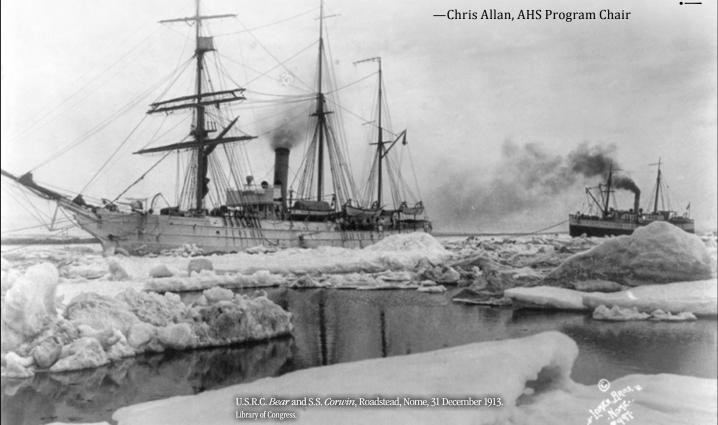
A SENSE OF DISCOVERY

Alaska Historical Society Annual Conference September 12-15, 2018 in Nome, Alaska

n Nome, September 12-15, the Alaska Historical Society and Museums Alaska will hold their joint annual conference with support from the Carrie M. McClain Memorial Museum. Each year, as the conference travels around Alaska, we have a chance for discovery. For attendees, this is a chance to hear what some of Alaska's most passionate researchers are learning. For the presenters, this is a chance to stand before an audience and share what they believe is important about Alaska's past. For local communities, it is a chance to showcase why their home is special and to meet history-minded Alaskans from every corner of the state.

Nome is a community with an exciting history and deep cultural roots. This year presenters will examine the town's Gold Rush past, famous saloons (and how the Prohibition era unfolded in Nome), untold family stories, and the painful legacy of the 1918 flu epidemic. We also will have the opportunity to see early glimpses of Nome in historical film. A sense of discovery surrounds this conference every year as we explore a startling range of topics—through presentations, posters, and films—and reconnect with friends and colleagues.

So, please join us this year in Nome for what is shaping up to be a very exciting AHS/MA conference! The AHS website www.alaskahistoricalsociety.org will have a link to the conference website where there is information on travel and accommodations, the schedule, information on special events and tours, and where one registers. The website will be ready and registration will start July 1st.



Awards



The Alaska Historical Society is seeking nominations for its annual awards to individuals and groups which have notably contributed to the knowledge, preservation, and understanding of Alaskan or local history this past year. Nominations can be made by letter or can be submitted electronically, but must document the individual's or group's significant contribution.

THE ESTHER BILLMAN AWARD OF EXCELLENCE is given to a state or local society, museum, government agency, or other organization which has completed a project or series of projects contributing to the preservation and understanding of Alaskan history during the past year.



THE EVANGELINE ATWOOD AWARD is given to an individual in recognition of significant long-term contributions to Alaska state or local history.



THE JAMES H. DUCKER ALASKA HISTORIAN OF THE YEAR AWARD is given to an Alaska resident for publication of significant new material about Alaska's past during the past year. Nominations for this award must include a copy of the publication for review.



THE BARBARA S. SMITH PATHFINDER AWARD is given to an individual or several individuals who have indexed or prepared guides to Alaska historical material that has not been accessible. Nominations for this award must include sample pages of the index or guide.



THE ELVA R. SCOTT LOCAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY AWARD is given to a local historical society that has completed a significant project or reached a major milestone over the past several years.



THE CONTRIBUTIONS TO ALASKA HISTORY AWARD recognizes an individual or individuals who has made a singular and significant recent contribution to Alaska history.

Nominations must be received by August 1, 2018. Please send them to: Michael Hawfield, Chair, Awards Committee, Alaska Historical Society, P.O. Box 100299, Anchorage, AK 99510-0299. e-mail mchawfield@alaska.edu. The awards will be announced at the Alaska Historical Society and Museums Alaska banquet at the annual meetings and conference in Nome in September.

