



# Alaska History News

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Quarterly of the Alaska Historical Society

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Old\\_Whaling\\_Boats\\_-\\_Barrow,\\_Alaska.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Old_Whaling_Boats_-_Barrow,_Alaska.jpg)



Whaling boats, Utqiagvik.

## Message from the President:

*W*e did it! Congratulations to Rachel Mason and the Program Committee for a very successful 2020 conference via Zoom. Please see Rachel's article on conference highlights. And thanks to Karen Brewster and Jo Antonson for guiding us through the brave new world of online meetings. Stay tuned for information on when you can access recordings of the presentations. The success of the effort raises all sorts of possibilities for hosting sessions throughout the year on topics of interest to our membership.

Other topics of interest: The Auction Committee is formulating a plan for listing some great Alaskan treasures to purchase and support AHS. Give the gift of Alaska history this year! As reported in the last newsletter, the special initiative to produce a guide to primary resources on the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, ANCSA, has received financial support from the Rasmuson Foundation and more than half of the Alaska Native regional corporations. We hope to soon be contracting with researchers and begin to survey archives, libraries, corporations, associations, village holdings and online sources.

New features of the newsletter are spotlights on an individual who is making contributions to Alaska history and on one of the local societies and/or museums in the state. This issue features Patuk Glenn and McGrath's historical society and museum. We are always interested in hearing from local organizations so please send us news and photos of your members and projects,

—Will Schneider,  
—William Schneider

# Alaska Historical Society 2020 Awards

**P**resident William Schneider announced the 2020 Alaska Historical Society awards at the annual business meeting in October. Congratulations to the individuals and groups that were recognized for outstanding contributions to further and promote the study and understanding of Alaska history.

**Thomas Alton** of Fairbanks received the *James H. Ducker Alaska Historian of the Year Award* for his book *Alaska in the Progressive Age: A Political History 1896 to 1916*. The book is an account of the politics, government and economy as Alaska transitioned from a remote possession to a recognized territory of the U.S. Alton summarized much of the essential historical literature on Alaskan development and placed the works in the context of national Progressive Era politics.

The **Salcha Historical Society**, with special recognition of Amy Viltrakis, was the recipient of the *Elva R. Scott Local Historical Society Award*. Salcha, a small community near Eielson Air Force Base, was started by homesteaders after World War II. Amy was an early resident, and in 2016 founded the society. She recorded interviews with the last two speakers of the Salchaket Athabaskan dialect and with a number of the homesteaders. She found information on roadhouses, an Episcopal mission, and discovered that the final connection of the early 1900s WAMCATS telegraph line was made at Salcha. The Salcha Pioneers Home gave Amy two rooms for a museum., and with no budget and several dedicated volunteers, it now holds hundreds of photos, artifacts, and stories.

The **Gastineau Channel Historical Society** was selected for the *Esther Billman Award* recognizing its newsletter, *Gastineau Heritage News*, and noting special acknowledgment of Paula Johnson, Richard Mattson, and Laury Scandling who were the researchers and writers for the last few issues. As the COVID-19 pandemic unfolded, the newsletter team focused on the Spanish flu pandemic in the Juneau area. Research revealed that in 1918 the town also had to meet the challenges presented by the sinking of the *Princess Sophia* in Lynn Canal and the final year of World War I. The newsletter had articles that addressed how Juneau and Douglas residents stepped up to meet the challenges.

Two individuals, both with first names David and both newspaper columnists, received *Contributions to Alaska History Awards*. **David Reamer** of Anchorage has been writing a weekly feature, “Histories of Anchorage”, in the *Anchorage Daily News* this year. Columns frequently use current events—such as the COVID-19 virus, as a springboard for a column on the Spanish Flu, and homelessness in Anchorage as a springboard for a column on a former political activist in Anchorage who was running for mayor in Portland, Oregon.

