

ALASKA HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2021 CONFERENCE – ABSTRACTS AND BIOS

Keynote speaker:

Kizzia, Tom - The Impermanent Past: Living in the Space Between (Th 10/7, 10am)

The ghost town story provides an essential counterbalance to the boom narrative of the frontier. We visit these places in the American West, haunted by a beguiling absence, and a mortal question hovers: Is this where we've been, or where we're going? The story of the "lost decades" in Alaska's iconic ghost town, McCarthy-Kennecott, carries special power, given the state's engrained historical fear of becoming a ghost state.

Tom Kizzia is an award-winning Alaskan author and journalist who traveled widely in rural Alaska during a 25-year career as a reporter for the Anchorage Daily News. He is the author of *Pilgrim's Wilderness* and the Alaska village travel narrative *In the Wake of the Unseen Object*. His work has appeared in *The New Yorker*, the *Los Angeles Times*, *The Washington Post*, the *Columbia Journalism Review*, and in *Best American Science and Nature Writing 2017*. He received an Artist Fellowship from the Rasmuson Foundation and was a Knight Journalism Fellow at Stanford University. A graduate of Hampshire College, he lives in Homer, Alaska, and has a place in the Wrangell Mountains outside McCarthy. His latest book, *Cold Mountain Path: The Ghost Town Decades of McCarthy-Kennecott, Alaska, 1938-1983* (Fall 2021) covers a period in McCarthy's history when the town was nearly abandoned.

Presentations:

Allan, Chris - Flag Wars: George M. Miller and the Battle over the U.S-Canada Border in Southeast Alaska (Sa 10/9, 1:30pm)

In 1902, a gold miner named George Miller responded to a fit of patriotic fervor by tearing down a Canadian customs office flag in Skagway. This caused a minor international incident. At the time, British, Canadian, and American diplomats were trying to resolve the dispute involving the boundary line between Mount St. Elias and the Portland Canal. Would the United States retain control of access routes to the goldfields? Could Canada be able to claim an ocean port? According to Miller and his fellow jingoists, the Canadians needed to be pushed back at the point of a bayonet and (perhaps) deserved to lose the Klondike also.

Chris Allan works in Fairbanks for the National Park Service and specializes in the history of the Klondike-Alaska gold rush.

Barker, Melissa – Techniques of History Workshop (Sa 8/9, 10am)

Genealogists use all kinds of tools to help them with their research. Using archives to locate documents, photographs and artifacts to uncover family history is what we as genealogists live to do. Whether you are researching in Alaska or anywhere else, knowing what records are available, where the records are located and how to access those records is a tool of knowledge every genealogist and community historian should have in their toolbox. Learn from a seasoned genealogist and archivist how to find stories about your ancestors and community members, local history residents may have experienced, and social history that can help tell family stories.

Melissa Barker is a Certified Archives Manager, professional genealogist, speaker, and writer. She is affectionately known as The Archive Lady and teaches about researching in archives and records preservation.

Branson, John - Ivan Petroff's "Malchatna Villages" c. 1880-1888 (Fr 10/8, 1:30pm)

In the 10th Census of the United States Ivan Petroff documented the "Malchatna Villages" on his map of Southwestern Alaska but offered few details. In the mid-20th century the people of Nondalton, particularly elders gave researchers names and approximate locations of some of their ancestral Mulchatna River villages. In 2000 a group of multi-agency researchers began to search for the Mulchatna villages. During the following several years the team located approximately 22 separate Dena'ina Mulchatna Villages covering more than a hundred miles of the Mulchatna River. The proposed presentation will detail what the researchers discovered about Petroff's rather "mysterious" Mulchatna River villages.

John Branson is a historian at Lake Clark National Park and Preserve and a 51-year resident of the Bristol Bay region.