Fairbanks, 21 June 1906, 11:00 pm; attendance 1,500. Two local saloon teams take to the diamond—the California Bar (Drinks) and the Eagles Club (Smokes)—the stakes—bragging rights that will span the long following winter. The two teams swing lumber until 22 June, 12:30 am, the Drinks scoring 7 runs to 4, victors of the first Midnight Sun Baseball Game. Photograph above: California team, Fairbanks, 25 May 1910.

earing the summer solstice is always a bittersweet moment in Alaska--the arc of light that defines our experience in Alaska is moving towards its maximum and will soon be on the decline, a change that is barely noticeable at first, but then becomes more and more pronounced. The sweetener this year, though, is that the Society's annual fall conference will be held in Nome and promises to be one of our best, with presentations covering subjects so diverse you will have to read the listing twice! The conference line-up is so exciting that we will almost welcome the seasonal transition.

In addition to working hard on the conference (in close partnership with Museums Alaska and the Carrie M. McLain Museum), the Society has been actively working to promote and protect Alaska history and historical resources statewide. Board members (all of whom volunteer their efforts) have been collecting information about the problems faced by archives and libraries statewide, and working with other concerned individuals and groups to generate solutions. The Advocacy Committee has communicated with staff at the University of Alaska, in both Fairbanks and Anchorage, about the serious problems faced by the Alaska and Polar Regions Collections & Archives at the Elmer E. Rasmuson Library at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Efforts to provide assistance there are ongoing.

The Advocacy Committee has also recognized that the Anchorage Municipal Library has closed the Alaska Room in the Loussac Library, and is dispersing the books and documents that have been housed there throughout its collection. The Society is in the process of identifying how and when the decision to close the Alaska Room was reached,



Zadrich Joshua Loussac born 13 July 1882, Pokrov, Russia. Loussac arrived in Nome, 12 July 1907. He leased a mining claim on the Seward Peninsula and promptly went bust. With his partners. Loussac walked forty miles back to Nome, there hawking his fur coat and gold collar studs to purchase passage to Seattle, (...this an early episode in a life of commerce and philanthropy).

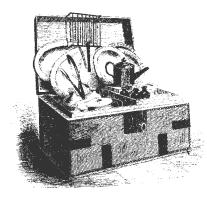
and of pursuing the possibility that some option other than complete closure may be possible. We want to make sure that, when the time for fishing and boating and hiking and camping ends for the year and the days end early, the historical resources we rely on are there for our study.

Our journal, *Alaska History*, is published twice a year, and we keep you up-to-date with our quarterly newsletter, our website (alaskahistoricalsociety.org) and our Facebook page. Our membership has a real chance to know what is going on statewide.

I want you to know that it is *your* support, *your* membership, that enables us as an organization to work hard to protect and develop Alaska history. We are almost entirely a volunteer-powered organization, but it is *your* presence as a member that gives us a collective voice. *Thank you!*

Feel free to get more involved. Come to the conference, volunteer to serve on the Board of Directors, or let us know if there is something else you would like to do. This is a good time for concerted action to protect our history.

—Averil Lerman, President



DONATIONS ARE SOUGHT for our **annual silent auction** that will take place in Nome as part of the annual conference, September 12-15. Items from attics, basements, and files that have been popular other years include Alaskana postcards, photos, maps, artwork, collectibles and rare books. There is interest in adding gift certificates and gift cards. The auction is the Alaska Historical Society's principal fundraiser for its programs. Rogan Faith, Auction Committee chair, asks that he receive information on items you wish to donate by July 15th. Please send information for him to members@alaskahistoricalsoicety. org. The plan is to have the auction catalog on the society's website by the end of August so folks who will not be going to the conference can bid on items.

HELP WANTED! Are you willing to help the Alaska Historical Society by serving on its **Board of Directors**? This year the second terms for Michael Hawfield, Karen Brewster

and Pennelope Goforth end, and the society has term limits. Members will elect **six** board members this year—ballots will be mailed in August. Terms on the board are for three years. Each board member typically chairs one of the society's committees or serves as an officer, and is a member of several other committees. The board has a series of meetings during the annual conference in the fall, and meets quarterly by teleconference the rest of the year. If you are interested—or have a suggestion of someone—please email members@alaskahistoricalsociety.org.



So in thinking for an emblem for this Empire of the North we will choose this azure flower that the golden days bring forth.