**David James** of Fairbanks is a writer and Alaskana book reviewer. David had a column “Becoming Alaskan” from 2014 to 2019 in the *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner*, and this year started a “Creating Alaska” series for the newspaper. He has been reviewing Northern books since 2014. His first series chronicled experiences of immigrants to Alaska, creating a valuable documentary record addressing the diversity of contemporary Alaskan communities. His new series introduces artists, writers, videographers, drama directors, and interesting individuals. The book reviews, of various genres, bring notice of good books by Alaskan authors.

**TiaAnna Puya Tidwell**, a Ph.D. student in English and Arctic and Northern Studies at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, received a *Student and Beginning Professional Travel Scholarship Award*. She made a presentation at the conference on Christine Storm, the main character in Edna Ferber’s *Ice Palace*. Because there was no travel involved this year, TiaAnna received an honorarium.

**The Alaska History Editorial Advisors:** Stephen Haycox, Bill Hunt, Mary Mangusso, John Whitehead, Terrence Cole, Ann Fienup-Riordan, Timothy Rawson, and Andrei Znamenski, were recognized and thanked with special *Certificates of Appreciation*. These individuals review and comment on manuscripts submitted to the journal for consideration and provide guidance to the journal editor. The eight scholars combined have given over 220 years of service to the Society. They have helped authors and the editors make the journal—now in its 35th year of publication—a source of some of the best writing on Alaska’s past.

Earlier this year the editorial advisors selected **Mary F. Ehrlander** and **Hild M. Peters** for the *Alaska History Award* for the best article in volume 34 (2019) of the journal for their article “Grafton and Clara Burke: Medical Missionaries in Fort Yukon”.

President Schneider presented the *Beaver Log Award* to **Ian Hartman** and thanked him for his wise counsel and good work this past year as leader of the Alaska Historical Society’s Advocacy Committee. Ian devoted time to researching issues, engaging people in discussion of them, listening to different points of view, and writing letters and resolutions. Topics have included monuments and the removal of statues, the decision to close the National Archives Seattle facility, suspension of accepting manuscripts by the University of Alaska Press, and threats to archives around our state. Notably, Ian involved students in preparing short videoproductions to highlight the use of archives and their importance. The Beaver Log given to Ian is from the headwaters of the Kobuk River near Walker Lake.

## 2020 Conference Recap

**W**e did it! The AHS completed its first-ever digital annual conference. Place and Power was the theme. Hal Spackman, Director of the Sitka Historical Society, invited us to Sitka and we began planning. Unfortunately, faced in July with the grim reality of the COVID-19 pandemic, we switched to a Zoom conference format, but kept the focus on Sitka.

We spread the conference over two weeks, with only two Zoom sessions per day and a break between them, and we reduced the registration fee to \$50 to cover the conference costs. We didn’t know how many people to expect but were delighted when over 90 people registered. Inevitably, there were glitches with the Zoom format. The sessions were webinars rather than meetings, so that panelists were the main speakers and attendees could ask questions. The annual business meeting used the Zoom meeting format.

The conference was full of stimulating and thought-provoking sessions. It opened with keynote talks by anthropologist Tom Thornton and Tlingit Elder Harvey Kitka, who addressed the traditional meanings and contemporary importance of Sitka’s powerful places. The keynote presentations were followed by sessions on the legacy of anthropologist and Sitka resident Richard Nelson, women’s suffrage in Alaska, the 1919 influenza epidemic, the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, Russian America, canneries, and Sitka history. In an era when Confederate monuments are being pulled down in the Lower 48 and Alaskans are debating whether to keep statues of Captain Cook, Alexander Baranov and William Seward, the AHS had a panel discussion on monuments and statues. At the annual business meeting awards were presented, election results reported, and a moving memorial slideshow honored colleagues and friends of history who died the last year.

