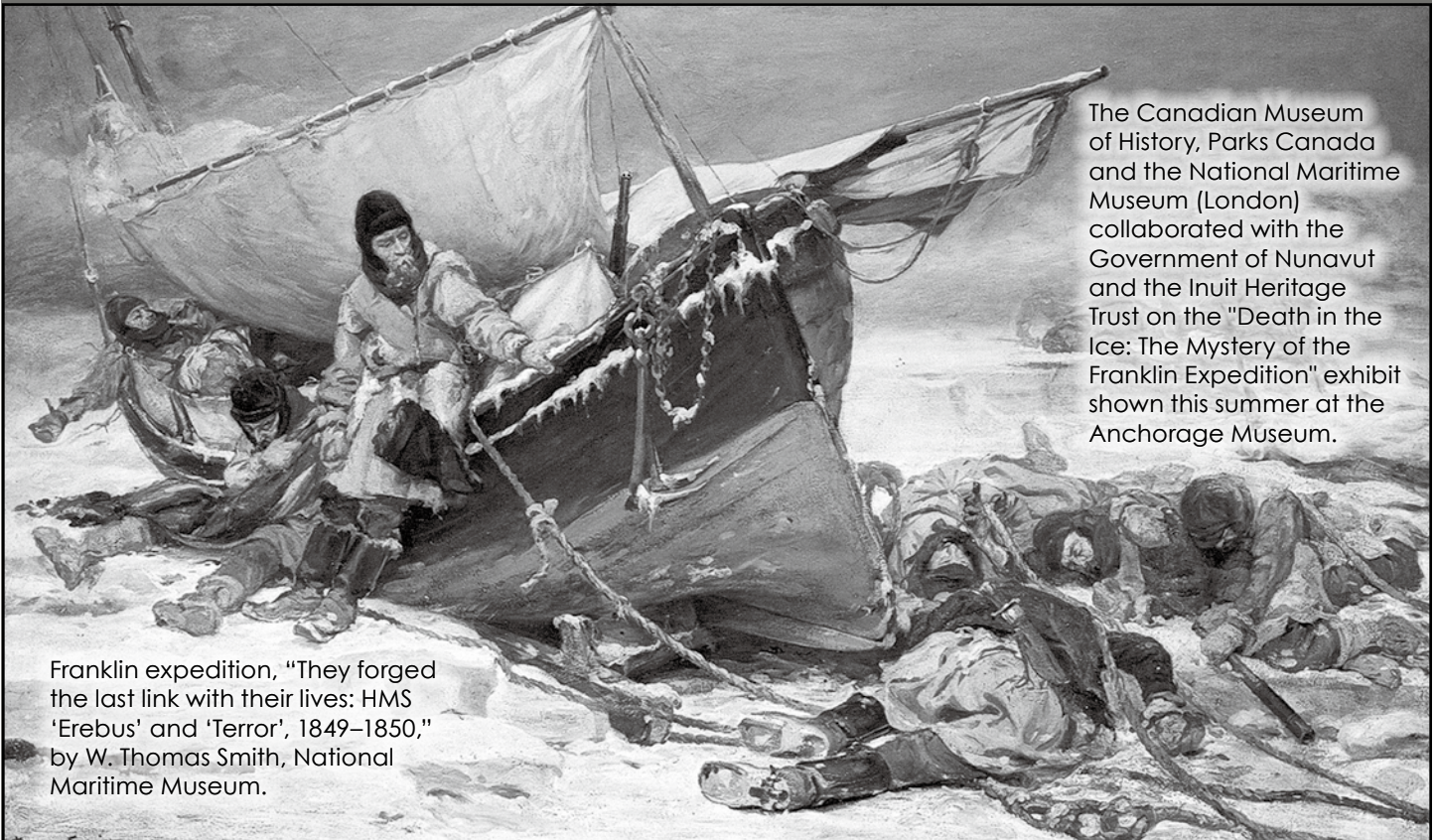




Alaska History News

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Quarterly of the Alaska Historical Society



Franklin expedition, "They forged the last link with their lives: HMS 'Erebus' and 'Terror', 1849-1850," by W. Thomas Smith, National Maritime Museum.

The Canadian Museum of History, Parks Canada and the National Maritime Museum (London) collaborated with the Government of Nunavut and the Inuit Heritage Trust on the "Death in the Ice: The Mystery of the Franklin Expedition" exhibit shown this summer at the Anchorage Museum.

Message from the President:

...it is important to raise our voices...

One of the great things about membership in the Alaska Historical Society is that, because we are all linked together, we can act collectively, and actually have an impact on protecting institutions and resources that are important to the furthering of Alaska history.

Right now, it is important to raise our voices. The state budget proceedings that have been gathering headlines reflect serious threats to our universities, our museums, our historic properties (like the Sheldon Jackson Museum in Sitka), and to every other aspect of historical investigation, preservation, and education in Alaska. \$150,000 dollars was cut from the capital budget of the state Office of History and Archeology, the very money that enables that office to receive federal funds for preservation programs all over the state. Much of our history is uniquely in the possession of state archives, libraries, and historical sites. Without state support, it will disappear.

If each of us makes one or two contacts with our state representatives or with the Governor's office, speaking out in favor of the state protecting its historical resources, we may have a significant impact on what actually happens. Send a couple of emails or make a couple of phone calls—it doesn't have to be time-consuming.

