This year’s AHS conference program has something for everyone. Our theme—Tundra & Ice: History in Alaska’s Arctic—has caused us to look northward, and presenters are focused on Nome and Kotzebue Sound as centers of gold rush history, the Bering Strait during World War II and the Cold War, and northern towns as home to some of Alaska’s most interesting and innovative people. Other presenters dig deep into the lives of the folks who shaped Alaska’s culture, politics, and economics, and, increasingly, film-makers are joining in with movies about Nome’s past, the history of the LDS church, and place-naming in Alaska. Several panels offer us the chance to hear from Nomeites about their community’s history and culture, from educators about new ways to teach and understand, and from natural resource managers about the past and future of sustainable harvests. Come one, come all!

"Three Wet Muskox," Bering Land Bridge National Preserve, 16 July 2012. By the 1800s Alaska’s indigenous muskox herds were extinct. In 1930, muskox from Greenland were brought to the University of Alaska in Fairbanks, and a small group transplanted to Nunivak Island, 1935-36. In 1970, thirty-six of the Nunivak Island animals were transplanted near the Feather River, 36 miles from Nome. A second transplant followed in 1981, with the release of thirty-five more animals at the Port Clarence Coast Guard Station, 15 miles west of Teller. The latest count of muskox on the Seward Peninsula is 3,000. With 300 miles of well-maintained gravel roads radiating from Nome, the Seward Peninsula offers visitors a premier opportunity for viewing free-ranging muskox from the comfort of their car.
THURSDAY, 8:30-10:00AM

**Keynote:** Thinking Together about Public History, Dr. Lorraine McConaghy, Museum of History and Industry and Washington State History Museum.

THURSDAY, 10:30-12:00

**Session A:** Gold Rush in Alaska’s Northwest
- Duped by a Convict: How Lawmen Perished in the Kotzebue Gold Rush, Sharon L. Morris, University of Washington, School of Public Health (Retired) and great-granddaughter of James F. Addleman who was lost at sea during the gold rush.
- The Discovery Saloon Building: A Link to Nome’s Gold Rush History, Carol Gales, Owner.

**Session B:** The Military in Alaska
- “A Shot in the Arm for Alaska”: Al Jolson’s Report of his USO tour of the Alaskan Home Front and War Zone in 1942, John W. Heaton, University of Alaska Fairbanks, History Department.
- From the Alaska Highway to the Aleutians: Black Troops in Alaska and the Beginning of the Civil Rights Movement, Ian C. Hartman, University of Alaska Anchorage, History Department.
- Copper River Landscapes and Indigenous Encounters: The Army Returns after 133 Years, Russ Vander Lugt, U.S. Army officer; University of Alaska Fairbanks, Arctic and Northern Studies Program, Ph.D. candidate.

**Session C:** General Session
- Iliamna Lake Place Name Project from Local Perspectives, Yoko Kugo, University of Alaska Fairbanks, Arctic and Northern Studies Program, Ph.D. candidate.
- The Spenard Divorce: Humor and Normalization of Domestic Violence, David Reamer, Southern New Hampshire University, Public History Program, Graduate Student.
- ‘Scoundrels’ in Regional History, Dave Norton, University of Alaska Fairbanks (IAS, GI, IMS and Museum of the North), Research Associate.

THURSDAY, 1:30-3:00PM

**Session A:** Missions and Legacies
- Grafton (Happy) and Clara Burke—Medical Missionaries at Fort Yukon, Mary F. Ehrlander, University of Alaska Fairbanks, Arctic and Northern Studies Program and History Department; and Hild Peters, University of Alaska Fairbanks, College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, Executive Officer.
- The Sitka Mission’s Early Days, Rebecca Poulsen, Artist; Sitka Maritime Heritage Society, Director; Alaska Historical Commission, Member.
- The Latter-day Saints Bush Branch in Alaska, Fred E. Woods, Brigham Young University, College of Religious Education.

