

The Kayaker's Companion

Chapter Notes for Volume 2



Glacier
Bay

DAVID BAHR

The essential Glacier Bay reference.

Chapter Notes for Volume 2

of *The Kayaker's Companion to
Glacier Bay, Second Edition*

Wondering about a reference to some obscure Glacier Bay fact? Need to know which mountain hosted Muir's heavenly angels? Want more information on the salmon cannery in Bartlett Cove or the fox farm in the Beardslees? Perhaps you're curious about cruise ship lobbying, or the long lost Harriman Glacier, or the missing Mount Reid? These chapter notes give abundant citations and extra information for every detail in *The Kayaker's Companion to Glacier Bay, Second Edition, Volume 2*.

- ★ **EACH CHAPTER NOTE** gives relevant references
- ★ Adds pertinent information and extra details
- ★ Points out potential confusion and contradictory evidence
- ★ Unmasks occasional mysteries
- ★ Uses references from the accompanying *Annotated Bibliography*

DAVID BAHR is a glaciologist and photographic artist.
He was the 2013 Artist-in-Residence at Glacier Bay.

National Park Guide, Science, History, Culture
Glacier Bear Press



ISBN 978-1-7345530-4-8



9 781734 553048

Chapter Notes for Volume 2

of

The Kayaker's Companion to Glacier Bay, Second Edition

David Bahr

GLACIER BEAR PRESS

Nederland, Colorado

Copyright © 2026 David B. Bahr

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. No part of this book may be reproduced in any form or by any electronic or mechanical means, including information storage and retrieval systems, without permission in writing from the publisher, except by reviewers, who may quote brief passages in a review.

ISBN: 978-1-7345530-4-8

Printed and/or electronically produced in the United States of America

Glacier Bear Press
95 Meadowland Ct.
Nederland, Colorado, 80466

Visit www.bahrimages.com

Front cover: Tufted puffin, Gloomy Knob

Contents

Chapter Note Structure	1
Format of chapter notes Citations Orthographies Acronyms in the text	1
Chapter 17 Notes—Bartlett Cove and Park Headquarters	2
Tlingit names and translations for Glacier Bay	13
Chapter 18 Notes—Sitakaday Narrows	16
Pre-Little Ice Age Glacier Bay: Garden of Eden or harsh environment?	19
Did Brady visit Glacier Bay?	25
Cruise industry lobbying targets Glacier Bay, a lot	28
Chapter 19 Notes—Beardslee Islands	33
The Beardslee Cut's inevitable rise out of the water	33
Fox farm dates and locations	34
Fox farms and Ibach cabin not officially historical or archaeological	36
Where did Beardslee get the name Glacier Bay?	38
Exactly how much snow in the Fairweathers?	43
Chapter 20 Notes—Beartrack Cove	47
A failed push to become a national park	47
An excuse to remove Excursion Inlet from the monument	50
Chapter 21 Notes—York Creek to North Sandy Cove	52
The park ignores data critical of cruise ships	53
Using scientific “IUCN Red List” avoids politics	54
Chapter 22 Notes—Muir Point to Mount Wright	59
The Muir Point boardwalk	61
A mailbox at Muir Point	65
Muir rescues Young: The truth is probably somewhere in between	66
Muir's austere provisioning	67
Muir and the bay's glaciers versus cataclysms	68
Reid's contribution to glaciology	73
A highly unusual theft	76
Chapter 23 Notes—Adams Inlet	83
A prank because Muir hated hunting	84
Harriman's frustrated hunts	86
Snow Dome or Mt. Elder or Mt. Reid or Mt. Young?	87
Girdled Glacier surge loops	90
Adams Inlet Glacier versus Adams Glacier	90

Chapter 24 Notes—Forest Creek Flats and Klotz Hills	93
Chapter 25 Notes—Sealers Island to Van Horn Ridge	100
Reagan Administration claims mining is compatible with parks	105
Ice age refugia	107
Chapter 26 Notes—McBride Inlet	109
McBride retreat rate	110
McBride's decreased calving flux	110
A migrating wilderness boundary and the park's ad hoc interpretation of ANILCA	111
Chapter 27 Notes—Riggs Glacier	116
Chapter 28 Notes—Upper Muir Inlet	120
The Carroll Glacier did not flow through Wachusett Inlet	121
Seeking ice, not gold	123
Chapter 29 Notes—White Thunder Ridge to Curtis Hills	124
Muir like a synesthete	124
Chapter 30 Notes—Wachusett Inlet	135
Why Mount Kloh Kutz does not belong here	139
The many names of Kloh Kutz	139
Chapter 31 Notes—Lower Muir Inlet Western Shore	143
Chapter 32 Notes—Tlingit Point and Sebree Islands	147
Migration? What is migration?	147
Sound ducts	151
Leveraged cruise ship contracts	152
Not all vessel contracts require MGO's or restrict scrubber use	153
Why there's still smog in the bay	155
Using tractor-trailer equivalents as a metric of pollution in Glacier Bay	155
Park emission requirements lag behind climate goals	157
Liquefied natural gas cruise ships in Glacier Bay would not help	158
Disillusioned employees and a dismissive Park Service	160
Staggering cruise ship revenue, ~10% of national NPS gross income	161
Alternative fuels exist	162
A brush off of a climate scientist	163
Leveraging contracts: A failure for climate emissions	164
ANILCA does not require cruise ships in Glacier bay	166
Appendix Notes—Tidal Cut Depths	174

