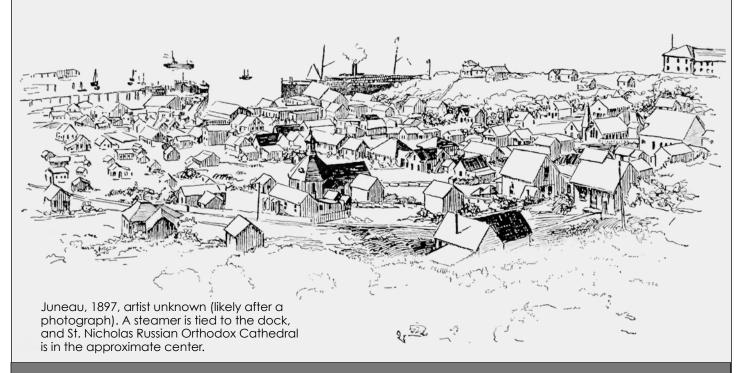
Volume 44, No. 2 Quarterly of the Alaska Historical Society Spring 2016



Message from the Program Chair, Juneau 2016

ALASKA HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE

lanning for the September 21-24, 2016 Alaska Historical Society conference is picking up steam! We have a conference theme, Exploring Alaska's Past in the Pacific World, David Igler, University of California, Irvine as a keynote speaker, and a battery of Juneau partners organizing the conference. The planners include the Gastineau Channel Historical Society, Juneau-Douglas City Museum, Alaska State Libraries, Archives & Museums, Sealaska Heritage Institute, and Friends of the Alaska State Libraries, Archives & Museums. As Alaska's first gold mining center, second capital, and the home of the Auk Tlingit people, Juneau is a place rich with culture and history and a wonderful location for a conference.

When it comes to our venue, the brand-new Father Andrew P. Kashevaroff Library, Archives & Museum, people report that it is "absolutely stunning" and that they are "blown away" by the facility's design and workmanship. The grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony will take place on June 6, after which the process of moving in will continue for some months. As a result, participants in the combined Alaska Historical Society and Museums Alaska conference will be among the facility's first users. Let's help the dauntless library, archives and museum staff celebrate the completion of this remarkable bastion of research and education.

A number of proposals for presentations have arrived—they are superb. In keeping with Alaska Historical Society tradition, they represent a broad range of topics and approaches. Have you ever been curious about big game hunting in the Wrangell Mountains, Mormonism in the Far North, or the search for Alaskan artifacts in distant museums? Rest assured, they will be addressed. Canneries, fisheries, and boats have emerged as popular topics in this year's list of presentations. This is as it should be given the conference theme and our meeting location on Gastineau Channel just a few feet above the ocean. Furthermore, attendees should come prepared to discuss the legacy of William H. Seward and the Alaska Treaty of Cession, and to learn about the unusual world of historic salmon can label collecting. You will not be disappointed.

Meet the AHS Keynote Speaker:

This year AHS is delighted to welcome University of California, Irvine history professor David B. Igler as our keynote speaker. Dr. Igler specializes in the history of the American West and extends that frame of inquiry still farther west to include the Pacific Ocean. In his most recent book, The Great Ocean: Pacific Worlds from Captain Cook to the Gold Rush (2013), Igler enters the eastern Pacific to examine encounters between foreigners and indigenous peoples from the 1770s to the 1850s. Rather than adopting the perspectives of Europeans and Americans, he treats these encounters as part of a multi-ethnic tableau that rapidly transformed not just Western science and commerce but also the Pacific's flora and fauna, the health and well-being of Pacific Islanders, and a contested colonial geography with a painful legacy that can still be felt today. For those of us who think we know the story of Captain James Cook's expeditions or the influence of Alejandro Malaspina or Otto von Kotzebue on Alaska's history, we will benefit greatly from Dr. Igler's re-examination and re-framing of history in this vast maritime realm.

I began my academic career as a U.S. historian specializing in the American

West and environmental history. After publishing my first book (Industrial Cowboys: Miller & Lux and the Transformation of the Far West, 1850-1920) I decided to explore the waterscape and regions west of the West: the Pacific Ocean. This research has consumed me for the past decade. I am especially interested in the time period between the 1770s and the 1850s, and the geographic connections between the island Pacific, East Asia, the northern Pacific, and the western Americas. It entails a vast oceanic and peopled space.