We got some helpful feedback about the Zoom conference and suggestions for improving future digital conferences. Participants missed seeing each other in person and having an easily accessible full program, including titles, abstracts, and presenter biographies. One person noted that in the webinar format attendees could not see who else was in the audience and wondered if we could change that in the future.

There also were advantages to meeting via Zoom. No travel was required, and presenters and attendees from far-flung places could participate. Since we only did one session at a time, attendees did not have to choose between several offerings. The meetings were recorded and can be accessed later, even by non-members. One member commented that the discussion in the panels was improved in the webinar format. She pointed out that audience members could type in questions and were less likely to ramble instead of really asking a question.

Thank you to all presenters, moderators, and participants for making this a great conference. The Program Committee—Will Schneider, Jo Antonson, Karen Brewster, and I—did our best. Special thanks to Karen and consultant Billy Finley who handled the technological aspects of the conference. Karen developed training sessions for presenters, moderators, and attendees to help us get ready for the conference.

If you missed any of the sessions, or if you missed the whole conference, fear not! All the sessions were recorded and the recordings will soon be available free of charge on the AHS website.

Plans for the 2021 AHS conference are up in the air. Eventually, of course, we hope to go back to in-person meetings, but we don’t know if that will be possible next fall. If we meet by Zoom again, we have learned enough from this first venture to make the 2021 conference even better. Let us know your ideas, especially for themes and possible keynote speakers.

—Rachel Mason, Chair, Program Committee



## AHS election results

The results of the election of five members to serve on the Board of Directors were announced at the annual business meeting in October. Carol Gales of Nome, Penelope Goforth of Anchorage, Michael Hawfield of Homer, Erik Johnson of Denali Park, and Rebecca Poulson of Sitka were elected. The 2020-21 Board of Directors met after the meeting and elected last year's officers to serve a second year. The annual report has been posted on the AHS website.

## Advocacy Fall 2020

The threatened closure of the National Archives in Seattle which houses thousands of Alaska historical documents, the disposition of statues and monuments recognizing historical Alaska figures, and state budget cuts are among the priority issues for the Alaska Historical Society's Advocacy Committee.

The AHS joined fellow historical groups in Washington, Idaho and Oregon in opposing a proposal to demolish the Seattle National Archives facility and ship the historical records for those states even further from researchers to California or Missouri. Federal lawmakers from those states are generally supportive of a compromise to keep the documents in the Pacific Northwest. In July, U.S. Rep. Pramila Jayapal of Washington successfully inserted language in a congressional appropriations bill expressing concern about the proposed closure and calling for cooperation with those affected by it. With widespread congressional inaction generally, the bill has yet to be considered by Congress.

Meanwhile, the Society worked to keep the issue before state and federal lawmakers by distributing a first-ever candidate questionnaire asking about the archives and several other issues such as state budget cuts. Fairly last-minute, the questionnaire garnered a modest number of responses from Alaska legislative candidates. The AHS will consider issuing another in future election cycles and on a more timely basis so the responses can be widely circulated to our members.

The Advocacy Committee also hosted a session during the 2020 virtual conference on how to deal with statues and monuments of Alaska historical figures. Our position is there is much to celebrate about our shared history, and we also believe this moment affords us an opportunity to engage in tough conversations about racism, colonialism, and injustice—topics that have profoundly shaped Alaska's past and present. Panelists included historians Aaron Leggett, Mary Ehrlander and Ross Coen and the moderator was Advocacy Committee chair Ian Hartman.



### Get to Know Patuk Glenn



Patuk Glenn hails from Utqiagvik (formerly Barrow), the farthest north community in Alaska. While she currently lives in Eagle River with her husband, two lively children, and a pair of labradoodles, she says, "I will never stop calling Barrow my home. I've learned so much from my community and I continue to serve them in the capacities I've been afforded. My current position is Executive Director of the Arctic Slope Community Foundation, and it's the biggest challenge I've ever taken." Patuk attended her first Alaska Historical Society/Museums Alaska annual meeting at

Unalaska in 2009 while working at the Inupiat Heritage Center. "I came as a museums person and I felt like I left a history person because of the exciting sessions AHS had made available!"

