



# Alaska Historical Society Annual Report





High School teachers and scholars, Fairbanks, July 4th, 1910  
Alaska State Library-Historical Collections

# 2021-2022 OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

David Ramseur, President  
Rachel Mason, Vice President  
Erik Johnson, Treasurer  
Angela Schmidt, Secretary

Will Schneider, Past President  
Karen Brewster  
Carol Gales  
Patuk Glenn  
J. Penelope Goforth  
Ian Hartman

Michael Hawfield  
Averil Lerman  
Sara Piasecki  
Rebecca Poulson  
Wendy Ranney

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  
Alaska History News Editor: David Ramseur

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

David Ramseur

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Thank you 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; Patience Frederiksen, Director of the Alaska State Library; and to Jo Antonson, AHS executive director.

The Alaska Historical Society, a volunteer-based organization, has had a busy and productive year. I am particularly pleased the ambitious Guide to Sources for Study of the 1971 Alaska Natives Claims Settlement Act has been published, and I thank Will Schneider for leading the project and Karen Brewster for serving as editor. Our Advocacy Committee wrote several letters and columns published in newspapers in the state and promoted issues related to archives, civics, libraries, the University of Alaska Press, Indigenous names, National History Day, and several local projects.

The newsletter content and redesign have received positive reviews, and I thank Carol Gales. We have beefed up our social media presence, thanks to Wendy Ranney, Erik Johnson, and others. A committee has been meeting to redesign our journal, Alaska History, and I thank Ross Coen for ably serving as its editor. Thanks to Rachel Mason, we've produced another informative annual conference, a hybrid, and are looking for a community to host us for an in-person meeting next year. I want to thank the Atwood Foundation, the Alaska Humanities Forum and the National Endowment for the Humanities for their grants to help cover conference expenses. Finally, later this meeting I hope you will approve the proposed changes to our bylaws to allow us to better streamline how we operate.

# SECRETARY'S REPORT

Angela Schmidt

Annual business meeting:

October 15, 2021

Meetings of the Board of Directors:

October 16, 2021

December 10, 2021

February 22, 2022

July 6, 2022

August 10, 2022



(James') sawmill, Douglas; Mt. Juneau and Juneau at its base in background, 1899.  
Alaska State Library-Historical Collections



Chief Johnson's Totem and Residence, Ketchikan  
Alaska State Library-Historical Collections

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Erik Johnson

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

Operating account balance as of December 31, 2022: \$52,034.94.

[of this \$43,050 is for the Alaska State Museum catalog project and \$500 for the Stepo! Project, so AHS general funds in this account are \$8,984.94.]

Savings account: \$7,902.15

Alaska Community Foundation endowment fund: \$115,973.28

[of this \$14,862.60 spendable]

Sherwood endowment (a 30-year U.S. Treasury bond for the Alaska History journal): \$13,000.00 [the bond's maturity date is May 15, 2030]

Alaska Community Foundation Alaska History Fund: \$8,843.32

Total AHS assets as of December 31, 2022  
(less \$43,550): **\$154,203.69**

# TREASURER'S REPORT CONT'D

The 2021 IRS tax return was filed in November; prepared by Steve Scheaffer, CPA, Kerr, McVey, Scheaffer & Associates of Anchorage. The Society has insurance for its office, Board of Directors and executive director through Umialik, working through Homer Insurance Company. The office is at 1501 W. 36th St., #210, in Anchorage. Business license, non-profit registration and charitable organization registration with the State of Alaska are current. Accounts with SAM.gov and CAGE for federal funds are current.

The Alaska Humanities Forum and National Endowment for the Humanities awarded the Society a \$7,500 SHARP grant to help mitigate the economic impacts of the pandemic, and the final report has been submitted and accepted. The Atwood Foundation awarded the Society a \$5,600 grant to help with the annual conference, and the final report has been submitted and accepted.