—Dr. David B. Igler



Portrait of a Māori man by Sydney Parkinson, artist, Captain Cook's first voyage to the South Seas, 1769. The subject's hair is drawn up in a topknot adorned with feathers and bone comb. His face is decorated in a full Tā moko tattoo, and he wears a greenstone earring, a hei-tiki pendant, and a flax cloak.

"Alone, alone, all, all alone, Alone on a wide wide Sea!"

—Samual Taylor Coleridge, The Rime of the Ancient Mariner, 1798

An Invitation to Museums, Cultural Centers, and Historical Societies:

In Cordova last October, Juneau groups invited all members to participate in the 2016 conference. The new Father Andrew P. Kashevaroff building has a perfect place for local groups to display who, what, and where you are in Alaska and is specially inviting local groups to do so at this year's conference. Your display can be about the programs you have had in the recent past or what you are planning to offer in the future. There are no boundaries to the topics, but there are size and material constraints. The display area has cases with bays that have 5 shelves, each 36" wide and 12" deep. Each group is invited to send materials for two shelves, one shelf for your institution's name and logo and community name. The other is for images and text. Your materials should be free standing, printed and adhered to matt board or foam core. There are no wall surfaces to hang objects or materials. The Juneau team will provide mounting supports and do the installation, but they will not print or matt your materials. Submissions must be delivered no later than September 15, 2016, to Father Andrew P. Kashevaroff Building, 395 Whittier St., Juneau, AK 99811. Conference attendance is not necessary to be part of the exhibit.

The Alaska Historical Society is undertaking a project, with funding from the Alaska Historical Commission, to add to our website accurate, readable historical articles and a calendar of events for the 150th anniversary of the Treaty of Cession. AHS wants to promote the anniversary within and beyond Alaska as an opportunity to learn more about the critical and tumultuous period when American Alaska was created.

Alaska's history and culture draw visitors from all over the world, and AHS hopes its project will bring more visitors and enrich their experience. AHS also wants the site to help students and the public place Alaska's history into the context of United States and global history. To do so, we seek to promote historical thinking: critical thinking, inquiry, curiosity and creativity in exploring new angles, analysis and communication. We are going to work with educators so the information is useful in teaching Alaska history.

Our ultimate goals are to increase the public's knowledge of Alaska's history and to foster discussion of how it has shaped our lives today. We hope to raise awareness of how much of what is in our past is "not even past," in the words of William Faulkner. Alaskans carry on the legacy of the American, Russian and Native people of early American Alaska, whether aware of it or not. Many current issues, from homelessness to resource development, can only be productively addressed with an understanding of how we got here – how we are shaped by and continue the past.

AHS believes a deeper understanding of Alaska's history and discussion of how it affects us today will ultimately help build an identity as Alaskans, will encourage creative thinking about the state's future, and will remind everyone of the human values we all share.

Lofty goals for a handful of articles and a calendar! But the Alaska Historical Society is more than this one project, it is all of us, who can work to promote the study of the history of our remarkable state. The year 2017 is simply a convenient opportunity to do what we do best.

Calhy INDIA (spensor Quinfai NO VVS Francisca Francisca Archipelagar 7448 Archipelagar 7448 Archipelagar 7448 Archipelagar 7448 Tensford Forumer inf. 5 Linnex Dominic Sheeb Calgar April Addises quint accast Braiffili Active pars icom Calendan Nate pars icom Regio Cigaman Fresan Magaliza Fresan Magaliza Fresan Magaliza Fresan Magaliza

Image above and text to right adapted from Princeton University Library, http://libweb5.princeton.edu/visual_materials/maps/websites/pacific/contents.html

—Rebecca Poulson, President

Left: The first printed map to name the Pacific Ocean, from Geographia universalis: Uetus et noua by Sebastian Münster, 1540. The proliferation of editions of Münster's Geographia and his more popular work, Cosmographia (which used the same map) helped establish the name of the ocean, which was first mentioned by Antonio Pigafetta, Magellan's surviving chronicler: "During those three months and twenty days, we sailed in a gulf where we made a good four thousand leagues across the Pacific Sea, which was so rightly named. For during this time we had no storm . . "

Here, Magellan's only surviving ship, Victoria, sails on that ocean. Marco Polo's "Zipangri" (Japan) and archipelago of 7,448 islands are shown several years before any European contact. Münster locates "Calensuan," a mythical island, at the western border of the map.