Serving on the AHS education committee, Patuk hopes to bring more indigenous history to the forefront. "I want to help bring energy and life to the historical aspect of Alaskan Natives. Our Alaskan Native narrative is so much more than what we've learned in school," she said. "I know that not everyone has the privilege of learning history in their own family, and I want to help share the story of where we all come from, in hopes we can encourage our youth to keep going." She welcomes ideas and suggestions to help further these goals.

## News from around the State

*The stabbing horror of life is not contained in calamities and disasters, because these things wake one up and one gets very familiar and intimate with them and finally they become tame again. No, it is more like being in a hotel room in Hoboken, New Jersey let us say, and just enough money in one's pocket for another meal.*

—Henry Miller

“Disaster” is the timely theme of the **Cook Inlet Historical Society’s** 2020 lecture series. The October lecture by Katie Ringsmuth and Tim Troll was on the 1919 Spanish flu in Bristol Bay and Unalaska, and the November lecture, “A History of Mud and Other Noxious Annoyances of Daily Life in Early Anchorage” by David Reamer was about the smaller, everyday disasters that accompanied life in Anchorage in the early 20th century. The January lecture, by Penelope Goforth, is entitled “The Sinking of the Good Ship *Dora*.” The steamer was a well-loved regular visitor to ports around Alaska, delivering mail, food and goods. She was “sold into the cod fishery,” and tragically sank in 1920 while on a fishing trip with a green crew. This lecture will be held via Cloudcast on January 21 at 7 p.m. To register, visit the Anchorage Museum’s website, then go to the calendar.

In September the Society launched its redesigned website, <https://cookinlethistoricalsociety.org>. And with an Atwood Foundation grant, the Society is working with a local author on a community history emphasizing the development of its neighborhoods.



Alaska Steamship Company's steamer *Dora*, ca. 1912. Photo by John E. Thwaites, courtesy University of Washington.



Alaska has been a reliably red state the past few elections. In the early 1900s, however, some Alaskan voters, the “Wickites,” joined a powerful progressive movement based on the ideas of Judge

James Wickersham. Wickersham was hated by both Republicans and Democrats in the deeply polarized territory, but he is credited with getting Alaska territorial status, the University of Alaska, and the Alaska Railroad. The fall issue of the *Gastineau Heritage News*, a publication of the **Gastineau Channel Historical Society**, contains a fascinating article by Laury Roberts Scandling about Wickersham’s career as a politician.



Monmouth College Archives.

Lena Morrow Lewis, 1892.

The newsletter also has an article by Anjuli Grantham about Lena Morrow Lewis, a woman’s suffragist and Socialist firebrand who moved to Juneau in 1914, soon after women in Alaska gained the right to vote. Lewis championed women voters, started an economics school in Juneau, worked as a newspaper editor, and ran for Congressional Delegate. She accomplished much in Alaska before she returned to the Lower 48 in 1917.

*Downtrodden women, just listen to this and take heart! You are in reality superior to man, and if you hadn't been you could never have survived all the centuries of servitude and persecution that have been put upon you.*

—Lena Morrow Lewis

The **Juneau-Douglas City Museum** received a Museums Alaska award for Excellence in the Museum Field for its current exhibit, *Echoes of War: Unangax<sup>^</sup> Internment During World War II*. The exhibit, which focuses on the experiences of Pribilof Islands residents forcibly relocated to Funter Bay during the war, was created in partnership with the communities of St. Paul and St. George and was supported by several state, federal and tribal organizations and legislators. On Indigenous Peoples Day, October 12, the museum hosted a panel discussion with Zinaida Melovidov, Jacob Mercurief, Serafima Edelen, and Martin Stepetin, Sr., all St. Paul residents whose family members had been relocated to Funter Bay during World War II. Virtual visitors to the museum can get a guided tour of *Echoes of War* and other exhibits from the museum's latest staff member, a robot named Shelby. Named after Michelle "Shelby" Storer, a longtime museum donor and volunteer, Shelby is a Double Robotics Robot for an iPad tablet that allows visitors to "drive" the robot throughout the museum from anywhere in the world. Once connected, you can drive the robot through the exhibits and can see and talk with museum staff. Those interested in scheduling a self-guided robot tour should call the museum at (907) 586-3572.



