

PAGES from the PAST

By: Joy Graeme Messinger, SHCA Historian

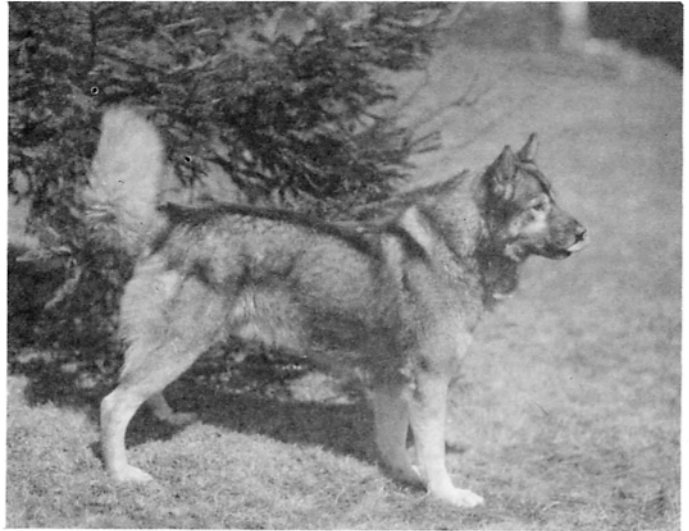
Due to the fact that very few photographs of early Siberians have been published, the names in old pedigrees do not mean much to most people. A pedigree is only a piece of paper unless you know what the dogs looked like.

Short Seeley left us a disorganized mess of photos, registrations and some note books and file cards. Here are a few photos of the early studs she used and some of her breeding, together with her notes describing the dogs:

SEPP III (Togo ex ?) Male. Breeder - Leonard Seppala, whelped in Alaska date unknown. Dark Wolf Grey. Brown eyes. Thick dense coat, lying flat. Excellent feet. Short coupled. Ears well set up on head. Bone medium. Fox brush tail. Average weight 54 lbs. Height 21". Declared by Elizabeth Ricker as one of best pups she had seen. Sold to Mr. Drake, later owned by C. F. Jackson, Durham, N.H. Died 1938. Used at stud by Chinook Kennels on: Tanta of Alyeska; Tosca of Alyeska; Cheeak of Alyeska.



SEPP III



SEPP III

CHAPMAN'S DUKE (aka Duke) (Ici ex Wanda) Male. Breeder - Leonard Seppala. whelped 3/21/27, Alaska. Owner L. B. Chapman, Sandwich, N.H. Grey, Brown eyes. Rangy but excellent conformation. Medium ears set high. Excellent coat and fox brush tail. Thick pads and well shaped feet. Looked like some of the Siberians at Poland Springs approved by Elizabeth Ricker as excellent Siberian type. Height 22½". Used at stud on Tanta of Alyeska.

In 1953 Short contacted Leonard Chapman regarding Duke's background. Printed here is his reply and a letter from Mike Cooney.

Wed Mon 18/53

Howdy Mrs. Seeley:

Rec your letter in regards to Dukes breeding. I did have all Duke's breeding received in part from Mrs. Cooney and Leonhard Seppala.

If the ones who are claiming he was other than a pure bred stock, were students of dogs they surely would know that the get of any cross bred dogs would have throw backs. Which there was never in any of this stock. All of their breeding were true to type and conformation. I paid good money for Duke and express \$50. I don't pay out this money for cross bred dogs. Moseley Taylor came to the Sportsman's Show the year Milton and I were down there with our sled dogs. He offered me three of his dogs and \$100 for Duke and one of the three he paid \$150 for. Moseley Taylor knew dogs and I am sure he wasn't paying this amount for Duke if a cross bred dog.

No one could have bought Duke at any price. Those pups you sold Moseley Taylor the foundation stock of Mrs. Lorna Demidoff was I think one of the finest bunch of Siberians in N.E. On the dams side (Wanda) back to Sepps old lead dog Togo and on Dukes side back to his Sweepstake Scotty lead dog that led his team to victory from Nome to Candle and return - 407 miles. They just don't have these kind of dogs today.

