

**Alaska State Library  
Historical Collections**

Guide to Collection

**Captain George H. Whitney Photograph Collection, 1886-1910**

**PCA 300**

281 photographs

Processed: 1988; Additions 12/94

**Biographical Note**

Captain George H. Whitney was born in New Brunswick, Canada on October 22, 1858 and went to sea at a young age. He came to Alaska from San Francisco in 1898 when he was transferred to the Sitka office of the Steamboat Inspection Service. In 1912 the office moved to Juneau and Whitney was placed in charge as Local Inspector of Hulls, from which post he retired in 1928. During his 16 years in Juneau, he was also active with the Scottish Rite Masons and as director of First National Bank there. Captain Whitney also had interests in Ketchikan Power & Light Co., a pulp and paper plant on the Speel River, and chrome mining in southcentral Alaska. He died in California on January 5, 1936.

**Scope and Contents Note**

Captain Whitney's career with the Inspection Service took him to many Alaskan ports. The collection of 184 photographs covers numerous coastal communities from Ketchikan to Golovnin Bay, including many views from the Aleutian Islands. There are also views of the Tanana River, hunting and fishing, canneries, ships, Russian Orthodox churches, a voyage on the S.S. DORA in 1907, and totem poles. The photographs were donated to the library in 1988 by a relative, Evelyn Whitney of California. An album containing 97 postcards was donated in 1992.

## Inventory

1. [Men unloading fish from barge.]
2. [Fish camp on shoreline of low hill.]
3. [Three Native men in open boat.]
4. [Two Native boys near houses.]
5. [Looking down on man in swamped boat.]
6. [Woman cleaning fish at water's edge.]
7. [Two men paddling a three-hole kayak.] Blurred view.
8. [Man with empty sled and dog team.] Blurred view.
9. [Crowd on wharf awaiting ship.]
10. [Kodiak, possibly covered in ash after the 1912 Katmai eruption. Russian Orthodox cemetery in foreground.]
11. [Cannery buildings along shoreline, possibly Kodiak Island.]
12. [Latourche; mining buildings along forested shoreline.]
13. [Two buildings on rocky beach below steep mountainside.]
14. [Steep island.]
15. [Two men with rifles and two deer carcasses on beach.]
16. [Portions of three deer carcasses hanging from a branch.]
17. [Men with two open boats and gear on rocky beach.] Blurred view.
18. [Twin Glaciers and Taku Inlet.]
19. [Mountains across water.]
20. [Two hunters posed with two mountain goats on rocky slope.]
21. [Two hunters posed with three mountain goats in grass.]

22. [Two men in open boat below wharf.]
23. [Small log cabin in deciduous forest.]
24. [Two men barely visible behind large bear carcass lying on the snow.]
25. [Dead bear lying in brush.]
26. [Man chopping wood in front of small cabin; bear hides tacked on the shed wall and stretched on the ground.]
27. [Man standing on small boat(?); two men seated in background.]
28. [Two men and child leaving shore in small open boat.]
29. PRINCESS MAY, August 5, 1910 [ship balanced on rocks near Sentinel Island in Lynn Canal]. *W.H. Case* (no. 2)
30. Juneau, Alaska [looking past boats in harbor toward waterfront at base of Mt. Juneau]. *Winter & Pond* (no. 398)
31. [Fort Wrangell.]
32. Dog Team, Valdez [harnessed to empty sled; bystanders at left, winter view].
33. Wrangell, Alaska. 1907 [view from water]. *Worden*
34. Fort Seward. Haines, Alaska [distant view of Army compound across water].
35. [Looking down a curving beach with rocky cliffs and a few buildings.]
36. Pyramid Harbor, Alaska [two buildings nestled in brush above rocky beach; snowy mountains across water].
37. Steamer POLAR BEAR, Nushagak, 1908 [stern view of boat offshore of the village].
38. Seldovia. Bear [leashed cub standing on its hind legs for a tidbit].
39. S.S. "DORA" Passengers at Seldovia, July 1907 [men, women and children posed on steps of building].
40. Castle Cape [near Chignik on the Alaska Peninsula].
41. Natives and Native Houses, Seldovia [three Caucasian women standing next to log house with thatched roof].