Brewster, Karen and Angela Schmidt - Walking with Ghosts: Two Historians Hike the Chilkoot Trail (Th 10/7, 1:30pm)

Two historians will show photos and share stories from their August 2019 Chilkoot Trail hike. Their reflections along the trail about artifacts they observed and experiences of men and women who pioneered this route were different from your average backpacker. They felt the presence of ghosts at the old camps, in their steps up the steep Golden Staircase, and in the shouts of joy at the end of the trail. Karen could relate some places to the stories of those who had built the recreational trail and the rangers who manage it that she recorded as part of an oral history project for Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park.

Karen Brewster is a Research Associate with the Oral History Program/Project Jukebox at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. She has conducted oral history interviews around Alaska for twenty-five years on a variety of historical and cultural topics. She serves on

the Alaska Historical Society Board of Directors and is the author of two life history books about pioneering Alaskans.

Angela Schmidt is the Film Archivist and head of the Alaska Film Archives at Elmer E. Rasmuson Library, University of Alaska Fairbanks, and serves on the Alaska Historical Society Board of Directors.

Capra, Doug - The Last Homesteaders: John and Carolyn Davidson at Driftwood Bay (Fr 10/8, 10am)

In early August 1977, John Davidson, 27, his wife Carolyn, 25 and their three-year-old son Jesse, headed south in their small open boat along Resurrection Bay to their home in Driftwood Bay at Day Harbor, about 25 miles from Seward. They never made it. Beginning in 1970, John and Carolyn started building on their open-entry homestead. Through hardship and perseverance, they created a comfortable life there. Their story is about the idealistic and turbulent 1960s, the disillusionment of the 1970s, the back-to-the-land movement, the long-hairs or hippies. It's about a period of spiritual search, and the need for authenticity, individualism, solitude, and also community.

Doug Capra is from Seward, the author of *The Spaces Between: Stories from the Kenai Mountains to the Kenai Fjords*. He has written the forewords for reprints of Alaska books by American artist Rockwell Kent. Capra has published Alaska history articles, essays, poetry and plays.

Chapin, Melissa - Forging an International Community: A Path to Friendship Across the Taiga (Sa 10/9, 1:30pm)

In 1991, the Fairbanks North Star Borough and Yakutsk, Republic of Sakha (Yakutia), Russia, formally became sister cities. I discussed our "courtship process" at the 2009 AHS conference. Friendships formed in the early 1990s grew into long-term relationships. Official relations have been maintained. In 2020 the Yakutsk City Administration published a photo album of pictures that I collected, edited, and annotated. The book shows the wide range of activities and interactions that have taken place involving the members of this international community. I will show pictures from this book and discuss the contents and process of producing it.

Melissa Chapin was one of the original delegates to Yakutsk, and is a Russian interpreter. She has travelled to Russia more than 30 times, and is currently the president of the Alaskan Russian Center, which coordinates the Fairbanks-Yakutsk Sister City interactions.

Cohen, Rachel - The Alaskan Capital that Never Was: The Willow Capital Project (Sa 10/16, 10am)

In 1978, four years after Alaskan citizens voted to move the capital from Juneau, major newspapers throughout the state ran a pamphlet introducing Alaskans to “Our New Capital City”- an ambitious plan for an idyllic new state capital city to be built near Willow. While this was neither the first nor last attempted capital move in Alaskan history, the planning process was the most extensive. In addition to questions of finances and engineering, the New Capital Site Planning Commission sought to discover "What is Alaskan?" This paper will examine the proposed city, what it revealed about Alaskans' conceptions of themselves, and why the project eventually failed to break ground.

Rachel Cohen is the archivist at the Alaska and Polar Regions Collections & Archives at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Born and raised in Alaska, she holds degrees in Library and Information Science and Theater History and Literature from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Feil, Heather - Civilian Conservation Corps in the Arctic - 1937-1940 (Fr 10/15, 1:30pm)

Step outside of the typical Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp experience of the Lower 48 and hear how the CCC supported infrastructure development in villages along the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers. Run through Air Mail correspondence with the Forest Service in Juneau, and a secondary hub in Kotzebue, a variety of projects were completed - from flood clean up, drainage improvements, and community houses to telephone lines, dog sled trails, and reindeer herding.

Heather Feil is an architectural historian with the Alaska Region of the National Park Service where she writes about old buildings, advocating for their preservation, while getting people excited about their history – telling all Americans’ stories through the built environment. Heather earned a B.A. in History and Anthropology from Montclair State University and an M.A. in Historic Preservation from Savannah College of Art and Design.

Gorter, Waling T. - Early Flemish/Dutch Accounts of the Bering Strait (“Anian Fretum”) (Sa 10/9, 1:30pm)

While knowledge of a strait between Siberia and Alaska probably existed in China from the time of Marco Polo, it was later Dutch cartographers who first mapped it. The Dutch expeditions by Willem Barentsz in 1594-95 and 1596-97 encountered Russians at Novaya Zemlya who had traded with Chinese merchants at the Yenisei River. In 1668, a Dutch expedition 700 km north of Japan recovered a lance tip from a Bowhead whale with initials of a whaling captain who had lost it near Jan Mayen in the Atlantic. This contributed to Czar Peter I’s 1719 order for his Great Northern Expedition.

Waling Gorter was educated at the Universities of Amsterdam, Cambridge, Bergen and Tromsø. As a professor at the Federal University in Archangel and an authorized museum

curator of Norway, he has written several monographs and hundreds of other publications.

Gregory, Tabitha - Valdez Rises: One Town's Struggle for Survival After the Great Alaska Earthquake (Fr 10/8, 10am)

On March 27, 1964, the largest earthquake ever to strike North America devastated Alaska's coast, including Valdez. Within days of the quake, officials determined that Valdez would move. The City Council rallied residents, oversaw the buy-out of Old Town homes, assigned new town lots, and coordinated with agencies to build infrastructure, businesses and homes. Within four years, the new town was built and every person moved. The relocation was a success and positioned Valdez to win the Trans-Alaska Oil Pipeline Terminal.

Tabitha Gregory holds a BS from UAF and an MBA from Colorado State University. She was born and raised in southeastern Alaska, and lived in Valdez for 22 years, where she served as Executive Director of the Valdez Museum & Historical Archive Association.

Gutoski, Martin - Digging for the Lost Town of Chena (Sa 10/16, 1:30pm)

How do you find a ghost town in Alaska that only existed for 17 years and was abandoned by the time the Government Land Office (GLO) approved the survey plat? The competing towns of Chena and Fairbanks were both surveyed within the same year. Today nothing is left of the railroad town at Chena. The Chena townsite survey in 1907 bears a brutal stamp across the bottom in bold letters, CANCELLED. At the top is a scratchy handwritten note: Sur. 436 Cancelled by letter... July 14, 1921. What happened to the parallel riverfront boom towns that simultaneously cancelled one while the other flourished?

Martin Gutoski has been a licensed land surveyor in Alaska since 1988, with more than 30 years as platting officer at the Fairbanks North Star Borough Planning Department. He holds a master's degree in anthropology and has been involved in historical archaeology projects since 1994 and forensic survey analysis since retiring in 2014.

Haycox, Stephen - Shock and Awe: Understanding Early Perceptions of the Passage of ANCSA (Th 10/14, 3:30pm)

ANCSA is today so much a part of the basic framework of Alaska society, politics and economy that it is taken for granted. But there was substantial opposition to the passage of the act before December 1971, and much criticism of it afterward, both in Native and non-Native circles, and a good deal of shock and confusion. The grant of 44 million acres of land and nearly \$1 billion to Native entities was unprecedented, and for many non-

Natives, inconceivable. This paper examines and analyzes reactions to the act in the months and years immediately following its passage.

Stephen Haycox is an emeritus professor of history at the University of Alaska Anchorage.

Hoefler, Carol - Northern VISTAs: A Retrospective of the Volunteers in Service to America Program in Rural Alaska 1965-1971 (Fr 10/15, 1:30pm)

This paper examines the Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) program as it operated in rural Alaska from 1965 to 1971. The state's remote and impoverished villages presented daunting operational challenges to the program's operation as communities underwent dramatic socioeconomic changes. From a national perspective, VISTA's effectiveness was compromised by conflicting ideologies and shifting political tides. In Alaska, the rural volunteers' activist nature and creative approaches contributed to many local successes but not without conflict. Analysis of interviews and other accounts from volunteers and stakeholders indicates this cohort of "poverty warriors" both influenced communities and benefited from their volunteer experience.

Carol Hoefler is a Master's student in Arctic and Northern Studies at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Johnson, Erik - McKinley Park Station in 1921: The Centennial of Mount McKinley National Park's First Headquarters (Sa 10/16, 10am)

In 1921, Mount McKinley National Park's first superintendent was tasked with establishing a park headquarters. He decided to build it in McKinley Park Station—a community that recently sprung up around a bustling railroad camp and Morino's Roadhouse—just east of the park's boundary. The headquarters remained for about four years before relocating.

The former headquarters site and adjacent community are now within the boundaries of Denali National Park, but they remain only in ruins and photos. One hundred years ago, fleeting communities existed throughout what is now Denali National Park. This presentation looks at those former communities, with a special focus on McKinley Park Station and the park's first headquarters.

Erik Johnson is the park historian at Denali National Park & Preserve and serves on the Alaska Historical Society Board of Directors.

King, Bob - Where the Hell was Hallerville? And Why No Canneries Survived on the Kvichak, Bristol Bay's Most Productive Salmon River (Fr 10/8, 1:30pm)

Before you reach for your favorite cannery reference, MacDonald (1950) makes the usual mistakes about this site and while Orth (1967) has the right coordinates, it doesn't tell the story that followed. Once the most northern cannery on the Kvichak River, Hallerville was built by Joseph Haller in 1900. Problems ensued. The cannery was moved, renamed, and ultimately abandoned. Six other Kvichak packers shared a similar fate that left Bristol Bay's most productive salmon river barren of canneries. What happened was a combination of meandering river channels, evolving regulations, and World War II that left questions about where Hallerville really was.

Bob King served as news director of KDLG radio in Dillingham and later as an assistant to Gov. Tony Knowles and U.S. Sen. Mark Begich during their terms in office. Now retired, he lives in Juneau and continues to write about Alaska fishery history.

Koenig, Laura – “New York or London will have nothing on Anchorage”: Music in Anchorage, 1915-1930 (Fr 10/8, 10am)

Anchorage history has a rich soundtrack. For many new residents, the arts were as crucial to building a community as raised sidewalks. Musicians in early Anchorage came from varied segments of society, with day jobs often far removed from the performing arts. Some residents had extensive musical training and professional experience. A few had already spearheaded artistic organizations in other Alaskan communities. The arts were not immune from daily struggles and politics. Studying the tribulations and successes of Anchorage's music scene from 1915 to 1930 adds a deeper dimension to the history of early Anchorage and its residents.

As Artistic Director for the Anchorage Festival of Music, Laura Koenig specializes in melding archival research with the performing arts. She also performs extensively on modern and baroque flute, coaches for Alaska Youth Orchestras, and teaches at UAA and her private studio.

Kugo, Yoko, Yu Hirasawa, and Kazuyuki Saito - Food Life History in the Arctic Communities: Usages of Underground Cache and Food Preservation Practices (Fr 10/8, 3:30pm)

This paper presents the theme of “food life history”—the history of harvest, preservation, and preparation of local fish, meat and plants—in northern Alaskan communities. Alaska Native peoples have used ice cellars, underground caches, and pits to preserve and share locally harvested food and maintain their lifeways. Their food storage practices have changed due to rapid environmental fluctuations, especially in freeze/thaw and moisture conditions, and the arrival of modern education and technologies. Our preliminary study shows that sharing traditional food and knowledge with relatives and communities strengthens their physical and spiritual health, and commemorates their ancestors and homeland.

Yoko Kugo is an Affiliate Professor in the Arctic and Northern Studies Program at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Her interests include Indigenous place names, Alaska Native cultures and lifeways, and histories of Japanese pioneers in the Arctic during the Yukon gold rush.

Kazuyuki Saito, Affiliate Professor at the Research Institute for Humanity and Nature, Kyoto, Japan, is a physical climatologist with research interests on the variability and functionality of permafrost in the cold-region eco-climate-life system on various timescales.

Yu Hirasawa is a Lecturer at Department of Human Sciences, University of East Asia, Japan. His interests are prehistoric archaeology and indigenous archaeology of Alaska and Hokkaido, Japan.

Livingston, Michael - Aleutian Ghost Towns? Call OpenStreetMap! (Fr 10/15, 10am)

Who you gonna call when Aleutian ghost towns are under threat from disappearing forever? OpenStreetMap! “Army Brat” Michael Livingston will talk about how he used OpenStreetMap to preserve the once-bristling military community of Fort Randall in Cold Bay on the Alaska Peninsula. When Aleutian communities move from the landscape, leaving only light impressions in the soil, OpenStreetMap can be used to preserve Alaska history in the digital landscape before they are forever forgotten.

Michael was raised in Cold Bay where his father Bob served with the US Army shortly after World War II and his mother served as US Postmaster. He worked in Alaska as a police officer for about 28 years, and now works as cultural heritage specialist with Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association.

McCartney, Leslie - Preserving the Unangâ (Alaska Aleut) Cuttlefish Project Recordings (Fr 10/15, 10am)

UAF is digitizing and making accessible 59 “Cuttlefish Project” recordings. From 1970-1982, Ray Hudson recorded community Elders sharing stories about themselves, cultural and historical details with his Unalaska high school “Cuttlefish” class. These recordings are important culturally, historically and linguistically. Many of the Elders featured were the last generation whose mother tongue was Unangam Tunuu. There is almost no documentation of interactions between Elders and children which is exactly what these recordings are. These recordings predate, by decades, the recordings Hudson later made with Unangâ Elders, starting in early 2004, which resulted in the *Beginning of Memory* publication.

Leslie McCartney is a cultural anthropologist specializing in oral history. She is an Associate Professor and the Curator of the Oral History Collection at UAF. Her latest publication is *Our Whole Gwich'in Way of Life Has Changed / Gwich'in K'yuu*

Gwiidandàì' Tthak Ejuk Gòonlih Stories from the People of the Land with the Gwich'in Tribal Council, published by the University of Alberta Press.

Monteith, Daniel - William and Frederick Paul and their Contributions to Alaska Native Land Claims (Th 10/14, 3:30pm)

On the fiftieth anniversary of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act it is appropriate to recognize and celebrate two Alaska Native attorneys who played a key role in the legislation. William Paul Sr. and his son Frederick Paul were influential Alaska Native attorneys who played a substantial role in the Tlingit and Haida Land Claims and the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. Their negotiation and litigation skills were instrumental in land claims. Their prolific written communications and documents provide historians with detailed archival records of Alaska Native Land Claims history.

Daniel Monteith is a professor of anthropology at the University of Alaska Southeast. His specialties include ethnohistory, economic anthropology, and Tlingit oral histories.

Nicola, Trish Hackett - The History of the Lost River Tin Mining Company (Th 10/7, 1:30pm)

When 1903 Leslie Crim, Charles Randt, and W. J. O'Brien discovered tin on the Lost River in the Seward Peninsula, they staked a claim and incorporated the Lost River Tin Mining Company. They made a fortune from the mine. The mine was in operation off and on until 1955. Learn the history of the mine and hear the stories about the owners. Crim died in 1911 and left over 100,000 mine shares to the Holy Rollers church. His sanity was doubted, and a long legal battle ensued. Randt and O'Brien both died before the court case was settled around 1945.

Trish Hackett Nicola, Certified Genealogist, writes and lectures about Pacific Northwest history and the Chinese Exclusion Act files. She lives with her family in Seattle, Washington.

O'Connell, Keely - Looking for Caro (Sa 10/16, 10am)

I first came across the name Caro on a boat trip up a remote river. The GPS indicated the presence of a town on the riverbank, but when my companion and I approached we found only empty forest. Later, as I sifted through trails reports and archival materials, the miners and explorers who once lived in Caro took on life and color in my imagination. By weaving primary documents together with my journal entries and photos from that river trip, I hope to bring my vivid impression of Caro and the Chandalar region to life for a broader audience.

Keely O'Connell is a graduate student at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. While her primary area of study is nonfiction writing, she confesses to a keen interest in skjoring, small engine repair, and migratory bird identification.

Peters, Lauren – Sophia's Return (Fr 10/15, 10am)

In 1895, on St. Paul Island in the Bering Sea, a tragedy occurred leaving sisters Irene and Sophia orphans. The girls were taken to Unalaska and would never see their home again. After Irene died, Sophia was sent to the Carlisle Indian School in Pennsylvania. She, too, died and was buried in the Army's Indian Cemetery. In the summer of 2021, Sophia will come home to Saint Paul. This is the story of a 121-year journey that will uphold the UN's Declaration of Rights of Indigenous People which allows for reuniting land and bodies. Returning Sophia is giving us hope that we can take back our culture, our language, and our stolen children.

Lauren Peters is a first generation Unanga graduate scholar enrolled in the Native American Studies PhD program at UC Davis, currently in her first year. Her work centers around Unanga histories during precontact and in the Russian and American eras from an Indigenous perspective.

Poulson, Rebecca - Alexander Baranof, the Man, the Myth: Reality, Distortion, and Why it Matters (Th 10/7, 3:30pm)

The figure of Alexandr Andreevich Baranov (1747-1819) has captured the imagination of writers from his day to our own. Books like *Lord of Alaska*, *Alexander Baranov – A Pacific Empire*, and *Master of Alaska* offer one view, with recent portrayals as a brutal, debased colonizer quite another. What do we know about his actual life and times, and how does that compare to the imagined versions - in books, websites, and in media surrounding the 2020 debate over removal of Sitka's bronze Baranov statue? What do the discrepancies tell us about how we imagine Alaska, today?

Rebecca Poulson is a writer and artist in Sitka, Alaska. She is on the Alaska Historical Society board of directors and is a member of the Alaska Historical Commission.

Sanguinetti, Niko - Centennial Delusion: The Carving of the Juneau Centennial Totem Poles (Th 10/7, 3:30pm)

Juneau celebrated its centennial in 1980 partially by commissioning a large number of art pieces, including two totem poles. The road to developing these two poles was littered with misunderstandings and misconceptions that revolved around an imagined perception of local Tlingit culture and history. However, by working with various community members, the Centennial Committee was able to commission two iconic works of art that represented an actual community, instead of what they are often imagined to be. Through

the examples of the Auke and Wooshkeetaan totem poles, we will look at how art can successfully reflect communities instead of feeding into imagined stereotypes.

Niko Sanguinetti is the Curator of Collections and Exhibits at the Juneau-Douglas City Museum. She is mainly responsible for the creation, development, installation, and deinstallation of museum exhibits as well as the care and maintenance of the museum collections (including the Auke and Wooshkeetaan totem poles).

Scandling, Laury - Treadwell, The Impermanent Town with a Permanent Impact: How a Big Mine on a Little Island Launched Alaska's Development and Had Worldwide Significance (Th 10/7, 1:30pm)

Fifteen years before the Klondike Gold Rush of 1897-1898, a sophisticated underground mining complex on Douglas Island attracted investors and workers from across the globe and inaugurated Alaska's first industrial development, transportation sector, and tourism trade. World-class technology produced profit from low-grade ore. Skilled managers, exceptional wages, and community amenities attracted a diverse workforce, many of whom stayed beyond the mines' catastrophic ending to populate the permanent towns of Douglas and Juneau. While Treadwell today is a bucolic walk in the woods with scattered remnants of what for forty years was a modern thriving community, its impact on Alaska endures.

Laury Scandling was born and bred in Alaska and has a Masters of American History from Stanford U. She is a former public radio and television reporter, and a retired teacher of history at the high school and university level. She has volunteered many years at the Last Chance Mining Museum in Juneau and edits the biannual newsletter of the Gastineau Channel Historical Society.