**Session B:** Panel: Around the Campfire: Stories of Nome from Local Historians, Charlie Lean, Alaska Department of Fish and Game; Lew Tobin, Nome City Council; Richard Beneville, Mayor, City of Nome; Kirsten Bey, President, Nome Kennel Club; Annie Conger, Cultural Studies Teacher, Nome Public Schools; John Handeland, Manager, Nome Joint Utilities System; Bernadette Yaayuk Alvanna-Stimpfle, Director, Kawaiak Eskimo Heritage Program; Howard Farley, Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race Co-founder.
THURSDAY, 3:30-5:00PM

Session A: Personal Experiences in the Cold War Era
- Hippies, Whales, and Bolsheviks across the Strait, Ryan T. Jones, University of Oregon, History Department.
- Lend-Lease: Alaska's Air Route to Support Russia in WWII, Peter Haggland, Pilot, Fairbanks Pioneer Air Museum, Director.

Session B: Panel: Alaska Grown: Alaska History through the Eyes of Youth, Katherine Ringsmith, University of Alaska Anchorage, History Department; Erin Kirkland, Author; Vanessa Tahbone, Native Youth Olympics, Coach.

Session C: Film, A Rose in Candle, Russ Reno and Beverly Churchill, Producers. Churchill is the granddaughter of Rose Robinson.

FRIDAY, 8:30-10:00AM

Keynote: The Joy in Our Work, Marieke Van Damme, Cambridge Historical Society, Massachusetts, Director.

FRIDAY, 10:30-12:00

Session A: Visions of Nome
- Scooping up the Golden Sands: Ingenious Inventions and Jackass Machinery on the Nome Beach, Terrence Cole, University of Alaska Fairbanks, Emeritus Professor of History.
- From Nome to Seward, 1925: Frances Walker and Friends, Jackie Pels, Hardscratch Press, Owner, Editor, Publisher.

Session B: Prohibition and the Flu Pandemic of 1918
- The 1918 Influenza Goes North to Alaska, Beverly Beeton, University of Alaska Southeast and Anchorage, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs (Retired).
- A Dena’ina Perspective on the 1918 Flu Epidemic, Aaron Leggett, Native Village of Eklutna, President; Anchorage Museum, Curator of Alaska History and Culture.
- Enforcing the 1918 "Bone Dry" Law: A Nome Case Study, Barbara Hood, Attorney, Alaska Bar Association, Historians Committee.

Session C: Films: Sayeik and Melting the Ice
- Sayeik, Forrester Holton, University of Alaska Southeast, Student.
- Melting the Ice: A History of Latter-day Saints in Alaska, Fred E. Woods, Brigham Young University, College of Religious Education.

FRIDAY, 12:00PM

Roundtable: Addressing the Crisis in Alaska's Archives

FRIDAY, 1:30-3:00PM

Session A: Lives in the Far North
- Excerpts from an Arctic Memoir, Sylvester D. “Kiyonuk” Mazen, Teller, Wales, Shaktoolik and Nome, former resident, now of Homer.
- The Moore Journey: Alaska through the Pocket Kodak, Dorothy M. Moore, Valdez School District, History Department (Retired).
- Michael Francis Kazingnak and the Eskimo History Story, Julie Raymond-Yakoubian, Kawerak Inc., Social Science Program.
Session B: *Commerce and Empire*
- Russian Colonization of Alaska—Continuing the Colonization of Siberia?, Pavel Pimenov, Ural Federal University, History Student.
- Across the Arctic by Air: Alaska's Role in Polar Exploration Flights, Leanna P. Williams, University of Alaska Fairbanks, Arctic and Northern Studies Department, Graduate Student, and Fairbanks Pioneer Air Museum, Board of Directors.

Session C: Film, *When in Nome…*
- Angela Schmidt, University of Alaska Fairbanks, Alaska and Polar Regions Collections & Archives, Alaska Film Archivist; Damon Stuebner, Alaska State Library, Archives and Museums, Historical Collections.

