

Morpac Cannery, Ocean Dock Road, Cordova

ocated at the center of the Gulf of Alaska, Cordova and its surroundings have been a destination for travelers over thousands of years. The Copper River delta is the homeland of the Eyak, who played a central role in the confluence of ancient trading among Alutiiq, Tlingit and Athabascan peoples. When Spanish ships passed this way in 1790, Salvador Fidalgo named the bay Cordova after a Spanish admiral. The fishing industry and the Klondike-Alaska gold rush produced new settlements in the region, and a copper bonanza in the Wrangell Mountains led to the founding of the town of Cordova in 1906 as a port and railroad terminus. Although the copper eventually ran out and the Copper River & Northwestern Railroad shut down in 1938, Cordova endured and became a center for world-class fisheries. This year the Cordova Historical Society is hosting the Alaska Historical Society-Museums Alaska annual conference, and we are calling on you to join us. This year's theme—*Trade Routes and Crossroads in the North Pacific*—invites presentations on all topics related to Alaska history, with emphasis on trade, cultural interactions, and dynamic encounters at one of the world's great crossroads.

The Alaska Historical Society's keynote speaker this year will be Alaska State Writer Laureate Frank Soos of Fairbanks who will share his ideas about writing as a craft and how we account for our authorial selves in what we write.

This year the Alaska Historical Society is drawing special attention to the role of local historical societies and the practitioners of local history who dig deeply into our collective trove of stories and make Alaska history a vibrant scholarly field. Workshop sessions to help local societies improve their operations will be offered on topics like building membership, boosting volunteers, and raising money. There will also be a celebration of the work of Patricia Roppel who did so much to document the history of Southeast Alaska.

ALL ARE INVITED TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS FOR PAPERS, PANELS, AND POSTER SESSIONS. For details see the Alaska Historical Society website: http://alaskahistoricalsociety.org/. Individual presentations will be limited to 20 minutes, and presenters must register for the conference. Proposals are due May 1, 2015 and should be sent to Chris Allan, Program Chair, sprucetip105@gmail.com.

# Student and Emerging Professional Awards 2015 Annual Meeting

**THE ALASKA HISTORICAL SOCIETY** offers two travel awards for its annual meeting in Cordova, September 30 – October 3, 2015. One award will be presented to a post-secondary student who is researching some aspect of Alaska history, the other to an emerging professional in the field. Each award consists of (1) registration for the conference and (2) reimbursement for documented travel expenses up to \$750.

#### **ELIGIBILITY:**

- An applicant must be a member of the Alaska Historical Society at the time of applying.
- Student applicants must be graduate students or upper-division undergraduates in fall 2015 with a course of study related to Alaska history.
- Emerging professional applicants must be employed in Alaska historical or cultural work and have been so employed for less than five
  years.
- Applicants are required to attend the meeting in its entirety and make a presentation at the meeting.

#### APPLICATION PROCESS:

Each applicant must submit a 1) letter with a statement of eligibility and an explanation of how attending the meeting will enhance academic or professional development, 2) title and abstract of proposed presentation, and 3) CV or résumé. Applications will be judged on the applicant's achievement in Alaska history relative to current status and the likely benefit of the meeting for the applicant.

## APPLICATION DEADLINE:

May 15, 2015. Electronic submission is preferred. Applications should be submitted electronically to Professor Michael Hawfield, AHS Awards Committee at: mchawfield@kpc.alaska.edu, or via regular mail to: AHS Awards, PO Box 100299, Anchorage, AK 99510.

# AHS Advocacy in Action

THE STATE BUDGET is hogging the spotlight in Juneau this legislative session, but legislators are discussing, and hopefully will act on HB 52, a bill introduced by Representative Bob Herron of Bethel to provide a mechanism for museums and cultural centers to receive state matching funds for capital projects. The AHS and our longtime partner, Museums Alaska, are working for the bill's passage. The legislation will support not only new construction, but also exhibit and mechanical upgrades, collections expansion, and the other capital needs of museums around the state. This year, no funds are requested. AHS members can help by writing a letter of support for the bill to your representatives (please send a copy to Representative Herron). More background information on the bill can be found at www.museumsalaska.org.