42. [U.S.S. YORKTOWN at anchor. Same as 77.]
43. Red Salmon Cannery, N.W. Fisheries Co., Chignik, Alaska. *Thwaites*
44. [Russian Orthodox Church at Kodiak with pond, ca. 1900.]
45. Round Isl. (Egg Isl.), Coal Harbor ... [view across water].
46. Russian Church. Nushagak, Alaska [interior view toward altar area]. *Thwaites*
47. Unga, Alaska [village and small dock at shoreline]. *Thwaites*
48. Homer, Alaska [men in small boat off a low beach with houses].
49. U.S.S. Cutter MANNING at Unalaska [docked at left; smaller boats in harbor].
50. Castle Rock. 1779 ... Fire Is., 1883. Perry Island. Cooling off, 1906+. Bogosloff Isds. [Three distant islands, center island smoking heavily.]
51. Unalaska, Alaska [view across channel to buildings and large, angular wharf at base of mountains.] *Thwaites*
52. [Crowd of people around three leashed bear cubs.]
53. S.S. DORA Passengers, 1907 [seven men and four women posed on deck, including two clergymen, possibly Russian Orthodox].
54. Wrangell, Alaska. March 1907 [view across water from beach]. *Worden*
55. Japanese Sealer, Seized July 1907 [AIWO(?) TOKIYO at anchor at Unalaska].
56. [Native group in western dress; man at center holds painted woven hat].
57. Schr. VOLUNTEER, Capt. Ross [2-masted schooner; distant view].
58. Masons Camp, Wrangell Narrows [log cabin and tent on forested beach].
59. Sand Point, Alaska. S.S. DORA, 4-6-06 [view of houses on shoreline probably taken from the DORA, April 6, 1906]. *Thwaites*
60. Masons Camp, Wrangell Narrows [log building on edge of forested beach; continues the right side of no. 58].

61. Mt. Shushildon Vol. 15 Mi. to base [view across water to Shishaldin Volcano].  
*Thwaites*. Dark view.
62. Masons Camp, Wrangell Narrows [log cabin at top of beach; continues the left side of no. 58].
63. Castle Cape, Chignik, Alaska. S.S. DORA [view across water]. *Thwaites*
64. [Masons Camp, Wrangell Narrows. Men working on the end of a log building.]
65. "A.C." Point. Iliamna Bay, Alaska [view across water to snowy mountains].
66. Petersburg [buildings on curving beach with calm water].
67. Pyramid Harbor [distant view across water of buildings on forested shoreline; rocky beach in the foreground].
68. [Masons Camp, Wrangell Narrows. Men working on long log building.]
69. Chilkat and Chilkoot Inlets [looking up Lynn Canal].
70. [View from beach to opposite shoreline; pile of lumber in the foreground. Probably Masons Camp, Wrangell Narrows.]
71. Davidson Glacier, 1906 [distant view across water].
72. [Masons Camp, Wrangell Narrows. Houseboats and large logs lying on the beach near log buildings.]
73. Glacier, Alaska [close view of the face of a glacier with chunks of ice in the foreground].
74. Waterfall, Masons Creek, Wrangell Narrows (opposite Pt. Lockwood beacon).
75. Cascade, Masons Creek, Wrangell Narrows.
76. Valdez Flood, 1905 [wrecked houses sitting in the river].
77. U.S.S. YORKTOWN, 1908 [same as no. 42].
78. Alaska Wonder Mine, Ketchikan [building and forested hill; winter view].
79. [Early Wrangell waterfront.]
80. Whitney's Moose Head, Juneau, 1907. 70-1/2" [mounted trophy hung against canvas backdrop].

81. Petersburg [log cabin under tall trees with boardwalk].
82. At Funter's Bay, May 1907 [view from ship toward docked boat and wharf].
83. The "GEORGIA." Three Friends [three women in long dresses, posed on deck].
84. On Indian River Bridge, Sitka [same three women standing on suspension bridge].
85. [Same three women and a Native woman posed on deck of the ship.]
86. [Same three women standing next to thatched log houses in Seldovia; similar to 41.]
87. At Tenakee, May 1907 [view across water to buildings on stilts].
88. We had a good time on the "GEORGIA," May 1907 [three women and three men standing on deck; Captain Whitney stands at far right].
89. At the great totem pole, Sitka, 1907 [distant view of three women and a man standing next to a totem pole in a clearing].
90. [Seven men and four women posed on deck of ship; similar to 53.]
91. [Two women on porch of house with striped shingle decoration.] Blurred view.
92. Funter's Bay Cannery Residence [two women seated on porch steps, girl standing nearby].
93. The Russian Church at Sitka, we saw it too [front of St. Michael's Cathedral].
94. The Friends' Home at Hoonah, Alaska [four Native women and children in front of frame building; side view].
95. Sitka, Alaska [bird's-eye view over downtown waterfront toward the Sisters]. *Case* (no. 294).
96. Taken from the Stmr. "MARION," May 1907 [iceberg in the water]. Blurred view.
97. Metlakahtla Library and Jail [bicolored building with steps from each side up to central second story door].
98. Ice in Fredrick (sic) Sound.
99. Silver Bay, Sitka, Alaska [scenic view of forested shoreline]. *Case* (no. 904).