**FRIDAY, 3:30-5:00 pm, Alaska Historical Society annual business meeting**

**SATURDAY, 9:30-11:00AM**

Session A: *Tourism and Representation*
- Traces of the Industrial Sublime: Salmon Hatcheries and Tourism in Southeast Alaska, Kevin Maier, University of Alaska Southeast, Associate Professor of English and Chair of the Humanities Department; Alaska Humanities Forum, Alaska Salmon Fellow.
- When You Think Alaska—Think Alaska Steamship Company, Pierce A. Bateman, Fort Wainwright, Historian; University of Alaska Fairbanks, Arctic and Northern Studies Program, Graduate Student.

Session B: *Politics and Nature*
- Weirs Not Dams: A Historical Examination of Fish Agents and Tlingit Fish Weirs, Daniel Monteith, University of Alaska Southeast, Anthropology Department.
- Historical Investigations of Indigenous Whale Harvesting in the North Pacific Ocean, Valentina Melica, University of Alaska Fairbanks, College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences, Student; and Daniel Monteith, University of Alaska Southeast, Anthropology Department.

Session C: *Past Meets Present: Historic Resource Use*
- Historic Resources Use within Northwest Alaska, Jack Omelak, Carrie M. McLain Memorial Museum.
- Current Federal Management Strategies within the Bering Land Bridge National Preserve, Nicole Braem, National Park Service.
- Past and Current Reindeer Management within the Seward Peninsula, Claudia Ihl, University of Alaska Fairbanks, Northwest Campus.
- Eskimo Walrus Commission, Jacob Martin, Nome Eskimo Community, Tribal Resources Director.

**POSTERS:**
- Celebrating the Success of Alaska’s Digital Newspaper Project, Anastasia Tarmann, Alaska State Library Archives and Museums, Historical Collections, Librarian.
Message from the President: The Pursuit of Knowledge

There has been a lot of talk in the past year-and-a-half about the concept of “alternative facts.” Most recently, a prominent figure in the news declared that “truth isn’t truth.” There has been extensive and repeated discussion about the use of social media to spread disinformation, and about whether or not people can trust the objectivity of the news media, whether it is the established press or the voices from the fringe.

No one can be more interested in these conversations, of course, than people interested in history, because these very questions are at the center of a historian’s efforts. How do we figure out what is true? Who can we rely on in trying to figure that out, and who should be more skeptical about truth? How do we resolve conflicting information? How do we know whether a historical conclusion is true? Does even trying to know anything matter? People who read history are faced with the same questions.

The answers to these questions are not necessarily simple, but they are important. Ultimately, the question being asked is whether or not it is possible to know anything outside of our own direct experience, and, ultimately, whether we can know anything at all.

Organizations like the Alaska Historical Society are important in approaching these questions, because we constitute a group of individuals who are interested in thinking about how we can know about the past, and how we can test our conclusions about the past, in order to improve them. In doing this, we honor the highest traditions of all knowledge seekers in every time and place, in believing that we can, with effort, and however imperfectly, acquire knowledge, and apply that knowledge in better guiding ourselves and our children into the future. This point of view, in itself, makes an important contribution to the complexities of the present moment.

—Averil Lerman, President

Local Society News

The Chilkat Valley Historical Society completed a lot of projects at the Charlie Anway Homestead this summer. The site has the cabin and outbuildings of Anway who was famous for his strawberries. Society members cleared brush, felled a tree, restored the root cellar, and laid plans to restore the woodshed and outhouse. They hired a project coordinator and are pursuing plans for public tours of the site.