A total of 75 individuals donated money to the Alaska Historical Society this year and 40 individuals renewed as patrons (in essence a \$65 donation each). Of note, Karl Gurcke donated \$2,000 to the endowment; and AHS just received a general operating grant from the Webber Family Fund, a fund of the Alaska Community Foundation, for \$1,500. AHS received \$1,953 from individual donations through the Pick.Click.Give. program this year. The Society is approved for the Pick.Click.Give program for 2023.

The Alaska Historical Society is the non-profit sponsor for Anne Coray and Steve Kahn who are completing their videoproduction about Brown Carlson, an early resident in the Lake Clark area. All donated funds, less a 5% administrative fee, have been disbursed to the filmmakers. The Society also is the non-profit sponsor for Sarah Asper-Smith and Charles Wohlforth to prepare a guide to the Alaska State Museum. They successfully raised \$62,500 and are working on the text and taking photographs with plans to have a draft manuscript next spring. Tyler Gates and Gama Comagic are preparing a videoproduction on Mike Stepovich and other Yugoslavians in Alaska. The Society is holding a \$500 private donation for the project. They made a research trip to Fairbanks this past summer.

Fund raising activities the past year included:

- Appeal for donations with membership renewal mailing
- Permanent Fund Dividend Pick.Click.Give. program
- Book sale at conference reception

Native Baskets and a woven bottle cover.  
Alaska State Library-Historical Collections

# 2022 DONORS

Thank you to the 2022 donors to the Alaska Historical Society. Your dollars are helping the Alaska Historical Society educate Alaskans about our state's unique history and heritage.

