

Alaska State Library
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

Bernard, Joseph-Fidèle, 1878-1972

Joseph-Fidèle Bernard Photograph Collection, 1901-1923

PCA 425-13

4 Folders
200 photographic images

Processed by: Ken Nail, Jr., LAM
Revised by: Alea Oien, 3/2009
Anastasia Tarmann, 2011

ACQUISITION: This Joseph F. Bernard collection of 200 photographs was donated by Robert N. DeArmond in 2001. Accessioned October 1, 2001. Accession number 2001-081. In addition, according to correspondence in the master file, a Joseph F. Bernard Photograph Collection of 135 photographs was sent to the Alaska State Library Historical Collections in May or June of 1970 by Augusta B. Perry of Conway New Hampshire, daughter of Peter T. Bernard, uncle of Joseph F. Bernard. Historical Collections agreed to make copies and then send the originals to the Nome Museum and Library. There is no other record of the copies.

ACCESS: The collection is unrestricted.

COPYRIGHT: Request for permission to publish or reproduce material from the collection should be discussed with the Librarian. Photocopying does not constitute permission to publish.

PROCESSING: This collection has been described at the item level. Smaller photographs have been placed in mylar and all items placed into pH-neutral folders. Folder four contains enlarged duplicates.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Taken from Joseph F. Bernard Typescript:

I was born in Tiginish, Prince Edward Island, on the 23d of December 1878; coming to the United States in 1900 and shipped on a fishing boat out of Portland, Maine. In 1901 I came to Alaska and landed at Nome in June of that year.

Engaging in coastwise trade and in company with my uncle, Peter Bernard, we built a schooner "August C" in 1903 and traded along the coast of Alaska and the coast of Siberia.

In 1908 I went to Seattle and built a trading schooner the "Teddy Bear" and sailed her up the Alaska Coast and on to Siberia. In 1909 I sailed up the Coast and wintered at Barter Island. That winter I lost my partner who froze to death.

In the summer of 1910 the voyage was continued into Coronation Gulf with a crew of natives (Eskimos) and then wintered at the Koguerukuk River east of the copper mine, in 1910.

In the summer of 1911 we came back to Bailey Island and wintered there. In the summer of 1912 I went back East and wintered in a harbor on the mainland coast of Dolphin and Union Straits. This harbor became known and was charted by Geodetic Surveyors of Canada as Bernard Harbor. The summer of 1913 was a closed season (icebound) the ice in Dolphin and Union Straits did not move.

I got out of a winter harbor late in August and in trying to make my way westward I was frozen in on the 28th day of August at Lady Richardson Bay, Victoria Land and was forced to winter there on very short rations as our supply was used up and we had to live strictly on the country and game was very scarce.

We got out of winter quarters on the 4th day of August, 1914, the day war was declared on Germany and made our way to the westward through broken ice, met the Canadian Arctic Expedition, Southern Party, under command of Dr. Anderson off the Smokey Mountain. We tied up and exchanged news.

They were going East and wanted information about wintering quarters somewhere in Dolphin and Union Straits. I gave them a chart that I had made of the place where I had wintered. They occupied the same place for a couple of years and named it on their charts - Bernard Harbor.

I got out that year and wintered in San Francisco and Los Angeles in 1915 and 1916. And in the summer of 1916 went back into the Arctic and wintered in Koguerukuk River.

In the summer of 1917 wintered at Taylor Island, eastern portion of Victoria Land, where I froze in on the 29th of August, 1917 and only came out of the ice on the first day of September, 1919, namely 25 months in the ice, and wintered in the Koguerukuk River again and came out in 1920.

In the winter of 1921-1922 I shipwrecked on the Chuktcher Shore, Siberia. In the summer of 1922 I made the attempt to reach Wrangel Island to rescue the occupation party left there by Stephanson. Due to the ice I was unable to get to Wrangel Island and subsequently all of the party but one perished.

In the year 1923 I went up the coast of Point Barrow and was caught in the ice, when the Hudson's Bay Company boat "Lady Kindersley" was caught in an ice-jam, drifted and was finally abandoned some 50 miles northeast of Point Barrow.

And in the same ice-jam the four-masted schooner "Arctic" was crushed near Cape Smet, Point Barrow. I was pushed high and dry on the beach by the same ice-jam.

After laying there for a week the ice opened and I was able to get out, sailed southward to Cordova on the "Teddy Bear" and have been here ever since.