AHS again this year participated in CHAMP (Culture, Humanities, Arts, and Museum Partners) advocacy week in Juneau. At the lunch & learn session at the Capitol, AHS President Rebecca Poulson encouraged legislators, staff, and advocates to consider ways communities around the state can commemorate the upcoming 150th anniversary of the purchase of Alaska. Federal funding for the centennial in 1967, matched by each of the more than forty communities that participated, built many of the buildings used by museums and historical societies around Alaska today. Legislators need to hear that the 150th anniversary is significant to your community and about your community's plans to use the occasion to encourage historic preservation, engage in history programming, and promote the area's cultural heritage in 2017. Who knows, if we start now we might be able to outdo 1967!

There is more information about the AHS advocacy agenda on the webpage, http://alaskahistoricalsociety.org Please speak up for Alaska history, our museums, archives, and historic places. So you know, the legislature will be in session until April 19th.

Anjuli Grantham, Advocacy Chair

As we look forward to 2017, the 150th or sesquicentennial of the 1867 purchase of Alaska by the United States, it is interesting to look back at the centennial commemoration of 1967. Just a few years after the devastating Alaska earthquake, Alaskans drew on federal help and undertook projects with lasting value. There are centennial buildings, parks, and libraries around the state.

In Sitka, the Centennial Building is where Assembly meetings, elections, concerts, conferences, and bazaars take place. This fall a major upgrade to the building will start so the building can serve another 50 years. It is time to think about how this generation will use the anniversary to create projects of lasting value.

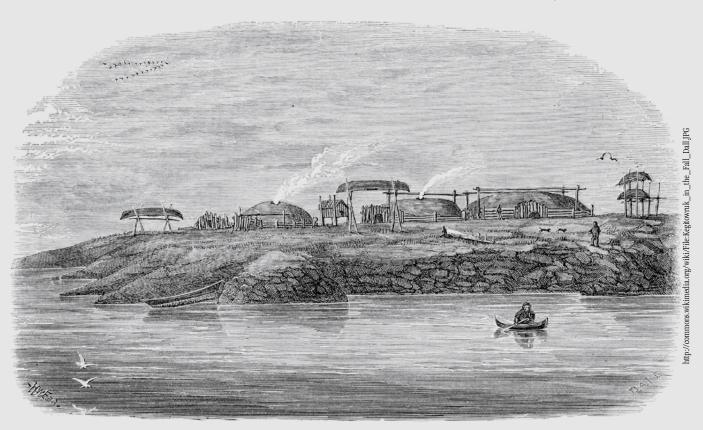
We have a much deeper and nuanced understanding of Alaska's history than we did 50 years ago. We have made the beginnings of documenting and understanding Native peoples' history. But there is so much more to do and more we don't know. Can we use this anniversary to research, explore, and discover our rich history? Can we support historic preservation, museums, researchers, schools?

Can we share this history, engage residents and entice visitors with projects that tell about this history and our rich cultures, and offer insights and context? Can we inform and educate Alaska's students? Can we inform our decision makers and community leaders to help build stronger communities and better governance?

The 1867 transfer happened at the start of the Indian Wars in the American West. American Alaska was initially ruled by a military hardened by the Civil War. Many early actions reflect the racist assumptions of Manifest Destiny. American Alaska had no civil government for its first 17 years. The tumultuous situation 150 years ago influenced the Alaska we know today.

We Alaskans live in many communities whose histories go back thousands of years. All our communities are the manifestation of conflicts and cooperation, ambitions, family, industry, and politics shaped by the purchase. How can your town, your city, your village, mark this 150th anniversary, and use history and preservation to educate and improve the quality of life for Alaskans?

Rebecca Poulson, President



Kegitowruk Village, east coast, Norton Sound. "On the right is the casine. There are several ordinary winter houses... Caches are scattered about, and stages, on which the kyaks are elevated out of reach of the dogs. At the left of the houses is a mass of perpendicular timbers, projecting from the ground. This was the dwelling of an old couple, who died in the summer while the other inhabitants were away. Returning from the chase, rather than touch the bodies, they broke down the house over them, and filled it in with earth..."