The Juneau-Douglas City Museum started a new program, titled City Salon, for community members to discuss local history, culture, and literature. At the first program, the book selected was The Sinking of the Princess Sophia: Taking the North Down with Her by Ken Coates and Bill Morrison. Invited guests for the discussion included Tom Ainsworth, National Weather Service, who spoke about weather prediction and the NWS’s role in search and rescue; and Ed Page, Marine Exchange of Alaska, who spoke about navigation in Lynn Canal and how it has improved in the 100 years since the sinking of the Sophia.

The Ketchikan Museums note their summer guides included a former logger, a history professor, and the first speaker to earn her Bachelor of Language Arts degree studying Tsimshian. The newsletter notes each guide brings unique experiences and perspectives that are enhancing visitors’ experiences at the museum.

Congratulations to the Sitka Historical Society that re-opened its museum at its new location, although still in Harrigan Centennial Hall.

The Wasilla Museum hosted Thursday Night at the Museum programs all summer. At a particularly popular one in August members of the Chickaloon Village Traditional Council did a snowshoe lacing workshop and recounted Ahtna stories.

The Hope and Sunrise Historical Society is ending their summer season with a presentation by George Darrow commemorating the centennial of the end of The Great War, Sourdoughs in World War I.
Local Society News

By the way, the Alaska State Libraries, Archives and Museum in Juneau has a new exhibit, Alaska and World War I: A Centennial Exhibit. The exhibit highlights Alaska men and women who served as soldiers and in the Red Cross, and addresses how the war affected Alaska. If you cannot see the exhibit in Juneau, you can view images from it on the archives’ Forget-Me-Not blog, https://akstatearchives.wordpress.com/.

The SLAM also has partnered with Juneau’s KTOO public television station to produce At the APK, a television show with lectures by authors, artists, and historians who have exhibits at the museum. To watch, go to https://www.360north.org/at-the-apk.

The Atwood Research Center staff at the Anchorage Museum have been recognized with a Leadership in History Award from the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) for their photo identification project. For at least the last three years, the research center has brought photos from their collection to the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) convention and staffed a booth. Conference attendees delight in stopping to see photos of their communities. They have helped identify people, places, and events in the photos for the museum. AASLH, in fact, added to the award its HIP (History in Progress) special designation. Congratulations!

Just to the north, the Willow Historic and Wildlife Foundation held a program with Scott Eubanks talking about the Willow Creek Mining District, past and present. He mentioned the town of Kelleyville and a member of the audience recounted tearing down the last seven buildings at the site, noting much of the wood from the buildings was repurposed around Willow.

The Soldotna Historical Society and Museum held an open house and community BBQ this summer. They note the group started preserving the area’s homestead heritage in 1962, incorporated in 1986, and now want more people to know about them. They have a website, www.soldotnamuseum.com to show and tell you more.

The Palmer Historical Society had a welcome team in the Wineck Barn at the Alaska State Fair again this year. This year their display was “Kids at the Fair.” The group will resume its monthly programs on September 19th with Pat Durand speaking about Alaska Railroad history in Palmer. Volunteers have made great progress on the colony chicken coop building restoration with the goal to have it ready for storage before the snow flies.

The Nunalleq Culture and Archaeology Center opened in August in Quinhagak. It already has 60,000 artifacts from archaeological investigations of a nearly 500-year-old Yup’ik village site near the community. Project director, Rick Knecht, University of Aberdeen, Scotland, has led investigations over the last nine years at this site, and prior to that conducted investigations of several other sites in southwestern Alaska. The collection includes tools and ornaments, among them jade drill bits, darts with bone points, and carved ivory pieces. The artifacts are owned by Qanirtuuq Corporation. If interested in going to Quinhagak and seeing the collection, contact Warren Jones at 907.556.8713.

Ron Engstrom, born in Nome in 1937 and still mining today, has extended an invitation to conference attendees to visit him at his mine on Basin Creek and see his bucketline dredge at Mile 15 of the Kougarok Highway. His phone is 466.8282 to let him know if you plan to drive out. Thank you, Ron, for the generous invitation!

