of the village. Her mother, Susie Bremner was the great-granddaughter of John James Bremner, a Scottish guide who helped the U.S. Army explore the Copper River area not long after Alaska became an American possession.

Abraham, whose Tlingit name was Chuu Shah, was raised in a traditional household where her first language was Tlingit. In 2012 she told the Alaska [Dispatch News](#) her name meant "Little Grandmother Returns." She was Naa Tláa (clan mother) of the Yéil Naa (Raven Moeity), K'ineix Kwáan (people of the Copper River Clan) from the Tsisk'w Hit (Owl House).

She learned English at the village elementary school. But Yakutat did not have a high school. So she attended the Sheldon Jackson Presbyterian Boarding High School in Sitka. After graduating at age 17, she studied nursing at Arizona's Sage Memorial Nursing School in Navajo Country and passed her final tests with some of the highest scores ever achieved. She is said to have been the first Tlingit registered nurse.

Returning to Alaska, she worked for the Indian Health Service in Bethel, Sitka and Anchorage. She was supervisor of nursing at the Mount Edgecumbe Hospital in Sitka, where she helped create the Southeast Health Aide Program, the model for providing health care in remote parts of Alaska to this day.

After retiring from nursing in her 40s, she went back to college and earned a wall-full of diplomas, including a bachelor's in human services, a master's degree in teaching in multiethnic education, a certificate in Native linguistics and an associate degree in anthropology. For the rest of her life, she continued to pursue higher education, working on a doctorate in her 70s.

She served in several key positions at Sheldon Jackson College, including associate dean of students and vice president for institutional development. She co-founded the Alaska Native Language Center at the University of Alaska and became the first woman and the first Native American to hold a senior position in the statewide administration of the University of Alaska system when she became the vice president of rural education affairs in 1976. In that position, she helped establish community colleges in previously underserved parts of the state with large Native populations, including Nome, Barrow, Tanana, Kotzebue, Sitka, Ketchikan, Valdez, Kodiak and the Aleutians.

She served on numerous commissions, boards and other organizations, including the Yakutat Native Corp., the Yakutat Tlingit Tribes Council and the Alaska Native Science Commission.

Throughout her life she was the recipient of prominent awards. She was the first Alaska Native to receive the American Indian Achievement Award, Indian Council Fire, in 1973. The Cook Inlet Native Association named her Citizen of the Year in 1984 and the University of Alaska

bestowed its Meritorious Service Award on her in 1996. She was elected to the Alaska Women's Hall of Fame in 2011.

She was a lifelong member of the Alaska Native Sisterhood, Yakutat Camp No. 13, an Anchorage delegate to the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, an Elder of the Yakutat Presbyterian Church and a General Council Member of the Presbytery of Alaska. She performed with the Mount St. Elias dance group, once led by her father, one of the oldest Alaska Native performing groups in the state.

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Elaine Abraham

Elaine Abraham, BS, MA, PhD candidate, was born and raised in Yakutat, Alaska, where she now resides. Her father was a traditional Tlingit chief and Elaine was raised in the traditional Tlingit manner. After earning a nursing degree and working for several years in Arizona, she returned to Alaska as the first Tlingit registered nurse. She served at hospitals in Juneau, Mt. Edgecumbe and in Bethel during a diphtheria epidemic. She assisted in the opening of the Alaska Native Health Service Hospital in Anchorage in 1954.

Ms. Abraham moved to Sitka where she worked as a nurse; served as school board president during the desegregation of the village school; organized the Southeast Health Aide Program with Dr. Justice from Mt. Edgecumbe, which became the model for the statewide Alaska Native Health Aide Program; and organized the Southeast Native Board of Health.

At Sitka's Sheldon Jackson College she served as Associate Dean of Students, Director of Social Services and Vice President for Institutional Development. She developed the Tlingit and Haida Language Teachers Training program and helped in the creation of the Alaska Native Language Center, University of Alaska.

In 1976, Ms. Abraham began her service at the University of Alaska, serving as Vice President for Rural Education Affairs, Coordinator of Native Student Services and Associate Professor at the Anchorage campus.

Her educational credentials include a Masters of Arts in Teaching, Alaska Pacific University; a Bachelors degree in Human Resources Development, APU; a Certificate in Native Linguistics, University of Albuquerque, New Mexico; Associate of Arts in Anthropology, Sheldon Jackson College; and she received the highest recorded score for the Psychiatric Nurse Evaluation in Arizona.

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| Ms. Abraham is a revered Tlingit elder and serves as Chairperson of the Board of Commissioner's of the Alaska Native Science Commission. | |
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An oral history and photographs from the Jukebox Project at the Univesity of Alaska at Fairbanks:

Elaine Abraham was born and raised in Yakutat, Alaska, where she now resides. Her father was a traditional Tlingit chief and Elaine was raised in the traditional Tlingit manner. After earning a nursing degree and working for several years in Arizona, she returned to Alaska as the first Tlingit registered nurse. She served at hospitals in Juneau, Sitka - Mt. Edgecumbe, and in Bethel during a diphtheria epidemic. She assisted in the opening of the Alaska Native Health Service Hospital in Anchorage in 1954. Ms. Abraham moved to Sitka where she worked as a nurse, served as school board president during the desegregation of the village school, organized the Southeast Health Aide Program with Dr. Justice from Mt. Edgecumbe, which became the model for the statewide Alaska Community Health Aide Program, and organized the Southeast Native Board of Health. At Sitka's Sheldon Jackson College, she served as Associate Dean of Students, Director of Social Services, and Vice President for Institutional Development. She developed the Tlingit and Haida Language Teachers Training program and helped in the creation of the Alaska Native Language Center at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. In 1976, Ms. Abraham began her service at the University of Alaska, serving as Vice President for Rural Education Affairs, Coordinator of Native Student Services, and Associate Professor at the Anchorage campus. Her educational credentials include a Masters of Arts in Teaching from Alaska Pacific University (APU), a Bachelors degree in Human Resources Development from APU, a Certificate in Native Linguistics from the University of Albuquerque, New Mexico, and an Associate of Arts in Anthropology from Sheldon Jackson College. She received the highest recorded score for the Psychiatric Nurse Evaluation in Arizona. Ms. Abraham is a revered Tlingit elder and serves as Chairperson of the Board of Commissioner's of the Alaska Native Science Commission. For more about Elaine Abraham see the [Alaska Native Science Commission](#) website or an [article in the Alaska Dispatch News](#) published on May 17, 2016. Elaine Abraham passed away on May 16, 2016 at the age of 87.

Grace Elizabeth Lincoln

Grace Lincoln was born on February 12, 1931 to Abraham and Blanche Mills Lincoln in Kotzebue, Alaska. In the 1920 census the family name was Chilook and they spoke Noatak. It is not clear when the family name was changed to Lincoln, but in the 1940 census (the first in which Grace is listed) the family name is listed as Lincoln. She graduated from the Philadelphia Hospital School of Nursing in 1951 and passed her Registered Nurse Examinations the same year. She returned to Alaska and became a nursing leader for many decades. Lincoln was active in the Planned Parenthood Association. She had a special interest and expertise in treating alcoholics. In 1976 she was named Director of the Alaska Native Commission of Alcohol and Drug Abuse. She gave presentations from rural Alaskan villages to the Sorbonne in Paris, France. She was a leader in the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse. Due to her expertise in substance abuse issues, she was a consultant to Chief Justice Burger's Commission on Pipeline Inquiry. A 1980 study titled Resource Guide of American Indian and Alaska Native Women by Owanah P. Anderson and Sedelta D. Verble reported Grace Lincoln was working as the Coordinator/Instructor of the Community Health Aid program for the Mauneluk Association. She promoted native heritage programs for young people and taught skin sewing skills. ([ed213559.tif.pdf](#)).

On September 2, 1988 she testified before a Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs about health issues for native Alaskans. Her testimony is on pages 104-106 in this link:

<https://books.google.com/books?id=o96y0igha-cC> HYPERLINK

["https://books.google.com/books?id=o96y0igha-cC&pg=PA104&lpg=PA104&dq=%22Grace+Lincoln%22++Nurse+Alaska&source=bl&ots=CevLKcre0&sig=ACfU3U3wzJgQ4cswOjT4rQ9qcz56Tsu1pw&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwis m5bR8c35AhXBrikEHXwIBPAQ6AF6BAgPEAM"&](https://books.google.com/books?id=o96y0igha-cC&pg=PA104&lpg=PA104&dq=%22Grace+Lincoln%22++Nurse+Alaska&source=bl&ots=CevLKcre0&sig=ACfU3U3wzJgQ4cswOjT4rQ9qcz56Tsu1pw&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwis m5bR8c35AhXBrikEHXwIBPAQ6AF6BAgPEAM) HYPERLINK

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Grace Lincoln died on April 30, 2001 and is buried in the Saint Francis Xavier Cemetery in Kotzebue.

Grace Lincoln to head ANSAP

George Barril, executive director of ANCADA (Alaska Native Commission on Alcoholism & Drug Abuse) announced the recent appointment of Grace Lincoln to head the Alaska Native Special Alcoholism Program (ANSAP). She replaces Charles Oxereok who resigned last fall to take a position with the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) Mental Health Department.

Prior to her new duties as ANSAP Project Director, Ms. Lincoln headed the ANCADA media department which jointly is responsible for developing multi-media public information and education materials on alcoholism with the National Council on Alcoholism - Alaska region.

She has been associated with the nursing and health profession since 1947 having held positions in Pennsylvania, California and Alaska. In 1973-74 she traveled to Spain as a staff nurse with the Alaska International Academy.

Her first priorities will be to continue the concurrent coordination of ANSAP's regional technical assistants with their respective regions and also with other statewide organizations.

In the process of being finalized is a continuation grant which will be delivered to Washington, D.C. before February 1. ANSAP's ongoing activities in the coming year are



GRACE LINCOLN of Kotzebue assumes her new duties as project director, Alaska Native Special Alcoholism Program (ANSAP).

contingent on approval by the Institute on Alcohol Abuse & Indian desk - NIAAA (National Alcoholism).



—(News-Miner Photo by Miss Donahy)—
ESKIMO NURSE AT ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL—Proud parents, Mr. and Mrs. Abraham Lincoln, seated right, are pictured above as they listen to their daughter Grace Lincoln explain to them some of her duties as the only registered nurse at St. Joseph's hospital of full blooded Eskimo origin. The parents, prominent Kotzebue residents, and the staff at the hospital are particularly proud of Miss Lincoln because she is one of the first Eskimo girls ever to complete full training and become a registered nurse. Shown with the family is Sister Superior Regina Marie. The Lincolns were in Fairbanks during the Winter Carnival festivities.

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