^{*}In 2012, the Faulkner Literary Rights LLC filed a copyright infringement lawsuit against Sony Picture Classics over the use and misquoting of this line from William Faulkner's *Requiem for a Nun* (1951) in Woody Allen's film *Midnight in Paris*. In 2013, a judge dismissed the claim, ruling that the use of the quote was *de minimus* and constituted "fair use."

Each year at the annual meeting and conference, the Alaska Historical Society makes its awards recognizing individuals and groups who have furthered the knowledge and understanding of Alaska history. The Awards Committee is soliciting the membership for nominations.

The Awards Include:

- The *Esther Billman Certificate of Excellence* to a state or local society, museum, public agency, or organization that in the last year completed a project contributing to the preservation and understanding of Alaska history.
- The *Evangeline Atwood Award* for an individual for significant long-term contributions to state or local history.
- The *Elva R. Scott Local Historical Society Award* for a community historical society or museum for its newsletter, a publication, programs, or a significant recent accomplishment.
- The *James H. Ducker Historian of the Year Award* for a publication this past year by an Alaska resident of notable new material about Alaska. (This award includes a monetary prize of \$500.)
- The *Barbara S. Smith Pathfinder Award* for contributions to the discovery and description of resources relating to Alaska history.
- Contributions to Alaska History Award recognizing individuals or groups for a singular, significant accomplishment during the past year.

Nominations should be sent to Michael Hawfield, Chair, Awards Committee, electronically to mchawfield@kpc.alaska. edu or by mail to AHS Awards, P.O. Box 100299, Anchorage, AK 99510-0299 by Wednesday, August 31, 2016.

Notes from around the state



Etched pebble showing a person in a birdskin parka, ca. AD 1500. Koniag, Inc. Collection, Karluk One.

The Alutiiq Museum cares for more than 250,000 items reflecting the culture and history of the Alutiiq people. Their holdings include archaeological materials, photographs, ethnographic objects, archival items, film and audio recordings, and natural history specimens.

The Alutiiq Museum and Archaelogical Repository in Kodiak has just launched a virtual tour, allowing remote access to displays and exhibits from anywhere! You can access it through your web browser at alutiiqmuseum.org/learn/virtual-tour, or on your tablet or other mobile device, by downloading the free app called "RoundMe," and searching for "Alutiiq Museum." The museum also has an online museum store, which you can access through its website.

**

The Palmer Historical Society's History Nights in 2016 are held at the Palmer Moose Lodge on the third Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. The meeting in January featured Clyde Oberg, long time dairy farmer in the Valley. Clyde and his wife June owned the Fishhook Dairy along the Palmer-Fishhook Road and were the Farm Family of the Year in 2009. February's History Night speaker was Helen Heggener who told about her newest publication, Alaska Roadhouses. From the early tent-style roadhouses to today's picturesque lodges, Alaskan roadhouses are a colorful reminder of our state's past. Lael Morgan and Tom Brennan, the speakers in March, gave a presentation entitled "A Heart of

Gold: Alaska's Good Time Girls Past and Present." The authors gave an entertaining description of their years of research and exploration into the lives of Alaska's "working girls."

In Southeast Alaska, the Cape Decision Lighthouse Society is keeping up its efforts to preserve the historically significant lighthouse on Kuiu Island near Sumner Strait. The Society's activities and other information about the lighthouse are available at www.capedecisionlight.org.

The annual meeting of the **Tongass Historical Society** included a slide presentation by Mary Henrikson showing Ketchikan images from 1930 to 1980. Museum staff presented recent donations to the City of Ketchikan from the estate of Peter Corey, including pieces of art by Haida weaver Selina Peratrovich and Tlingit painter Nathan Jackson.

