



Alaska History News

Volume 48, No. 2, Summer 2020

Quarterly of the Alaska Historical Society

"The Spanish Flu in Alaska: Why some villages were devastated and others unscathed."
By Joey Carney March 16, 2020, Anchorage Press



To Prevent Influenza!

Do not take any person's breath.
Keep the mouth and teeth clean.
Avoid those that cough and sneeze.
Don't visit poorly ventilated places.
Keep warm, get fresh air and sunshine.
Don't use common drinking cups, towels, etc.
Cover your mouth when you cough and sneeze.
Avoid Worry, Fear and Fatigue.
Stay at home if you have a cold.
Walk to your work or office.
In sick rooms wear a gauze mask like in illustration.

Illustrated Current News

Message from the President:

Friends, I am reminded that the current medical crisis is not new to many Alaskans. In February 1986, people in Nome gathered to recount their history under a program called Nome Communities of Memory. There were many memorable accounts that night but the one that I keep thinking about now is Lela Oman's story of the 1918 Flu Epidemic on the Seward Peninsula. Lela told us that she heard the story from David Joe who at the time of the flu was a teenager hired to take care of a large number of sled dogs at Safety. David Joe and his friend got word that people were sick and dying at Cape Nome, and they decided to leave Safety and go to their parents who were living there. When they got to Cape Nome they saw smoke coming from two stove pipes, the houses where their families were staying. As each boy entered their family's house they saw their mothers who were barely alive. David Joe recalled to Lela that the women could hardly raise their heads. They thanked their sons for coming to be with them and then died.

As I thought about Lela's story I was reminded of Matt Ganley and his work on the impact of the flu epidemic on the Seward Peninsula. That prompted me to contact Matt to learn more about his research. ("The Dispersal of the 1918 Influenza Virus on the Seward Peninsula, Alaska: An Ethnohistoric Reconstruction," in *Circumpolar Health 96 Proceedings*.) It was a double reward, the chance to reconnect with Matt and to learn more about his research.

At a very personal level, history is often a way to make valuable connections and reconnect with colleagues. Join us in Sitka for the Alaska Historical Society meeting, October 14-17, a great way to make personal connections with Alaska history and with the people who value it.

—William Schneider



ADVOCACY UPDATE

On April 2, the Alaska Historical Society's Advocacy Committee spearheaded a teleconference with colleagues in Washington, Oregon, and Idaho to address the proposed closure of the National Archives and Records Administration facility in Seattle. The proposal would shutter the Pacific Northwest's only NARA facility and send the records to the Midwest and Southern California. This would be a damaging blow to researchers throughout our region. The collections include information related to American Indian and Alaska Native land and citizenship claims, Chinese exclusion, natural resources, and environmental laws and regulations, to name just a few significant topics.

Alaskans received the news of the closure with particular concern given the history of the National Archives in the 49th State. In 2014, NARA shuttered its Anchorage facility and sent Alaska's federal records to Seattle. The expectation was for these records to remain in the Pacific Northwest and for Alaskans to gain access to the records digitally. However, the digitization never materialized. Travel to Seattle is burdensome enough for many Alaskans, and an additional relocation to the Midwest or Southern California would prove even more financially prohibitive and tremendously inconvenient. This calls into question whether NARA intends to honor their mission statement of maintaining reasonable public access to the nation's federal records. If the archives are relocated, the Pacific Northwest, already the largest single region in the United States, will be the only one without a NARA facility.

We at the Alaska Historical Society, along with our colleagues in Washington, Oregon, and Idaho, are dedicated to maintaining a NARA facility in the Pacific Northwest. At this point we would prefer that facility remain in Seattle, but we are amenable to another location in Washington State. We understand that the nation faces great uncertainty in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. And we also recognize that our legislators are consumed by more pressing priorities at the moment. Nonetheless, we ask you--our members--to continue to monitor this situation and reach out to your respective representatives and remind them that we must maintain public access to our records in our home region.

—Ian Hartman, Chair, Advocacy Committee

JOIN US AT THE AHS CONFERENCE IN OCTOBER!

The COVID-19 virus has slowed our planning for the AHS conference—at this time still scheduled to be at Sitka, October 14-17, 2020. The deadline to submit a proposal to present at the conference has been extended to June 30th. In these uncertain times of pandemic, the Program Committee is looking into options to have a virtual conference for people to present if the decision is made to not hold an in-person conference. The bottom line is, please consider submitting a proposal!