I am enclosing snapshots. In the hookup Duke is in swing - on left facing the picture alongside the masked face malamute. When I lost Duke (distemper) I lost all interest in sled dogs. He loved me and I loved him. He cared for no one else.

I had part of his breeding sent me by Mrs. Cooney and some more I got from Sepp at Laconia one winter at the races, Mike Cooney and Sepp were old friends.

I am enclosing a part of a letter received from Mrs. Cooney giving Dukes breeding.

The rest of the breeding I did not have as it has been destroyed as I have been out of the game for some time. Good luck to you and Lorna.

Chap



CHAPMAN'S DUKE

WONALANCET'S DISKO OF ALYESKA (Ch. Turu of Alyeska ex Toska of Wonalancet) Male. Breeder/owners - Mr. and Mrs. Milton Seeley. Whelped 5/10/40. Light wolf grey, one blue eye, one brown eye. Excellent conformation.

CH. WONALANCET'S BALDY OF ALYESKA (Ch. Turu of Alyeska ex Toska of Wonalancet) Male. Breeder/owners - Mr. and Mrs. Milton Seeley. Whelped 5/10/40. Light wolf grey, Blue eyes. Excellent conformation.

Disko & Baldy won Best Brace in Show at Raceland (Northshore) MA. 1944.



CHAPMAN'S DUKE (left swing)

CENTRALLY LOCATED
MODERN CONVENIENCES

SANITARY BATHS
HOT AND COLD WATER

COONEY HOTEL

M. J. COONEY, PROPRIETOR

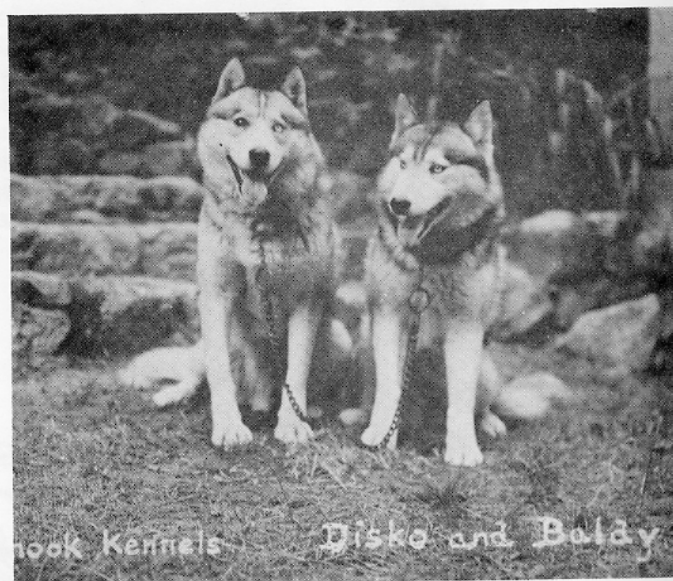
RELIABLE INFORMATION BUREAU AND GUIDES FOR MT. MCKINLEY NATIONAL PARK
HEADQUARTERS FOR THE COMMERCIAL TRAVELER AND TOURIST
YOUR CORRESPONDENCE SOLICITED

NENANA, ALASKA

May 3, 1933

This is the addition to Dukes Pedigree as given us by Leonard Seppella, who was the original owner, Ici was the son of Thor, -- Thor was the son of Scotty, -- Scotty was the son of Basko. All these dogs were pedigreed race dogs (Siberian) and Scotty became famous in the Nome races, and was the greatest dog Seppella ever owned. This is authentic, in spite of all Mr. Hurley and his associates may say to the contrary.

Signed,
M. J. Cooney



WONALANCET'S DISKO OF ALYESKA (l.) and CH. WONALANCET'S BALDY OF ALYESKA (r.)