-William Healy Dall, circa 1870



The Merchant's Wife by Boris Kustodiev (1878-1927).

The **Alutiiq Museum** just finished their midwinter cleaning and maintenance spruce-up, and

are open again. They report being one of the hosts of Alutiiq Week in Kodiak. They are looking for Alutiiq artists and culture bearers to lead or support a cultural activity that will benefit students and their families. A bit late, but e-mail brian@alutiiqmuseum.org or, gasp! take a pen in hand and write to Alutiiq Museum, 215 Mission Road, Kodiak, Alaska, 99615. They also sponsored a festive tutorial in making Russian tea; I expect you can still find directions. They celebrated the Russian New Year with masking. Their holiday newsletter featured a caribou (and other animals) parka a group constructed over the last 15 months, and a poster map with traditional place names of Kodiak and vicinity. And you have not lived until you've seen the 3-d printer puffin beaks.

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Recent programs at **Baranov Museum** reminisced about the anniversaries of 2014, including the 1964 Earthquake and the first year of the new Kodiak Public Library.

An interesting take on local history is called *Continuum: A Ketchikan Timeline* the **Tongass Historical Museum** newsletter reports. The spring exhibit will highlight local food production over the years; are there locals with gardening or farming equipment, old photographs of gardens or World War II victory gardens? The newsletter also has a nice piece about a rocking horse generations of children rode at the local dime store; it's now in the museum. At their recent annual meeting they featured the Ketchikan Story Project's *A True Frontier*.

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For beginners to advanced students, the **Totem Heritage Center** offers classes in *Youth Cedar Bark Weaving* for 10-18 year olds, along with *Youth Northwest Coast Design* and *Mixed-Level Cedar Bark Weaving* for students with some experience. In March *Ravens Tail Weaving* will be offered. The center offers a Certificate of Merit, an invaluable recognition for obtaining grants, college credit, and more.

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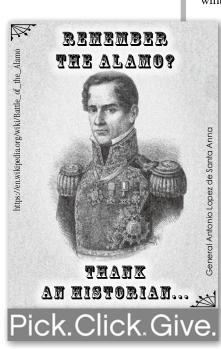
Part 2 of *The Alaska Treasure Mine* is in the recent newsletter of the **Gastineau Channel Historical Society**. The newsletter is almost a small book. It goes into the history of the mines of Juneau and Douglas and short biographies of their owners. Photographs nicely illustrate the issue. In all, the newsletter is a model for any society that wants to delve deeper into local history. View it at ghnews1880@gmail.com or write the society at P. O. Box 21264, Juneau, Alaska 99802.

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Like most local societies, the **Resurrection Bay Historical Society** has tasks for volunteers to organize collections, inventory school yearbooks, etc. They also have decided to stress area history programs more than business during their monthly meetings on the fourth Thursdays. Their salute to the past in their recent newsletter has headline news from November 28, 1914, hailing the new mail delivery that arrived on November 25, noting the last had been October 4.

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The **Sitka Historical Society** newsletter speaks of a nearly unprecedented exhibit. Nine local artists contributed paintings for the hunting and conservation show, which was then entitled *The Art of Hunting and Conservation in Sitka*. Tributes to local big game guides, early local conservationists, as well as information on taxidermy and technical advice on animal mounts,



THE ALASKA HISTORICAL SOCIETY is on the list for those applying for their Permanent Fund Dividend.

Consider using the "Pick, Click, Give" to

# Notes from around the state

Anything for the quick life, as the man said when he took the situation at the lighthouse.

-Charles Dickens

The indigenous inhabitants of the Cook Inlet Region are the Dena'ina (right). It is believed that Athabascanspeaking Dena'ina arrived in Southcentral Alaska sometime between 1,000 and 1,500 years ago. The Dena'ina lived in nomadic bands, moving in seasonal subsistence rounds, and eventually developed permanent homes and communities. They were the only northern Athabascan group to live on the coast and took advantage of the abundant plant and animal resources, developing a high degree of sophistication and complexity in their culture. When the Russians arrived in Southcentral Alaska in the late 1700s, it is believed that there were 3,000 to 5,000 Dena'ina living in the area. Today 1,500-2,000 people with Dena'ina ancestry live in Southcentral Alaska.