James Barnett, Anchorage

Cheryl Berrong & Mike Goulding, Fairbanks

Nancy Bird & Karl Becker, Cordova

Janet Brower, Fairbanks

Tom Bundtzen, Fairbanks

Roger & Sylvia Burns, Fairbanks

Maureen & Tom Callahan, Seward

Rosemary Carlton, Sitka

John B. Chenoweth, Juneau

Viktoria Chilcote, McCall, ID

Elizabeth Jane Cook, Fairbanks

Deborah Corso, Sitka

Justin Couey, Anchorage

Andrew Crow, Anchorage

Rachel Joan Dale, Anchorage

Lambert de Gavere, Anchorage

Mary Dooher, Wasilla

Janine & Michael Dorsey, Anchorage

Mary Ehrlander, Olympia, WA

Marvin Falk, Fairbanks

Robin & Paul Fast, Malden, MA

John Fournelle, Madison, WI

Patience Frederiksen, Douglas

Thomas Gallant, Anchorage

Patuk Glenn, Eagle River

Karl Gurcke, Anchorage

Benjamin Hahn, Anchorage

Carol Harris, Anchorage

Michael Hawfield, Homer

John P. Hemmeter, Anchorage

Ray Hudson, Middlebury, VT

Terry Hyer, Anchorage

Randall Jacobs, Anchorage

Colleen Kelly, Seward

Lynne Krizek, Fairbanks

Sheila Lankford, Anchorage

Nancy Lesh, Anchorage

Mary C. Mangusso, Fairbanks

Rachel Mason, Anchorage

Carla McConnell, Anchorage

Marilyn McGuire, Wasilla

Susan & Phillip Means, Anchorage

Timothy Miller, Eagle

Stanton Moll, Anchorage

David Norton, Fairbanks

Megan Pasternak, Sitka

Naomi Gaede Penner, Parker, CO

Patrick Pilatti, Kenai

Matthew Priest, Anchorage

Patrick Race, Juneau

Donn J. Reese, Anchorage

Katherine Ringsmuth, Eagle River

Fran Seager-Boss, Wasilla

Patricia & Richard Seifert, Fairbanks

Wayne L. Selmer, Kalispell, MT

Quinn Sharkey, Anchorage

Michael Sharp, Wasilla

Sue Sherif, Fairbanks

Howard Smith, North Pole

Gillian Smythe, Anchorage

Gina Spartz, Juneau

Rosemarie Speranza, Fairbanks

Robert & Catherine Spude, Santa Fe, NM

Richard Stern, Green Valley, AZ

Gerald Timmons, Fairbanks

Linda Trierschild, Sitka

Warren Urda, Anchorage

Carol Urness, Minneapolis, MN

Douglas Vandegraft, La Conner, WA

Walter Van Horn, Anchorage

Lila Vogt, Anchorage

Webber Family Fund

Tom Williams, Fairbanks

Thomas R. Wolforth, Anchorage

J. William Youngs, Cheney, W



At Tazlina Bridge July 1919  
Alaska State Library-Historical Collections

# BYLAWS REVISION

David Ramseur

The Board of Directors proposed changes to the bylaws, the first since 2009. The changes will allow the Society to conduct business electronically, such as holding teleconference and video meetings, voting for new directors, and distributing information to members and directors via email. Other changes will streamline the committees and address circumstances under which directors may be compensated for performing special tasks, such as design of our quarterly newsletter or doing the technology for our annual conference.

All active members of the Society received notice of the proposed revisions in late August that spelled out the proposed new language and replacement or elimination of existing language in the bylaws. The members approved the proposed changes at the annual business meeting in October.



High school racers standing next to Third Cabin, Dan Moeller Ski Trail.  
Alaska State Library-Historical Collections

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

David Ramseur



Molly McCammon



Kaila Pfister



Wendy Ranney



Phillip Wight

Annually, the Alaska Historical Society elects five of its 15 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 Ian Hartman and Sara Piasecki completed their second terms. David Ramseur completed his first term and Wendy Ranney, appointed to the board after a member resigned, agreed to run for the board. Karen Brewster opted to take a break and not run for a second term. Molly McCammon, Kaila Pfister and Philip Wight agreed to be on the ballot.

A total of 116 ballots were returned. Members elected Molly McCammon, Kaila Pfister, David Ramseur, Wendy Ranney and Philip Wight, all pictured at left. The 2022-2023 Board of Directors will elect the officers for the year at their first meeting.

Those leaving the Board of Directors were thanked and note made of their contributions. Ian Hartman chaired the Advocacy Committee most of the years he was on the board. Sara Piasecki served as secretary, helped with auctions, and served on several various committees. Karen Brewster was the webmaster for more than the three years of her term, served on program committees, and the past two years was an integral member of the special ANCSA guide to sources project the Society undertook to contribute to commemoration of the 50th anniversary of passage of the landmark legislation.

# MEMBERSHIP

A renewal letter was sent in January, and a reminder in March to those who did not respond. Five individuals became life members, 40 members renewed at the patron level, and 10 people gave gift memberships. The Society gained 31 new members.



## 2022 NEW MEMBERS

Lillian Anderson-Misel, Fairbanks  
Arlene Barrett, Anchorage  
Sonja Benson, Fairbanks  
Diana Campbell, Fairbanks  
Ralph Courtney, Eagle River  
Jacob & Lee Davis court, Palmer  
Donna Erickson, Unalakleet  
Gwendolyn Higgins, Anchorage  
Aldean Kilbourn, Fairbanks  
Lauren Langford, Anchorage  
Mary Liston, Fairbanks  
Nancy Lord, Homer  
Ann McCann, Fairbanks  
Leo McCauley, Anchorage  
Dalton T. Mitchell, Port Orchard, WA  
Jeanette A. Pedginski, Soldotna

Christopher Petrakos, Mississauga, ON, Canada  
Sarah F. Preskitt, Anchorage  
Richard Prestridge, Colorado Springs, CO  
Yvonne Reink, Pelican  
Zach Rittel, Fairbanks  
Siena Rosetti, Fairbanks  
Irene Rowan, Anchorage  
Scott Saline, Sitka  
James Somerville, Anchorage  
Kristine Swain, Eagle River  
Mark Tabbutt & Family, Seattle  
Bryan Taylor, Soldotna  
Sheri Trask, Anchorage  
Dj Tyson, Anchorage  
Susan Yamin-Pasternak & Family, Fairbanks