Other notes

One hundred years ago Rockwell Kent and his son came to Seward. The two spent much of the winter on Fox Island, and Kent kept a journal, Wilderness: A Journal of Quiet Adventure in Alaska that was first published in 1920 and has been reprinted. Doug Capra has set up a Facebook page, Rockwell Kent Wilderness Centennial Journal and started a blog at https://rockwellkentjournal.blogspot.com/ to shadow Kent and his son while in Alaska. Also to commemorate the event, the Anchorage Museum sponsored a dinner cruise on August 25th, the day Kent found Fox Island, and will be holding a one-day Rockwell Kent Symposium at the museum in Anchorage in early November.

Diane Ferreo-Paluzzi and Michael Paluzzi are seeking stories of the journeys of those who traveled the Alaska Highway. They wrote “after one partner experienced a life-altering medical procedure, we set out to explore the Al-Can highway, but what we soon discovered and want to uncover in this proposed book, are the amazing and healing experiences of the stories of people who had traveled the road before and after us.” If you have a story and want to share it, the authors can be reached at alcanoralhistory@gmail.com.

The Alaska state ferry MV Tustumena, “Trusty Tusty,” has connected Aleutian and Kodiak Island communities with mainland Alaska since 1964. The boat is to be retired in 2019, and the Oral History Project, University of Alaska Fairbanks and the Alaska Marine Highway are collecting stories from passengers, crew, and others served by the boat. If you have a story to share, let project directors Michael Sakarias or Lucy Peckham know at info@tusyistoryproject.org. The project directors also are interested in photos of the boat and travelers. Your memories matter!
The city of Whitehorse now has a bronze bust at the corner of 4th and Main Streets commemorating Martha Louise Black, who hiked the Chilkoot Trail in 1898 while pregnant, staked her own mining claims in Dawson, and ran a sawmill there. She also was the second woman to serve in the Canada’s House of Commons. Many have read Martha’s memoir, first published as My Seventy Years, updated as My Ninety Years, and posthumously revised and printed as Martha Black: Her Story from the Dawson Gold Fields to the Halls of Parliament.

The Fort Ross Conservancy newsletter provided updates on their summer preservation projects at the Russian-American Company outpost. Working with California State Parks, the group replaced a bell support and broken crosses and repaired the cupola on the Russian Orthodox chapel. Another team rebuilt a broken mill blade, and a park crew renovated the trail from Sandy Cove to the Russian cemetery. In late July they had their annual festival that commemorates the fort’s diverse historic communities of Alaska Natives, Kashia Pomo, and Russians. Activities included sports, crafts, music, food, and new this year, cannon firing.

The NN Cannery History Project to collect, preserve, and share the stories of the South Naknek cannery and its workers is underway. The project is spearheaded by Katherine Rigns, Tundra Vision Public History Consultants. It has four components: to nominate the cannery for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, to work with the Bristol Bay School District and library on a digital storytelling workshop for young people, to collect oral histories for the University of Alaska’s Project Jukebox, and to mount an exhibit at the Alaska State Museum about the ethnically diverse people of the canneries. The cannery is owned by Trident Seafoods which is in support of the project. More information about the project is at https://nnacanneryproject.com.

More Alaska newspapers are available on Chronicling America, the digital newspaper site of the Library of Congress. All total, 16 early newspapers from Cordova, Valdez, Fairbanks, Iditarod, Skagway, Sitka, Juneau and Douglas are now available to be read and searched on line—free of charge. The address is https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/newspapers/. Staff of the Historical Collections of the Alaska State Library, Archives and Museums prepare the newspaper files and submit them to the Library of Congress for posting. A great partnership! The National Endowment for the Humanities recently announced the award of a continuation grant for 2018-20 so more newspapers can be added.

Visit our website: www.alaskahistoricalsociety.org

We welcome your letters, news and pictures. Please send them to us at one of the addresses above.
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.”

Membership lapsed? Renew today to celebrate yesterday!