Chapter Note Structure

OME NOTES ARE BRIEF references while others are lengthy disquisitions. The longer notes highlight interesting complications or important context that cannot realistically be covered in a guidebook. In many cases, a note lists multiple references to indicate a pattern of agreement (and occasional disagreements) in the literature.

FORMAT OF CHAPTER NOTES

- (1) The initial page number(s) refer to *The Kayaker's Companion to Glacier Bay, Volume 2, Second Edition*.
- (2) Bold text is a quote from *Volume 2*.
- (3) Subsequent text offers context for the quote and/or provides a reference.

CITATIONS

Each citation is listed in the separate *Annotated Bibliography*. Most references are standard and sometimes stuffy academic-flavored works, but for the more casual reader, I have included popular-level citations as appropriate. Carefully selected, such popular voices can offer a measure of expert opinion and indicate a level of professional consensus.

When reasonable I have included the relevant page numbers within a cited book. This could be counterproductive for John Muir's *Travels in Alaska* (1915) and Samuel Hall Young's *Alaska Days with John Muir* (1915) because contemporary readers will almost certainly have one of the many different modern editions with wildly differing page numbers. For those two books and a few others, I have indicated only the relevant chapter numbers.

ORTHOGRAPHIES

Tlingit orthographies have changed dramatically over the last 200 years and continue to evolve. For

that reason, when quoting an author, I have not indicated typos (with a “[sic]”) for orthographic disagreements. For example, I write “kwáan,” but many well-respected ethnographers, anthropologists, and Tlingit scholars use variants such as kwáan (no underline) or kwaan (no underline, no accent). In most instances, these aren’t mistakes by the authors, just references to a different orthography. Similarly, historical authors, like Young, Muir, Beardslee, and Scidmore, and early ethnographers such as Krause and Emmons were making phonetic approximations that are wildly different from modern orthographies. These differences are not shown as typos.

ACRONYMS IN THE TEXT

ADFG: Alaska Department of Fish and Game
 DOI: US Department of the Interior
 EPA: Environmental Protection Agency
 GAO: Government Accountability Office
 (2004–present), aka General Accounting Office (1921–2003)
 GLBA: Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve
 IMO: International Maritime Organization
 IPCC: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
 IUCN: International Union for Conservation of Nature
 NOAA: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
 NPS: National Park Service
 NSIDC: National Snow and Ice Data Center
 USCG: United States Coast Guard
 USGS: United States Geological Survey
 VIS: Visitor Information Station

construction (see next chapter note), the subsequent 1899 earthquake probably did significant if not fatal damage. Bohn (1967, pg. 67) says that the cabin was disappearing into the alder by 1920.

A MAILBOX AT MUIR POINT

pg. 101 “**Using prefabricated parts, Muir hastily assembled the entire structure in just a few days**” Reid (1890, Jul. 23) refers to the “board house” brought by Captain Carroll, suggesting prefabricated walls and parts. Bohn (1967, pg. 64) says the structure was “ready cut and designed for a structure with two windows and a door.” GLBA (1984, pg. 36) calls it a “prefabricated wood cabin.” GLBA (2003a, pg. 3-63) also calls it a “pre-fabricated [sic] cabin.”

The materials arrived on Jul. 23, and by Jul. 24 the building was “well forward” (Reid, 1890, Jul. 23 and 25) By Jul. 25 shingling had begun which continued the next day (Reid, 1890, Jul. 25 and 26). By that point, the structure would have been dry and habitable. The chimney came later (e.g., Reid, 1890, Jul. 28 and 30). The fast construction again suggests prefabricated walls.

By 1892, the cabin had a mailbox in which Reid received letters from his wife Edith deposited by the passing steamships (Reid, 1892b, Aug. 7 refers to the mailbox; Aug 10 refers to the letters from Edith). Presumably Scidmore and other long-term visitors also received mail. This is probably the only location within Glacier Bay outside of Bartlett Cove to receive regular and official mail.