---Esther Birdsall Darling, 1917

The Alutiiq Museum held a groundbreaking ceremony June 1st for its Ancestors' Memorial that will be installed at a new city park in Kodiak. The city and the museum are partnering on the project. The park will have natural landscaping around a walkway, benches, a circular planter filled with forget-me-nots, and signs that tell Alutiiq history and share historic preservation messages. April Counceller, Museum Director, sees "the path of names, remembrances, and blessings winding through the park will be a powerful reminder of the people and forces that have shaped Kodiak." For more about the project visit http://ancestorsmemorial.org/.

Cook Inlet Historical Society's last event of its 2017-18 series of programs was the popular Annual John Bagoy Memorial Cemetery Tour. Audrey and Bruce Kelly hosted the program on summer solstice. With sponsorship from the Pioneers of Alaska, the Kelly's and Linda Benson's Cemetery Players Theatre Group will have their 8th annual Stories at the Cemetery programs on July 8 and August 12. Based on "public records, known facts and family memoirs" actors portray ten individuals buried in the cemetery, in July at the gravesites and in August on a stage. AHS recognized the Kellys for their good work with a Contributions to Alaska History Award in 2013.

The **Chugiak-Eagle River Historical Society** received a suggestion to start a Where Are They Now? column in its quarterly newsletter. If you are a resident who has moved away, send an update to them at P.O. Box 670573, Chugiak, AK 99567 or email info@cerhs.com.

The **Cooper Landing Historical Society** has its museum open for the summer. At their general membership meeting in April, Diane Olthius from Hope spoke about Harry Johnson and Art Copoulos from Anchorage showed photographs from the area. Last year Gary Titus, Dave Westerman, Tom Gillespie, Don Barber and Art Copoulos poured over maps and discussed routes to Johnson's trap line cabin. This summer the society plans to publish a cookbook enhanced by historic information and photos from Cooper Landing's past.

News from our Historical Societies and Museums

Strawberry King of Alaska



A plate of Charlie Anway's fruit. The strawberries averaged 12-15 berries per quart, the largest measuring 7 inches in circumference.

During the [strawberry] picking season, [Charlie] Anway would hire as many as 20 women and girls. Pickers were paid 5 cents per box, and they could often earn five dollars a day picking as many as 150 crates. The crates sold for \$4.50 each so he was grossing about \$720 per day. He continued this for about 25 years, shipping berries to Skagway, then north on the train, and also shipping to Juneau when ships were available. Haines became known as the Strawberry Capital of Alaska. In the 1909 Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition in Seattle, Anway won a certificate of honor for his "strawberries in glass."

http://www.sheldonmuseum.org/vignettes/charles-

In Haines, the **Chilkat Valley Historical Society** members have held work parties many weekends this spring at Charlie Anway's 115-year old cabin. At one work party, 22 volunteers cleared brush around the cabin, chipped ice out of the root cellar, and washed the cabin windows. The site will be open for tours this summer. Society members raised money for the project by selling Anway Strawberry starts and books at last summer's Farmers Market. If you wish to help, become a member or send a donation to CVHS, Box 623, Haines, AK 99827.

The **Eagle Historical Society & Museums** will be having classes from the local school and Tok as well as Lifetime Learning Institute students from Fairbanks coming for tours of the museum buildings and exhibits. The newsletter notes John and Betty Borg, longtime officers and still members of the society's board of directors, have lived in Eagle for 50 years as of April 24, 2018. John wrote interesting articles on the museum's Jeffrey Quad vehicle and the sinking of the *Princess Sophia* for the spring newsletter. The Talk of the Town column in the newsletter reports on gold miners who came to town in March determined to dredge under the Yukon River ice by Eagle Bluff. Hopefully the next newsletter will report on their luck!

The **Hope and Sunrise Historical Society** also had several work parties to ready the buildings at their museum for the summer. They are adding a U.S. Forest Service Guard Station this summer. July 14-15 is the town's 31st Wagon Trail Weekend. There will be a showing of *Sourdough*, filmed in Hope, on Sixmile Creek, and at Harry Johnson's cabin, and a talk by Iditarod musher Allen Perry on Saturday. The Wagon Trail 5k race, raffle, and bake sale on Sunday help support the museum and other non-profit groups in town.