100. Mrs. John Dexter (?) and relatives [four Eskimo women and two children in fur parkas standing next to a board and batten building, Golovnin Bay].
101. Golovin (sic) Bay, Alaska [similar to no. 100].
102. Native Bidarkas at Unalaska [men paddling six kayaks].
103. Tanana River Indian Village [distant view of houses on forested shore].
104. Log Cabin Church, Juneau, Alaska, 1889. *Case* (no. 280).
105. First printing office, Cordova, 1906 [tent with doors tied open].
106. Stmr. "ODIAK" on Eyak Lake.
107. Cordova's first railway. The power was a mule [two men walking away on tracks between buildings and tents].
108. Indian River, Sitka, Alaska [looking upstream in forest]. *Case* (no. 286).
109. Indian burial houses, Klawock, Alaska.
110. The dry pass near Shakan [view up waterway with forested shores].
111. Doctor Skow's Grave near the Skookum Chuck - W. Side of Prince of Wales Island, 1905 [distant view of grave house on a forested point].
112. Farther down the pass [scenic view of forested waterway].
113. Old Baranoff Castle, Sitka, Alaska, 1889 [view across water]. (no. 281)
114. Coming home from Ketchikan, May 1907 [iceberg on the water].
115. Burial house near Klawock [grave houses on beach].
116. The "RAGNHILD" and "CAPELLA" [view across water to boats and shoreline].
117. Stmr. "RAGNHILD," Wrangel [side view].
118. Indian River, Sitka, Alaska [suspended bridge and forested stream]. *Case* (no. 216)
119. After the fire, 1907. Ketchikan Light and Power Co. [some sort of wreckage]. Blurred view.
120. Ketchikan Falls by "Barber"(?).

121. Ice on the mill flume, Ketchikan. Blurred view.
122. First beer wagon and brewery, Juneau, Alaska, 1886 [man and dog-powered wheelbarrow loaded with beer kegs on boardwalk].
123. The "TYOONIC" (sic) on the dry dock, Seldovia, June 19th, 1906 [boat stranded on rocks].
124. Norwegian S.S. "THEMIS," Dec. 23, '06, near Scarlet Point, Queen Charlotte Sound by C.S. Hubbell [half sunken steamer].
125. Seldovia, Alaska, Apr. 27th, 1906 [bird's-eye view over village toward islands and snowy mountains on opposite shore]. *Case & Draper* (no. 124).
126. Ice on the flume, 1906 [at Ketchikan]. Blurred view.
127. On the road to the power house, Ketchikan, 1907 [flume(?) and utility wires in forest]. Blurred view.
128. The Launch of the "ONWARD" at Ketchikan, 1906 [small group of men standing on wharf next to suspended boat]. Blurred view.
129. A gas-o(?) drifting ashore at Nome [view from beach].
130. Seldovia, Alaska, Apr. 27th, 1906 [village and boats in harbor]. *Case & Draper* (no. 125).
131. Katashans' Totems, Wrangel (sic) [two totems in front of a large house; beach in foreground is covered with broken lumber].
132. Wrangel [totem pole in front of large house with boardwalk].
133. The Bear Totem, Wrangel [Bear-up-the-Mountain and Go-na-ka-dot totems in front of Chief Shakes' house; side view].
134. Ketchikan - Capt. Swanson's Totem [Chief Johnson's totem pole in front of house with painted whale design on front].
135. The Hadley Smelting plant [view across water to buildings with long chute to the water].
136. Ketchikan Totem [next to house; church in the background].
137. Yakutat, Alaska [distant view across water]. *Case & Draper* (no. 61).

138. Heading for the Dry Pass near Shakan [view from boat to grave houses on island].
139. The Eagles and the Chickens, Seldovia, 1906 [chickens next to a rail fence].
140. Indian Graves near Shakan [view across water].
141. [Two men and loaded packhorses, possibly in the Yukon.]
142. [Riverboat DELTA OF ST. MICHAEL; stern and staboard sides.]
143. [Riverboat DELTA approaching shore.]
144. [Side view of the DELTA (?) on the water.]
145. [Riverboat LOUISE, of St. Michael, moored with barges near shore.]
146. Native canoe racers [three canoes full of people and other boats on water]. *Case & Draper* (no. 114).
147. [Riverboat LOUISE moored next to shore with barges.]
148. [Riverboat and barge moored next to bank.]
149. [View across water to three riverboats moored at shoreline.]
150. [Men in six kayaks; dock at right.]
151. Str. ANKON, Killisnoo, Alaska, 1886 [distant village on opposite shoreline; beach in foreground]. *Case* (no. 246).
152. [Men and horses on beach(?).] Blurred view.
153. [Rear view of men riding horses.]
154. [Pack train coming up a street.] Blurred view.
155. T.P. Co. salmon trap, Kitten Isl., Alaska [ANNA BARRON moored alongside fish trap]. *Case & Draper* (no. 12).
156. [Men in open boats seining off the beach.] Blurred view.
157. [Men standing in netful of fish on the beach.]
158. [Seining operation and boats off the beach.]