See also the chapter note for *Vol. 1*, pg. 146, “1890 Muir builds a cabin. . .”

pg. 101 “**Camp Muir**” Reid (1892a, pg. 22), Orth (1967, pp. 179 and 663), USGS (2000f).

pg. 101 “**John Muir first stepped onto Muir Point in 1880**” Muir (1895; 1993, pp. 51 and

105) writes of being strongly tempted to visit the Muir Glacier during his first visit in 1879; he could see the ice in the distance, but winter had arrived and they needed to leave. He visited the Muir Glacier and Muir Point for the first time in 1880 (Muir, 1915, Ch. 16).

Incidentally, Young (1915, Ch. 4 and Ch. 6) gets these dates completely muddled and says they visited the Muir in 1879 with their guide Toyatte. He corrects himself 12 years later (Young, 1927, pg. 204), acknowledging that they first visited with Lot Tyeen as their guide in 1880 (pp. 250–251). Reid (1892a) also muddles the facts, incorrectly saying Muir and Young visited the glacier in 1879; it’s fairly clear that he meant only to imply that the Muir Glacier’s existence was established by Muir and Young in 1879. Goetzmann and Sloane (1982) also make this mistake.

pg. 101 “**an honorific bestowed by either Captain Carroll or Captain Beardslee, depending on whether you trust the recollections of Eliza Scidmore or Samuel Hall Young**” Scidmore (1892b, pg. 711; 1893b, pg. 98; 1896b) says Carroll, but Young (1927, pg. 204) says Beardslee. Scidmore’s recollections are far more specific and written only 9 years after Carroll supposedly named the glacier in 1883. Young on the other hand is recollecting events 47 years after Beardslee supposedly named Muir Glacier in 1880. In that respect, Scidmore’s account seems the more reliable.

pg. 102 “**Man, man, you ought to have been there with me. . . . What a death it would be.**” Young (1915, Ch. 4).

pg. 102 “**self-destructive proclivities toward dangerous adventure**” Young (1915, Ch. 1). The passage is a dig at a gaggle of stiff ministers and their wives who do not want Young gallivanting

boundary survey efforts and in 1889 during his first visit to Southeast Alaska (Klotz, 1899, 1907; Green, 1982, pg. 52).

pg. 129 “**scurried all over the Fairweather Mountains while using novel photographic surveying techniques to help establish the controversial Alaskan-Canadian boundary.**” Green (1982, pp. 57–58) has a nice description of the Canadians’ new photographic technique that replaced plane tables. See also Klotz (1899, 1907), Reid (1908, pg. 667), Tarr and Martin (1912, pp. 52–53), Brown and Field (2004, pg. 142), and Cruikshank (2005, pg. 223).

pg. 130 **Klotz refined the use of repeat photography for documenting the advance and retreat of glaciers . . . ‘The study of the motion of glaciers will then be reduced to an exact science.’**” For the quote, see the last sentence of Klotz (1899). See also Klotz (1907) where he again plugs his new technique. From Molnia (2008, pg. K33), “Otto Klotz, a Canadian, was one of the first to recognize that photography could be a useful tool for surveying and documenting the position of glaciers and for determining changes in glacier position with time.” (Incidentally, Reid, 1892a, pg. 83, also recognized the value of repeat photographs to identify the changing position of the Muir Glacier terminus.)

pg. 130 “**Field was completely on board . . . from precisely located survey stations that he established around this part of Muir Inlet.**” See Field (1947, pp. 398–399). Molnia (2008, pg. K43) outlines Field’s repeat photogrammetry contributions. See also Brown and Field (2004).

pg. 130 “**The same approach also works with other slow-changing topographic features, including the gradually slumping escarpment**



Looking southwest from the Klotz Hills as photographed by Lars Netland during the International Boundary Survey. Mount Wright is in the background. (From Netland, 1907.)

