

Alaska State Library
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

Burger, William H., Collector

William H. Burger Photograph Collection, 1901-1907

PCA 204

46 photographs

Processed by: Staff

ACQUISITION: William Burger, Jr., donated the album to the Historical Library in 1982.

ACCESS: The collection is available for viewing, however the photographs may not be photocopied.

COPYRIGHT: Request for permission to publish or reproduce material from the collection should be discussed with the Librarian.

PROCESSING: The photographs (sepia tone and cyanotype) came to the Historical Collections fastened to paper with glue. The paper is acidic and the glue has begun to bleed through some of the images.

Biographical Note

William Henry Burger (Sr.) was born in 1874 in Caribou, Colorado and graduated from the University of Colorado. He taught at the University and later went to work for the engineering corps of the Colorado and Northwest Railway.

He joined the U.S. Coast & Geodetic Survey (U.S.C.&G.S.) in 1897 and remained with that organization until 1910. As he surveyed and traveled from Maine to Alaska he photographed the landscapes and people. In 1901, he was the surveyor/recorder aboard the U.S.C.&G.S. Steamer, *Gedney*, when the Alaskan Coast was being surveyed.

Later he joined the engineering faculty of Northwestern University and stayed to become professor emeritus. He married Elizabeth Shotwell in 1912 and had a son and daughter (William Henry, Jr. and Elizabeth). He was a fellow of the American Geophysical Union. William Burger died in Evanston, Ill., in 1962.

Scope and Content Note

The album contains views of Alaskan towns and communities, people and activities aboard the U.S.C.&G.S. Steamer, *Gedney* and miscellaneous non-Alaskan views. Pencil captions accompany most of the images.

Inventory

- 1 Officers on *Gedney* [six officers on deck of ship; Wm Burger is 3rd from right].
- 2 Party on *Gedney*, San Francisco, before departure to Alaska [11 men and women on deck of ship].
- 3 Icy Strait, Alaska [view from ship of the Strait: hills and mountains beyond].
- 4 Steamer *Gedney* [at anchor in unidentified port].
- 5 *McArthur* [small steamship with people on deck]
- 6 *Gedney* [three men on ship's deck].
- 7 Ice floes from Muir Glacier, Glacier Bay, Alaska [view from water; mountains beyond].
- 8 Hoonah, Alaska [view from water].

- 9 [Parliament buildings, Victoria, 1901].
- 10 Berkley [Berkeley] 1901 [buildings on University of California campus] .
- 11 Entrance Island, Swanson Harbor, Alaska [wooded island, left].
- 12 Pilot house, Str. *Gedney* [close-up view].
- 13 [Two officers from Str. *Gedney* in Indian burial grounds, Ketchikan, Alaska].
- 14 Near Hoonah, Alaska, Sept. 1901 [3 men near stern of boat; wooded land beyond].
- 15 Scheme of triangulation, Icy Strait and Port Frederick, Alaska, 1901.
- 16 W.H.B. observing Icy Strait [2 men near large triangular marker; one using survey equipment].
- 17 McGrath - hunting, Queen Charlotte Island, B.C. [man on tree stump with gun].
- 18 Mt. St. Elias - Alaska [view of mountain from water].
- 19 *Gedney* - Stuart St. wharf San Francisco, 1901 [broadside view of docked ship].
- 20 Susie Bellit, Sitka, 1901 [Young woman in small boat, holding oars].
- 21 Ketchikan, 1901 [view of town from water].
- 22 Berkley [Berkeley], 1901 [campus buildings, University of California Berkeley].
- 23 Will Nohl, Texas [man in horse-drawn wagon].
- 24 Point Isabel, Arizona [goat in fenced yard].
- 25 [Man standing in front of tent].
- 26 [Icebergs in water; mountains beyond].
- 27 [Girl, man and woman standing with cows inside corral]
- 28 Juneau, Alaska, 1901 [view from Gastineau Channel; Mt. Juneau beyond].
- 29 [Large windmill on Long Island.] Oct. 1907.

- 30 [Towns on either side of Hudson River, New York.] Oct. 1907.
- 31 [Two story house at foot of hill.] Sept. 1907.
- 32 St. Elias, Alaska [distant view of the mountain from an unnamed beach].
- 33 San Francisco [group portrait of 5 women at San Francisco: all are wearing hats].
- 34 Juneau, Alaska [stores and houses of Juneau from hill above].
- 35 Berkley [Berkeley] oaks [2 people on tree-lined walk].
- 36 Parliament Bldg., Victoria, B.C. [view from the water; building beyond brick wall].
- 37 Whale boat sounding. Icy Strait 16 men in boat near a beach].
- 38 Killisnoo, Alaska [boat in harbor, town buildings beyond].
- 39 Officers of *Gedney* [5 men in uniform on deck of ship].
- 40 Capt's daughter [young woman seated on wall; building beyond].
- 41 *Gedney* in Ice St. [distant view of ship; wooded islands and mountains beyond].
- 42 Wardroom - with 2 pilots [4 men seated near a table; 4 men standing].
- 43 [Navy ship in waters near San Francisco.]
- 44 [Masted ship in Glacier Bay.]
- 45 Susie Bellit, Sitka [young woman seated in small open boat].
- 46 William Henry Burger (Sr.) Evanston, Illinois; ca. 1933 [half-length portrait of Mr. Burger wearing hat and writing on pad of paper].

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