The **Resurrection Bay Historical Society** newsletter carried a story about the Jesse Lee Home, following news that the remaining standing buildings of the orphanage, established in Seward in 1925, would be demolished. Jackie Pels submitted a selection from her book *Family After All: Alaska's Jesse Lee Home, Vol. II, Seward, 1925-1965*, describing a joyful adventure by some orphanage girls who hiked up Mount Marathon and camped overnight, returning with their arms full of wildflowers. Pels mentions that references to the home often say it was closed after the March 27, 1964 earthquake, which badly damaged one of its dormitories. However, when the 50th anniversary of the July 4 Mount Marathon race was held a few months after the earthquake, the best junior team was the Jesse Lee Home team, with four runners finishing in the top ten.



Jesse Lee Home, Seward.

Alaska State Library-PO1-3567

The Pages from the Past section of the October 2020 newsletter was about the *Seward Phoenix Log*, a weekly newspaper founded in Seward in 1966 and published by Willard and Bev Dunham with the assistance of a small staff that included the three Dunham children. In 1967, celebrating the *Log's* one-year birthday, the publishers affirmed the paper had done what was intended: to make people aware of the early history of the Resurrection Bay area.

Seward's Anne Hatch celebrated her 100th birthday on November 17. To mark the occasion, her family established the Ralph and Anne Hatch Family Arts, Music, and Education Fund, honoring Ralph and Anne's longtime participation in and support of the local arts community. Anne arrived from Washington in 1946 to work as a high school teacher. She served as the organist in Seward's Methodist Church for 50 years. Ralph was born in Unalaska and came to Seward with his family in 1930 when he was 6 years old. Ralph's parents had met at the Jesse Lee Home in Unalaska and continued to work for the orphanage when it moved to Seward. Ralph won the Mount Marathon Race six times. He died in 2018 after 70 years of marriage to Anne.

Also, Mary Lowell, early homesteader and owner of the town site, is going to get a new grave marker. Mary, who died in 1906, sold her homestead to railroad entrepreneur John Ballaine in 1903, leading to the founding of Seward the same year. Mary's gravestone went missing last year when an unnamed city employee took the marker to Anchorage to get repairs done, but then could



## News from around the State

not recall where it had been taken. Inquiries to monument companies in Anchorage failed to locate the missing marker. The City Council voted to purchase a replacement grave marker for Mary Lowell.



The **Soldotna Historical Society** had a quieter summer than usual due to the pandemic. Staff used the extra time to install voice narration stations in each of the Society's buildings, and to spruce up the Ciechanski cabin to make it safe for visitation. Intern Abby Phelps spent many hours going through collections, cataloguing objects in the PastPerfect archival system, and de-accessioning others. She also developed a children's day camp program.



Yates Memorial Hospital,  
Courtesy Historic Ketchikan.

The **Yates Memorial Hospital** in Ketchikan is getting restored! On September 24, the National Trust for Historic Preservation named the hospital as one of the Eleven Most Endangered Historic Places for 2020. Built in 1905 as a clergy residence for the Episcopal Mission, the building was repurposed in 1909 to serve as a 12-bed hospital. The building has been vacant for 15 years and suffers from a failing roof, unstable foundation, and deterioration inside. Local supporters are raising funds to restore the building

which will include a display featuring the stories of the nurses who worked at the hospital. Over the years, many dedicated and determined nurses worked tirelessly, under very difficult conditions, to care for the sick and injured.