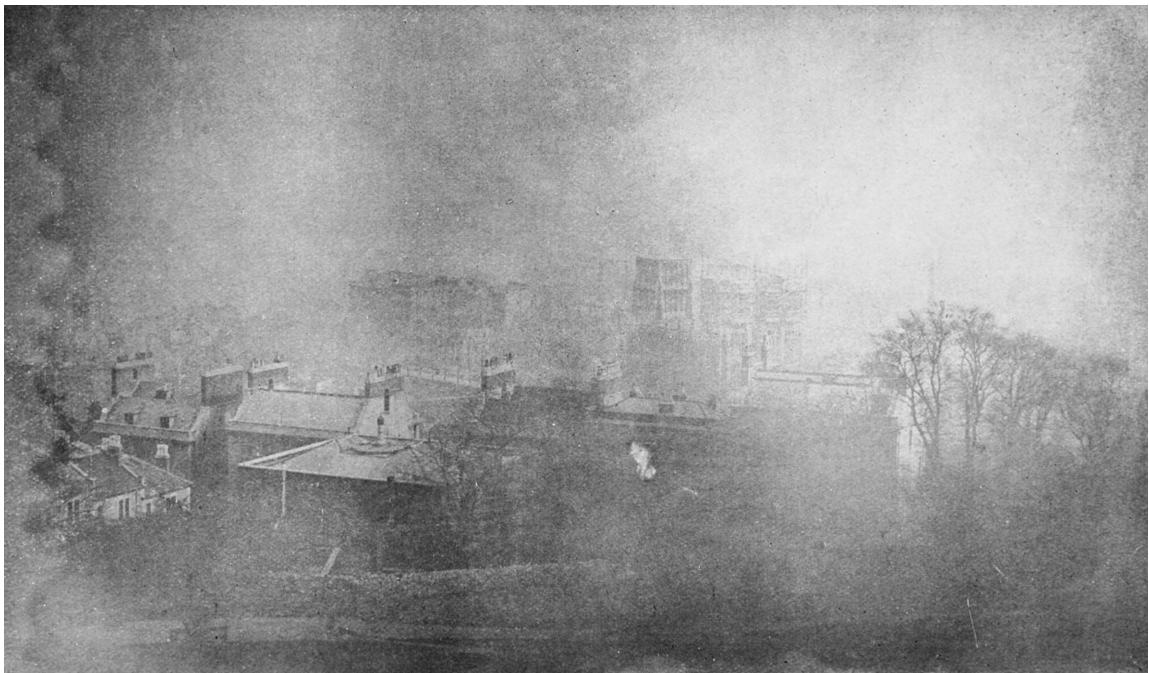
in Tidal Inlet, the bay’s slowly lifting landscapes (isostatic rebound)” Studies of super-slow moving features like these would be done with satellite images rather than land-based photographs, but the principle is identical.

pg. 130 “**migrating ski moguls, which creep uphill, as shown a hundred years later using Klotz’s basic photogrammetric technique.**” Bahr and others (2009b).

pg. 130 “**If Klotz Hills sounds too bland, feel free to use the original and more amusing ‘Mouse,’**” See Scidmore (1896a, pp. 102–103). See also Orth (1967, pg. 533) who calls this “Knob H” (per Field, 1947, Plate 1) but also notes the alternative 1880’s steamship tourist name of “The Mouse.”

pg. 130 “**Eliza Scidmore who spent a month in Muir’s cabin in 1891**” The primary description is in Scidmore (1892b). See also Scidmore (1893a, pg. 51; 1893b, pp. 99–100; 1894b; 1896a, pg. 99–100; 1896b), Bohn (1967), and Parsell (2023, pp. 159–162).

pg. 130 “**one of Reid’s surveying cairns sat atop the pretty knob where the hardier tourists would**



Dick Willoughby's "Silent City." He claimed this was a city floating above the Muir Glacier, but it's just a poorly developed photograph of Bristol, England. Willoughby purchased the negative from an unknown amateur. (From Jordan, 1897.)

glacier." He does not dignify the Silent City scam with any text.

pg. 245 **"State Geologist of Colorado Thomas Rickard put it in 1909, 'His imaginative mind came to the aid of his loose morality.'"** See Rickard (1909, pg. 68). His role as the State Geologist of Colorado is noted on the title page.

pg. 245 **"A natural huckster and keen to make a buck"** For example, "He made a living by selling mining claims, clearing \$1500 to \$3000 each year by quick deals, for he had a plausible manner and was an entertaining talker, with a great fund of anecdote" (Rickard, 1909, pg. 70).

pg. 245 **"doctored a photograph of a real city"** The photograph was of Bristol, England

(Scidmore, 1893b, pg. 106; Badlam, 1890, pg. 127 and 128; Bruce, 1895, pg. 89; Harris, 1897, pg. 198; The Daily Morning Sun, 1902; Rickard, 1909, pg. 68).

pg. 245 **"which he then sold at 75 cents a pop (\$25 today)."** See Jordan (1897). Apparently the price later increased to a "silver dollar" (A Western Amateur, 1889).

pg. 245 **"The description on the back of the print claimed . . . 'his greatest achievement . . . cities from distant climes.'"** The blurb is quoted in its entirety in Jordan (1897) and Rickard (1909, pp. 68–70).

pg. 245 **"believers speculated that the city of 15,000 to 20,000 inhabitants must be**