...

The **Tongass Historical Museum** has long been housed in Ketchikan's Centennial Building, built for the museum and public library in 1967 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Alaska Purchase. The building is being remodeled to accommodate the expanded

Notes from around the state



The winter of 1942-43, temperatures dropped to -60°. Paul Francis of the 93rd (Black) Engineers left two frostbitten toes on the pioneer Alaska Highway. Another black soldier, ordered to stay with a broken vehicle, was found frozen the next morning. Ten black soldiers who refused an order to ride in the open back of a truck were found guilty of "common sense," not "insubordination," and were exonerated by an appeals panel. Image above: Frost rimes an Army engineer's face and clothing.

Courtesy Alaska State Library, Fred B. Dodge Photograph Collection, ASL--P42-100.

museum. The proposed design minimizes expenses by working within the existing building envelope and retaining structural elements that are costly to alter. The remodel will provide more room for a permanent exhibit of Ketchikan's history as well as a larger temporary gallery for rotating or traveling exhibits.

Many events of interest to us are going on in Kodiak this spring. The **Kodiak Historical Society** and the Baranov Museum include a detailed calendar of upcoming lectures and events in the *Baranov Quarterly* (Winter 2016), and an interesting article by Anjuli Grantham about Captain Oliver Smith, one of the men who, in 1882, founded the first cannery on Kodiak Island,

If you're hoping for a road trip this summer, but haven't settled on a destination, the **Eagle Historical Society and Museums** are planning a Fourth of July celebration that should be a lot of fun. The Society notes that it is working hard to restore the Customs House, which has been moved to a new location, and is looking forward to opening it again for tours. Eagle (population 86 in 2013) is located along the Yukon River, near the border with Canada, an area which was populated by Alaska Native peoples for thousands of years before European-descended immigrants made their way to Eagle in the late 19th century. The Eagle Historic District includes more than 100 buildings, including a former federal courthouse.

Engineering in the North: The Army Corps of Engineers exhibit just opened at the **Dorothy G. Page Museum** in Wasilla. The Alaska Veterans Museum and the Army Corps of Engineers prepared the exhibit of artifacts and stories about construction of the Alaska Highway, building the Whittier Tunnel, and other major engineering projects around Alaska. The exhibit will be at the museum through June 24^{th.}

*

On March 28, Amanda Demeter from Seattle began a six-week position at the **Carrie M. McClain Memorial Museum** in Nome as part of the Journeyman Archival Processing Program of the Alaska State Archives and State Historic Records Advisory Board. Amanda will be processing materials from the Carrie M. McClain and Clara Mielke-Richards collections, and making them accessible online.

Everyone who lived through the 1964 Good Friday Earthquake in Seward has a story about what happened that day. At the March meeting of the **Resurrection Bay Historical Society**, attendees viewed Marie Elbe's slides of the quake's aftermath. Marie's husband died from a heart attack in the hours following the earthquake. They also heard excerpts of letters about the earthquake written by members of the Hedman family. Here are some quotes from a letter written by Frances Headman to her mother-in-law in Massachusetts:

"It was 5:36 p. when we felt the earthquake. We were still at work. Everything shook, cars bounced like corks on water, file cabinets fell over. I looked out the window and saw a huge billow of fire come from the Standard Oil tanks which are across the street from our house. I didn't think I would ever see [my husband] Sonny or the boys again."

"We were told to get out of town because a tidal wave was coming. We followed a stream of cars out and I knew where the neighbors would head to relatives out of town. Couldn't get past mile 3."

"By that time it looked as though the whole town was on fire. The tidal wave had swept the oil and fire in a semicircle around the main part of town so it was spared, but several homes were washed away. Only three homes on the end of our street burned."



U.S. Geological Survey geologists assigned to Alaska: (left to right) Frank C. Schrader, J. Edward Spurr, and Harold B. Goodrich in field costume, 1896. USGS Photographic Library, Portraits Collection (3321).