## 2022 PATRON MEMBERS

Chris Allan & Lynn Horvath, Fairbanks  
Malin Babcock, Juneau  
Julia Balakirova, Anchorage  
Tom Begich, Anchorage  
Judy Bittner, Anchorage  
Colleen Bridge & Michael Moeglen, Anchorage  
Rolfe Buzzell, Anchorage  
Teresa Carns, Anchorage  
John B. Chenoweth, Juneau  
Gerald Clark, Eugene, OR  
Ralph E. Courtney, Eagle River  
Robert Dryden, Sitka  
Ann Fienup-Riordan, Anchorage  
Ayse Gilbert, Anchorage  
Carol Lee Goldsmith, Las Vegas, NE  
Ian Hartman, Anchorage  
Steve Haycox, Anchorage  
Allison K. Hoagland, Washington, DC  
Wayne Jensen, Douglas  
Robert M. Johnson, Anchorage

Marilyn & David Knapp, Bellingham, WA  
Jean Kline, Douglas  
Shana Loshbaugh, Fairbanks  
Tom & Gloria McAlister, Valdez  
Molly McCammon, Anchorage  
Jean Morgan Meaux, Folsom, LA  
Dorothy Moore, Valdez  
Dick Mylius, Anchorage  
Frank & Candy Norris, Santa Fe, NM  
R. Bruce Parham, Anchorage  
Arthur Petersen, Auke Bay  
Rebecca Poulson, Sitka  
Sandy & James Poulson, Sitka  
David Ramseur, Anchorage  
Wendy Ranney, Cordova  
Aaron Schutt & Marissa Flannery, Anchorage  
Wayne Selmer, Kalispell, MT  
Anthony Sisto, Eagle River  
Gary Stevens, Kodiak  
Tim Troll, Anchorage

## NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Melissa Chapin, Fairbanks  
Holly Guise, Albuquerque, NM  
Patricia Holloway, Fairbanks  
Brian Renninger, Langley, WA  
Pauline Wilson, Fairbanks

## 2021 DONORS OF GIFT MEMBERSHIPS

Joan (Jo) Antonson, Anchorage  
Judy Bittner, Anchorage  
Jeffrey Erickson, Unalakleet  
Judith Hanson, Bellevue, WA  
Linda A. Harrier, Fairbanks  
Roberta Hoffarth, Denver, CO  
Dalton Mitchell, Port Orchard, WA  
Kathryne Mitchell, Port Orchard, WA  
Lael Morgan, Anchorage  
Carmen Stephl, Soldotna

# ALASKA HISTORY NEWS QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

David Ramseur, Editor

Alaska History News continues to be compiled, printed, and distributed quarterly. This past year Gales Communications and Design did 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. David Ramseur, editor, has brought his journalism experience to improving and expanding the content. Rachel Mason and Jo Antonson continue to write news and notes, Chris Allan provides oddments, Carol Gales is doing museum and historical society profiles, and David Ramseur write board member profiles.

## ALASKA HISTORY JOURNAL

Ross Coen, Editor

The spring 2022 issue of volume 37 of Alaska History has articles by Leanna Prax Williams, Chris Allan, and Zachary Jones. The fall issue, to go to press shortly, features articles by Elizabeth Alexander, Ray Hudson, and John Heaton. Will Schneider is working as guest editor and preparing a special issue of the journal that will feature significant documents associated with passage and implementation of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. There are a few good manuscripts currently under review, but submissions of papers are always encouraged. Issues include book reviews and an Alaskana list of recent publications about the state. Thanks to Jo Antonson, book review editor, and Kathy Ward, compiler of the Alaskana list. Sheridan Books, based in Pennsylvania, is the printer.

The recipient of the Morgan and Jeanie Sherwood Award for Best Article in Volume 36 (2021) is William Schneider for “When a Small Typo Has Big Implications.” Will received a \$500 prize. The awardee is selected each year by the journal’s editorial advisory board. Holly Guise is a new member of the editorial advisory board. Long-time advisor William “Bill” Hunt died this past year.