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The **Juneau-Douglas City Museum** wished its long-time director Jane Lindsey farewell after 18 years working at the museum, and welcomed Beth Weigel as the new director. Weigel had been the Juneau Public Libraries Program Coordinator since 2013, and prior to that executive director for Discovery Southeast, an adjunct faculty member at the University of Alaska Southeast, and the assistant to the Dean of Faculty at UAS.

The museum's summer exhibit is *Sinking of the Sophia: Scenes from the Opera*, oil paintings by Dan Fruits. October 2018 is the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the ship in Lynn Canal. 350 lives were lost, and almost everyone in Juneau was involved in its aftermath. On display along with the oil paintings are artifacts from the shipwreck from the museum's collection. In October the paintings will be projected in 3D onto the stage for *The Princess Sophia Opera* being produced by the Orpheus Project (www.orpheusproject.org)

And this summer the museum will do historic downtown walking tours on Tuesdays, Wednesday, and Thursdays. Tours start at the City Museum and end in time for tea at Alaska's Capital Inn, the restored gold rush era home of John Olds. There are special themed tours planned as well: geology tours with Cathy Connor and Mike Blackwell, a *Princess Sophia*/Evergreen Cemetery tour with Kirk Smith, and Treadwell Mine Tours with Jim Geraghty.

A product of one of the Juneau History grants the museum annually awards is an open website, Globalizing Southeast Alaska. The project is a collection of visual artifacts regarding the social, environmental, and historical impact of the multinational cruise ship industry on the landscape of Southeast Alaska, 1977-2017. It is part of a larger initiative of Geography and Environmental Studies students at the University of Alaska Southeast. The website address is http://www.uas.alaska.edu/arts_sciences/naturalsciences/geography/links.html

Local Society News

Studying cows, pigs and chickens can help an actor develop his character. There are a lot of things I learned from animals. One was that they couldn't hiss or boo me.

— James Dean



Dreaming of a chicken may symbolize fear... The dream may also be a warning against counting on something or someone prematurely...

——Dream Interpretation that Doesn't Put You To Sleep (edited and abridged) http://sleepculture.com/chicken-dream-

interpretation-meaning/

For Women's History Month in March the **Friends of the Juneau-Douglas City Museum** featured the life and work of Frances Davis, one of Juneau's foremost artists. Davis was a "pioneer resident" who came to Juneau in 1891 at the age of 36. She had studied art in England, but never sold her paintings commercially. But she did paintings for Holy Trinity Cathedral in Juneau and the Episcopal Church in Ketchikan and others of Alaska scenery and subjects.

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The **Tongass Historical Museum** opened its new permanent exhibit, *Ketchikan is ...* at the end of April. Museum staff held community forums, conducted interviews, and used social media to help formulate the exhibit and built it around the ideas that the people and town are resilient, resourceful and independent. A section of the exhibit was built around one response that "water in abundance makes us fearless" and the museum has invited people to send photos showing what the statement means to them that will be posted on the museum's social media sites.

Also at the museum this summer is an exhibit of photographs of early Ketchikan, *Collected Memory: the Michael Nore Archive*. Through snapshots from scrapbooks, photo albums and postcards of residents and visitors the exhibit explores how people viewed and remembered the town.

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The **Palmer Historical Society** has the Colony House Museum open Tuesdays through Saturdays for the summer. They also have a project to "unbuild," move, rebuild and restore a Colony chicken coop that will stand behind the house. The group is searching for chicken nesting boxes and feeders "looking to go to a good coop" and artists who would help with a mural for the display case to be installed in the chicken coop.

The **Resurrection Bay Historical Society** held its annual Summer Solstice Cemetery tour, starting at 10:30 p.m. Local historians Lee Poleske and Sue McClure led the tour and selected "accidents" as this year's theme. Earlier in the evening, Pennelope Goforth gave a presentation "Postmarked: Seward" about the S.S. *Dora* and *Starr* that served as the community's mailboats in the 1900s. The museum has a new welcome sign displayed in a frame made by Mark Luttrell using wood flooring from the house that stood where the library/museum is now.

The **Sitka Maritime Heritage Society** has a partnership with the local 4H program. This spring 12 young people built a small plywood boat at their boathouse, and in May the students had the opportunity to participate in a paddle making workshop at Sitka National Historical Park. In addition to public programs, the group keeps working to restore the World War II boathouse. They are on the way to their goal to have a functioning workshop, boat haul out, and exhibit and event space in the historic building.