You can find the contact numbers for your state senator and representative by typing "Alaska State Legislature" or www.akleg.gov into your web browser, and then using the "Who Represents Me?" box in the lower right-hand corner of the website, or you can just call and ask the Legislative Information Office. You can reach Governor Mike Dunleavy's office at <https://gov.alaska.gov/contact/email-the-governor/>.

Let's act together! Speak up for history – and preserve the past for the future!

—Averil Lerman



FACING OUR HISTORY ANNUAL CONFERENCE KODIAK, ALASKA

September 26-28, www.ahsmaconference.org

The theme of this year's Alaska Historical Society conference—*Facing Our History*—acknowledges that elements of our collective past are controversial, divisive, or open to reinterpretation and that historians should address such difficult topics honestly and directly with recognition of other points of view. Conference presentations will explore some of Alaska's more painful historical themes and events with a mind to bringing hidden truths to light and reaching more profound understandings of our shared history.

2019 ALASKA HISTORICAL SOCIETY CONFERENCE SCHEDULE:

Thursday, September 26

8:30-10:00 AM

Keynote: *Discomfort and Renewal: Decolonizing the Abbe Museum*, Cinnamon Catlin-Legutko, President/CEO, Abbe Museum, Maine

10:30 AM-12:00 PM

Session A: Russian America

- *Uninhabited Alaska: Counterfactual Reflections on the Russian Colonia Period*, Spencer Abbe, Graduate Student, University of Oregon
- *Kodiak as a Colonial Port: Various Interpretations*, Alexander Petrov, Professor, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow
- *Interactions of the Tlingit, Alutiiq, and Aleut Native Alaskans and the Russians 1784-1804 and in 2004 and 2010*, Dawn Lea Black, Researcher, Kodiak

Session B: Historical Preservation

- *Ghosts in the Attic: The Falcon Joslin House*, Angela Schmidt, Film Archivist, University of Alaska Fairbanks
- *Historic House Museums in Alaska & How to Preserve Them*, Janet Matheson, Architect, Fairbanks
- *Of the Flimsiest Construction: The Discovery Saloon Project*, Carol Gales, Nome

Session C: History for the Next Generation

- *Bristol Bay Student Filmmakers*, Marie Acemah, Digital Storytelling Consultant and Director, See Stories, and Katie Ringsmuth, Director, NN Cannery History Project
- *Who Is Telling What Stories? Digital Storytelling for Equitable History*, Marie Acemah, Digital Storytelling Consultant and Director, See Stories, and Deborah Palileo Bitanga, Kodiak
- *Teaching with Historic Places: Alaska's Matanuska Colony*, Darrell Lewis, Historian, National Park Service, Alaska Region

12:00-1:00 PM

State of the State:

- Sara Piasecki, Alaska Historical Society, Hayley Chambers, Museums Alaska
- Judy Bittner, State Historic Preservation Officer
- Patience Frederiksen, Director, Alaska State Library, Archives and Museums

1:30-3:00 PM

Alaska Historical Society annual business meeting

3:30-5:00 PM

Session A: History and Culture of Kodiak

- *Historic Bars of Kodiak*, Doug Vandegraft, Olympia, Washington
- *The Latter-day Saints of Kodiak*, Fred E. Woods, Professor, Brigham Young University
- *Labor of the Hands, Tongue, and Psyche of 1.5 Generation Filipina Immigrants in Kodiak Island*, Deborah Palileo Bitanga, Kodiak, and Deneila Beltran, Student, Kodiak College

Session B: Bristol Bay: Disaster and Resiliency

- *The Spanish Influenza Pandemic Hits Bristol Bay*, Tim Troll, Executive Director, Bristol Bay Heritage Land Trust, and Katie Ringsmuth, Director, NN Cannery History Project
- *Bristol Bay Salmon Faces its First Collapse*, Bob King, Juneau

Session C: Films and Music

- *Sharing History through Song*, Annie Bartholomew, Arts and Culture Producer, KTOO, Juneau.
- Films shown by Angela Schmidt, Film Archivist, University of Alaska Fairbanks

Friday, September 27

7:00-8:00 AM

- **Roundtable: Advocacy and Archives**

8:30-10:00 AM

Keynote: *Reading Between the Lines of Alphonse Pinart's Travel Journals from 1871-72*, Sven Haakanson, Curator, Burke Museum, Seattle

10:30 AM-12:00 PM

Session A: World War II Aleutian Campaign

- *History and Protection of the Funter Bay Aleut Cemetery*, Daniel Monteith, Professor, *University of Alaska Southeast*
- *Facing Divergent Memories of the Aleutian Campaign of WWII*, Rachel Mason, Senior Cultural Anthropologist, National Park Service, Alaska Region
- *Dashiell Hammett's Alaska*, Ian Hartman, Professor, University of Alaska Anchorage

Session B: Policy Changes and Reforms

- *"An Opportunity Unembarassed:" Alaska and the Indian Reform Movement, 1867-1886*, Ian Halter, Graduate Student, University of Oregon
- *Alaska's Oil Spill Response Planning Standard: History and Legislative Intent*, Betsi Oliver, Outreach Coordinator, Prince William Sound Region Citizens' Advisory Council

Session C: Waterways

- *Skin, Bark, and Wood: Indigenous Watercraft Heritage of Alaska*, Angela Linn, Senior Collections Manager, University of Alaska Museum of the North
- *The Consumerization of Alaska's Rivers*, Mark Rice, Historian, Office of Alaska History of Archaeology

12:00-1:00 PM

- *The 19th Amendment and Suffrage for Women*, Anjuli Grantham, Alaska State Museum, and Barbara Hood, Anchorage