The journal has had the same basic format throughout its 37-year run. When Ross Coen became editor in 2016 he talked about giving the journal an updated look. A committee has been meeting and talking about a redesign and has drafted a call for proposals that will be circulated next month. Members with suggestions regarding redesign of the journal are to send them to Ross.

# RECORDS AND COLLECTIONS

## Jo Antonson

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

## 2022 DONORS OF MATERIALS TO AHS:

Randy T. Andrews, Temecula, CA, 2 photo albums with photos of Nome and other places in Northwest Alaska around 1905, one is a "Story of a Whale Hunt"

Burlington Historical Society, WI, 47 photos and photo postcards from various places in Alaska that appear to be from the early 1930s

Columbia County Museum Association, St. Helens, Oregon, historic photos of Chignik and ship at Uyak

Betty Garrick, Stacy, MN, 34 photos taken by Robert Anderson, her uncle, 1952-56, while at Ladd Air Force Base

Michael George, Clatskanie, OR, photo negatives parents, Dr. J. Otto and Virginia Lee George, took when working as doctor and nurse in western Alaska from 1936 to early 1940s

Hampton County Museum, SC, 16 postcards of places in Alaska and along the Alaska Highway

Catherine Jenne, Sherburne, NY, slides of a trip to Alaska, 1961-62; most of southcentral Alaska

Carrie Lauer, Santa Barbara, CA, 1968 Lou Jacobin's Guide to Alaska and the Yukon

Don & Brooks Mathern, Boise, ID, The Alaska Highway booklet of Antone Mathern, who worked on the highway, with signatures of others on several the pages

Sarah E. Rennie, about 100 of her great-grandfather's photos from when he was stationed at Fort St. Michael, 1904-1906

Alvin Schaut, photo postcard of Kotzebue, c. 1940s

Barbara Thurston, Anchorage, 51 slides of 1964 earthquake taken by her father

Laura Wright, Talkeetna, 6 photo postcards of various locations, 5 photos of Anchorage area, 1965

## WEBSITE

### Karen Brewster

News about the Society, other announcements, and historical content have been regularly added to the website, and the information on it has been updated as needed. The materials have often required editing and collecting additional information. Karen is opting to take a break from serving on the Board of Directors and as webmaster but, generously, offered to train her successor. Billy Finley, Couloir Graphics, provides technical assistance for the website.

Jo Antonson checks the e-mail. Many members assist with replying to e-mails by answering inquiries the Society receives and deserve thanks.

## SOCIAL MEDIA

### Wendy Ranney and Erik Johnson

For several years the Board of Directors has talked about using social media more. After being appointed to the board last year, Wendy Ranney took over posting on Facebook. She developed a monthly plan with topics for regular posting. Erik Johnson is working with Wendy. Photographs and other illustrations are particularly popular. The plan includes, among many good ideas, providing information useful for teachers, profiling Alaska Historical Society members, and featuring place names.

# 2022 ANNUAL MEETING/ CONFERENCE

Rachel Mason

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Rachel Mason,  
Carol Gales,  
Ian Hartman,  
Michael Hawfield,  
Averil Lerman,  
David Ramseur,  
and Jo Antonson

Upon recommendation from the committee, the Board of Directors elected to do a hybrid conference with in-person activities and most sessions virtual.

The program committee recommended the theme “Conflicting Visions of Alaska History” and Bathsheba

Demuth be invited to be the keynote speaker, noting her book *Floating Coast: An Environmental History of the Bering Strait* fit the theme well. The committee expressly wanted to include several panels because members had said they particularly enjoyed them in 2021.

The program committee approached the Cook Inlet Historical Society about partnering with the Alaska Historical Society and they agreed. The organizations approached the Anchorage Museum about providing technical assistance for the conference. The museum uses the CrowdCast platform, similar to Zoom, and Cody Carver served as host and technician. Carol Gales designed the handsome program for the conference. A program was mailed to everyone who registered for the conference at least five days in advance and it was posted on the AHS website.