> —From the Cook Inlet Historical Society website (text abridged). http:// www.cookinlethistory. org/anchorage-history. html

traps, and furs were part of the show. The society is asking for new ideas from the community to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the transfer of Alaska from Russia to the United States, October 18, 2017. Since that event happened at Sitka, it has been celebrated yearly.

For a copy of the **Cook Inlet Historical Society** 20142015 lecture series to celebrate the Anchorage Centennial, if you can't be there in person, go to www.cookinlethistory. org. There you will also find the news of this June's *Imagining Anchorage - Symposium of the Centennial of Anchorage*. Several out-of-

town speakers, including the head of the Captain Cook Memorial Museum in his hometown of Whitby, England, and local author Charles Wohlforth will be featured. More information is at the website cited above and http://www.alaskahistory.org.



llustration from *Decision Light*, Fall 2013 Edition, Volume 25, Annual Newsletter of the Cape Decision Lighthouse Society.

New windows are nice for an old building, and worth mentioning when they are for an isolated lighthouse at Cape Decision, the only building on Kuiu Island, around 100 miles south of Sitka. The station had keepers from 1932 to 1974, when it was automated. A few years later the buildings were turned over to the Cape Decision



Dena'ina couple.

Lighthouse Society. A grant was received from the Alaska Office of History & Archaeology to replace the inner, outer, and storm windows, add insulation, and paint. Their newsletter also features photographs from a Coastie stationed there from 1942 to 1943, when he was one of the four-man crew. You can check out the site at www.capedecisionlight.org

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January 1, 1959 got the new year off to a good start, reports the **Chugiak-Eagle River Historical Society**, when several rockets exploded at once "shooting everywhere" during the fireworks display at the Far North Trailer Court. Due to the cold weather, the large crowd had remained in their cars. The society also has a tip for others--if you shop at Fred Meyer you can use your Rewards Card to give a donation to the group but still be able to reward yourself. If you don't have a card, sign up at a Fred Meyer Customer Service Desk. And nothing like browsing a website. CERHS. com will entertain and inform you.

# News & Information



Wrangell Mountains Center logo. http://www.wrangells.org/

Did you know there's an Alaska wildland studies program featuring four artists and two writers, a family music camp, a writing workshop, birding, permaculture, and various environmental studies (through the University of Colorado), glaciology summer

school (through the University of Alaska Fairbanks Geophysical Institute & International Arctic Research Center), and more, all at the **Wrangell Mountains**Center? News and information abound in their newsletter, *Hardware Store Herald.* Contact them at www.wrangells. org or P.O. Box MXY, #20, Glennallen, Alaska, 99588.

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News about museums, grants, how to lobby, how to set up exhibits with the proper conservation materials, and about an upcoming mount-making workshop can be found in the current newsletter of **Museums Alaska**. Visit and look around at www.museumsalaska.org.



Iñupiat Heritage Center Staff, Barrow.

**ROSSIA** is the non-profit group dedicated to preserving the churches and furnishings of Russian Orthodox churches in Alaska. With donations and grants they were able to assess needs and repair churches at Kenai, Juneau, Karluk, and Unalaska this past year. Learn more at www. rossialaska.org or write P.O. Box 212315, Anchorage, Alaska, 99521-2315.

I trust you're not tired to read it, but every issue we must remind you of the wonderful Alaska Yukon Pioneers newsletter. Its editor is based in Seattle, the newsletter comes out monthly, and it is dedicated to keeping former Alaskans and Yukoners in touch with former neighbors, friends, and acquaintances. They Pioneers also meet around the Seattle area from time to time. \$20.00 per annum brings the news for a year. Mail your check to AYP, Joyce Penman, Recorder, 27833 85th Drive NW., Stanwood, WA 98292. Or telephone 253-709-0158 or 360-629-3554, or be modern and email olwomn@wavecable.com.

All sorts of information and news can be found at the new Yukon Historical and Museums Association web site. The group hosts symposia, reports happy news such as the Ross River Bridge from the Canol Pipeline is being repaired, and notes a video on World War I is at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=srdRD0nBGgE. The Old Log Church Museum in Whitehorse is now an official Yukon Historic Site.

