

# ALASKA STATE MUSEUMS

ALASKA STATE MUSEUM, JUNEAU ❖ SHELDON JACKSON MUSEUM, SITKA

## Sheldon Jackson Museum

104 College Drive, Sitka, AK 99835

Phone (907) 747-8981 Fax (907) 747-3004

Home page: <http://www.museums.state.ak.us>

Release date: **December 16, 2005**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

**Scott McAdams, 747-8981**

### JANUARY ARTIFACTS OF THE MONTH HAIDA WOOD AND HORN SPOONS

The Sheldon Jackson Museum has two Artifacts of the Month for January: a cow horn spoon and a plain, carved wood spoon. Both were collected in Hydaburg, Alaska.

In July 2005 a package from Hawaii arrived at the museum. Inside were the two spoons and a short note from Mrs. Jane Howe Thomas of Waikoloa, Hawaii. Mrs. Thomas was born in Hydaburg in 1916 while her parents were there serving as Presbyterian missionaries from 1915-1920. In the note, Mrs. Thomas explained that she had had the spoons for many years but decided recently to “find a proper home” for them and offered them to the museum. It was with great pleasure that the spoons were accepted. These are the first spoons cataloged as Haida in the museum collection. Mrs. Howe also allowed the museum to copy her photographs of Hydaburg from 1915-1920.

Mrs. Thomas wrote that her parents, the Rev. and Mrs. J. L. Howe, were close friends with well-known Haida carver Johnny Wallace. She could not definitely attribute these spoons to him, but thought that, because of the family connection, he could have been the carver. Mae Wallace, wife of Johnny, helped care for Mrs. Thomas as a child, and gave her the name Jahtsingaa (sic) which was also Mae Wallace’s Haida name.

Objects offered for donation to the museum receive close scrutiny to determine whether they fall within the parameters of the museum’s scope of collections and aren’t already well represented. In this case the museum was very lucky to receive items that helped to fill a gap in the collections.

The Haida wood and horn spoons will be on exhibit through January 31 and can also be viewed from our website at [www.museums.state.ak.us](http://www.museums.state.ak.us).

Winter hours at the museum are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. General admission is \$3. Visitors 18 and younger, Friends of the Sheldon Jackson Museum, and those with passes are admitted free of charge.

---

[return to top](#)

[SJ Artifacts-of-the-Month](#) | [press releases](#) | [SJ home](#) | [Alaska State Museums](#)

## Haida Wood and Horn Spoons



---

[return to top](#)

[SJ Artifacts-of-the-Month](#) | [press releases](#) | [SJ home](#) | [Alaska State Museums](#)