

Mount Mary

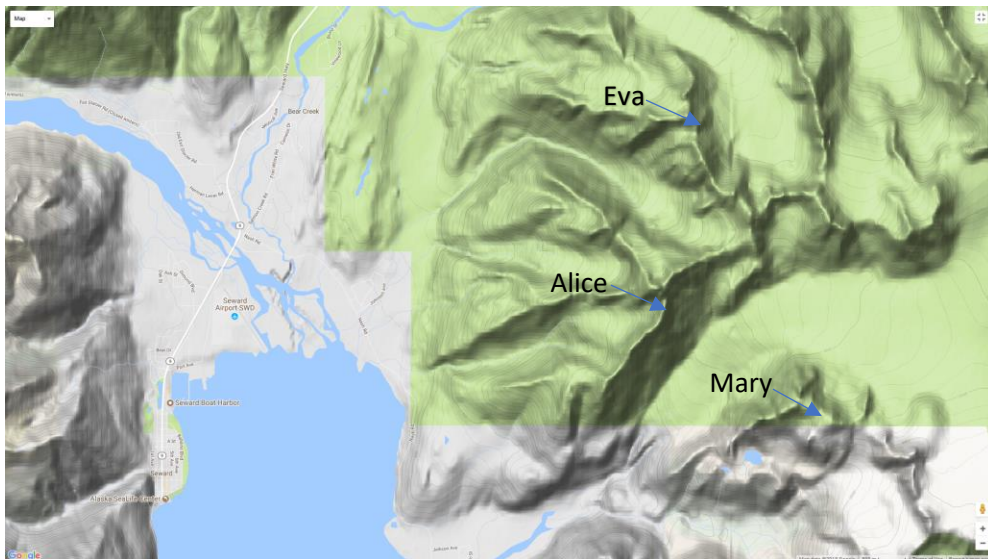
Mount Mary (4883') is the main peak east of the ship lift/prison sites, lying on the southeast side of the Godwin Glacier, opposite and somewhat behind Mount Alice.

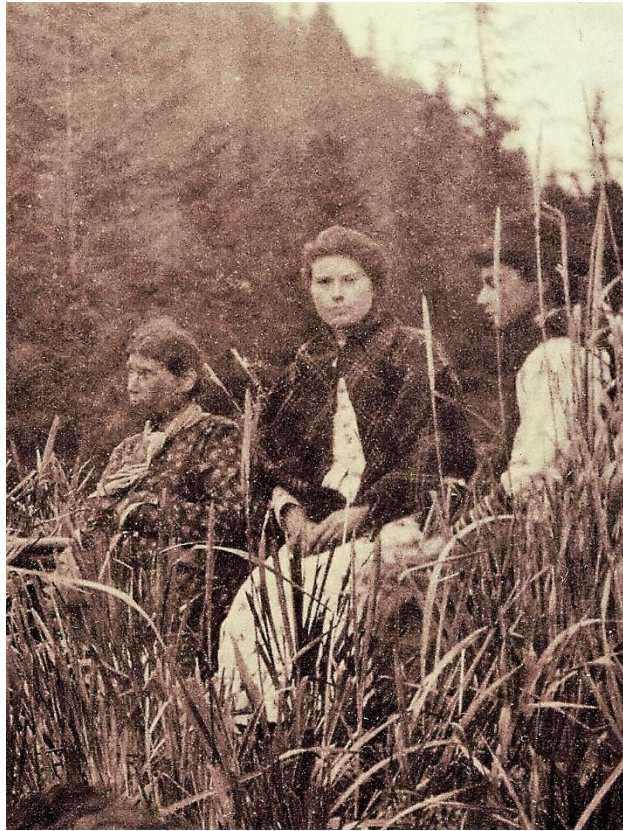


Mount Mary as viewed from the Fourth of July rock quarry.

This fine mountain was historically known as Mount Eva by many locals but lost any identity in the year 2000 when the peak north of Mount Alice was officially named Mount Eva through the US Board on Geographic Names. Mounts Alice and Eva are named in the memory of Alice and Eva Lowell, two daughters of Mary and Frank Lowell. The Lowell family were the original homesteaders on Resurrection Bay; Mary Lowell sold land to Frank Ballaine when he organized the founding of the city of Seward in 1903.

Our concept is that Mary Lowell should also be commemorated with her name on a visible local peak. The peaks named for Mary, Alice, and Eva would then all be next to one another, directly across Resurrection Bay from their historic home.





(cropped from photo provided by Resurrection Bay Historical Society)

Left to right: Mary (Forgal) Lowell, Eva Lowell, Alice Lowell

Mary Lowell born August, 1855; died May, 1906

Mary Forgal, of half Alutiiq and half Russian descent, was originally from English Bay (now Nanwalek), Alaska. There she met and married a trader for the Alaska Commercial Company, Frank Lowell. After an eruption of the nearby St. Augustine volcano caused heavy ash fall and tsunamis in English Bay, Mary and Frank moved to Resurrection Bay in 1884 and built a homesite. Together they had nine children, including the sisters Alice and Eva. Frank left the family and moved to Kodiak in 1893, but Mary stayed on the homesite and successfully raised her children.

When a survey party was in the area in 1902 exploring a route north to the Interior, Mary was able to complete a homestead claim to include her buildings and gardens. In 1903, John and Frank Ballaine brought a group of settlers to Resurrection Bay on the ship Santa Ana and started the project to build a town and construct a railroad north to known coal deposits. Mary Lowell sold her homestead in exchange for thirty-seven city lots and \$4,000. Her home was consolidated into the survey of the new town of Seward.

Mary Lowell died in Seward in May of 1906 of pleurisy, due to tuberculosis. Her daughter Alice married a Seward homesteader, Henry Scheffler. Eva married local dog musher and mail carrier Harry (Colonel) Revell, and later was married to pioneer hunting guide Andy Simons. A number of Seward landmarks are named in memory of the Lowell family, including Lowell Canyon, Lowell Creek, and Lowell Point. The mountain directly behind Seward was known as Lowell Mountain for many years, until the annual footrace from town to the 3000' ridge point lead to residents to begin using the name Mount Marathon. Mount Alice and Mount Eva were named for the Lowell girls, but at this time no feature carries a name to remember the matriarch, Mary.