

...Museum Curator

Miriam catalogued the thousands of artifacts Captain Mac collected during his time in the Arctic. Their personal collection laid the foundation for the Peary-MacMillan Arctic Museum, founded in 1967. Miriam was an honorary curator at The Museum from 1970 until her death in 1987.

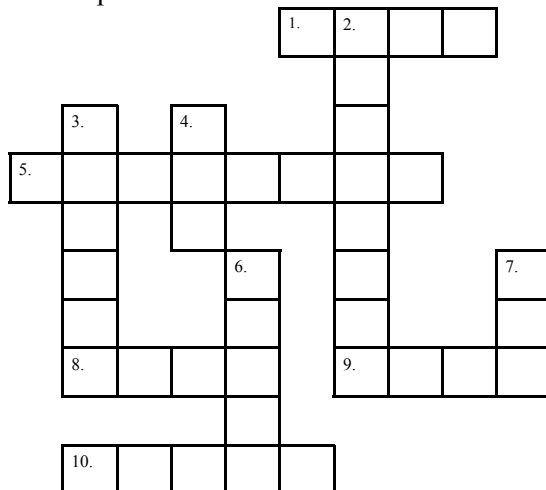
Crossword:

Across

- The month Miriam was born.
- Village on the coast of Labrador.
- Number of arctic expeditions on which Miriam accompanied Captain Mac.
- Labrador village where Miriam waited for Mac.
- Northeastern state where Miriam spent her summers as a girl.

Down

- Miriam's nickname for Captain MacMillan when she was a little girl.
- Miriam's middle name.
- Miriam's motor boat, the ___ Pup.
- ___ Seas and White Ice
- The friend who accompanied Miriam on her first trip to Labrador.



BOOKS TO READ

Green Seas and White Ice by Miriam MacMillan
(New York: Dodd, Mead & Co., 1948).

Etuk, the Eskimo Hunter by Miriam MacMillan
(New York: Dodd, Mead & Co., 1950).

Kudla and His Polar Bear by Miriam MacMillan
(New York: Dodd, Mead & Co., 1953).

The Arctic Schooner Bowdoin: A Biography by Virginia Thorndike (Unity, Maine: North Country Press, 1995), especially Chapter Six.

Answers to Crossword: 1. June 2. Uncle Dan 3. Norton 4. Sea 5. Hopedale 6. Green 7. Fan 8. Nine 9. Nain 10. Maine

Q: What vegetable was forbidden on the schooner *Bowdoin*?



A: Leeks!

The Peary-MacMillan Arctic Museum
Bowdoin College
9500 College Station
Brunswick, Maine 04011-8495

www.bowdoin.edu/arctic-museum

Phone: 207-725-3416

Email: jtanzer@bowdoin.edu

Compiled by Emma Bonanomi, Class of 2005
Made possible by the support and generosity
of the Friends of Bowdoin.

Miriam Look MacMillan



© PMAM

**What did Miriam dream about?
Where did she travel?
What books did Miriam write?**



The Peary-MacMillan
Arctic Museum
& Arctic Studies Center

Bowdoin College

Who was Miriam MacMillan?

...Sea Lover

Miriam Norton Look was born into a family of sea lovers on June 13, 1905. Her grandfather was a ship captain. Her father engineered dams when he wasn't working on his boat, the *Sea Dog*, and she grew up using boats on the coasts of Maine and Massachusetts.

...Dreamer

As a young girl, Miriam dreamed of exploring the Arctic like her father's good friend, Captain Donald MacMillan, or as she then called him, "Uncle Dan." She looked forward to each of his visits. When he was away on expeditions, she wrote him letters and played Arctic explorer games with her classmates. Over the years, Donald MacMillan and Miriam remained good friends. Captain Mac never returned from an expedition without a beaded craft, an ivory figurine, or some other token of his adventures in the North for Miriam. Over the years, his stories and enthusiasm for the Arctic and its people made Miriam long to travel alongside him and share in his adventures.

...Worthy Skipper

When she was a teenager, Miriam's father bought her a motorboat called the *Sea Pup*. She loved steering the 25-foot vessel around Maine's many wooded islands.

One late summer afternoon, with a burst of boldness, Miriam motored her boat over to Captain MacMillan's 88-foot schooner



Minutes later, the boat ran out of gas and he was 30 minutes late for a dinner date. Still, MacMillan's respect for Miriam's boating skills onboard ship led him to one day accept her as a crew member on his own schooner.

...Courageous Traveler

When Miriam was 29 years old, she married Captain Mac. After a few years, she decided she had waited long enough to meet her husband's friends in the North. She told Mac that she was going with him to the town of Nain, on the coast of Labrador. He agreed, only if she got to the Labrador town of Hopedale herself. Determined to win the race, Miriam traveled first by train and then by mail carrier up Labrador's coast, learning some of the Inuit language, wearing custom-made Inuit clothing, and swapping stories with locals who knew her husband well. She reached Hopedale days before her husband. When Mac finally sailed in, he mistook Miriam and her friend Fan for two Inuit women, crowded into one of the dozens of boats that had gone out to meet him.

Bowdoin, which had just dropped anchor off Bustins Island, and asked him if he needed a lift. MacMillan accepted, and complimented her on her expert control of the *Sea Pup*.

...Arctic Explorer

Miriam joined MacMillan on nine Arctic expeditions. She was in charge of ship supplies, served on the crew of the *Bowdoin*, and organized supplies for the MacMillan-Moravian school her husband founded in 1929. She traveled through the icy waters around Labrador, Baffin Land, and Greenland, within 660 miles of the North Pole.

...Cinematographer

On her trips to the Arctic, Miriam shot extensive movie footage of the region's people and landscape. Much of the film she took made it easier for people then and now to understand Arctic life.

...Writer

Miriam also wrote books inspired by her travels. Her first, *Green Seas and White Ice* (1948), is an autobiographical account of her first two adventures in the North, and the others, *Etuk, the Eskimo Hunter* (1950) and *Kudla and His Polar Bear* (1953), are fictional stories about the Inuit.



Miriam on an iceberg, at right.