A favorite winter event at the **Sheldon Museum** in Haines is the Doll Fair. In normal circumstances, 2020 would mark the 43rd year of this annual interactive museum tradition. Instead, the museum will sponsor a virtual event it is calling "Doll Fair 43-ish." The tea parties, kids' crafts, and dress-up sessions will all be held via social media.



The **Carrie M. McLain Memorial Museum** in Nome partnered with the *Nome Nugget* newspaper from August to November to launch an oral history project titled "Documenting COVID-19 in Nome, Alaska." Over 20 community members participated in the project and shared their experiences of how the 2020 pandemic impacted them. Along with the oral history project, the museum has launched a COVID-19 artwork initiative that invites artists from the Bering Strait region to create new work that reflects or responds to the pandemic. The oral history interviews and artwork will be shared through public programs and a special exhibit in 2021. Don't want to wait? Check out some of the new artwork now on the museum's Facebook page.



Brandon Castle worked as an intern at Ketchikan's Totem Heritage Center last summer. Raised in Ketchikan, he is working on a master's degree in museology at the University of Washington. For his internship he worked on exhibit updates and installed a new exhibit *Mapping the Landscape*. The exhibit identifies Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian villages throughout Southeast Alaska and cultural objects mounted on the wall connect place, culture and identify. **Ketchikan Museums** has made the map exhibit and others from both the Totem Heritage Center and Tongass Historical Museum

available to tour virtually. They are adding photos, objects, and more from their collections as they work on their on-going project to digitize 7,437 objects, 27,820 photos, 3,201 archives, and 5,237 library records. Check them out at [ktn-ak.us/MuseumsFromHome](http://ktn-ak.us/MuseumsFromHome).



The **Kodiak History Museum** is using a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to republish *Faraway Island: Childhood in Kodiak*, a memoir written by Carolyn Erskine Andrews who lived in the museum's building when it was her family's home in the 1920s and 1930s. The new edition includes a foreword by Anjuli Grantham and over 20 new photos. It should be available before the holidays.



The **Valdez Museum & Historical Archive** closed in mid-March but reopened July 1, 2020, certified as a COVID Conscious Business with the City of Valdez. Transitioning to fall, the museum is offering new programs

through its Creative Connections Initiative and creating online programs that teach, entertain, and stimulate creative energy.



The **Samuel K. Fox Museum** in Dillingham is part of the Yuuciput (Our Yup'ik Way) Project. The project received a grant from the Bristol Bay Native Corporation Education Foundation to start cataloging audio and video media recorded in the 1970s of Elders speaking the Yugtun language of Bristol Bay. The long-term goal is to digitize the materials and make them publicly available with Yugtun/English transcripts.



The **Tanana-Yukon Historical Society** embarked on a project they are calling "Virtual Wickersham" after deciding not to open the Wickersham House to the public last summer. The project will be a videoproduction using objects in the collection enhanced by writings of the judge. Steve Mitchell, who did his master's thesis on Wickersham and is active with the Fairbanks Drama Association, recorded stories that are being edited.



### Spotlight: The Tochak Historical Society and McGrath Museum

The Tochak Historical Society, which operates the McGrath Museum, renamed the museum last year in honor of founder and archivist Sally Jo Collins. Collins probably collected 80 percent of what is in the museum's archives, files, warehouse, and displays. Take a virtual tour of the museum and learn more about the collections at [www.facebook.com/museummcgrath](http://www.facebook.com/museummcgrath).

The society recently completed a cemetery project with the support of a Rasmuson Foundation grant. A map of all the graves was created, a kiosk was built to display the map, benches were built for the cemetery, and name plaques were made for each unnamed grave. The museum has created a file for each individual buried in the cemetery with obituaries, photos, biographies,

Ray Collins telling a story about Sami reindeer herders at the Tochak Historical Society's 2019 Christmas scavenger hunt.





