ALASKA HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

2019-2020 Officers and Board of Directors

William Schneider, President Rachel Mason, Vice President

Tim Troll, Treasurer

Angela Schmidt, Secretary

Karen Brewster
Tom Bundtzen
Rogan Faith
Rachel Mason
Patuk Glenn
Ian Hartman
Erik Johnson
Araon Leggett
Averil Lerman
Rachel Mason
Sara Piasecki
David Ramseur
Anastasia Tarmann

Judy Bittner, State Historic Preservation Officer/Office of History & Archaeology

Patience Frederiksen, Director, Division of Libraries, Archives, Museums

Executive Director: Joan (Jo) Antonson *Alaska History* Editor: Ross Coen

President's report:

William Schneider, President

Thanks are due to the members of the Board of Directors, to Ross Coen, editor of *Alaska History*, and the journal's eight editorial advisors, to Judy Bittner, SHPO, and Patience Frederiksen, Director of the Alaska State Library, and to Jo Antonson, AHS executive director.

The Alaska Historical Society, a volunteer-based organization, has accomplished a lot this year. The Advocacy Committee has been particularly active. Planning the annual meeting and conference changed in July when the decision was made to do it virtually. A first this year was publication of an extra issue of *Alaska History* which is good evidence that there is interest in and study of Alaska's history. A lot of groundwork has been done for commemorating the 50th anniversary of passage of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, which will be our special initiative for the coming year.

Secretary's report

Angela Schmidt, Secretary

Annual business meeting:

September 26, 2019, Kodiak

Meetings of the Board of Directors:

September 26, 2019, in-person meeting in Kodiak November 21, 2019, teleconference March 19, 2020, teleconference July 14, 2020, teleconference

September 23, 2020, Zoom meeting

Treasurer's report

Tim Troll, Treasurer

The AHS has operating and savings accounts at WellsFargo, an endowment account with the Alaska Community Foundation, and a 30-year U.S. Treasury Bond designated for our journal *Alaska History*.

Operating account balance as of September 30, 2020: \$14,460.11

Savings account: \$7,900.32

Sherwood endowment (a 30-year Treasury bond for the Alaska History

journal): \$13,000.00

Alaska Community Foundation endowment:

Corpus: \$100,699.35

Total assets as of August 31, 2019: \$136,059.78 (Essentially \$5,400 more

than last year; growth due to endowment donations)

The 2018 IRS tax return was filed last November, and the 2019 tax return will be filed by November 15; Steve Scheaffer, CPA, Kerr, McVey, Scheaffer & Associates of Anchorage is our accountant. The Foraker Group does our bookkeeping.

The Society has insurance for its office, Board of Directors and executive director. It has an office at 1501 W. 36th St., #210, in Anchorage. Business license, non-profit registration and charitable organization registrations with the State of Alaska are current.

A record 93 individuals have donated money to the Alaska Historical Society this year. Large donations to our endowment were made by Karl Gurcke and Ron Inouye. 37 individuals donated \$1,999.50 to AHS through the Pick.Click.Give program. (The Society is approved for the Pick.Click.Give program for 2021.) In addition, a number of individuals renewed at patron or higher levels of membership (they are listed in another section of this report).

The Alaska Historical Society is the non-profit sponsor for Anne Coray and Steve Kahn who are working on a film about Brown Carlson, an early resident in the Lake Clark area. To date, 16 people have donated to the project; 15 this year, 1 last year. All donations, less a 5% administrative fee, have been disbursed to the filmmakers.

Fund raising activities for year included:

Appeal for donations with membership renewal mailing Permanent Fund Dividend Pick.Click.Give program

2020 Financial donors

Chris Allan, Fairbanks

Evguenia Anichtchenko, Anchorage

James Arneson, Kodiak Rachael Ball, Anchorage James K. Barnett, Anchorage Cheryl Berrong, Fairbanks Nancy Bird, Cordova

Tom & Maureen Callahan, Seward

Brenda Campen, Sitka
Rosemary Carlton, Sitka
Terese W. Carns, Anchorage
Paula Carpenter, Anchorage
John B. Chenoweth, Juneau
D. Allen Coen, Fargo, ND
Terrence Cole, Fairbanks
Elizabeth Cook, Fairbanks
Deborah Corso, Sitka
Justin Couey, Anchorage
Andrew Crow, Anchorage

Rodger & Carmen Davis, Anchorage Lambert De Gavere, Anchorage Phyllis J. DeMuth, Douglas

Kaye Dethridge & Irene Shuler, Sitka

Loren Domke, Juneau Loren Else, Rochester, MN Mary F. Ehrlander, Olympia, WA Rogan Faith, Anchorage John Fournelle, Fitchburg, WI Patience Frederiksen, Douglas Naomi Gaede Penner, Parker, CO

Crystal Glassburn, Fairbanks
Patuk Glenn, Eagle River
Calab Goodwin, Eagle River
Anjuli Grantham, Juneau
Karl Gurcke, Skagway
Carol Harris, Anchorage
Michael Hawfield, Homer
Jean Henry, Juneau
Erik Hilsinger, Anchorage

Ray Hudson, Middlebury, Vermont

Ron Inouye, Fairbanks

Sarah Isto & Gordon Harrison, Juneau

Randall Jacobs, Anchorage Barbara Jordan, Sitka Colleen Kelly, Seward Lois Kendrick, Anchorage Keegan King, Anchorage

2020 Alaska History donors

Steve Haycox, Anchorage

John S. Whitehead, Gainesville, GA

2020 Brown Carlson Film Project donors

Michel Brandt, Menomonie, WI Kathryn L. Carssow, Homer

Richard Eugene Collins, Fort Collins, CO

Lucille L. Day, Oakland, CA

Lynne Krizek, Fairbanks Yuko Kugo, Fairbanks Sheila Lankford, Anchorage Nancy Lesh, Anchorage Jedidiah Long, Anchorage Mary C. Mangusso, Fairbanks Marilyn May, Anchorage Mary McCammon, Anchorage Susan & Phillip Means, Anchorage

Stanton Moll, Anchorage Lael Morgan, Anchorage R. Bruce Parham, Anchorage

Evelyn Pease, Palmer

Jacquelin B. Pels, Walnut Creek, CA

Pal J. Pfeiffer, Anchorage Michaela Phillips, Anchorage

Nicholas Pilch Sitka Sandy Poulson, Sitka

Matthew Prieksat, Anchorage Carl Propes, Anchorage Patrick Race, Juneau Donn J. Reese, Anchorage

Benjamin Ringsmuth, Eagle River Katherine Ringsmuth, Eagle River

David Roberts, Kotzebue Laury Scandling, Juneau Quinn Sharkey, Anchorage Sue Sherif, Fairbanks Anthony Sisto, Eagle River Abigail Slater, Anchorage Howard Smith, North Pole Gillian Smythe, Anchorage Gerald Timmons, Fairbanks Samuel Urban, Fairbanks Walter Van Horn, Anchorage

Douglas Vandegraft, La Conner, WA

Zoelea Vey, Palmer Lila Vogt, Anchorage Adam R. Weinert, Anchorage Michael Whelan, Wrangell Fred T. Williams, Copper Center F.T. Williams, Fairbanks

Pauline Wilson, Fairbanks Thomas R. Wolforth, Anchorage

Steve Deffe, Ketchum, ID Vivian C. Finlay, Homer Sue Goodglick, Anchorage Linda & Parry Grover, Anchorage Linda Harriger, Fairbanks Nancy Lord, Homer Jeannette Mills, Port Alsworth Susan Oesting, Homer Gary A. Rogers, Anchorage Glenn Wright, Syracuse, NY Zhongyi Yu, Monterey Park, CA

Annual silent auction

Planning the first virtual meeting took time and focus. The decision was reached to delay an auction until after the conference. The auction is the society's principal fund raising activity and raises around \$3,500. The auctions rely on donations, primarily from members. Thank you to the 14 individuals who have donated items this past year.

2020 Auction donors

Chris Allan, Fairbanks Joan Antonson, Anchorage Ross Coen, Edmonds Roberta Cuppolos, Anchorage Naomi Gaede-Penner, Parker, CO Larry Hibpshmann, Kenai Karen Hofstad, Petersburg Barbara Hood, Anchorage Ray Hudson, Middlebury, VT Janet Klein, Homer Susan Knowles, Anchorage Nancy Lesh, Anchorage Rebecca Poulson, Sitka Irene Shuler & Kaye Dethridge, Sitka

Board of Directors election

Erik Johnson

Annually, the Alaska Historical Society elects five of its fifteen members on the Board of Directors to three-year terms. The bylaws state an individual only can serve two terms before taking a year off. The Past President, if ending his or her second term serves another year. This year Tom Bundtzen, Aaron Leggett and Averil Lerman completed their second terms. They must take a year off—we hope only a year! Rogan Faith and Erik Johnson completed their first terms and agreed to run for a second. Carol Gales, Pennelope Goforth, Michael Hawfield, Larry Hibpshman, and Rebecca Poulson agreed to be on the ballot.

A total of 145 valid ballots were returned. Members elected Carol Gales, Pennelope Goforth, Michael Hawfield, Erik Johnson, and Rebecca Poulson. The 2020-2021 Board of Directors will meet in the next two weeks to elect the officers for the year.

Membership

The membership is 382. Members are from 46 Alaska communities, 29 other states and Washington, DC, and the countries of Canada, Germany, and Sweden. A renewal letter was sent in January, and a reminder in March to those who did not respond. 32 members renewed at the patron level, and 7 members gave gift memberships. The Society gained 37 new members. We have 35 life members.

2020 New members

Thomas Alton, Fairbanks Kirsten Anderson, Anchorage

Peter Bradley, Woodside, CA Rebekah L. Butler, Anchorage

Geoffrey Burke, Tamworth, NH Kori Callison, Anchorage Tracy Churchill, Wrangell Samuel C. Coffman, Fairbanks Rachel Cohen, Fairbanks Shannon Cole, Fairbanks Bathsheba Demuth, Providence, RI Shawn Freitas, Milwaukie, OR Len Hanson, Bellevue. WA Linda Harriger, Fairbanks David Harrison, Wasilla John R. Hemmeter, Anchorage Darrick Howard, Anchorag Caleb Karstensen, JBER Thomas Kizzia, Homer Forrest Kranda, Anchorage Natalie Lee, Eagle River

Boert Marsett, Tucson Ava Martin, Anchorage Mark Merrill, Willow Elizabeth Newell, Anchorage Keith Nuss, Fairbanks Lauren Peters, Winters, CA James Polley, Friday Harbor, WA Amy J. Potter, Anchorage Sandy Poulson, Sitka Brian Renninger, Seattle Douglas Rickey, Las Vegas, NV Laury Scandling, Juneau Rebecca Warren, Chapel Hill, NC Wasilla Museum Adam Weinert, Anchorage Philip Wight, Fairbanks Glenn Wright, Syracuse, NY

2020 Patron members

Malin Babcock, Auke Bay Julia E. Balakirova, Anchorage (also a new member) Tom Begich, Anchorage Judy Bittner, Anchorage Richard Bizot, Jacksonville, FL Colleen Bridge & Michael Moeglen, Anchorage Tom Bundtzen, Fairbanks Robert E. Dryden, Sitka Ann Fienup-Riordan, Anchorage Ayse Gilbert, Anchorage Ian Hartman, Anchorage Stephen Haycox, Anchorage Alison K. Hoagland, Washington, DC Wayne Jensen, Douglas Robert M. Johnson, Anchorage Jean Kline, Douglas

Marilyn R. Knapp, Bellingham, WA Averil Lerman, Anchorage Susan "Shana" Loshbaugh, Fairbanks Donna Matthews, Anchorage Dorothy Moore, Valdez Frank Norris, Santa Fe, NM Robert Bruce Parham, Anchorage Arthur Petersen, Auke Bay David Ramseur, Anchorage Wayne Selmer, Kalispell, MT Anthony Sisto, Eagle River Gina P. Spartz, Juneau Charles Lewis Tobin, Nome Linda Trierschield, Sitka Timothy Troll, Anchorage Terral Wanzer, Ketchikan

2020 Donors of gift memberships

Chris Allan, Fairbanks
Joan Antonson, Anchorage
Judy Bittner, Anchorage
Colleen Bridge & Michael Moeglen, Anchorage
Rex G. Finley, II, Eagle River
Judith Hanson, Bellevue, WA
Jeffrey & Rebecca Miles, Greensboro, NC

Newsletter, journal, records and collections

Ross Coen, editor, *Alaska History* Rachel Mason, Chris Allan, *Alaska History News*

The first issue of volume 35 of *Alaska History* was printed and distributed last spring. A nice problem for an editor to have was a number of submissions of very good manuscripts, and the decision was made to publish a special edition in the

summer. The fall issue is at the printers and due to be shipped in mid-November. The journal's printer is Sheridan Books in Michigan.

The recipients of the Morgan and Jeanie Sherwood Award for Best Article in Volume 34 (2019) are Mary F. Ehrlander and Hild M. Peters for "Grafton and Clara Burke: Medical Missionaries in Fort Yukon." They receive a \$500 prize.

Alaska History News has been compiled, printed and distributed quarterly. Frank Broderick, Archgraphics, does the layout, Great Originals the printing, and TNT Business Services the mailing. The newsletter is sent to members and to all historical societies, museums, and cultural centers in the state. Rachel Mason has been writing the news and notes; Chris Allan has been providing the oddments; and Jo Antonson has been coordinating.

The University of Alaska Anchorage Archives and Manuscripts Department houses the Alaska Historical Society's records and donated collections. 24 individuals donated papers, films, photographs, and other materials to the Society this past year. Thanks are due Arlene Schmuland and her staff for processing the donations and making them available to researchers.

In the spring, Arlene crowd-sourced for individuals to help transcribe a Gold Rush diary that had been donated to the Alaska Historical Society. The response was amazing and included people from other states and countries. The UAA archives staff put on its website the digitized the diary with the transcription next to each page.

Last month the Board of Directors voted to make a \$1,000 grant to the UAA archives to pay for digitization of some films in the society's collection that were deteriorating. The project already has been completed.

Donors of archival materials to AHS:

Lee and Nancy Aase, Wasilla, slides of Alaska, c. 1940s

Jane Arvanites, Albany, NY, father's photos (about 60 images), 1944-45, when stationed on Attu and Adak Barbara Baron, Ojai, CA, father's photos, 1950-52, when stationed at Ft. Richardson

Marshall Bulle, Rye, CO, two copies of his new edition of Wyatt Earp the Lost Story

Dennis Browne, Wadmalaw Island, SC, album of early Skagway and White Pass Railroad photos

Reanna M. Chapman, Charleston, WV, 1958 Sourdough Sentinel newspaper clippings

Danbury Railway Museum, Danbury, CT, Juneau Chamber of Commerce brochure, 1925

Aaron Downey, Tucson, AZ, 1953 Anchorage Fur Rendezvous photo

Karen Felhofer, Marshfield, WI, real photo postcard of Treadwell

Anna Frantz, Bellemont, AZ, 17 real photo postcards and 3 photo packets from Southeast Alaska, Yukon/British Columbia (Atlin)

Helen Kohr, Lake Forest, IL, 116 color slides taken by Gertrude Wetzel, a nurse, 1945-1955

Margaret R. MacDonald, Des Moines, WA, *Logging, Panhandle Rigging, and Alaskan Tales: Rondo Ludwig Remembers*, transcript of oral history tapes made in 2015 of logging near Ketchikan

Judith Martin, Powell, OH, Totem Lore and the Land of the Totem, H.P. Corser

Amy Mensch, Coon Rapids, MN, Alaska Highway Poems (1944), Village People booklet (1966), USGS Bulletin on Willow Creek Mining District (1933)

Thomas Midtbo, Minneapolis, MN, 1959 letter from Coast Guardsman and 10 slides of Ketchikan Mitch Moldenhauer, Indio, CA, Anchorage souvenir packet, World War II

Oakland Public Library, California, 11prints with negatives of places in Alaska from the late 1800s Alvin Schaut, Plainfield, WI, 4 photo postcards

David L. Schinnerer, Altadena, CA, photo postcards of Juneau, Wrangell, Ketchikan and Saxman, 1949 Claire Dworak Shelton, Fayette, AL, photographs of Anchorage, mid-1900s, of Howard Edwards Paul M. Taylor, Washington, DC, 2 1970s guidebooks

Woden Teachat, Middlesex, VT, Alaska Coast Fisheries cancelled check, 1939

Anne Terhar, Menlo Park, CA, 4 oversize photos of Ernest Gruening, 1 photo of the 1960 Democratic National Convention

Wayne County Historical Society, Honesdale, PA, cabinet cards of Sheldon Jackson school and Juneau's Presbyterian church in 1890.

Leonard Whitlow, Portland, OR, 4 reels of film of Alaska shot in 1940 by Stanley Zuern

Website/Facebook/Instagram

Karen Brewster, Erik Johnson

Content is added to the website, and posts are made on Facebook and Twitter pages. The Society has 1,900 followers on Facebook, 800 on Twitter, and 457 on Instagram. Billy Finley, Couloir Graphics, provides technical assistance for the website.

Jo Antonson checks the email. Many members assist with answering research questions.

Alaska Historical Commission nominations

Tom Bundtzen, Ron Inouye

The Alaska Historical Society recommends individuals to the Governor for two seats on the 9-member Alaska Historical Commission. Mike Hawfield and Rebecca Poulson served this past year in the seats. Mike's second term ended last summer, and he opted not to seek reappointment. The committee noticed that interior and northern Alaska did not have representation on the commission and recommended three individuals from those areas to the Governor for the seat. In August, Governor Dunleavy appointed Ray Bonnell of Fairbanks to the commission.

A huge thank you to Mike for his diligent and thoughtful work on the commission. Members are encouraged to contact Rebecca and Ray to suggest projects that the commission might undertake and issues regarding Alaska history and its preservation, and geographic place names.

Annual meeting / conference

Rachel Mason

In December the president of Museums Alaska informed the Alaska Historical Society president that they had decided to not meet jointly in 2020. After receiving the news, the Alaska Historical Society contacted several local historical societies about hosting our organization in the fall. Sitka Historical Society, Hal Spackman, Director, stepped up and planning started.

The Board of Directors selected the conference theme "Place and Power" and sent out a call for papers. With the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, a number of members indicated they would not participate in an in-person conference. Still, the Board of Directors waited until July to decide to hold this year's annual meeting and conference virtually.

Initial plans were for two keynote sessions. Tom Thornton and Harvey Kitka would speak on Southeast Alaska place and history with an emphasis on geographic names, and Beverly Beeton would speak on women's suffrage to commemorate the centennial of the 19th amendment when women earned the right to vote in the United States. Sadly, in August, Bev died.

The program committee decided to use the Zoom platform for the meeting. It seemed to fit the needs and this past year many of our members have become familiar with it. Decisions included not holding concurrent sessions, having two sessions a day with long breaks to avoid "Zoom fatigue", to accommodate all who responded to the call for papers, and to hold the conference Thursday-Saturday over two weeks. Karen Brewster stepped up to be the Zoom host and has done a terrific job.

Thank you to all our presenters and moderators. Over 90 people are registered for the conference.

Advocacy

Ian Hartman, Will Schneider, Aaron Leggett, Averil Lerman, Bruce Parham, David Ramseur, Judy Bittner, Patience Frederiksen

It was a busy year for this committee.

In January the National Archives and Records Administration announced plans to close its regional facility in Seattle, because of the commercial value of the land where it stood. The AHS sent letters and emails and made phone calls to Alaska's congressional delegation. Senators Murkowski and Sullivan signed on to letters with legislators from Washington, Oregon and Idaho. The AHS also circulated information to Alaskans and Ian Hartman, Will Schneider and Bruce Parham wrote an op-ed piece that was published in several Alaska newspapers. Subsequently, the AHS initiated a conference call with colleagues in Washington, Oregon and Idaho to continue to put the pressure on for keeping a National Archives facility in the Pacific Northwest. Most recently, the AHS sent a letter to the Attorney General of Washington State who has been working to keep the facility.

The committee undertook discussing statues and monuments in response to calls for removal of statues of William H. Seward, Captain James Cook, and Alexander Baranov that stand in Alaska. The committee drafted a statement on monuments

and the need for more history that the Board of Directors approved in September. It has been published and is on the AHS website.

The AHS kept in contact with the Alaska Division of Libraries, Archives and Museums and the Office of History and Archaeology regarding their state and federal funding. Both programs took reductions but fared reasonably well in the end. The committee continued to watch funding for the University of Alaska archives. During the summer, the committee discussed how it could advocate for the University of Alaska Press which announced it was suspending consideration of new manuscripts.

Earlier this month, the committee sent three questions to candidates running for Congress and the state legislature asking about: support for cultural resources programs, archives and museums; statues and monuments; and the closing of the National Archives facility in Seattle. The responses will be posted on the AHS website.

Special projects

Rebuilding Brown Project

The AHS is serving as the non-profit sponsor for Anne Coray and Steve Kahn, residents of Lake Clark, who own the property and cabin built by Brown Carlson, one of the first permanent residents around the lake. They have researched and interviewed a number of people who knew Carlson and continue work to restore his log cabin. Anne and Steve prepared a trailer for the project, sought private donations, and are seeking grants to produce the film.

Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act 50th Anniversary

Will Schneider, Karen Brewster, Patuk Glenn, Ron Inouye, Bruce Parham, Sue Sherif, Jo Antonson

The committee started meeting regularly after the first of the year. Members suggested ideas for projects, and concluded an introductory essay and identifying and describing archival resources would be most useful. They explored possible sources of funds. After learning about the initiative, Steve Rollins, Director of the UAA/APU Consortium Library, made several inquiries, then worked with Will Schneider to develop a project proposal. He asked the Alaska Library Network to be the fiscal sponsor. The Rasmuson Foundation awarded a grant of \$11,000 for the project with the understanding that many of the Alaska Native regional corporations would match their award. To date, six corporations have agreed to contribute: Bristol Bay, Calista, Koniag, Doyon, Sealaska, Bering Straits, as has the ANCSA Regional Association.

Work has started to develop lists of names, events, and known archival records. The committee plans to hire researchers in Anchorage, Fairbanks and Juneau to look at the records and prepare descriptions. Bruce Parham is going to do the

work with the records held by the National Archives. Will Schneider is going to write the introductory essay. The hope is to have the guide ready by fall 2021, in time for the AHS conference, AFN meeting, and the act's anniversary on December 18th.

Memorials

Ron Inouye

The Alaska Historical Society annually recognizes members, colleagues, and friends who died the past year.

Jacob Anangi Adams, Sr., Utqiavik

Mary J. Barry, Anchorage (last years in Fairbanks)

Beverly Beeton, Seattle

James "Richard" Beneville, Nome

Alan Boraas, Soldotna

Raymond Collins, McGrath

Carol Ann Derfner, Anchorage

Phyllis Ann Fast, Anchorage and Fairbanks

Bruce Grossmann, Delta Junction

Edwin S. Hall, Brockport, NY

Holger "Jorgy" Jorgensen, Fairbanks

Byron Mallott, Juneau

Richard K. "Nels" Nelson, Sitka

Dave Neufeld, Whitehorse, YT

Donald J. Orth, Falls Church, VA

Robert "Bob" Price, Juneau

Kathy Kohlkorst Ruddy, Juneau

Ronald Senungetuk, Homer

Awards

Will Schneider, Rachel Mason, Aaron Leggett, Angela Schmidt

The committee advertised for nominations, reviewed the submissions, and made award recommendations to the Board of the Directors. The Board endorsed the selections at their September meeting.

James H. Ducker Alaska Historian of the Year Award

Thomas Alton, Alaska in the Progressive Age: A Political History 1896 to 1916

Elva R. Scott Local Historical Society Award

Salcha Historical Society, Amy Viltrakis, Founder

Esther Billman Award for Excellence

Gastineau Channel Historical Society for *Gastineau Heritage News*, Paula Johnson, Rich Mattson, Laury Scandling, Researchers/Writers

Contributions to Alaska History Awards

David Reamer, "Histories of Anchorage" Anchorage Daily News weekly feature

David James, "Becoming Alaskan"/"Creating Alaska" series, and Alaskana book reviews, *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner*

Student and Beginning Professional Travel Award

TiaAnna Puya Tidwell, Ph,D. Candidate, University of Alaska Fairbanks Special Recognition

Alaska History Editorial Advisors: Stephen Haycox, Bill Hunt, Mary Mangusso, John Whitehead, Terrence Cole, Ann Fienup-Riordan, Timothy Rawson, Andrei Znamenski. For over 220 combined years of service to the Alaska Historical Society and the wider world of those who value the study of our past

President's Award (the Beaver Log)

Ian C. Hartman, for effective leadership of the Advocacy Committee