The theme for this year is “Power and Place,” and Sitka's history offers many illustrations of the distribution of power in this extraordinary place. Thomas Thornton who has written extensively about indigenous place names in Southeast Alaska has agreed to speak. We are planning several special panels, one on women's suffrage, another honoring the contributions of Richard Nelson, who lived in Sitka and passed away in 2019, and a third anticipating the 50th anniversary of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. We are pleased that Beverly Beeton will be the featured speaker to start the Women's Suffrage session. The Richard Nelson tribute will include remarks by Hank Lentfor, Gary Nabhan, and others who worked closely with Nelson.

Please send your paper proposals to me at rachel_mason@nps.gov by June 30.

—Rachel Mason, Chair, AHS Conference Program Committee

ARE YOU INTERESTED?

Would you like to participate in the leadership of the Alaska Historical Society and help guide the organization in advocating for archives and historical resources and in doing the many other things the Society does? We will be electing five people to the Board of Directors this fall and encourage you to consider being one of them. It is a great way to meet people who care about history, and to help build our state's awareness of its rich past and historical resources. We need you!

Your Alaska Historical Society is governed by a 15-member Board of Directors with members from around the state. A director serves a three-year term and is permitted by the bylaws to serve two consecutive terms. The organization is run by volunteers, so our success relies on our board. This year, three directors will term out. Two other directors have agreed to run for a second term. Please consider running.

The Board of Directors meets at least quarterly, three times by teleconference and one time in person at the annual meeting. Directors, who must be individual members of the Society, are asked to serve as an officer or chair one of the Society's committees, as well as be a member on several other committees. Attendance at the annual meeting is expected, which sometimes requires travel and lodging over a weekend. Committees work on the annual conference, membership, advocacy for history programs and funding, overseeing the website, publishing the quarterly newsletter, promoting the organization and Alaska history using social media, recognizing individuals and groups with awards, overseeing the financial health of the organization, and working on the Society's special initiatives.

Will you help? Or do you know someone who would be a good board member? Please let us know—send an email to members@alaskahistoricalsociety.org by July 15th. If you have questions about serving on the Board, use this same email address to send your phone number and a board member will be happy to talk to you. Come join us!

AWARDS

Each year the Alaska Historical Society recognizes through its awards program individuals, historical societies, and public institutions for outstanding research, writing, and promotion of Alaska history. AHS invites nominations for its 2020 awards.

The James H. Ducker Historian of the Year Award is given to an Alaska resident for publication of significant new material about Alaska's past published the last sixteen months. Historian James Ducker edited the Society's scholarly journal *Alaska History* for 30 years.

The Esther Billman Certificate of Excellence is given to a local or state historical society, museum, government agency, or other organization for a project or series of projects contributing to the preservation and understanding of Alaska history. Esther Billman's service as curator at the Sheldon Jackson Museum is commemorated by the award.

The Evangeline Atwood Award is given to an individual for significant long-term contributions to Alaska state or local history. Evangeline Atwood was one of the founders of the Alaska Historical Society.

The Barbara Smith Pathfinder Award is given to an individual or individuals for indexing or preparing guides to Alaska historical material. Barbara Smith, a historian, archivist, and exhibit curator prepared invaluable guides to Alaska Native, Russian Orthodox, and Russian American records.

The Elva R. Scott Local Historical Society Award is for a special achievement of a community historical society or museum to make the local people and historical events known. Elva Scott was a founder of Homer's Pratt Museum, and after moving to Eagle was the newsletter editor, tour guide, and official of its historical society.

The Student and Beginning Professional Travel Scholarship Awards are cash awards given to help individuals attend and participate in the Alaska Historical Society's annual meeting and conference.

The Contributions to Alaska History Award recognize an individual and groups that have made singular and significant recent contributions to the promotion and understanding of Alaska history.

A letter of nomination with sufficient detail and supporting materials should be sent to the AHS Awards Committee, members@alaskahistoricalsociety.org or mailed to P.O. Box 100299, Anchorage, AK 99510. Nominations for the Ducker Award must include a copy of the publication for the committee's use.

NOMINATIONS ARE DUE AUGUST 15, 2020.

Living Through the Pandemic

Historical societies and museums all over Alaska had to suspend events and close their doors to visitors because of restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Many of them took the opportunity to make their projects and exhibits available online. Acknowledging the historical significance of this time, some societies have initiated COVID-19 oral history projects, welcoming community members to share their stories of social isolation.

Many small communities in Alaska are already quite familiar with social distancing. The Museum Development Coordinator of the **Hope and Sunrise Historical Society** wrote in April, “Hope has been hunkering down for 100 years. Hope residents know how to avoid crowds and reuse what they have. The Hope and Sunrise Historical Society is very frugal with what funds we have so we will survive the 2020 Pandemic.” The museum has opened the museum grounds for the summer but the buildings are closed.

Notes from around the State

Over the winter the **Clausen Memorial Museum** in Petersburg repainted its galleries and got things spruced up for the coming year, using a grant from Alaska Airlines to help fund the efforts. The museum had planned a fundraiser production of a locally produced play that focused on “The Boardwalk” in Petersburg’s downtown during the 1920s, when the Shriners converged on the town and were feted with a lunch and parade. Sue Paulsen, Cathy Cronlund, and Kathy Pool were the historians and the creative energy behind the project. They gathered historical records, music from the 1920s, printed materials and news items, and historical photos of Petersburg and its residents during that era to craft an entertaining revue highlighting Petersburg of the past. Due to coronavirus concerns, the sold-out production was put on hold, but plans are to show it at a later date.

The museum is also updating its display of a traditional Tlingit canoe, creating a photo backdrop illustrating the location where the canoe was discovered on the shoreline of Kupreanof Island. Photographer Tonya Somerville of Seaprints Photography is working with the museum on this project. Additional research will focus on the indigenous history of the Petersburg area, and plans are to use Tlingit and Haida words for the objects on display.

Ketchikan Museums staff have been working hard, even while their doors have been closed. The Tongass Historical Museum now offers its new exhibit, *Into the Wind: Aviation as Southeast Alaska’s*

Lifeline, as a virtual exhibit. Past exhibits and Artifacts of the Month are also now on the Ketchikan Museums website, as well as exhibits from the Totem Heritage Center. Ketchikan Museums has initiated a COVID-19 Oral History Project, inviting community residents to share their stories about social distancing in order to document this memorable time.

The **Juneau-Douglas City Museum** has received 55 original pen-and-ink political cartoons drawn by artist Rie Munoz in the 1950s for the *Alaska Sunday Press*, now the *Juneau Empire*. Munoz was the editor of the paper’s Women’s Page. After she married and had twins, she began working part-time, concentrating on cartoons. The topics she depicted, including commercial fishing, moving the capital, and Governor Bill Egan’s birthday party, offer fascinating snapshots of Juneau and Alaska history.

The museum reopened on June 5th with a new exhibit, *Echoes of War: Unanga Internment During World War II*, that will be on display through October 18, 2021. The exhibit tells the story of the people of the Pribilof Islands in their own words who were interned at Funter Bay from June 1942 to May 1944 and their return home. In June admission to the museum is free thanks to a donation by the Friends of the Juneau-Douglas City Museum.

The **Museum of the Aleutians** in Unalaska is proud to be a recipient of an Art Acquisition Fund award from Museums Alaska allowing them to acquire two handmade Unanga baskets

Notes from around the State

Photograph by Rachel Mason.



Agnes Thompson, 2017.

by expert Atka weaver Agnes Thompson. These small baskets are made from grass collected from Attu Island during the 2017 Lost Villages journey with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. They have been a part of the museum's recent exhibit *Chillulix: The Long Journey Home*.



The **Palmer Historical Society's** April newsletter ran a photo of Lloyd Bell, who with his wife Dorothy was among the first Matanuska colonists, with his beehives outside his log cabin. Bell had raised bees in Minnesota before coming to Alaska, and

hoped that bee culture could become a profitable enterprise for the Matanuska Colony. Although Bell worked with H.J. Leckner, superintendent of the federal experimental farm in Palmer, to determine the feasibility of bee culture, the enterprise never expanded on a large scale.



Contestants in the 2020 Iditarod Sled Dog Race managed to make their way

to the finish as social restrictions were beginning to be issued throughout Alaska. Before the race, and before the COVID-19 isolation began, Seward's **Resurrection Bay Historical Society** offered a program in February entitled "Iditarod Facts and Fables," presented by local historian Lee Poleske.

Poleske also recently discovered some new information about Seward history while going through microfilm reels of the *Seward Gateway*. On November 20, 1934, the newspaper reported that a new gift store, Kawabe's, opened in town, run by Mrs. Kawabe. Mr. Kawabe ran a steam laundry next door. Local historian Colleen Kelly found a photo of the store in the RBHS archives, from the collection of Gilbert Jarvela, a soldier stationed in Seward during World War II.

The RBHS had to cancel the March "Fourth Thursdays: Our History" program about the 1964 Alaska earthquake, which wreaked some of its worst havoc on Seward. The April RBHS newsletter included an excerpt from Elizabeth Mahim's 1964 letter



Funter Bay relocation camp, St. Paul villagers. Thirty-two Unangax would die here. UAF, Fredericka Martin Collection, 91.223.272.

Notes from around the State



Seward after the 1964 earthquake.
Archives, University of Alaska, Fairbanks.

to her friends about the earthquake, telling them that the entire industrial area of Seward had dropped into the bay, “leaving no Small Boat Harbor, nor railroad in some areas where it use to be, with one crevasse big enough that it has two rail cars on it side by side.”

April and May’s Fourth Thursday lectures were also cancelled, but RBHS member Frank Baker challenged members to come up with their own local history items. Frank provided information about Kathryn Baker, who opened a music studio in Seward in 1946 and was part of the community’s first accordion band, and her husband Kenneth Baker, who worked a hard rock gold mine west of Seward.

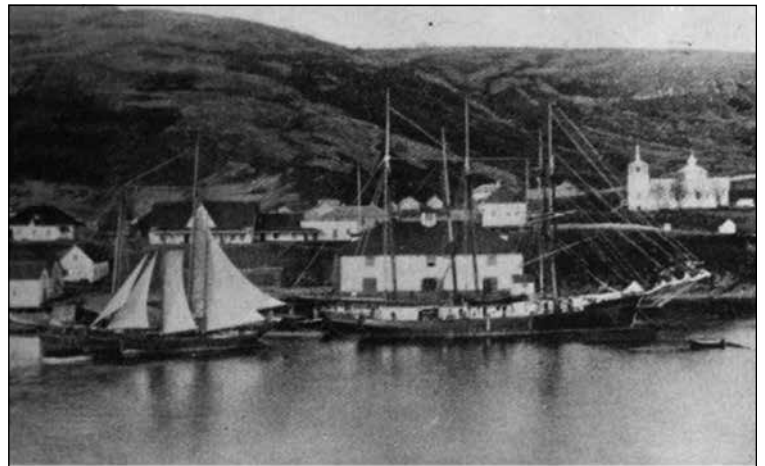
During the influenza epidemic of 1918, the *Seward Gateway* provided news about how the flu was playing out in communities all over Alaska. On December 19, the news reported that 70 cases of the flu had developed in Yakutat, with three deaths. The next day, the paper said that although Cordova had maintained strict quarantine and detention of outsiders for five weeks, keeping sick fishermen and incoming passengers in a “detention hospital,” there were now 200 cases of influenza in Cordova, including local residents as well as outsiders. On December 21, the *Gateway* reported that nearly 1,000 Alaska Native residents of the Seward Peninsula had died, wiping out entire villages or leaving only children as survivors.

✦
The Sitka Maritime Heritage Society “adjusted its sails” to work on its website this spring. They hosted a Virtual Trivia event on May 19th and added resources online including a water safety checklist, prepared in collaboration with the Alaska Marine Safety Education Association, and started a blog. The first entry in the blog is by Cher Easley about the ups and

downs in the daily lives of her mother’s Norwegian fox farmer-fisherman family, the Jacksons, who lived around Goddard in the 1920s and 1930s.

Continuing to work toward its goal to open the Japonski Island Boathouse as a public maritime heritage center, the society plans to frame and install windows and doors, siding and ventilation strips on the exterior, and repair and insulate the northeast wall. The SMHA hopes to host an open house in the fall to celebrate the completed work.

The SMHS’s spring newsletter carried a story told in Bradley Gene Stevens’ 2018 book *The Ship, The Saint, and the Sailor: The Long Search for the Legendary Kad’yak*. The *Kad’yak*, a 130-foot, three-masted barque, was the finest vessel of its kind in the Russian-American Company’s fleet. After arriving in Sitka in 1852, the ship made trips to Unalaska and St. Michael, carrying supplies and furs along with workers, administrators



The *Kad'yak* in Kodiak. alaskashipwreck.com

and clergy. Later she made regular trips to San Francisco to deliver ice and other goods harvested in Russian America. She was wrecked in the winter of 1860 after departing Kodiak with a 356-ton cargo of ice. The *Kad'yak* drifted for four days before finally sinking on a reef in Monk’s Lagoon on Spruce Island, facing the home and grave of St. Herman.

✦
The spring-summer issue of *Gastineau Heritage News*, the newsletter of the **Gastineau Channel Historical Society**,

looks back at epic events that impacted the residents of Juneau in 1918. There was an outbreak of German measles in February followed by a diphtheria outbreak in March, the flu epidemic, a flood and landslide in September, the Spanish flu epidemic and the sinking of the *Princess Sophia* in October, and the end of World War I in November. Rich Mattson and Paula Johnson did extensive research and editor Laury Roberts Scandling added narrative and used quotes from Governor Thomas Riggs' diary and local newspapers. To get a copy, send \$3.00 to the society, Box 21264, Juneau, AK 99801.



The **Alutiiq Museum** has launched a project to collect and preserve Alutiiq family photographs. Museum staff will work with tribal councils and communities to identify photos, scan images, and create digital copies for their owners. Families will be invited to share digital copies with the museum, but this is not a requirement for participation. The project is funded by the Bureau of Indian Affairs with assistance from the Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak. In addition to scanning photographs, the museum will take pictures of people, places, and activities in collaboration with village residents, with the goal of creating a visual record of modern Kodiak Alutiiq life. These photos will be shared with tribal councils.



The **Kodiak Museum**, like others across the state, had to close its doors to visitors. It has launched, however, a COVID-19 Day By Day project, inviting the community to help build a collection of digital files with Kodiak's coronavirus experiences. The museum also is connecting with the community with several virtual programs. Every other week it is posting on the KHM Facebook page a museum object, and once a month is the Story House Live project with readings. The museum's new temporary exhibit *Hold. An Introduction to Mindfulness* is being made available on the museum's website. As Kodiak community partners Monica Claridge and Zoya Herrnsteen prepared the exhibit, they urged museum patrons to practice mindfulness—the moment-to-moment awareness of thoughts, emotions,

and physical sensations—to help navigate the uncertainty created by the pandemic.



The **Archives and Special Collections at the UAA/APU Consortium Library** has two crowdsourcing projects for remote volunteers to transcribe materials in its collection underway.

In 2019, Guilene Mallard donated a diary to the Alaska Historical Society. The diary dated from 1899 (with possibly some 1898 entries) and consists of the daily notes of a New Hampshire man, Charles Parson, who traveled to Alaska and prospected along the Yukon River. AHS transferred the diary to the AHS collection at the Archives and Special Collections. Archivist Arlene Schmuland wrote a brief description of the diary and put it online so people could find out about it. <https://archives.consortiumlibrary.org/collections/specialcollections/hmc-1315/>

Reading the diary was going to be challenging for anyone wanting to use it. The pages are frail and yellowed and would not withstand a lot of handling. The entries are in pencil. With that in mind and looking for projects that could be done from home with the onset of hunker-down orders due to the COVID-19 pandemic, in March, Schmuland digitized the diary. It was a good candidate to put on Alaska's Digital Archives (<https://vilda.alaska.edu>) but without a transcription it would not be very accessible to potential users and certainly not to anyone who needed to use a screen reader. On April 1, Schmuland sent out a call on the Archive's Facebook page for people who might be willing to take on the challenge of transcribing it and AHS shared the post on its Facebook page. From there it took off.

Over 50 volunteers worked untold hours into early May transcribing the diary, 2 pages at a time. Volunteers ranged from Anchorage, across Alaska, across the United States, and even one from New Zealand. The emails from the volunteers sending the transcriptions described the struggle with Parson's laissez faire approach to punctuation (basically none) and capitalization (lots but not where

you'd expect it) and what a challenge it was to keep from fixing those as they transcribed. Some volunteers started mapping his travels and trying to identify where he was even though he did not always use place names. More than one noticed he frequently spelled the word water "warter" which was probably how he pronounced it. Others mentioned struggling with the way he described some of the Alaska Natives he met in his travels.

With Rose Austin, Schmuland is comparing the transcripts with the original entries, trying to fill in some of the questions and blanks, and compiling them into one document. When that is done the scanned diary and transcript will be put on the Alaska's Digital Archives.



Rhonda McBride.

The other transcription project is of recordings by Ruben Gaines, who came to Alaska in 1946 and worked as a radio broadcaster, first in Fairbanks and then for many years in Anchorage. His radio pieces often featured colorful characters—fictional and nonfictional. One of his most unforgettable characters is Chilkoot Charlie, namesake for a Spenard bar. Gaines served as the first Poet Laureate of Alaska, from 1973 to 1978.

For more information about these projects and how you can participate, visit the UAA Archives and Special Collections website at: <https://archives.consortiumlibrary.org/2020/02/03/are-you-a-ruben-gaines-fan-would-you-like-to-help-us-out/>

The American Alliance of Museums has honored Museum Alaska's Executive Director **Della Hall** with an Advocacy Leadership Award, a new national award for museum professionals. Hall was recognized for coordinating advocacy efforts in Alaska when budget cuts threatened the State Council on the Arts, the Sheldon Jackson Museum, and the University of Alaska Museum of the North. She received the award at a Museum Advocacy Day event held in Washington, DC in February. Congratulations!



Congratulations are also due to **Trish Neal**, President of the Alaska Association for Historic Preservation. She was recognized as February's Preservation Action Hero of the Month by the Preservation Action organization, a national grassroots lobby for historic preservation.



Katie Ringsmuth's Tundra Talks Lecture Series, held at the Anchorage's Loussac Library this year, has a new website, **Tundra Sounds** <https://tundravision.digication.com/Tundra>. The site was designed and developed by Dylan DeBuse, a UAA student who conducted most of the interviews. Speakers include Marie Acemah, Angela Schmidt, Arlene Schmuland, Gwen Higgins, Tim Troll, Libby Bakalar, Scott Jensen, Carolyn Hall, Rhonda McBride (see photograph to left) and Jeff Landfield.



Several teachers are working to revive the **Alaska Council for the Social Studies**. In these rapidly changing times, the organizers see a need for the council, and remember that the well-attended yearly professional conferences held about twenty years ago built a supportive statewide network for K-12 teachers. The organizers note that at this time Alaska does not have a statewide social studies coordinator. The group has a webpage and Facebook, Instagram and Twitter accounts and would like to hear from anyone interested, not just teachers. They invite folks to "like" AKCSS on the social media platforms.



The Alaska Association for Historic Preservation announced its 2020 annual Ten Most Endangered Historical Properties list. Those selected for the 2020 list will be eligible to apply for a matching grant of \$2,500, provided funds are available. For more information, see www.AlaskaPreservation.com.

Ten Most Endangered Properties of 2020:

- Ascension of Our Lord Chapel, Karluk
- Wolf Creek Boat Works, Prince of Wales Island
- Commissioner's Cabin, McCarthy

- *SS Nenana*, Fairbanks
- Amakdedori, near Kamishak Bay
- Qiyhi Qelahi, west of Nondalton
- The Bonfoey Family Homestead Cabin, North Pole
- Leonhard Seppala House, Nome
- 4th Avenue Theatre, Anchorage
- Jesse Lee Home, Seward

The Ascension of Our Lord Chapel in Karluk on Kodiak Island is perilously close to falling off a cliff into the Karluk River, due to erosion. Efforts are underway to move the chapel to safer ground.

Ascension of Our Lord Chapel, forefront; Village of Karluk, middleground. Historic American Buildings Survey, National Park Service, Jet Lowe photographer, 1990.





Lend-Lease Memorial, Fairbanks.

Without American production the United Nations could never have won the war.

—Joseph Stalin

As part of Victory Day commemorations in Russia, on May 9th a new monument was unveiled in Magadan to commemorate the World War II pilots who participated in the Alaska-Siberia lend-lease program. Anchorage mayor Ethan Berkowitz and former Alaska Lt. Governor Loren Leman participated in the ceremony by video. A small gathering was held in Fairbanks at its lend-lease monument (see photograph above) as well that recognized the cooperative relationship between the USSR and the USA that contributed to the Allies winning the war.

The *Williwaw* is a quarterly newsletter started by the late Al King, and continued by Dave Rawlings, to honor those who served in the Aleutian Campaign of World War II, their families, and their descendants who carry on their memories. The **National Park Service** is continuing the *Williwaw* as part of its Aleutian WWII program, available digitally and in print. In the first issue, editors Joshua Bell and Karen Abel (see photograph, bottom left) tell of their own connections, through each of their grandfathers, to the Aleutian Campaign. Check out the online version at

<https://www.nps.gov/articles/williwaw-may-2020.htm>. Stories from veterans and their families are welcome! Please email rachel_mason@nps.gov if you have a memory or story to share about the Aleutian Campaign in a future issue.

✦
ERRATUM: A photograph of Company L in *Volume 48, No. 1, Spring History News* incorrectly stated that the image was taken in Skagway. Karl Gurcke, historian NPS Sgagway researched the photograph and determined its recorded provenance incorrect.

✦
The Walt Disney film *Togo*, released in 2019, focuses on the famous sled dog and his owner Leonhard Seppala, who made the 1925 serum run to Nome. Willem Dafoe was cast as Seppala and a dog named Diesel played Togo. Most of the dogs in the movie were from the Snowy Owl Kennel in Canmore, Alberta, including the two dogs who acted as stunt doubles for Diesel. The film is largely faithful to the story of the serum run.



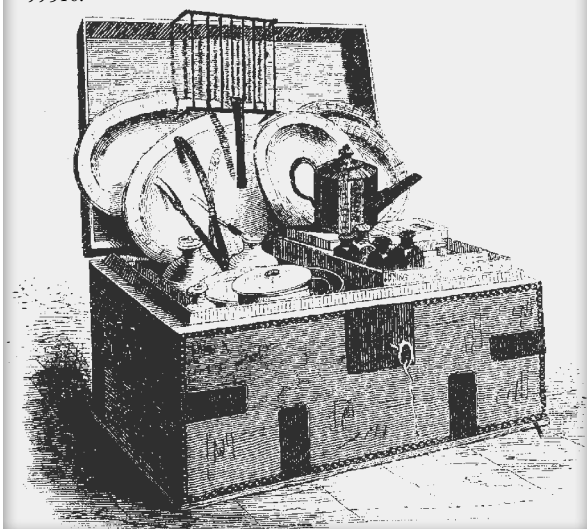
P/O Robert W. Lynch, 111(F) Squadron, RCAF, 1942. Courtesy Karen Abel.

The 2020 PFD payments are going out early this year, which changes the deadline for contributing through the Pick.Click.Give program to the Alaska Historical Society. If you are considering making a donation please go to your MyAlaska Account and click Pick.Click.Give by June 17th. Every little bit helps! An early thank you to the generous Alaskans who have already donated to AHS!

Pick.Click.Give.

SEEKING TREASURES

The Alaska Historical Society's big fundraiser is its silent auction held as part of its annual fall meeting. The auction committee is soliciting items for the 2020 auction. Please send a description of what you would like to donate to members@alaskahistoricalociety.org or Box 100299 / Anchorage / AK 99510.



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.alaskahistoricalociety.org and then click on "membership and giving."

Membership lapsed? Renew today to celebrate yesterday!

Visit our website:
www.alaskahistoricalociety.org



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

Alaska Historical Society

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**AN ODDMENT BY CHRIS ALLAN:
KINDLY MOVE THE BOUNDARY**

On July 28, 1898, at a time when the United States and Canada were locked in a struggle over the southeast boundary of Alaska, Eliza R. Scidmore penned a letter to the head of the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey describing her journey up the Stikine River and issuing a request:

I have just made the tourist's grand round in Southeastern Alaska and, in addition, at last had a chance to see the Stikine, which is quite up to its reputation for scenery . . . [But] I do not at all like the boundary on the Stikine, as she is. A man and a dog in a temporary tent with a revenue flag pinned on one side represent the United States, and the Canadian Police in a group of well-built houses around a flagstaff, with a storehouse and company gardens on the bank, look as if they believed in their contention as to the thirty mile (from Ft. Wrangell) limit and expected to remain there.

We are a great country and fond of saying so, but that lonely man and his dog on the Stikine do not support the boast. Kindly move the boundary up until we at least include the Great Glacier—and do get us the canyon if possible.

For Scidmore (pronounced SID-more) this was no idle commentary. She was the first female writer, photographer, and board member of the National Geographic Society and had published two articles about the Alaska-Canada boundary dispute (*Century Magazine* 1891, 1896). She also authored one of the earliest travel accounts of the region, *Alaska, Its Southern Coast and the Sitkan Archipelago* (1885). Today Scidmore is most often remembered for planting Japanese cherry trees around the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

—Excerpted from NARA, Records of the U.S. Customs Service, Alaska File of the Special Agents Division of the Department of the Treasury, RG 36, Roll 11.