159. [Long building at the top of a wide beach.]
160. [Distant view across water to a long building.]
161. [Men on beach and seining boats; distant view.]
162. [Men in boats and seine.]
163. [Shingle house and garden.]
164. [Top of a tree.]
165. [Thatch roofed buildings.]
166. [Tanana River Indian village; similar to 103.]
167. [Village on shoreline.]
168. [Barge and riverboat WILBUR CRIMMINS moored to shore next to pile of lumber.]
169. [Distant view of waterfront buildings, probably on the Tanana River.]
170. [People on dock.] Blurred view.
171. [Looking from roof of a train(?) to a small tunnel.]
172. [Two women and girl standing in front of a column onto which three bear cubs have climbed.] Blurred view.
173. (No photograph for this number.)
174. [Totem pole and fenced house.]
175. [Fairbanks. St. Matthew's Church and Free Public Reading Room (left), and St. Matthew's Hospital (right)].
176. [Buildings on shoreline at base of tall mountain.]
177. [View from ship across water to row of buildings along shoreline.]
178. [Bench with moose and deer antler decorations.]
179. [Two children and a dog seated on a low totem figure.]
180. [Looking up a small brushy stream.]

181. [Gravehouse in bushes.]
182. [Side view of a steamer.]
183. [Woman seated in a clearing.] Blurred view.
184. [Side view of a small boat.]

### **Postcards**

185. Juneau, Alaska.
186. Treadwell Gold Mines, Alaska [two and one half miles from Juneau].
187. Douglas, Alaska [2 miles from Juneau].
188. Sitka, Alaska.
189. Lowman & Hanford S. & P. Co., Seattle.
190. Lowman & Hanford S. & P. Co., Seattle.
191. Wrangell, Alaska.
192. Lowman & Hanford S. & P. Co., Seattle.
193. Eskimos of Alaska and Siberia [Northwest Coast Natives. They are good types].
194. Muir Glacier.
195. A Mining Scene in Alaska.
196. Miners' Winter Quarters, Alaska.
197. [Juneau from the hillside - Douglas Island and Treadwell mines showing in the distance.]
198. [Indian River bridge near Sitka.]
199. [The open boat is "umiak" - the small covered one a kayak or Bidarka - they are covered with seal or walrus hide.]
200. ["Just landed" - Natives at St. Michael.]
201. An Alaskan Dog Team [This is a good picture showing mode of winter travel].

202. Totem poles of Alaskan Indians [Howkan, West Coast Prince of Wales Island, Southeastern Alaska].
203. Haines Mission, Alaska [military post Seward in the square].
204. Steamer "Dawson" in Five Fingers [rapids], Yukon Territory.
205. [The flagstaff at Unalaska and types of old Russian graves.]
206. [The beach at Unalaska.]
207. [Natives at St. Michael, ready for a move.]
208. [A bunch of Natives in Bidarkis(sic) returning from a seal hunt. St. Michael, Alaska.]
209. [The "Parkas" are made of reindeer skins trimmed with wolf.]
210. Six Little Arctic Natives. *F.H. Nowell*
211. [Unalaska Inner Harbor.]
212. [Native Camp at St. Michael.]
213. [Indian Country. Aniak, Yukon River.]
214. [The Old Treadwell Mine still producing.]
215. [Yukon River towing steamer.]
216. ["At home" in a little old log cabin by the Yukon River side, Aug. 1905.]
217. Shooting White Horse Rapids, Yukon Territory.
218. Eskimos and their igloo.
219. Reindeer Herders' Wives, Cape Prince of Wales.
220. [St. Michael Natives.]
221. [The road to Indian River about 1-1/2 miles from Sitka--once my usual morning walk.]
222. Taku Glacier, near Juneau, Alaska.