Joseph F. Bernard

SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE

The Joseph Bernard Photographs include ethnographic views of Native Alaskan and Siberian communities, villages and housing (barabaras) from 1901-1924 and include scenes of people, families, birds, seal hunting, walrus and whales. The photos also include pictures of sail powered ships trapped and crushed in the ice.

The collection's 200 photographs are all black and white and the prints range in sizes from 2 x 3, 3 x 5 and 5 x 7. The collection also includes a three-page typescript which details Bernard's activities in the Arctic during the years encompassed by the collection, 1901-1924. The document is signed Joseph F. Bernard.

SUBJECTS

Alaska, Arctic, Siberia, Eskimos, schooners, Dolphin and Union Straits, Canada, Victoria Island, Barter Island, Wrangell Island, Stephanson, Point Barrow, ice.

INVENTORY

Folder 1 of 4

Transcript of Joseph Bernard biography.

- 1 [Native child holding harpoon.]
- 2 [Bird on beach]
- 3 [Schooner floating in icy waters]
- 4 [Whale on ice]
- 5 [Birds]

- 6 [Icy beach]
- 7 [Smiling Native]
- 8 [Native]
- 9 [Bird]
- 10 [Bird in field]
- 11 [Schooner]
- 12 [Seals on rocky coast]
- 13 [Schooner and oil drums]
- 14 [Bird on beach]
- 15 [Schooner trapped in ice; photographer in foreground]
- 16 [Schooner trapped in ice]
- 17 [Native children]
- 18 [Village]
- 19 [Native in front of stone building]
- 20 [Native girl in front of building]
- 21 [Profile portrait of native]
- 22 [Wood post on beach]
- 23 [Dog sled and musher]
- 24 [Schooner trapped in ice]
- 25 [Bird in field; possibly a "golden plover"]
- 26 [Boats and Natives on beach]
- 27 [Marshland]
- 28 [no description]
- 29 [Smiling Native girl]
- 30 [canoe holding two persons]
- 31 [three native children]
- 32 [nest]
- 33 [no description]
- 34 [two native children in front of long boat; schooner in background]
- 35 [Whale bones]
- 36 [Schooner trapped in ice]
- 37 [Smiling native]
- 38 [newborn birds]
- 39 [bird in field]
- 40 [no description]
- 41 [3 Sailors, non-native]
- 42 [3 birds in field]
- 43 [4-masted schooner]
- 44 [natives on beach, 1 child]
- 45 [close-up of native]
- 46 [native in walking cap]
- 47 [skulls on beach]
- 48 [Village buildings]
- 49 [Seals]
- 50 [Inside a long boat]
- 51 [Man on ice]
- 52 [Schooner trapped in ice]

- 53 [Schooner trapped in ice]
- 54 [Native girl, prominent earrings]
- 55 [Close-up of elderly Native Alaskan]
- 56 [Long boat and spectators on beach; village in background]
- 57 [no description]
- 58 [Smiling Native in front of a schooner]
- 59 [2 Native Alaskans seated on ground in front of building]
- 60 [Native Alaskan Child]
- 61 [3 Native Alaskan Children on swings]
- 62 [Long boat under sail]
- 63 [Schooner trapped in ice]
- 64 [4-masted schooner in ice]
- 65 [Driftwood from shipwreck]
- 66 ["Teddy Bear," Bernard schooner]
- 67 [Beached long boat]
- 68 [Wood from shipwreck]
- 69 ["Golden Plover"]
- 70 [Driftwood from shipwreck]
- 71 [Shipwreck]
- 72 [Metal from shipwreck?]
- 73 [Driftwood]
- 74 [Bird in field]
- 75 ["Teddy Bear"]
- 76 [Driftwood piled against a rock wall]
- 77 [Skull]
- 78 [Pennants on schooner mast]
- 79 [Natives standing on ice]
- 80 [Native Alaskan woman; hills in background]
- 81 [Bearded man]
- 82 [Native on board a wrecked vessel]
- 83 [3 sailors]
- 84 [3 Natives aboard schooner; village in background]
- 85 [Natives with long boat on beach]
- 86 [Native children]
- 87 [Coastline, from offshore]
- 88 [Native Alaskan Child; eyes closed]
- 89 [Natives on beach]
- 90 [Rocky Hillside]
- 91 [Inspecting seals]
- 92 [Onboard schooner; mountains in background]
- 93 [Schooner in ice]
- 94 [Driftwood on beach]
- 95 [Walrus on beach]
- 96 [Native young man]
- 97 [Native children]
- 98 [Native girl; building to her left]
- 99 [Native woman and child]