The Yukon Historical and Museums Association's newsletter had an interesting item by Michael Gates about four different written accounts of journeys into the Yukon in the summer of 1896, before the Klondike gold was discovered. One is a travel narrative called "Sketches from Alaska" that Omer Maris published in the Chicago Record in 1897. Another reporter for the Chicago Record was William Douglas Johns, whose unpublished manuscript provides an eyewitness view of what happened when Eldorado Creek was named and staked. Josiah Spurr (above), a geologist working for the U.S. government, and English traveler Harry De Windt also wrote about their experiences in the summer of 1896. The four accounts overlap and interconnect, and use different names for the same people or vessels. Maris tells of his encounter with a man he called "Stick Jim," from Tagish, no doubt Skookum Jim, on his way to meet his brother-in-law, George Carmack. Johns also landed at Carmack's camp, but his account tells more about Carmack's wife Kate and her daughter.

>>> <<<

The Morris Thompson Cultural and Visitors Center in Fairbanks hosted a three-day Gwich'in Old-Time Athabascan Fiddling Dance March 16-19. The event included fiddle music, a popular jig contest, marathon square dances, moose soup, and fry bread.

The Friends of the Alaska State Library, Archives and Museum hosted Great Museums of the World documentary films from three countries this winter and spring, in preparation for the Father Andrew P. Kashevaroff Building opening in June. January's film was Hermitage Revealed, a tour of the labyrinthine 2,000 rooms of the 250-year-old Russian museum, located in St. Petersburg's Palace Embankment complex. February's film was about the National Gallery in London, which has more than 2,300 medieval to modern paintings. In March they showed The Vatican Museums 3D, taking viewers to Rome to see awe-inspiring art by Michelangelo, Raphael, Leonardo da Vinci, Caravaggio, and other masters of Western art, along with Etruscan and Egyptian artifacts, tombs, tapestries, mosaics, and pope-mobiles.

The Yukon Historical and Museums Association and the University of Saskatchewan are co-sponsoring the North & First World War Conference May 9-15, 2016, in partnership with Yukon College, in Whitehorse. The World War I period is little known, but it brought isolated Northern communities onto a national and world stage. A three-day trip to Dawson is part of the conference.

The Alaska Historic Canneries Initiative continues to build momentum. In addition to awarding eight grants for cannery history projects across Alaska, the AHS initiative recently organized a cannery history forum at Kodiak's Comfish, Alaska's largest fisheries trade show. Project director Anjuli Grantham traveled to Craig to talk about the initiative as part of the Prince of Wales Island Whalefest. Listen for radio programming via the Alaska Fisheries Report to learn about Craig's efforts to preserve the Columbia-Wards cannery in the center of town. Remember to visit the Alaska Historic Canneries blog on the AHS website for new content on old canneries and for updates on the initiative.

The Alaska Historical Society is preparing for the 150th anniversary of the Alaska Treaty of Cession in 2017. With a grant from the Alaska Historical Commission, the society is adding a section to its webpage, alaskahistorical society.org that will feature articles about the treaty, Russian America, early U.S. Alaska, and events, the times, and the people particularly Alaska's indigenous people. Talk is to have a bibliography as well. Interested folks should let AHS know if you would like to contribute an article on a relevant subject for the site. AHS is interested in new perspectives on people and events in Alaska during the mid-to-late 19th century. An article should be 500-1,000 words and will be peer-reviewed before accepted. Suggestions of illustrations to accompany an article or as stand-alone items are welcome as well. The website is going to include a calendar of events. If you, your group or organization, or your community are planning any commemorative activities for 2017 please send information to members@alaskahistoricalsociety.org.

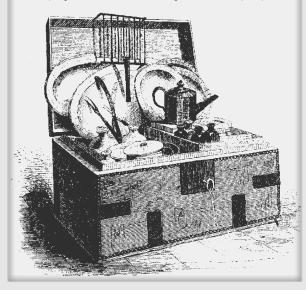
News & Information

COLLEGE STUDENTS AND NEW-TO-ALASKA-HISTORY PROFESSIONALS:

It is time to apply for the Alaska Historical Society's scholarships to attend the fall Alaska Historical Society/Museums Alaska conference in Juneau, September 21-24, 2016. The awards provide a conference registration and up to \$750 for travel costs. Information on eligibility and the application process are on the AHS website, alaskahistoricalsociety.org, and the application deadline is May 15, 2016. For more information contact Michael Hawfield, AHS Awards Committee, mchawfield@kpc.alaska.edu

SEEKING TREASURES

The Alaska Historical Society's big fundraiser is its silent auction held as part of its annual fall meeting. The auction committee is soliciting items for this year's auction. Please send a description of what you would like to donate to members@alaskahistorical society.org or Box 100299 / Anchorage / AK 99510 by May 31st.