1:30-3:00 PM

Session A: Canadian Military in Alaska

- *The RCAF in the Aleutian Campaign of World War II*, Karen Abel, Co-leader, WWII in the Aleutians Expeditions
- *The RCAF in Alaska: How History Informs Today's NORAD Fight*, Brigadier General Scott Clancy, Royal Canadian Air Force

Session B: Unusual People in Unusual Places

- *"On a Hill Above a Northern River": John Haines's Homestead*, Maureen Long, Professor, Yukon College

- *Frank's Follies: The Life, Times and Misadventures of Pilot Frank Dorbandt*, Leanne Prax Williams, Graduate Student, University of Alaska Fairbanks
- *The Seward Statue and the Seward "Shame Pole": Passion and Evidence in Historical Interpretation*, Terrence Cole, Fairbanks

Session C: Exploration

- *Woman of Ounalashka*, Toby Sullivan, Executive Director, Kodiak Maritime Museum,
- *At the Corner of Venia Minor and Kandalebin Streets*, Gary Paulus, Aleut Community of St. Paul

3:30-5:00 PM

Session A: Race and Ethnicity

- *Untold Stories: Race, Ethnicity and the Alaska-Yukon Gold Rushes*, Tamara Holman, Archaeologist, Anchorage
- *The Davis Case: The Last Potlatch, "Old Quarrels," and School Segregation in Sitka*, Rebecca Poulson, Sitka
- *Race, Tunnel Vision, and Injustice: The Trial of Austin Nelson*, Averil Lerman, Anchorage

Session B: Cold War

- *Alaska's Nuclear Legacy*, Anastasia Tarmann, Librarian, Alaska Historical Library, and Shelby Surdyk, Juneau

Session C: National Parks in Alaska

- *Overused, Overlooked, and Overrun – Post-World War II Changes to Alaska's National Parks*, Heather Feil, Architectural Historian, National Park Service, Alaska Region
- *For the Love of Freedom: Miners, Trappers, Hunting Guides and Homesteaders in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve*, Karen Brewster, Research Associate, Oral History Program, University of Alaska Fairbanks, and Barbara Cellarius, Anthropologist, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve

Saturday, September 28

- 7:00-8:00 AM **Roundtable:** Special Initiatives (Women's Suffrage and ANCSA commemoration planning, History Day in Alaska)

8:30-10:00 AM

Session A: Assimilation and Survival

- *The Rise of English-only Language Policies in Alaska*, Jennifer C. Stone, Professor, University of Alaska Anchorage
- *Tongue Lashing*, McKibben Jackinsky, Homer
- *Survivance: Past and Continuous Trauma and Resistance in Southeast Alaska*, Anastasia Tarmann, Librarian, Alaska Historical Library

Session B: Resources and Commercial Opportunity

- *Soft Gold: Sea Otters in Alaska History*, Shana Loshbaugh, Fairbanks
- *A History of a Bristol Bay Cannery*, John Branson, Historian, Lake Clark National Park and Preserve
- *When "Sitka Ice" Was King*, Chris Allan, Historian, National Park Service, Alaska

Session C: Japanese Americans in Alaska

- *Place Naming in Race: History of Japanese Alaskans in Local Perspectives*, Yuko Kugo, Graduate Student, University of Alaska Fairbanks
- *Tabi wo suru ki or Traveling Tree: Hoshino Michio's Alaska, 1973-1996*, Taiyo Itoh, Graduate Student, University of Alaska Fairbanks, and Pierce A. Bateman, Historian, U.S. Army Fort Wainwright
- *Embracing Japan: Japanese Business in Post-World War II Alaska*, Pierce A. Bateman, Historian, U.S. Army Fort Wainwright

10:30-11:30 AM

Keynote: *Asking the Uncomfortable Questions*, Sven Haakanson, Curator, Burke Museum, and Cinnamon Catlin-Legutko, Abbe Museum

From Naknek and South Naknek: A photo exhibit, *Bristol Bay Remembers: The Great Flu of 1919*, was on display in June and July at the **Bristol Bay Historical Museum** in Naknek. Curated by Tim Troll, the exhibit commemorated the 100th anniversary of the Spanish Influenza outbreak in Bristol Bay. It was a remembrance of those who died tragically, those who responded heroically, and the children who survived to bring forth the Bristol Bay of today.

The **NN Cannery History Project** had a busy summer. Andrew Abyo has been commissioned to build a 1/25" scale model of the cannery, which will serve as the centerpiece of the Mug Up exhibit that will be at the Alaska State Museum next year. The model will include the cannery's 51 historic buildings and the surrounding landscape so visitors can visualize the size and scope of a Bristol Bay salmon cannery. Also for the exhibit, the NN Cannery Project is collaborating with Alaska Video postcards to produce a film entitled *Cannery Caretakers*. The short film will highlight the story of the descendants of Katmai who established New Savonoski after the Novarupta volcano eruption destroyed their village of Savonoski in 1912. Settlement in the new village was brief, however, as the flu pandemic and red salmon crash of 1919 drove the Native residents to seek work at the NN Cannery. They became integral to the cannery, supplying salmon, making up the spring/fall crew that readied and winterized the operation, and serving as winter caretakers who protected the structures and boats through the offseason.

The Bristol Bay Heritage Land Trust, working with the NN Cannery History Project, has announced their *Sailing Back to the Bay: Homer to Naknek – 2020* project. For 66 years, until 1951, salmon in Bristol Bay were caught from sailboats, double-ended wooden gillnetters, manned by two rugged fishermen. One of the few old sailboats still operating and unmodified, a Libby, McNeil, Libby double-ender dating to the 1930s, is in Homer. A group plans to launch from Homer on July 5, 2020 and cross Cook Inlet, transport the boat over the Pile Bay road, sail down Lake Iliamna and the Kvichak River to arrive at Naknek for Festival as the Bristol Bay commercial fishing season winds down. The group is recruiting for volunteers and funds for the project. More information about the project

is available at bristolbaylandtrust.org. The owner is going to get a commercial license for the boat and has a permit holder who wants to drop a net—bringing everything full circle.



From around the state: **The Alaska Association for Historic Preservation** unveiled its 2019 list of the state's Ten Most Endangered Properties:

Eldred Rock Lighthouse (Haines)
Government Hill (Anchorage)
4th Avenue Theatre (Anchorage)
Jesse Lee Home (Seward)
Pioneer School House (Anchorage)
Leonhard Seppala House (Nome)
Steamer *Nenana* (Fairbanks)
Stevenson Hall, Sheldon Jackson School (Sitka)
Coastal archaeological sites (Statewide)
Bristol Bay wooden fishing boats (Naknek, King Salmon, and Egegik)



From Anchorage: **Greater Anchorage, Inc. (Anchorage Fur Rendezvous)**, with the support of the Municipality of Anchorage and the Anchorage Downtown Partnership, is designating an area along Fourth Avenue as the Anchorage Mushing District. The district will celebrate the history of dog mushing in Alaska and particularly along Anchorage's Fourth Avenue.

Friends of Nike Site Summit held their annual fundraising tour and dinner in June at the Alpenglow Chalet in Arctic Valley. The guest speaker was Brigadier General Scott Clancy, deputy commander, Alaskan NORAD Region, who spoke on "The U.S. and Canada in NATO: 50 Years of Alliance." Brig. Gen. Clancy has been an officer in the Royal Canadian Air Force for over 28 years and among many other duties, coordinated Canadian forces earthquake relief in Haiti.

The National Endowment for the Humanities recently announced a grant award to the **Anchorage Museum** for a three-part documentary film on the history of Alaska that will be produced in partnership with Ric Burns' Steeplechase Films.

On September 21, in conjunction with this summer's exhibit on the Franklin Expedition, the museum is hosting a symposium entitled *Lost and Found: Uncovering the Mystery of the Franklin Expedition*. Speakers will examine aspects of the expedition, from Inuit oral history to recent archaeological and underwater discoveries. For

more information or to register, see <https://www.anchoragemuseum.org/exhibits/death-in-the-ice-the-mystery-of-the-franklin-expedition/>.



From Yukon Territory: **The Yukon Historical & Museums Association** presented its 2018 Yukon Heritage awards in February 2019. At the event JJ, Dustyn, and Joshua Van Bibber gave a special presentation on their great-grandfather, JJ Van Bibber, a prominent First Nations hunter, trapper, photographer and storyteller. Award winners included photographer Murray Lundberg; pilot, meteorologist, guide and trapper Gordon Mervin Toole; Volunteer of the Year Bruce Barrett; Association Franco-Yukonnaise for its recognition of traditional doll-making; and the Yukon Church Heritage Society for its conservation work on the Old Log Church in Whitehorse.

Dave Neufeld has been appointed to the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada. Neufeld was the Yukon and Western Arctic historian for Parks Canada for over 25 years and served on the Board of Governors for Yukon College for 8 years. He continues to write on First Nation issues and environmental history. Of note, the board is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year.



From Unalaska: The **Museum of the Aleutians** opened a new exhibit, *Chiilulix: The Long Journey Home*, in June. The exhibit explores the history of four Aleutian communities that were never resettled after World War II, and profiles the National Park Service's Lost Villages project that helped Unangax survivors and descendants reconnect with those places. Radio station KUCB in Unalaska developed a documentary video about the project, that also became available this summer.



From Fairbanks: The **Morris Thompson Center** is hosting events celebrating the Native languages of Interior Alaska throughout 2019, including language classes, films, panel discussions, and children's activities. A special summer series for kids was "Denaakk'e Dedeencee," with monthly Denaak'e (Koyukon) language activities for children with their parents or caregivers. The program was led by Doyon Foundation Language Revitalization program staff. The April session focused on names of animals and

included a scavenger hunt. May's session was about cooking and preparation for a potlatch. In June, children learned how to give and take directions in games like Simon Says. The July session was about chores and counting games, while in August, participants learned names for colors and how to bead their own necklaces. For more information about this program see <https://www.morrishthompsoncenter.org/iyl/>.



From Juneau: The Spring/Summer 2019 issue of the **Gastineau Channel Historical Society** newsletter had the story of the little steamboat *Lone Fisherman* (see left), brought to work as a ferry in the Gastineau Channel by the oddly named Captain W. J. McGlue in 1889. In 1901 the ferry collided with the Douglas wharf, smashing the pilothouse and releasing a cloud of steam that enveloped the vessel. One side was close to the Douglas float, and a mother and her two daughters tried to jump to it. One of the girls went into the water but was rescued by the ferry's crew. The *Lone Fisherman* drifted out into the channel and was towed to Juneau by a cannery tender. The ferry missed only one trip because of that incident. (Source: DeArmond, R.N., "Ferry Lone Fisherman," *Days of Yore, Info Juno*, April 9, 1988.)

The society, with help from late philanthropist and active GCHS member Mike Blackwell, has transferred 130 reels from the KTOO radio program "Our Town," which aired in Juneau through most of the 1990s, to digitized discs. The programs include segments on the role of the mother in Tlingit society, the regional Gold Medal basketball tournament, historic family businesses such as Gross Alaska Theaters, early aviation, the history of St. Ann's Hospital, interviews with four generations of the Cashen family, and much more.



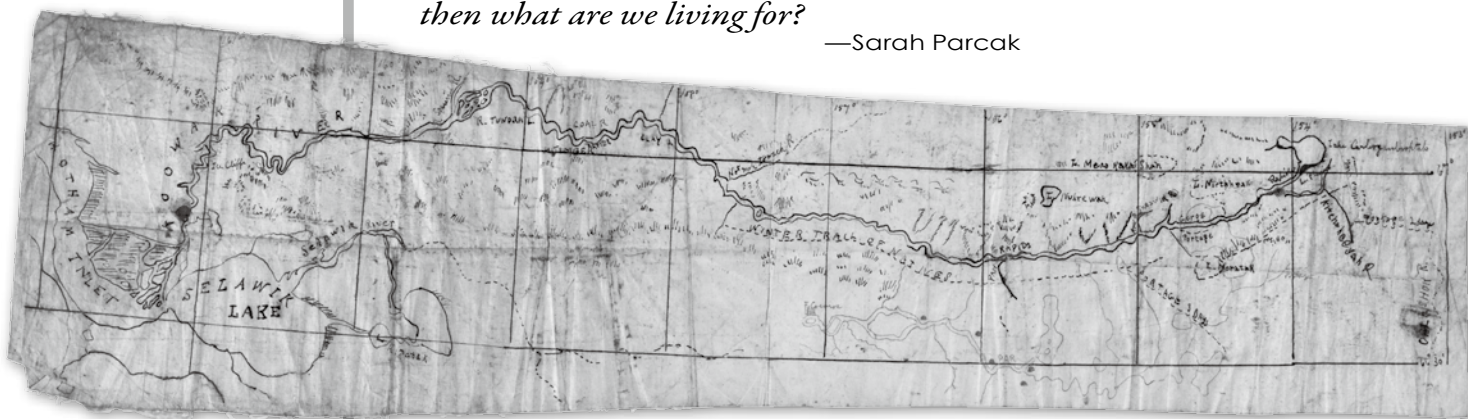
From Eagle: **Eagle Historical Society & Museums** enjoyed a presentation in April by Chris Allan who gave the museum a 14-foot map pieced together from the first hand drawn steamship map of the Yukon River with important historic features highlighted on it (see image facing page). Over the summer, volunteers fixed the roof on the historic church and worked on plans to rehabilitate the Custom's House. In June the Antique Car Club of Anchorage came to town driving eight Model A Fords, followed



The *Lone Fisherman* in 1907, heading for Sheep's Creek with passengers on deck. <https://vilda.alaska.edu/digital/collection/cdmg21/id/12535/rec/7>

We've got to map all of our ancient history before it's gone because, let's face it, if we don't have a common heritage to share, something to get excited about, then what are we living for?

—Sarah Parcak



A color version of the above map may be seen in the NPS publication *Fortune's Distant Shores, A History of the Kotzebue Sound Gold Stampede in Alaska's Arctic* by Chris Allan, 2019.

by thirty members of the Pioneers of Alaska from Fairbanks. With “about perfect” weather, the community’s 4th of July celebration included a potluck, foot race, flag-raising ceremony, parade, Stearman biplane fly-over, cakewalk, rifle shoot and baseball game.

From Hope: On May 25, the **Hope and Sunrise Historical and Mining Museum** hosted a talk at the Quonset Hut Theater entitled “Harry Johnson’s Trail.” Speakers Art Copoulos and Don Barber talked about Harry Johnson’s trail to his trap-line cabin on Resurrection Pass. They shared their schedule for restoring the historic trail and welcomed others to join the trail brushing effort.

Hope celebrated Wagon Trail Weekend on July 20-21. The event benefits all the community’s nonprofits, and a 5k running race benefits Hope Emergency Services. The museum has a permanent exhibit about the Wagon Trail Race. Wagon Trail Weekend recalls past summer celebrations in Hope. The community held an Apple Festival in 1941, with an Apple Queen, pageantry, entertainment, and a picnic. In 1988, Hope celebrated the 100th anniversary of the discovery of gold on Resurrection Creek with a Gold Discovery Celebration. That event included a parade, banquet, sack race, watermelon-eating contest, and the first 5K race up the Wagon Trail.

One of the items at the Hope museum is an Elgin gold-plate watch, two inches across, that belonged to John Hirshey. The watch was found in the Hirshey home between two logs. Hirshey (1865-1939) was an 1896 gold miner from New York

who operated the successful Lucky Streak Mine at the end of Palmer Creek Road.

From Ketchikan: On July 13, **Ketchikan Museums** sponsored an event to receive the Diving Whale Chilkat Robe at the Totem Heritage Center. Carver Nathan Jackson, before it became part of the exhibit at the center, brought the robe, created by Dorica Rockwell Jackson, to life with dance.



Dorica Rockwell Jackson's Diving Whale robe. (KRBD photo by Christy Ruby)

From Kodiak: **The Kodiak History Museum** has acquired important art works by Carol Lambert, Amarie Young, and Perry Eaton for the museum’s permanent collection. Lambert’s



etching on paper, *Basket Not for Sale* (left), was inspired by political cartoons about the 1867 Alaska Purchase and the artist’s own experience learning traditional Kodiak basket weaving in the early 1980s. Amarie Young’s depictions of a raven, hare, bison, and trout serve as “snapshots” of the artist’s world in Kodiak. Her painting of a hare reflects her frequent trips to Long Island, which is scattered with World War II ruins. Perry Eaton’s

contribution, Islands' Song, is a 7-foot stone and bronze sculpture in front of the museum. The bronze mask on a stone monument evokes the sometimes brutal, sometimes mutually beneficial interactions between indigenous Sugpiaq Alutiiq and Russian colonizers.



From Palmer: From an article in the **Palmer Historical Society** newsletter by Peter Ann Stenberg: In the first month after the arrival of the Matanuska Colonists in Alaska, several deaths occurred, all of them infants and children. The first burial was a baby named Dawn, not yet a year old. Her death was followed by those of three young boys, all named Donald, of measles or scarlet fever. The children were buried in a temporary area, but the need for a permanent cemetery was apparent. The federal government provided a five-acre parcel of land for a cemetery in late 1935 or early 1936.



Son Nicolai (sitting); George W. Palmer and Pelageia Chanikhiga, daughter Annie (on lap); and daughter Mary (far right). Photo taken in Knik by Captain Edwin F. Glenn, commanding officer of the U.S. Army Expedition to Cook Inlet 1898. (Edwin F. Glenn papers, Archives and Special Collections, Consortium Library, University of Alaska Anchorage)

Joe Lawton was the May 2019 History Night speaker for the society. Joe presented an illustrated talk about his research on George Palmer and his family in Alaska. George Palmer (1855-1930) operated a trading post on the Matanuska River and the community that grew up around it was named after him. As a young boy, Joe explored the remains of Palmer's store. Although only a few logs and nails remained, it was the beginning of a lifelong quest to know more about Palmer and his family. Joe is the author of *Bibliographical Notes on George Palmer's Alaskan Kin*.

In July, the speaker was Matthew Blessing, State Archivist from Wisconsin, who presented a slide show featuring the images of the Arville Schaleben Collection (see above right). Schaleben was a photographer and reporter who traveled and stayed with the Matanuska Colonists and captured their story in photographs. Blessing asked for assistance from Palmer "citizen archivists" in identifying the people in the photographs.



From Petersburg: This summer has been a whirlwind of activity at the **Clausen Memorial Museum**. The Museum's art collection has steadily grown over the years, thanks to funds made available through the Rasmuson



[From KTVA, Tuesday, July 2, 2019, courtesy Wisconsin Historical Society]

Foundation, and includes pieces from local painters, weavers, silversmiths and carvers. The museum loans out pieces of the permanent art collection to public offices and other locations around Petersburg for all the community to enjoy. Every other week the *Petersburg Pilot*, the local newspaper, features an object from the museum's collection with a short description of its origins and significance. The museum also collaborates with KFSK, the local public radio station, to feature short historical narratives about the community.



From Seward: The **Resurrection Bay Historical Society** celebrated the 126th anniversary of the day the town of Seward was founded in August. At the museum's open house, the society's president, Sue McClure, played the historic pump organ, and there was a presentation of photos taken during the first decade of the town's existence.



From Sitka: The **Sitka Maritime Heritage Society** continues to restore the Japonski Island Boathouse, which when completed will provide Sitka with a public workspace for building and repairing boats. Classroom space in the boathouse will allow the community to provide educational opportunities for its youth and families. The boathouse will also serve as a heritage center dedicated to preserving the oral history, stories, knowledge, and physical artifacts of Sitka's maritime past. Projects completed so far include replacing the boathouse roof, building a new foundation, restoring doors and windows, and installing lighting and utilities. A Gala Open House was held at the boathouse on June 1 to raise money for further restoration efforts.





Rogan Faith, project director, organized a ribbon cutting for the Lake Hood Canal marker in June to thank the William G. Pomeroy Foundation and the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities.

From Soldotna: The **Soldotna Historical Society** held a special open house and community BBQ on July 26, during Soldotna Progress Days, at the Soldotna Homestead Museum. The annual event serves to increase public knowledge and awareness of local history as presented at Soldotna's historical gem, the Homestead Museum. This year, Al Herschberger was honored as the Pioneer Grand Marshall of Soldotna Progress Days.



From the Alaska Historical Society: With a grant from the William G. Pomeroy Foundation, there is a historic marker about the **Lake Hood Canal** in Anchorage. Rogan Faith (see left), a member of the Alaska Historical Society, proposed and led the project. He worked with the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities to place the sign overlooking the canal that the Alaska Road Commission built in 1940 to connect Lakes Hood and Spenard so seaplanes could land. Today, people can see planes take off and land on floats or skis using the canal throughout the year.

Another way I like to barbecue king salmon is as a whole fish stuffed, literally to the gills, with sweet onions, sliced lemons, and summer sage.

—Tom Douglas

Archives Notes:



The **State Library, Archives, & Museum** in Juneau conducted a Digital Stewardship course for participants across the state, and concurrently started developing its digital preservation policy and plan. In a related effort, Historical Collections is conducting a survey to document the long-term health and condition of its motion picture collections. What is most exciting about this effort, is digitizing 8mm and 16mm motion picture films to ultra HD or 4K video. With an upgraded system valuable films are being digitally restored! The picture quality is higher, scratches removed, and color corrected.

The SLAM is planning events, including an exhibit in honor of women's suffrage and Alaska Native suffrage, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the 19th amendment to the Constitution in 2020. Newspapers are some of the best resources. Articles from April 1912, when the U.S. House of Representatives was debating the Second Organic Act, provide some insights. Of interest:

Rep. Mann tried to strike the word "male" before "citizen" in Alaska's electoral laws, automatically enfranchising women.

He became Chair of the Committee on Woman Suffrage and eventually advanced HJR 1 giving women the right to vote to the House floor.

An amendment by Rep. Mondell of Wyoming allowing the Alaska Territorial Legislature to enfranchise women if they so decided was a major victory in the House of Representatives.

The Alaska Fisherman, a newspaper started by William L. Paul, Sr. in Wrangell in 1923, has a number of articles about assuring Alaska Natives could vote. The Alaska Digital Newspaper Project, funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities to post Alaska newspapers on *Chronicling America*, will digitally preserve and make available the *Alaska Fisherman* newspaper this year.

Photographs and documents on Alaska suffrage have been posted on Alaska's Digital Archives. Other Alaska suffrage programs include:

- September 27: Discussion of commemoration of suffrage at the AHS conference
- October 2019: Kickoff of National History Day program,

Archives notes:

2019-20 theme Breaking Barriers

- November 2019: Travelling exhibit *Rightfully Hers* available from Alaska State Archives
- January 2020: *Women of Vision* exhibit of works by Alaska women artists at the Alaska State Museum
- February 2020: Traveling exhibit *Alaska's Suffrage Star* available for loan from Alaska State Museum

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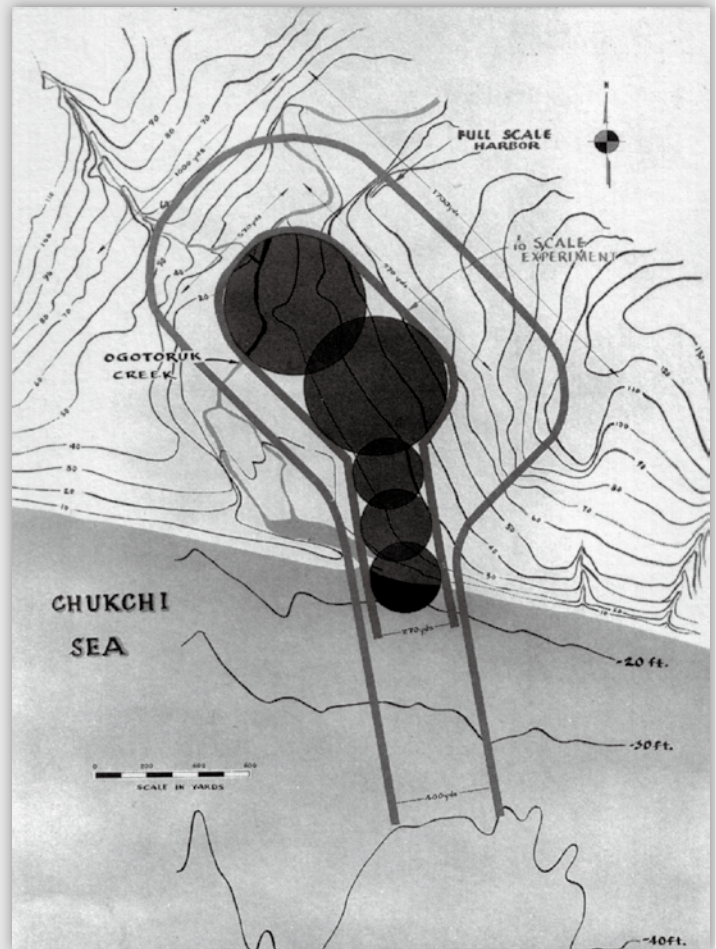
The U.S. National Archives and Records Administration has been digitizing records relating to Alaska. When NARA's Anchorage office closed, Alaska-related records were taken to Seattle. NARA promised to digitize a portion of those records, and established a web page for the Alaska Records Digitization Project (<https://www.archives.gov/seattle/anchorage-project/index1.html>). With input from stakeholders and the public, NARA created a digitization list and combined it with a list of records requested in 2015 and 2016. Here are a few of the digitization series completed:

- Aerial photographs of Attu Island, 9/18-28/1942
- Attu Station logbooks, 1943-1945
- Reindeer Service correspondence relating to reindeer meat, 1937-1943
- Project Chariot files, 1958-1963

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The UAA/APU Archives and Special Collections announces newly digitized audio, video, and film available on Alaska's Digital Archives and its YouTube channel UAA/APU Archives. The items were digitized with funding from the Atwood Foundation. They are unique, one-of-a-kind materials relating to life in, and the history of, Anchorage between 1950 and 1998. Items include audio and video recordings of performances and public service announcements of the Anchorage Civic Opera Association; videos from the Atwood family collection of local events and interviews; the Botens-Stoops films; audio recordings after the 1964 Earthquake in the Genie Chance collection; family films in the Donald T. Griffith family collection; film with scenes of Anchorage from the Walter Johnson collection; poetry recordings in the Margaret Mielke collection; and UAA Athletics moving images of games, promos, and sporting highlights.

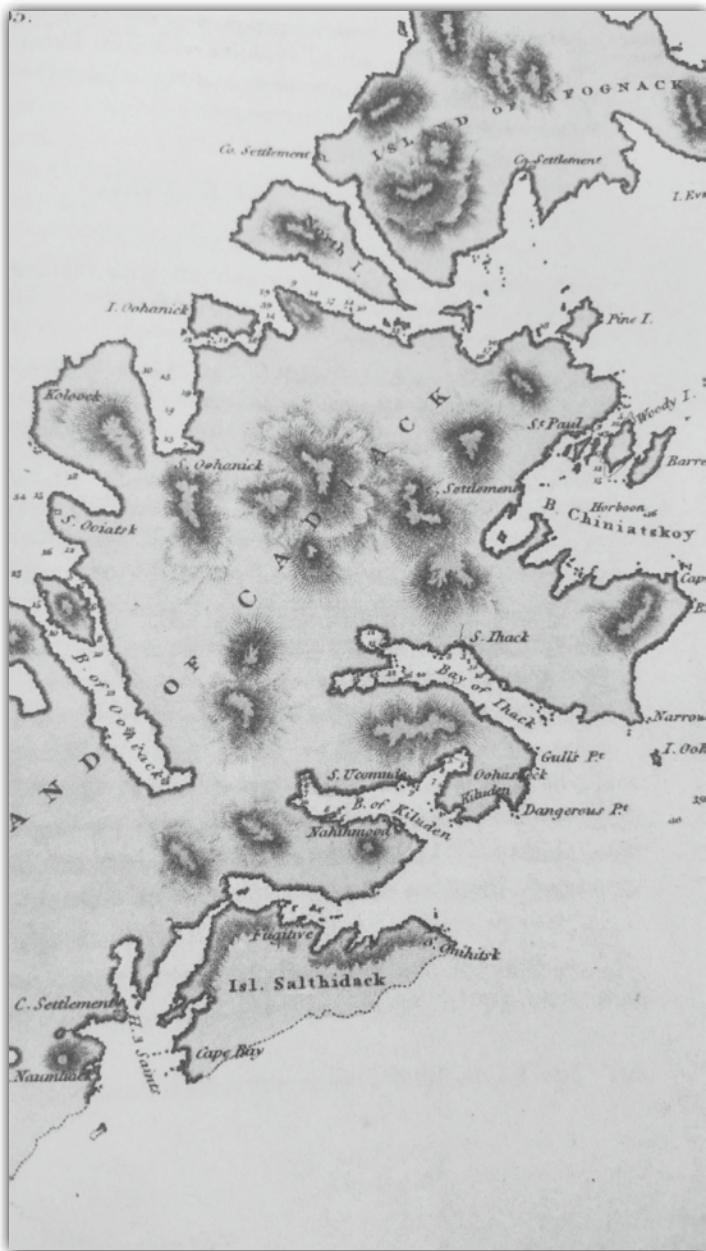
The materials were in many formats: 8mm and 16mm film, 1/4-inch audio reels, audiocassettes, and video formats including Umatic, Betacam, VHS, and 1/2-inch, 1-inch, and 2-inch video tape. Scene Savers digitized the materials and the files are housed on the archives' Network Attached Storage server, and backed up. A total of 122 items were digitized. 75 are online and the others can be viewed at the archives. Nice to have materials that were unplayable due to the obsolescence of the format type and playback media now available.



To excavate a harbor in Cape Thomson, Project Chariot called for the detonation of five thermonuclear bombs. Prior to the event, AEC biologist John N. Wolfe found a high level of radioactivity already present in the lichen the caribou, and in turn the Inuit, ate yearly. His studies showed that lichen captured fallout from nuclear tests around the world. The villagers of Point Hope, only 30 miles distant from the proposed event, expressed their "concern about the health of [their] people now and for the future that is coming," in a letter to President Kennedy. Project Chariot never took place.

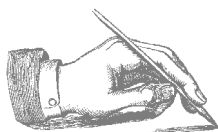
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Kodiak, 1805, from *A Voyage Round the World* by Yuri Fyodorovich Lisiansky.

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Courtesy of Karl Gucke and Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, Charles W. Hooper Collection.

Balloonist John Leonard prepares for aerial acrobatics in Dawson City, 1899.

ODDMENT:

THE “PRINCE OF THE AIR” COMES TO THE KLONDIKE

Long before the Wright Brothers took to the skies, daredevil balloonists were flying high over the heads of earth-bound mortals and making a living doing it. John Leonard was one such aeronaut, and his performances were crowd-pleasers—wearing colorful tights and holding on to a trapeze hanging from the basket of his hot air balloon, he ascended into the sky, performed hair-raising maneuvers, and then parachuted to earth. Afterwards he would pass a hat among the spectators and send someone to fetch his balloon wherever it might land.

Sensing an opportunity in the northern gold fields, Leonard took his act to Juneau in July of 1899 and made \$350 with just two ascents. By August he was in Dawson City to become the first balloonist in the Klondike, and a reporter described the moment he let go of the trapeze:

He shot down like a chunk of lead for 100 feet, then the umbrella-like affair was caught by the air and the descent was checked. In another moment, however, Leonard had plunged into the icy water of the Yukon 100 yards from shore and disappeared from the view of the hundreds who had witnessed his drop.

Leonard managed to swim to the beach unharmed, but a few days later he was not so lucky. On his second ascent, he was blowing kisses to the crowd when the breeze carried him over Dawson's stores and warehouses. Although the parachute opened, he landed hard on a corrugated metal roof and then fell to the sidewalk twenty-five feet below. He spent two weeks in bed and three more on crutches. But this was not the end of the celebrated “Prince of the Air” whose next stop was Nome, Alaska.

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