33 proposals to make presentations were received. Spreading the conference over two weeks, as was done last year, allowed for single sessions. Thank you to all presenters and moderators. The registration fee was kept to a minimum, \$50. 116 people registered for the conference. Thanks to David Ramseur, the Alaska Historical Society applied for and received a \$5,600 grant from the Atwood Foundation to help pay for the travel of the keynote speaker and a reception at the Anchorage Museum to start the conference.



Elders Conference in Shishmaref  
Alaska State Library-Historical Collections

# ADVOCACY

Ian Hartman

After the proposal to close the National Archives facility in Seattle was dropped by the Public Buildings Reform Board and the National Archives, the Alaska Historical Society continued to express support for the Seattle facility and advocate for funding for repair and upgrading it or building a new facility in the Pacific Northwest. The committee also asked Alaska's congressional delegation to be kept advised by the National Archives of the digitization of Alaska records. Last week members of our Advocacy Committee met with a National Archives official regarding priorities for digitization of Alaska records, and are working on a letter with recommendations. Members with suggestions of records that should be digitized are urged to send their recommendations to David Ramseur.

The AHS also wrote to Alaska's Congressional delegation advocating for civics education, and sent Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland a letter supporting applying Native place names to geographic features in Alaska.

The committee engaged in several local issues, among them urging the Municipality of Anchorage reestablish an Alaska Room in the Loussac library, supporting creating a Founders Memorial Park in Valdez, funding critical restoration work on the Sternwheeler Nenana, and supporting a feasibility study for a National Heritage Area in southcentral Alaska. This past week the committee sent a letter to the UAA chancellor encouraging expansion of space and hiring additional personnel for the Archives and Special Collections in the Consortium Library.

In September, five questions were sent to candidates for Congress, Governor and the Alaska State Legislature asking about support for the federal archives, state cultural programs, the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, Alaska History Day, and revising the state's history and social studies standards. 18 candidates responded. The responses were compiled and posted on the AHS website.

In July, the Alaska Humanities Forum announced it was not going to continue to serve as the state affiliate for National History Day. The AHS wrote a letter about the value of this program for Alaska's students and started talking with university and government agency historians to find a way to keep the program active in Alaska. The Alaska Humanities Forum agreed to pay the fee this year to National History Day for a state program, and the coordinators of the Fairbanks History Day program, Rebecca Heaton and Leanna Prax-Williams offered to coordinate the state program. The Alaska Historical Society agreed to serve as the state affiliate for 2023.

Through the year 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. Also this past year, the committee sent a letter to University officials about the importance of the University of Alaska Press, and were pleased to learn the University of Colorado Press has taken the UA Press as an imprint.

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Ian Hartman,  
Will Schneider,  
David Ramseur, Averil  
Lerman, Penelope  
Goforth, and Jo  
Antonson

with assistance from  
Judy Bittner, Office of  
History and  
Archaeology, and  
Patience Frederiksen,  
State Library, Archives  
and Museums.

# ALASKA HISTORICAL COMMISSION NOMINATIONS

The Alaska Historical Society recommends individuals to the Governor for two seats on the 9-member Alaska Historical Commission. Rebecca Poulson and Ray Bonnell served this past year in the seats. Rebecca's term ended in 2021, and the Alaska Historical Society recommended she be reappointed. Governor Dunleavy has not reappointed her or made a new appointment. Members with issues of concern or suggestions of project regarding Alaska history, historic preservation, and geographic place names are encouraged to contact Rebecca and Ray.