A great gift for a friend, relative, local school or library is a year's membership in the Alaska Historical Society. Your gift includes the newsletter and journal Alaska History, and supports important activities and programs. It's easy ... go to the AHS website, www.alaskahistoricalsociety.org and then click on "membership and giving."

M embership lapsed? Renew today to celebrate yesterday!

Alaska Historical Society

Board of Directors

Rebecca Poulson, *President*, rebecca_poulson@hotmail.com Sitka

Jim Simard, *Vice-President*, james.simard@alaska.gov *Juneau*

Michael Hawfield, *Treasurer*, mchawfield@kpc.alaska.edu *Homer*

Rachel Mason, Secretary, rachel_mason@nps.gov Anchorage

Chris Allan, sprucetip105@gmail.com
Fairhanks

Karen Brewster, karen.brewster@alaska.edu
Fairbanks

 ${\it James Brooks, james.k.brooks@capweek.com} \\ {\it Juneau}$

Tom Bundtzen, bundtzen@mosquitonet.com Fairbanks

John Cloe, jcloe@gci.net

Anchorage

Jeff Dickrell, jdickrell@yahoo.com Unalaska

J. Pennelope Goforth, seacat@cybrrcat.com *Ancborage*

Ruth Knapman, alaskaknapman@gmail.com Fairbanks

Aaron Leggett, aleggett@anchoragemuseum.org
Anchorage

Averil Lerman, lerm
ntan@gmail.com Anchorage

Tim Troll, nmwtlandtrust@hotmail.com *Anchorage*

Others:

Jo Antonson, Executive Director, jantonson@gmail.com

Ross Coen, Editor, Alaska History, rcoen@uw.edu

Dee Longenbaugh, *Editor, Alaska History News*, deelong@alaskan.com
Judy Bittner, *Alaska Office of History and Archaeology*, judy.bittner@alaska.gov

Linda Thibodeau, *Alaska Libraries*, *Archives*, *Museums*, Linda. thibodeau@alaska.gov

Anjui Grantham, Canneries Initative, anjuligrantham@gmail.com

P.O. Box 100299, Anchorage, AK 99510-0299 Tel: 907/276-1596

Email: members@alaskahistoricalsociety.org www.alaskahistoricalsociety.org 49history.blogspot.com or find us on Facebook

Visit our website:

www.alaskahistoricalsociety.org



We welcome your letters, news and pictures. Please send them to the editor: Dee Longenbaugh
The Observatory, ABAA
299 N. Franklin St. * Juneau, AK 99801
Tel: 907/586-9676 * Fax: 907/586-9606
Email: deelong@alaskan.com

ALASKA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 100299 Anchorage, AK 99510-0299

Become a member... or if you're already a member, sign up a friend or relative. Join the hundreds who want to stay in touch with historic Alaska by sending \$35.00 for individual membership (\$50.00 for organizations; \$45.00 for family; \$100.00 for a patron; \$600.00 for a life membership.)

It's quick, it's easy, and you receive the semiannual journal *Alaska History*, the quarterly newsletter *Alaska History News*, and discounts on publications. A useful and popular book is the society's *The Alaska 67* with annotated recommendations of good books on Alaska history. Order it through the website!

Send your application for memberhsip to Alaska Historical Society, P.O. Box 100299, Anchorage, Alaska 99510-0299; or join through the website: *www.alaskabistoricalsociety.org.*



Maska State Library Historical Collection, ASL-P66-391

Father Andrew P. Kashevaroff.

W

e are especially grateful to our guest editors for this issue, Rachel Mason and Averil Lerman. Non-profit Org. U.S. Postage Paid Permit 69 Anchorage, AK