

# ALASKA HISTORICAL SOCIETY *and* MUSEUMS ALASKA

## 2014 Memorials, Seward

### Doug Beckstead (1958–2014)



Born in 1958 in Salt Lake City, Doug Beckstead served as an Alaska military historian and active Anchorage community volunteer.

Doug graduated from the University of Utah in 1985 with multiple BA degrees, and in 1992 earned Masters degrees in history, law and anthropology.

In 2006 Doug joined the 3rd wing Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson as a military historian, writing the history of the 11th Air Force Alaska NORAD region. He also deployed three times as a civilian and wrote about combat in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Active in historical organizations like the Cook Inlet Historical Society and Alaska Historical Society, he assisted with the National History Day competition. Doug also served the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program and the board of the Assistance Resources of Alaska.

He is survived by his wife of 30 years Carol, and children Rebekkah and Jeremiah and their spouses and children.

### Richard L. Dauenhauer, PhD (1942–2014)



Dick was born April 10, 1942, in Syracuse, N.Y. He studied Russian and Slavic languages at Syracuse University, German at the University of Texas-Austin, then earned a comparative literature Ph.D. at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

In the late 1960s after a Fulbright year in Finland, Dick began teaching literature at Alaska Methodist University in Anchorage where he developed interests in Tlingit linguistics and oral literature. He met and married Nora Marks with whom he collaborated extensively on Tlingit literature, history, culture, and language. They developed Tlingit language books and teaching materials, and collected and translated hundreds of hours of Tlingit language recordings resulting in many publications including “Classics of Tlingit Oral Literature”.

The Dauenhauers’ work with Lydia Black, “Russians in Tlingit America: the Battles of Sitka, 1802 and 1804” won the American Book Award and was transformed into theater by playwright David Hunsaker.

Dick worked with the Sealaska Heritage Center (1983–1997) then became the University of Alaska Southeast Professor of Alaska Native Languages and Culture (2005–2011). He was the State’s 6th Poet Laureate from 1981 to 1988, and in 2013 was awarded the University of Alaska Foundation’s “Edith R. Bullock Prize of Excellence”.

Dick died of pancreatic cancer. He is survived by his wife Nora, her four children and several grandchildren

### Ellen Hope Hays (1927–2013)



Ellen passed away peacefully on Oct. 8, 2013, in the Sitka Pioneers Home. The 7th of 14 children born to Andrew and Tillie Hope of Sitka, she was a Tlingit of the Raven moiety, Kik’sadi Clan and Point House. Her clan name was Kaa Katlin (Raven Looking Forward).

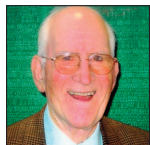
A graduate of the Sheldon Jackson School, Ellen’s professional career included working with the Bureau of Indians Affairs, Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indians of Alaska, and the National Park Service. At the Sitka National Historical Park she became the first woman and first Alaska Native appointed a National Park Service superintendent in the Pacific Northwest

Ellen was also the first woman to apply and be accepted as member of the Alaska Native Brotherhood (ANB). She was instrumental in the ANB’s successful effort to operate the Visitor Center craft shop wing of the Sitka National Historical Park eventually known as the Southeast Alaska Indian Cultural Center.

Ellen promoted the values of art, culture, and the humanities. She served on numerous such commissions including the Alaska Humanities Forum task force, the Alaska State Council on the Arts, and the Alaska Historic Sites Commission. In 1996 she was awarded a University of Alaska Southeast honorary Doctor of Law degree.

Previously married to Roger Lang, Ellen is survived by her husband Henry Hays, daughter Karen Lang Coleman, grandchildren and a great grandson; and 2 brothers, and numerous nieces and nephews.

### John Arthur Miscovich (1918–2014)



Miner and inventor John Miscovich was born in Flat to the Croatian mining family of Peter and Stana Bagoy Miscovich. John was the third of seven children. He passed away in Orange, California.

John attended school in Flat and Fairbanks High School, and was largely self-educated and curious. He said he graduated from the “University of Flat, Alaska.” John served in the WWII Army at Adak and Umnak.

John improved the hydraulic “giants” used by miners to wash away tons of dirt with pressurized water with his “Intelligent” which was adopted not just in mining but also in the vast firefighting industry. He held over 300 US and foreign patents.

He is survived by Mary, his wife of 57 years, sons Peter and John Jr., daughters Maria Obradovic and Sandra Stelmas, and 3 grandchildren. John will soon join his parents Peter and Stana Miscovich as inductees of the Fairbanks Alaska Mining Hall of Fame.

## Clause-Michael Naske, PhD (1935–2014)



Alaska historian Claus-M. Naske fought a long and valiant battle against bile-duct cancer.