## SPECIAL PROJECTS

### GUIDE TO SOURCES FOR THE STUDY OF THE 1971 ALASKA NATIVE CLAIMS SETTLEMENT ACT

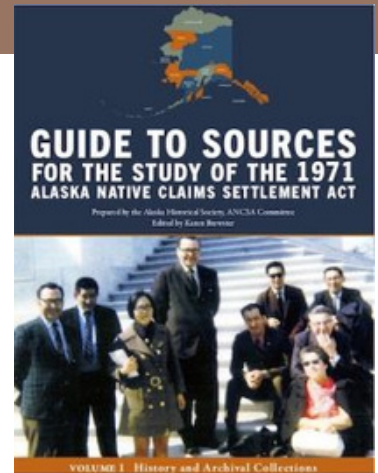
Will Schneider, Karen Brewster, Ron Inouye, Bruce Parham, Sue Sherif, Jo Antonson, Steve Rollins

The committee completed its 3-volume guide to sources for the study of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. The Rasmuson and Atwood Foundations awarded grants, and Calista, Koniag, Doyon, Sealaska and Bering Straits Native regional corporations contributed funds. Steve Rollins, Director of the UAA/APU Consortium Library, joined the committee and provided additional funding to complete the project. The Alaska Library Network served as the fiscal sponsor.

The guide has an introductory essay with a brief overview of the historical issues and description of the scope of the work prepared by Will Schneider. The second section describes collections researched at archives, online, and at National Archives facilities and presidential libraries. Will Schneider and Karen Brewster researched collections at the University of Alaska Fairbanks archives, Dan Monteith at the Alaska Historical Library and State Archives in Juneau, and Becky Butler, Susan Means, Joan Dale and Sean Smith at the University of Alaska Anchorage archives in Anchorage. David Krupa researched internet sources and Bruce Parham covered the National Archives, including several of the presidential libraries. Ron Inouye and Sue Sherif developed a list of names of individuals involved with the legislation and Jo Antonson prepared a timeline. Mike Hawfield prepared the education guide and Sue Sherif and Jo Antonson

compiled an annotated bibliography. Karen Brewster edited, compiled and formatted the information and worked with Krista West who designed the publication.

The completion of the project and availability has been widely promoted with presentations by Will, Sue, and Karen, and press releases and announcements. AHS arranged for a presentation about the project at the AFN convention in late October. Will will be a guest editor for a special issue of the Society's journal, *Alaska History* that will feature significant primary documents related to the fight for a land claims settlement with brief comments on each document's importance.



# SPECIAL PROJECTS CONT'D

## UNITED STATES 250TH ANNIVERSARY

Erik Johnson

The American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) is taking the lead nationally and has prepared a resource guide for the states. It is encouraging each state to get a resolution passed by its legislature or an executive proclamation and to create a commission or task force to encourage commemorative activities. The Alaska Historical Society supports the project and is willing to advocate with the state legislature and to partner with other organizations to plan commemorative activities for July 4, 2025.

## REBUILDING BROWN VIDEO PRODUCTION

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. The last changes to the film that tells Carlson's story and their story of restoring his cabin are being made this fall.

## STEPO!

Filmmaker Tyler Gates, former Alaska resident now living in Montenegro, and Gama Comagic are working on their videoproduction project to document the many Yugoslavians who emigrated to Alaska, with special attention to the Stepovich family in the Fairbanks area. They made a research trip to Alaska over the summer.

## ALASKA STATE MUSEUM CATALOG: OUR STORIES, MANY VOICES

Sarah Asper-Smith and Charles Wohlforth raised funds from the Rasmuson, Atwood and Block Foundations, the Friends of the Alaska State Library, and the University of Alaska Press. They have started working on the catalog for the Alaska State Museum's history exhibit with an ambitious goal of having the book published by next fall.



High surf in Nome, Alaska October 6, 1913. Alaska State Library-Historical Collections

# AWARDS

Will Schneider, Rachel Mason, Angela Schmidt, and Erik Johnson

The committee advertised for nominations, reviewed the submissions, and made award recommendations to the Board of the Directors which approved them.