## Other news



and stories. Other museum activities include a Bygone Bingo game, holiday scavenger hunt, For the Birds program with a poster that allows kids to compare their wingspans with those of local birds, a perpetual birthday calendar with photos and artifacts relating to each month, a cookbook with local residents' recipes, and a yearly Iditarod fundraiser dinner held in the museum the night the dogs come in.

In 2012 the Tochar McGrath Discovery of the ancestral bones of three intact individuals believed to be over 600 years old was made. Details on the discovery are at [www.tananachiefs.org/tochar-mcgrath-discovery/](http://www.tananachiefs.org/tochar-mcgrath-discovery/). According to Bob Sattler, Tanana Chiefs Conference archaeologist in charge of the discovery process, the site holds a lifetime of future work. Tochar is the Athabaskan word for the area where the Takotna and Kuskokwim Rivers meet, which was probably a fishing camp site for the early Athabaskans. The late Ray Collins, then museum president and a leading authority on the Athabaskan culture (read some of his work at <https://tinyurl.com/history-collins>) in the region, was involved in the discovery. The museum displays a poster done by Tanana Chiefs Conference on the discovery. Once analysis is complete, the remains will be returned to McGrath and buried in the cemetery with a formal ceremony, and the artifacts will return to the museum.

Last summer the Alaska Historical Society was given four films made by Stanley Zuern in 1940 when he traveled to Alaska. The films were added to the Society's collection at the **Archives & Special Collections, UAA/APU Consortium Library**. Arlene Schmuland, Archivist, found the films degrading and recommended they be digitized, and AHS provided funds to do so. She has prepared a finding aid to the films, <https://archives.consortiumlibrary.org/collections/specialcollections/hmc-1351/>, and they are posted on the Alaska Digital Archives, <https://vilda.alaska.edu/digital/search/searchterm/zuern>. Arlene recognized the locations for much of the footage but encourages folks who can provide more identification to contact her at [abschmuland@alaska.edu](mailto:abschmuland@alaska.edu).

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Historians know newspapers are a great source for information. The **Library of Congress** has recently launched an AI tool to search 16 million old newspaper pages from 1900 to 1963 for more than 1.5 million newspaper photos. Patience Frederiksen provided this information noting "I limited my search to Alaska newspapers and searched Treadwell and got a photo I had not seen before of Bunk House number 4 on the edge of the mine cave-in pool of water." Undoubtedly there are more treasures to discover! The link is <https://news-navigator.labs.loc.gov/search>

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**Sealaska Heritage Institute** sponsored a virtual lecture series on culturally responsive education this fall. The series delved into the educational system as perceived through the Native world view, with a focus on historical and contemporary educational inequalities and injustices. Speakers in the weekly series included Shgen George, a Dak'laweidi from Angoon who taught for 22 years; anthropologist Dan Monteith; Chookangee Tl'aa (Mischa Plunkett Jackson), assistant professor of education at UAS; Peggy Cowan, educational consultant and former superintendent for the North Slope Borough School District; and Saankaláxt' (Ernestine Hayes), author and Alaska Writer Laureate.

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The **Alaska Association for Historic Preservation** held its annual meeting via Zoom on November 5. The program featured reports by AAHP partners and a presentation by Monty Rogers and Sam Combs on AAHP's Conservation Easement Program in relation to the historic Holy Assumption of the Virgin Church in Kenai and Wassilie's Point on the Kvichak River. The association presented an award to the Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance for its stewardship of the trail for more than 20 years. A second award was made to the Fraternal

## Other news

Order of Alaska State Troopers for their Alaska Law Enforcement Museum in Anchorage. And the recipients of grants to two properties on the AAHP's 2020 Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties were announced. The Friends of the SS *Nenana* in Fairbanks will use its award to develop a schedule of repairs with cost estimates for the sternwheeler's restoration. The second award is to assist with stabilization work needed on the U.S. Commissioner's Cabin built circa 1908 at McCarthy. For more information check AAHP's website [www.AlaskaPreservation.org](http://www.AlaskaPreservation.org).