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The **Alaska Aviation Museum** has two exhibits for the 75th anniversary of the U.S. recapture of the Japanese-held islands of Attu and Kiska during World War II. The exhibits are *Attu 75* and the *Kiska Exhibit*. They tell the historic and modern stories of the two remote Aleutian Islands.

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The **Wasilla Museum** has started its Night at the Museum Summer Series that will be held on Thursday nights, 5:30-7:30 p.m. through August 9th. Historians and educators will talk about local and state history, along with artists showing their works and entertainers.

Visit our website:

www.alaskahistoricalsociety.org



We welcome your letters, news and pictures. Please send them to us at one of the addresses in the box on the right.

Other News

Always busy days at the Fr. Andrew P. Kashevaroff State **Library, Archives and Museum**. The special summer exhibit, Titanic of the North: The 1918 Wreck of the S.S. Princess Sophia opened June 1. The exhibit includes objects, photographs, radiogram communications, and letters pertaining the worst shipwreck in the Pacific Northwest and the aftermath. A nice complement to the Juneau-Douglas City Museum's exhibit!

In staff news, **Scott Carrlee**, longtime Curator of Statewide Services, died April 3rd of cancer—expected but it still hit hard. Scott started working at the museum in 2000. He provided valuable assistance to the small museums around the state and created the summer internship program that helps several of them each year. Jim Simard, who headed the Historical Collections, retired April 30th. Jim helped develop Alaska's Digital Archives. He served two terms on the Alaska Historical Society's Board of Directors as vice-president and program chair. Both Jim and Scott were integral in the planning, construction and move into the new APK building and will be greatly missed. The new head of the Historical Collections, Robert Hudson, will start work on June 29. And *Alaska Magazine* recognized the Historical Collection's **Sandy Johnston** in its February 2018 issue for the index she prepared to the magazine's End of the Trail column. Sandy entered 15,752 entries into a digital index that can be accessed at http://library.alaska.gov/hist/publications.html. The promise on the website is that it will be updated annually.

The Alaska Association for Historic Preservation announced its Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties 2018 list in May. This year's list includes:

> Bristol Bay Wooden Fishing Boats, Naknek, King Salmon, Egegik

Three German Bachelors' Cabin, Talkeetna

Polaris Building, Fairbanks

S.S. Nenana Riverboat, Fairbanks

4th Avenue Theatre, Anchorage

St. Michael's Cathedral, Sitka

Honeymoon Cabin, Chicken

Red John's Cabin, Talkeetna

Coastal Archaeological Sites, statewide

Jesse Lee Home, Seward

The association helps several of the properties on the list with small grants to start rehabilitation work or leverage other funding.

Chris Allan is the recipient of the 2017 *Alaska History Award* for his article "Ho! For Sitka: Special Correspondents and the Race to Report on the 1867 Transfer of Russian America to the United States." The award includes a \$500 prize endowed by Morgan and Jeannie Sherwood. It is not the first time Chris has received the award—and we hope not the last! **Congratulations Chris!**

Alaska Historical Society

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BLACK EYE...

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CORRECTION: The caption for the photograph of Captain Healy in the spring issue incorrectly stated Healy was captain of a naval ship when it should have said Revenue Cutter ship; said he took command in 1885 when it should have said 1886; and said he first participated in

transporting reindeer in 1892 when it should have said 1891. Also, Healy did not command the Bear after 1895.



DREAMS OF OVER-THE-SNOW TRAVEL

For more than a half-century after the Wright Brothers introduced the world to mechanized flight and Henry Ford filled America's streets with automobiles, inventors struggled to conquer the last terrestrial transportation frontier: snow. This was a dream for backyard tinkerers and serious entrepreneurs, but progress was slow and sometimes dangerous. In the early 1900s, Nome was fertile ground for inventors dreaming of ways to replace reindeer, horses, and dogs for winter transport. This 800-pound "air-sled" was invented by dog mushing champion A.A. "Scotty" Allan in 1916 when he combined a powerful airplane engine (and propeller) with twin articulated bobsleds. The result was fast, difficult to steer, and so noisy it terrified Nome's canine and equine residents.

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."

 ${f M}$ embership lapsed? Renew today to celebrate yesterday!

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