The original letters to and from George opened with the name and position of the addressee; the greeting was invariably “Dear Sir” or “Sir;” and they were signed in ink. Here they are printed simply with the names of sender and addressee, followed by the place and date of writing, with each correspondent’s official title included at first mention. Although, for the most part, letters have been reproduced in full, we have occasionally omitted formulaic greetings at the start or the close of letters, opening words that merely acknowledge the receipt of a letter, or brief passages within a letter that essentially repeat information already provided. Such omissions are signalled by ellipses placed within square brackets. (Ellipses not within brackets are those of the original writer.) In a few instances, we came upon more than one letter written by George to the same recipient on the same day. In all such cases, the letters concerned different topics, and sometimes one was marked “Personal.” It seems likely that, when he was travelling, George kept handwritten notes about the schools he visited and the situations he encountered. Once he returned to his Tanana headquarters, he would type up these notes as letters, and he probably separated them by topic deliberately, perhaps with a view to ease of filing. We have chosen to respect the original format of such letters.

In reproducing Alice’s journal, we have omitted the church calendar designations that precede many entries, such as “12th Sunday after Trinity,” as well as some Bible passages, quotations from sermons given at Anvik, and lines of inspirational poetry copied from the books she took to Alaska. Although these testify to Alice’s religious conviction, they shed no significant light on her work in Alaska. In both George’s letters and Alice’s journal, minor alterations have on occasion been made to punctuation or sentence structure for the sake of clarity; no other changes have been introduced. In particular, no attempt has been made to “correct” vocabulary, even though some of the terms current at the time are offensive today. As was typical of the period, the spelling of names and places was somewhat haphazard. To prevent confusion, some effort has been made to regularize spellings; however, for the most part, those adopted simply reflect the spelling that George or Alice most often used or, in the case of place names, follow spellings listed in contemporary geographical dictionaries of Alaska. In the original documents, temperatures are, of course, in degrees Fahrenheit, lengths in feet, and distances in miles. To avoid clutter, we have chosen not to insert
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metric equivalents in brackets and, for the sake of consistency, have followed the non-metric style in annotations.

Sometime in the 1950s, Alice dictated reminiscences (subsequently transcribed) about the people and places pictured in the photographs in the album given to her by Archdeacon Hudson Stuck. Excerpts from her recollections appear in the captions to some of these photographs. In addition, Hudson Stuck wrote his own, somewhat personal, inscriptions beneath the images, portions of which have occasionally been included in the present captions.

Commentary provided in the text is jointly the work of my father, George E. Boulter II, and myself. I am responsible for most of the annotation and for the source references.

Barbara Grigor-Taylor