

**Guide to Collection**

**Bernard, Father Joseph, S.J., Collector**

**Father Joseph Bernard Photograph Collection, ca. 1906-1916**

**PCA 267**

**Biographical Note**

Joseph Bernard was born in France in 1875 and while a student at Jersey, England was recruited as a missionary to the Nome mission by Father De La Motte. At that time Alaska was a part of the Rocky Mountain Mission. In 1903 he sailed for the United States and worked at the St Ignatius Mission near Missoula, Montana before being ordained a priest in 1906 at Gonzaga University.

Father Bernard arrived in Nome on August 2, 1906 and after a brief training period was assigned to Mary's Igloo. From there he traveled by dog team to gold camps and Eskimo camps on the Seward Peninsula, including Nome and Teller.

In 1909 he left Alaska for further studies at Canterbury, England; while there he held lectures about the Alaska Missions, using 120 glass-slides to illustrate the talks. He was very happy to return to Alaska and Mary's Igloo in 1911 where he was greeted enthusiastically by the Eskimos and his lead dog, Spot.

Reluctantly he left for France when called to military duty during World War I. He served as an interpreter and orderly officer for 3 1/2 years, always hoping to return to Alaska and his mission at Mary's Igloo.

After his discharge from the armed forces, he petitioned the Society of Jesus superiors for permission to return to Alaska; he was refused. He was assigned to work as a retreat master in France and Switzerland, a position he held for 32 years.

A more detailed account of his life and work is in the 1976 summer issue of the *Alaska Journal*.

### Scope and Contents Note

This collection of postcard views represents a small number of photographs Father Bernard took while in Alaska. They are Series 9 and 10 and were printed in France. Images include the Catholic Mission, Seward Peninsula; Eskimos; portraits; dog teams, between 1906-1916.

### Inventory of Photographs

- 1 Fr. Joseph Bernard, S. J. [Man seated on wooden steps with dog in foreground; Mary's Igloo Mission, 1913].
- 2 Tame Reindeer, Mary's Igloo Mission, 1908 [man holding rope from reindeer's bridle].
- 3 Youngsters in furs! Mary's Igloo Mission, 1912 [six Eskimo children seated on sled].
- 4 Gussie Onnakussik and her little sister, Agnes; Mary's Igloo Mission--1912 [two girls in parkas; large white goose (?) hanging between them].
- 5 Father Joseph Bernard's Dog Team. Mary's Igloo Mission on the way to Wales, 1912 [team in harness beside elevated burial structure].
- 6 Her treasure, Nome--1908 [Eskimo woman holding baby].
- 7 Eskimo Family--from Wale; Nome 1912 [man and woman with two small children].
- 8 Seal hunter in his kayak, Nome -- 1912 [dock in background].
- 9 Eskimos, fishing camp, Teller -- 1908 [two children, foreground, with tent and fish on drying rack in background].
- 10 Playing mama, Teller -- 1912 [young girl with baby on back].
- 11 House and chapel at Mary's Igloo Mission [exterior view; dog team, sled and driver, foreground].

- 12 Traveling on Nome River near Nugget R&H [roadhouse] 1907 [dog team with sled and driver].
- 13 Fr. Joseph Bernard S. J. who founded the mission at Mary's Igloo (April 1907) [full face 3/4 length portrait of Bernard wearing fur parka and gloves].
- 14 Eskimo family, Nome 1908 [two adults and two children].
- 15 Breakup on the Kuzitrin River -- June 1908 [ice floes, foreground; Mary's Igloo Mission on shore in background].
- 16 Joseph Anneak -- altar boy of the mission; Mary's Igloo Mission 1908 [full face 3/4 length portrait of young boy wearing fur parka].
- 17 Northern light in furs -- Mary's Igloo Mission, 1908 [full length full face portrait of a young woman wearing fur parka and holding small animal].
- 18 Mother and daughter -- Mary's Igloo Mission, 1908 [full face full length portrait of two Eskimo women; both wearing fur parkas].
- 19 R. Rev. R. Crimont, S.J. .... Nome 1912 [full face full length portrait of Bishop Crimont wearing fur parka; dog, right].
- 20 Fr. Joseph Bernard, S.J. mushing behind ... dog team -- 1912 on way to Nome [full face full length portrait of Bernard standing behind sled].

*[The envelopes for the Series 9 and 10 postcard size photographs follows the photographs.]*