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The **Alaska Council for the Social Studies** is active again, with goals to connect and support social studies educators across the state. They have started a monthly e-bulletin and have a website with a collaboration forum. To get on their mailing list, send an email to [alaskanccs@gmail.com](mailto:alaskanccs@gmail.com) or write them at 433 N. Bliss St., Anchorage, AK 99508.

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**Long Ago Yukon**, a group focused on archaeology in Yukon Territory, hosted a talk on November 14 by archaeologist Christian Thomas entitled "Ta 'Tla Mun – The Lake at the End of the Kohklux Map." The Kohklux map, one of the earliest known maps of the Yukon, was made in 1869 by Chilkat Tlingit Chief Kohklux of Klukwan, Alaska.

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The **Alaska State Museum** has *Alaska Suffrage Star* and *Rightfully Hers* traveling exhibitions available to be borrowed by cultural institutions. There is an online version of the *Alaska Suffrage Star* exhibit as well. *Rightfully Hers*, created by the National Archives, tells the story of the 19th Amendment. Information is at <https://lam.alaska.gov/museum-resources/suffrage>.



Alaska History Day is going virtual in 2021. Students around the state will participate online in the National History Day competition. The 2020-21 theme is *Communication in History: The Key to Understanding*.

Each year, middle and high school students around the world take part in National History Day. As writers, filmmakers, web designers, playwrights, and artists, students create projects to compete in five categories: research papers, performances, documentary films, exhibits, and websites.

The Alaska Humanities Forum is the state affiliate for the program. Communities hold competitions before the state's in late March and the national competition in June. Kari Lovett is the state coordinator. More details about the program is on the Forum's website, <https://www.akhf.org/ahd>.



The Alaska Historical Society supports the program. Members can participate by signing up to be a judge. Local historical societies are encouraged to volunteer to mentor students in the program, and to invite local students to present their projects to your society.



## Alaska Historical Society

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### Others:

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Rachel Mason, Carol Gales, Penelope Goforth, David Ramseur, Chris Allan, *Alaska History News*

A great gift for a friend, relative, local school or library is a year's membership in the Alaska Historical Society. Your gift includes the newsletter and journal *Alaska History*, and supports important activities and programs. It's easy . . . go to the AHS website, [www.alaskahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.alaskahistoricalsociety.org) and then click on "membership and giving."



PLEASE DONATE



*We welcome your letters, news and pictures. Please send them to an address on the right.*

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A galoyak calf at the Fairbanks Experiment Farm, ca. 1923. Anchorage Museum of History & Art, John Urban Collection (b64-1-630).

**GALOYAK STEAKS, ANYONE?**

During the 1920s, scientists in Fairbanks at the newly founded Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines wanted to create a variety of cattle capable of handling subarctic winters. Their plan was to cross-breed the Asiatic yak with the Galloway cow (named for its place of origin: Galloway, Scotland). Ernest Patty, who was then a geology and mining instructor, described the “preposterous hybrid that resulted from the ill-fated mating”—an animal they called the galoyak. The calves had the desired long fur, but, like mules (born of horses and donkeys) they were infertile and therefore useless as a farm animal. Patty reported what happened next:

*To keep down expenses, galoyak meat became a staple article of diet in the student dining hall. Whether it appeared in the form of galoyak ragout or galoyak hash, the result was always the same; a stringy, tasteless concoction. Quite abominable, in fact. When the last galoyak finally made its appearance in the dining hall in the form of a galoyak and onion casserole, the students rose to their feet, cheering wildly.*

From: Ernest Patty, *North Country Challenge* (New York: David McKay Company, 1969).

—Chris Allan