- 100 [Dog sled and musher]
- 101 [Native adult and child on beach]
- 102 [no description]
- 103 [Eight natives on ice at water's edge]
- 104 [Native woman and three children]
- 105 [Native children with boat in background]
- 106 [Skins]
- 107 [Building a native house]
- 108 [Schooner trapped in ice]
- 109 [Stone building]
- 110 [Native in foreground; schooner in background]
- 111 [Native woman]

Folder 2 of 4

- 1 Chuktcher House. Emma Town. Siberia
- 2 [Schooner trapped in ice]
- 3 [Five Native children]
- 4 [Native woman standing on wood structure]
- 5 [Onboard Schooner; 3 Native men]
- 6 [10 men grouped on snow bank]
- 7 [Dog sleds, mushers]
- 8 [Onboard long boat in foreground; 3 steamers in background]
- 9 [Four Native children]
- 10 [Seven whales on icy beach]
- 11 [Dog sled, mushers]
- 12 [Onboard schooner, sailors]
- 13 [Onboard schooner, trapped in ice]
- 14 [Dog sled, mushers]
- 15 [Native man with sled (foreground); schooner in ice (background)]
- 16 [Schooner trapped in ice]
- 17 [Six Native children, girls and boys]
- 18 [Schooner trapped in ice]
- 19 [Eight Native children]
- 20 [Whale bone; structure in background]
- 21 [Native village in background, snow in foreground]
- 22 [Musher seated on sled, no dogs]
- 23 [Bare-legged Native girl, dogs in snow]
- 24 [3 Men and stores for schooner]
- 25 [Rocky coast; poor print]
- 26 [Schooner trapped in ice, two men]
- 27 [Dog sled, musher]
- 28 [Native man holding saw; sled frame in background]

Folder 3 of 4

- 1 [3 boats in harbor]
- 2 [Schooner surrounded by ice]
- 3 [Native woman and 2 children seated in front of skin covered home]
- 4 [Round house covered with skins]
- 5 [Frame for round house]
- 6 Chuktcher "Bells"
- 7 Chuktcher Group Siberia Native
- 8 Group of Chuktcher; J.F.B.; F 2
- 9 "Arctic in lee pack; crushed Aug. 10/24"
- 10 [Machinery in foreground; airplane and Model T in background]
- 11 [Boats in harbor; supplies on dock]
- 12 [Native woman, 4 children]
- 13 [3 Native children]
- 14 [8 men in long boat]
- 15 [Round house; stand for skins to right of house]
- 16 [Schooner at anchor, two sails]
- 17 [3 Native children, one on the shoulders of the eldest]
- 18 "House of Sugar Boxes - N. Siberia"
- 19 [Hillside community of houses on stilts]
- 20 [Canoe frame atop posts]
- 21 [Twelve Native children]
- 22 [Frame for round house]
- 23 [Tent community; one frame building]
- 24 [Horse-drawn sleigh (2 horses); dog sled and musher]
- 25 [Coastal village of wood frame houses]
- 26 [snow covered coast]
- 27 [Rocky coast, hillside houses]
- 28 [3 Natives in front of wood and skin structure]
- 29 Siberia "Bells"
- 30 [4 Native children with "Siberia `Bells`"]
- 31 [4 Natives outside a skin-covered round house]
- 32 [Schooner on beach, undergoing repairs(?)]
- 33 [Two skin-covered round houses]
- 34 [Frame partially covered with skins]
- 35 [4 Natives on beach and outside a round house]
- 36 [Rock-strewn landscape; harpoons or spears in front of a structure (?)]
- 37 [17 Natives on beach, various ages]
- 38 [no description; rocky landscape]
- 39 [2 Native children in front of tents]
- 40 [7 Natives: 2 adults, 5 children] in front of a round house]
- 41 "Teddy Bear 70° N"
- 42 [Hillside village on coast seen from water]
- 43 [Schooner in ice on coast; hillside village of round houses in mid-picture, mountains in background]
- 44 [Mound of rocks, center of picture; schooner and round house frame in background]

- 45 [Native child and dog]
- 46 [2 boats at anchor]
- 47 [Walrus tusks in foreground; water in background]
- 48 [Walrus at coast]
- 49 [Seal carcasses on beach]
- 50 [Schooner trapped in ice]
- 51 [Round house; one Native standing to right of picture]
- 52 [Heavy equipment in field]

Folder 4 of 4

Tightly curled 5x7 copies of some of the above listed images.