Naske was born in Stettin, Pomerania, then part of northern Germany. At WWII outbreak his father was recruited into the German army. Claus, his mother, and sister fled, wandering a year across Germany to escape the fate of his mother's Jewish family who were killed. At age 10, Claus and the family were reunited.

With characteristic determination, the youthful Claus sought to leave Europe. At 18 he obtained immigrant status to the Alaska Territory where he was welcomed by the Barry family of Palmer.

Claus attended the University of Alaska Fairbanks which launched his professional career as a historian, researcher, author, and teacher. There he met and married Dinah Ariss; after graduation they taught in the bush. Claus then obtained his Ph.D. from Western Washington University in 1969 and began his long University of Alaska Fairbanks tenure. He authored numerous professional journal articles and books including "Alaska: A History of the 49<sup>th</sup> State" and biographies of the state's first two senators, Ernest Gruening and Bob Bartlett, and received many honors.

Claus' diverse historical interests provided opportunities to serve the Alaska Historical Society, Alaska Humanities Forum, the Fairbanks North Star Borough Historic Preservation Commission, University of Alaska Press, and numerous other organizations.

Colleague and friend Bill Hunt recalls Claus' comment: "I've been kissed by sunshine all my life. To me the US was the land of milk and honey. It still is. Anyone who is breathing can do all right here."

Claus is survived by his wife of 54 years, Dinah; children Natalia and Nathaniel, 2 granddaughters; and 4 sisters in Europe.

## Roberta Bille Reeve Sheldon (1940–2014)



Born to the Reeve Aleutian Airline family, Roberta Reeve continued that adventurous tradition throughout her life. Long identified with Talkeetna where she lived for 50 years, her dedication to Denali flights with her pilot husband Don Sheldon's Talkeetna Air Service are legend. Whether assisting climbers as office manager of Genet Expeditions, serving on the Community Council, or advocating on regional land use issues, she was deeply involved with the community.

Roberta graduated from Anchorage High School in 1958, and attended UAF making deep and long lasting friendships across the state. She worked for Reeve Aleutian Airways and traveled the world as a stewardess for many non-scheduled carriers including Flying Tiger Line.

Dedication to historic preservation and living history resulted in her efforts to establish the Talkeetna Historic District and listing on the National Register of Historic Places along with the Talkeetna Village Airstrip. She served on the Talkeetna Historical Society for many years and authored many articles and publications. She also preserved Mountain House on Denali's south face at 6,000 ft., constructed on an outcrop of rock and ice by husband Bob and friends.

Roberta is survived by daughter Holly and son-in-law David Lee, daughter and son-in-law, Kate Sheldon and Steve Mairose, son Robert and daughter-in-law Marne.

## Beatrice "Bea" Louise Shepard (1919–2013)



Born in Michigan, Bea graduated from the University of California-Berkeley in 1940 with a degree in Zoology. Interest in bacteriology brought her to the Territorial Dept. of Health to fight TB. Through the U.S. Air Force, she and botanist colleague and friend Claudia Kelsey researched and wrote "Wild and Edible Plants of Alaska," a manual for pilots in Alaska. She had a long Public Health Service career, retiring in 1977.

Long active in Methodist church work in Juneau and Douglas, Bea was a lay pastor and supporter of the Eagle River Methodist Camp. Always interested in history, she served as head historian for the Alaska Missionary Conference, and on the General Commission of the Western Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church.

Bea was an Alaska State Museum docent and long time advocacy chair for Museums Alaska. Clark Gruening said "Bea was instrumental in obtaining funds for and pushing forward the new Alaska State Museum in Juneau." She bequeathed a major donation the Alaska State Museum Heritage Endowment Fund.

Bea received numerous awards for her professional and religious efforts. She passed away of heart failure at age 94.

## Patricia Ray Williams (1909–2014)



Long-time Seward resident Patricia Ray Williams passed away in Anchorage, 1 month away from her 105th birthday. Shortly after birth in Valdez, she and her parents moved to Seward where she remained and became a fixture in the community. As a teenager in 1923 Pat had the distinction of meeting President Warren G. and Mrs. Harding on their Alaska tour to celebrate the Alaska Railroad completion.

Pat attended schools in Seward, Seattle, College in Fairbanks, then graduating from the University of Washington in 1931. Returning to Seward she taught elementary school, married Dr. Lowell Williams and devoted herself to home, children Derick and Patricia, and many interests. Divorce resulted in her return to the work world which included serving as an Alaska Railroad timekeeper, running an insurance business, and joining a realty firm.

An early advocate of documenting local history, Pat was a 1962 charter member of the Resurrection Bay Historical Society. Upon retirement she focused interests with family and friends, and Seward history and politics. Her stories are documented in a new Hardscratch Press book "There's a Freedom Here: My 100 Years in Alaska".

Pat is survived by her daughter and son-in-law Pat and Glenn Erickson of Anchorage, and numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren.