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A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

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"The Lord Will Provide": The History and Role of Episcopalian Christianity in Nets’àií Gwich’in Social Development - Arctic Village, Alaska

Steven C. Dinero

Abstract

This paper addresses the history and development of Episcopalianism in the Nets’àií Gwich’in community of Arctic Village, Alaska. It is argued that Christianity in the village well represents communal resistance to colonial domination, as well as the ability to blend past and present traditions. This development is due largely to the role played by the Gwich’in Reverend Albert E. Tritt, whose efforts, including his building of the community’s first church, were central to the community’s embracing of Christianity. The paper concludes with a discussion of Gwich’in Episcopalianism in the twenty-first century, and its role in the battle against oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Introduction: Christian Evangelism in Native America

The conversion of virtually all of Native America to Christianity has attracted new interest over the past decade. The role that the Christian churches played in the attempt to assimilate and westernize Native American society is well known and has been discussed for several years. Recent literature, however, has emphasized the political role which the evangelizing churches played in the