Wayne Jensen is an architect. He serves as the vice-chair of the Alaska Historical Commission and is a board member of the Treadwell Mine Historic Preservation and Restoration Society as well as a member of the Gastineau Channel Historical Society and the Alaska Historical Society. He will present Laury Scandling's paper.

Schneider, William - The 50th Anniversary of ANCSA and the Alaska Historical Society Guide to the Sources

In recognition of the 50th anniversary of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, the Alaska Historical Society has initiated a project to document sources for the study of the events and people leading up to the Act, the passage, and the impacts of the legislation. The result will be an online guide that will include primary and secondary sources, print and audiovisual material. In this paper we will describe how the project developed, where we found the key resources, and how the guide can be used to research key topics.

Will Schneider is a professor emeritus at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. He is the president of the Alaska Historical Society.

Shirrar, Scott, Josh Reuther, and Justin Cramb - Historic Archaeology at the Chena Townsite (Sa 10/16, 1:30pm)

The Chena Townsite, settled in 1902 downstream of the Tanana and Chena Rivers confluence, was initially a bustling gold rush town rivaling Fairbanks. At its height, the town was home to hundreds of people, but it saw a rapid decline and was nearly abandoned by 1920 as Fairbanks became the economic and political hub of the Interior. Little was thought to remain of the once thriving town, but work over the last 20 years has revealed intact archaeological features with the potential for researchers to better document the history of Interior Alaska and the Alaska gold rush.

Scott Shirrar has lived in Interior Alaska for almost 20 years and received a graduate degree in anthropology from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. He has worked at the Museum of the North since 2008 and is currently the archaeology collection manager.

Troll, Tim – Images of Nushagak - Gone, But Not Forgotten (Fr 10/8, 1:30pm)

When Russian explorers ventured into Bristol Bay in 1819, they built a fort and trading post at a location now known as Nushagak. Nushagak eventually grew to become a center of commerce and the genesis for the spread of Russian Orthodoxy throughout SW Alaska. The location is now is nothing more than a summer fish camp. This presentation is a short history of Nushagak as told through images captured by artists and early photographers, and a look at Nushagak today.

Tim Troll is the Executive Director of the Bristol Bay Heritage Land Trust and the author most recently of *Bristol Bay Remembers: The Great Flu of 1919*.

Vandegraft, Douglas L. - Bars of Alaska's Past: Gone, But Forever Notorious (Fr 10/8, 3:30pm)

Alcohol has long been a part of Alaskan culture, and Alaskans have a legendary thirst for alcoholic beverages. The remoteness of Alaska, seasonal darkness, isolation, and loneliness has historically created a tremendous need to socialize, which provided a unique niche for bars to prosper. The gold rushes, military build-up during World War II, and the construction of the Alaska Pipeline were events that prompted the opening of many bars in Alaska. Time and the changing economy have since closed many of these once popular places. This presentation will focus on some of the most famous of these former establishments.

Doug Vandegraft is a former Alaskan and the author of *A Guide to the Notorious Bars of Alaska*, now in its second edition. He retired in 2018 after working 35 years as a Cartographer for the Federal Government.

Wight, Philip - Right of Way: The Trans-Alaska Pipeline System and the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (Th 10/14, 3:30pm)

This paper argues there was nothing inevitable about the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS) precipitating the passage and influencing the character of the Alaskan Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA). Scholars have given these events an aura of inevitability that is not supported by the historical record. TAPS owner companies, Secretary of the Interior Walter Hickel, and most native elites and their lawyers worked to advance the settlement of native claims separate from the approval of TAPS. Ultimately, the combination of Alaska Native activism, the incompetence of the TAPS consortium, environmental challenges, and serendipity ensured the pipeline could not proceed without ANCSA.

Philip Wight is an Assistant Professor of History, Arctic, and Northern Studies at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. An environmental historian by training, he studies energy, infrastructure, and social movements in Alaskan history.