223. [A small berg having been towed in to fill an ice house - in this way the town's ice is procured.]
224. [Ship "Dora" at Columbia Glacier. Prince William Sound, Alaska, July 1906.]
225. Ptarmigan, or arctic grouse, showing seasonal variation of plumage.
226. Esquimalt Harbor, B.C.
227. Mt. Shasta from Shasta Springs, California [Dec. 8th, 1905. Am homeward bound].
228. The Gorge, Victoria, B.C.
229. [Dutch Harbor. U.S. Revenue Cutter "Manning" and merchant vessels.]
230. [An Indian camp on Douglas Island.]
231. Eskimo Camp, Nome Beach, Alaska, 1905 [The umiak furnishes transportation or a home as the necessity arises].
232. [Native child in Bidarki. St. Michael, Alaska.]
233. [An Indian country at Aniak, Yukon River. The cooking utensils are punctured to keep white men from stealing them.]
234. [Indian women and children in winter costume, Golovin Bay, Alaska, 1905.]
235. [The rock Anvil City now Nome was named from - at a distance the likeness is striking.]
236. [Indian Boys at Holy Cross Mission, Yukon River, Alaska. The mosquito nets look like cowles over their heads - Holy + [Holy Cross] has the best garden on Yukon.]
237. Log Cabin Church. Juneau, Alaska [The church is one of the first in the country - was sold some years since by the Presbyterians to a brewery company - now their office better have torn it down].
238. [Holy Cross Mission - the garden in front and chicken ranch on the hillside with high fence to keep dogs out.]
239. [Russian Mission, Yukon River.]
240. [One of the many [icebergs] floating in Gastineau Channell (sic).]
241. [Native Child, St. Michael, Alaska.]

242. [The Northern Commercial Co. warehouses, St. Michael, and some of the river fleet.]
243. [Mt. Shisheldon [Shishaldin], a volcano in western Alaska - often active, not in 1906.]
244. Water front. Seattle, Wash.
245. Mossbrae Falls, Shasta Springs, California.
246. Victoria Public Library, Victoria, B.C.
247. [S.F. [San Francisco] Ferry Building.]
248. Government Buildings. Victoria, B.C. *H. S. Henderson.*
249. Siwash Indian Basket Maker, Washington State. *Lowman & Hanford, S. & P. Co., Seattle.*
250. Saw Tooth Mountains from tunnel, White Pass & Yukon Railway.
251. Chief Catashan [Kadishan] [two totem poles in front of building]. *F.W. Carlyon*
252. [One of the "Rockets" ready for a trip up the Yukon.] [Steamer.]
253. [The old Block house, Sitka - passing through June 5th 1906 bound westward.]
254. [The costumes are winter clothing. The Parka is worn by both sexes but the difference in patterns not noticeable in picture.]
255. [Native Children enjoying their first watermelon.]
256. [Indian Totem Poles at Wrangel(sic) Alaska.
257. An Alaska Indian.
258. Chief Ka-Ann Totem Pole. Ketchikan, Alaska. *Case & Draper*
259. Alaska Building, Seattle [The City's Best].
260. [Caribou.]
261. Mt. Edgecombe(sic). Sitka, Alaska. *Winter & Pond*
262. Native women weaving baskets, Alaska. *Winter & Pond*
263. [Road to Indian River, Alaska.]

264. [Indian River Bridge, Sitka.]
265. Yukon Dog Team, Alaska. *Winter & Pond*
266. [Village of KlinQuon(sic) [Klinkwan] and totem poles - situated on the end of Prince of Wales Island, Alaska.]
267. Muir Glacier, Alaska. *Winter & Pond*
268. [Mt. Edgecomb (sic) near Sitka, Alaska.]
269. Greek Church, Sitka, Alaska [and] Interior Greek Church. *Winter & Pond*
270. Sitka and Indian Village, Alaska. *Winter & Pond*
271. Madonna in Greek Church, Sitka, Alaska [copy of a celebrated painting; the vestments are of beaten gold and silver, the workmanship said to be the finest work of its class].
272. U.S. Courthouse, Juneau, Alaska. *Case & Draper*
273. Tomcod Fishers out on Bering Sea.
274. Grave Totems, Howkan, Alaska. *Winter & Pond*
275. ["Santa Clara" and "Georgia" at Juneau.]
276. [Dog salmon.]
277. Front Street, Ketchikan, Alaska. *P.E. Kern, Skagway, Alaska*
278. Native Alaska Baskets [S.E. Alaska work]. *P.E. Kern, Skagway, Alaska*
279. Sitka, Alaska.
280. Chilkat Blanket, Alaska. *P.E. Kern, Skagway, Alaska*
281. [Ferndale, Calif.]
282. Cordova, Alaska, June 11th, 1906 [paddlewheel boat, log boom from the water]. *E.A. Hegg*