## JAMES H. DUCKER HISTORIAN OF THE YEAR AWARD 2022

Tom Kizzia, Cold Mountain Path: The Ghost Town Decades of McCarthy-Kennecott, Alaska

## EVANGELINE ATWOOD AWARD 2022

Donald Craig Mitchell, Documenting Alaska Native Land Claims and Tribal Sovereignty

## BARBARA SWEETLAND SMITH PATHFINDER AWARD 2022

Karen Brewster, Editing the Guide to Sources for the Study of the 1971 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act

## ELVA R. SCOTT LOCAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY AWARD 2022

Gastineau Channel Historical Society, For Gastineau Heritage News issue on 135 years of Juneau and Douglas newspapers

## ESTHER BILLMAN AWARD 2022

Anchorage Museum, For commitment to preserving and presenting Alaska history and partnership with the Alaska Historical Society

## CONTRIBUTIONS TO ALASKA HISTORY AWARD 2022 (3 AWARDS)

Katherine J. Ringsmuth, NN Cannery History Project: Documenting Cannery Work, People & Place

R. Bruce Parham, Generous investments of expertise and time to the Alaska Historical Society and the Cook Inlet Historical Society

Diane Olthuis, Dedicated service to the Hope & Sunrise Historical Society and Museum and the Kenai Peninsula Historical Association

## TERRENCE M. COLE STUDENT & BEGINNING PROFESSIONAL TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIP 2022

Ava Martin, History Student, University of Alaska Anchorage

## CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION 2022

Gary C. Stein, Articles and book contributing to understanding the role and significant individuals of the U.S. Revenue Marine Service in Alaska

Patience Frederiksen, leadership of the Alaska State Division of Libraries, Archives and Museums

## PRESIDENT'S AWARD (THE BEAVER LOG) 2022

William Schneider, for his ground-breaking initiative on the ANCSA research guide



# MEMORIALS

## Ron Inouye and Angela Schmidt

The Alaska Historical Society annually recognizes members, colleagues, and friends who died the past year. The profiles will be on the AHS website with those from prior years.

Those being remembered this year are:

[LaRue Barnes, Cordova](#)

[Marjorie Cochrane, Eagle River](#)

[Gary Holthaus, formerly Anchorage](#)

[Nancy Lethcoe, Valdez](#)

[Lance Mackey, Fairbanks](#)

[Wilda Marston, Anchorage](#)

[Lael Morgan, Fairbanks & Anchorage](#)

[Phyllis Demuth Movius, Fairbanks](#)

[Gordon L. Pullar, Anchorage](#)

[Edward Rasmuson, Anchorage](#)

[H. Theodore “Ted” Ryberg, Fairbanks](#)

[Gary C. Stein, last living in Florissant, MO](#)

[Arliss Sturgulewski, Anchorage](#)

[Clem Tillion, Halibut Cove/Homer](#)

[Joe Usibelli, Fairbanks](#)

[William Workman, Anchorage](#)

[John Wright, Fairbanks](#)

## PROJECTS FOR 2023

### 2023 CONFERENCE LOCATION

The Alaska Historical Society wants to return to a mostly in-person conference next year and is seeking a group interested in partnering to help plan the meeting. The plan is, with luck, also to also have sessions available virtually. The new Board of Directors will start discussing the theme for next year’s conference at their first meeting, expected to be in early November.

Members are invited to suggest possible themes and potential keynote speakers.

## AHS LECTURE SERIES

Will Schneider proposed, and the Board of Directors enthusiastically supported, the idea that the Alaska Historical Society sponsor “The Role of History in a Civil Society: A Lecture Series.” The intent is to explore how history informs understanding of current issues and enhances constructive public discussion. A committee has met several times to further discuss the idea and has proposed some possible topics:

- Climate change in Alaska and broader implications
- Race and ethnicity in Alaska
- Threats to democracy, from elections to personal choice to erosion of social controls
- The legacy and impact of colonialism
- What is a constitution and why is it important?

## LOGO REDESIGN

The suggestion that the Society get a different logo than its stylized double-headed eagle comes up pretty much every year. The strongest argument against changing it is that the organization is known and recognized with the current logo.



# Alaska Historical Society

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[www.alaskahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.alaskahistoricalsociety.org)