The AASLH (American Association for State and Local History) is accepting nominations for Leadership in History Awards to recognize people and projects in

state and local history. Awards can be for exhibits, special projects, multi-media, public and educational programming, and individual achievement. For more information on how to submit a nomination, go to aaslh.org

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Doug Kelly needs images for ten individuals profiled in a forthcoming book, *Alaska's Fishing and Hunting Legends*, to be published by the University of Alaska Press. Needed are images of Bill Pinnell, Morris Talifson, Frank Glaser, Sam White, Hal Waugh, Sidney Huntington, Dick McIntyre, Jim Brooks, Stan Frost, and Bill Gasaway. Kelly will pay costs involved for scanning. If you have a print, slide, or high-res digital, send

it to Doug Kelly, 1451 Sandy Lane, Clearwater, FL, 33755, phone 727-724-4949, cell 727-678-6788. Need more info? Alaska Legends@yahoo.com

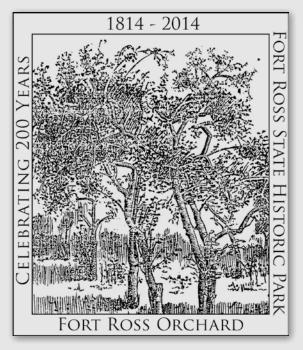
And for your monthly update on Alaska historic preservation news, conferences, and possible sources of funds to help with preservation projects, you need the newsletter of the Alaska Office of History and

# News & Information

Archaeology, **Heritage**. How do you get it? Simple. Contact Jo Antonson, jo.antonson@alaska.gov, or post to 550 West 7th Ave., Suite 1310, Anchorage, Alaska, 99501-3565, or even telephone 907-269-8721.

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Holly Miwok Guise, (Inupiaq from Unalakleet and Anchorage), a History Ph.D. candidate at Yale, is writing her dissertation on Alaska Native oral histories. She is especially interested in Natives born before 1940 that grew up or lived in World War II Alaska. Her e-mail is Holly.Guise@yale. edu or call her at 203-936-9077.



Fort Ross, the only Russian settlement in California, one of the first ten state parks in their system, is celebrating its agricultural past, especially the 200 years of the Fort Ross orchard, the first non-Spanish orchard in the region. A recent project was to evaluate 169 cherry, apple, pear, plum, and olive trees in the park. The wild pigs were evicted and the fence line restored before the work began. They recently hosted a Pacific Northwest seminar on historic orchards. Other recent projects included restoring the fur warehouse, making exhibits, and making the site more accessible. They also conduct teacher training and school programs as part of their outreach efforts.

Visit our website:

# www.alaskahistoricalsociety.org



We welcome your letters, news and pictures. Please send them to the editor: Dee Longenbaugh
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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."

# 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 (\$25.00 for students; \$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 *Alaska History*, the quarterly newsletter *Alaska History News*, and discounts on publications.

As interest and writing on Alaska history seem to be sprouting like fireweed in the spring, 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.



Above: Brutus and the Ghost of Caesar, engraving by Edward Scriven from a painting by Richard Westall, 1802. Below, right: Coin issued by Marcus Junius Brutus, 42 BC, marked EID MAR (Ides of March) under a "cap of freedom" flanked by daggers.

ark days of winter. You can either go to Hawaii or decide February and March are the perfect times to stay home and catch up on writing, thoroughly clean the house, construct a new bird feeder, read some books you have been telling others you will do any minute now, do some sewing beyond emergency repairs, or even catch up on the ironing and see that blouse you had forgotten you owned.

Then you can tell the returning vacationers, accompanied with your small, sweet smile, that you had no idea you would save so much money by staying home. (If you're feeling nicer than that, you can list all the chores you accomplished.)

Whatever, as usual, keep in mind the days are lengthening and it will not be that long until spring will be here with summer soon to follow. (Towards the end of April every year, some Yukoners come down to Juneau. They are just plain tired of shoveling snow and seeing nothing but white with black for houses and trees in silhouette. The weather is not great at that time of year in Juneau, but evidently better than Whitehorse. Nice, grateful people.)

Best, D. L.

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