

CONFLICTING VISIONS *of* ALASKA HISTORY

ALASKA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2022 DIGITAL CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 6-8 • OCTOBER 13-15 • 2022



Participating in our hybrid in-person and virtual conference

Thank you for registering for our 2022 conference. Except for the annual business meeting, the Anchorage Museum is hosting the conference sessions using Crowdcast, www.crowdcast.io/event. It does not require any software to download.

How do I join the conference sessions on Crowdcast?

Conference registrants will receive an email from the Anchorage Museum the week of the conference. It will have a link inviting you to participate. **It is important to respond to the invitation.** Click the green “Save My Spot!” button, enter your name and email address, and click to enter the event. If it is your first time joining a Crowdcast event you will be asked to agree to the terms of service and enter your first and last names. After you have registered you will see a countdown to the start time. Registrants will receive reminder emails.

Session moderators and presenters.

The session moderators and presenters must join Crowdcast as an audience member about 15 minutes before the session is to start. Host Cody Carver, Anchorage Museum, will move moderators and presenters to the platform. Presenters can share their screen for their Powerpoint presentations, but it is recommended that you provide a copy of your presentation to your session moderator. The audience will see the moderator and all presenters at the start of the session, and can ask questions and see a participant list. All sessions will be recorded.

Will the same Crowdcast link work for all the conference sessions?

Yes. Navigate to the “Schedule” section above the video and click to the dropdown menu where you will select the session. The session might not have started, so you might not see a live video feed right away.

Having problems getting into the conference sessions on Crowdcast?

If you have trouble accessing the Crowdcast sessions, contact Cody Carver, ccarver@anchagemuseum.org • 907-929-9249.

How do I ask a question during a conference session?

There should be time at the end of each session for questions, which will be coordinated by the session moderator. Audience members can watch and listen to the presentations and type questions or comments in the chat panel, but can only speak when given permission by the moderator to unmute. Audience members will not be able to send chat messages to other audience members.

The AHS annual business meeting on Friday, October 14, at 3:30 p.m. is via Zoom.

The AHS annual business meeting is a Zoom meeting. See page 24 for how to join it. If you have trouble accessing the meeting, please email members@alaskahistoricalociety.org.

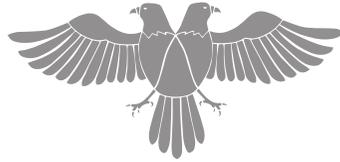
I have accessibility issues. Can I still participate in the conference?

If you have impaired vision or hearing or other accessibility issues, please let us know in advance at members@alaskahistoricalociety.org so that we can provide support.

I have questions not answered by these instructions. Help!

If you have additional questions, please contact Rachel Mason, conference chair, at rachel_mason@nps.gov • 907-240-4917.

COVER PHOTO: The Russian merchant Alexander Baranov founded Sitka on a site already inhabited by Alaska Natives and came to be known as a brutal colonialist. In this June 30, 2020, photo, Sitka History Museum curator Nicole Fiorino, left, Sitka Tribe council member Bob Sam, center, and museum director Hal Spackman clean the statue after it was egged in protest a week earlier. Photo courtesy James Poulson/*Daily Sitka Sentinel*.



Alaska Historical Society
2022 Digital Conference

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of ALASKA HISTORY

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ABOUT THE ALASKA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Alaska Historical Society is a non-profit, educational institution dedicated to encouraging creative inquiry into our past; facilitating and advocating for the sharing of information, ideas and resources related to Alaska history; and promoting the value of history in contemporary life. We believe the history of Alaska is the history of many groups and peoples who have shaped this place, including Alaska Native peoples as the first Alaskans, and those from every continent and population group.

Governed by a 15-member board of the directors, the society strives to achieve these goals with publication of a semi-annual scholarly journal *Alaska History* and a quarterly newsletter and by holding an annual conference. We also advocate for local, state and national cultural programs.

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This conference is supported by generous grants from the Alaska Humanities Forum, the National Endowment for the Humanities, a federal agency, and the Atwood Foundation. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed do not necessarily represent those of the granting organizations.

WELCOME

One of my most vivid memories after my late 1970s arrival in Fairbanks was a photo of a local protester drenching a strawman likeness of President Jimmy Carter with lighter fluid and igniting it before a cheering crowd. That protest over Carter's withdrawal of 56 million acres of Alaska lands set the tone for how public policy issues would be framed over the next four decades in which I have observed them. That's why I'm especially excited about this year's conference, which examines "Conflicting Visions of Alaska History."



Another important component of the 2022 conference is our annual business meeting. The society's board is asking members to help streamline our operations by approving the first revision of our bylaws in 13 years.

Thanks to several organizations for helping make this year's conference a success: the Atwood Foundation for a generous grant supporting our keynote speaker's presentation, the Cook Inlet Historical Society for partnering with us on this year's conference, the Anchorage Museum for hosting us, and the Alaska Humanities Forum and National Endowment for the Humanities for financial support. And thanks to you for joining us!

— DAVID RAMSEUR, President

Welcome to the 2022 annual conference of the Alaska Historical Society, with the compelling theme "Conflicting Visions of Alaska History." While not every presentation focuses directly on conflicts, we have gathered presentations and panel discussions on a broad selection of topics that represent many kinds of oppositions and dilemmas in Alaska's history, along with some concerted efforts to address those problems.



The keynote speech by Bathsbeba Demuth on October 6 at the Anchorage Museum will be in person, preceded by a reception, and will also be offered by Crowdcast. The tour of Anchorage bars on October 14 and the tour of Dena'ina signage on October 15 are also in person. All other events will be digital, with all presentations held via Crowdcast and the business meeting by Zoom. We hope that you will be able to attend all the presentations, but if you miss any, the recordings will be available later on our website.

Enjoy the conference!

— RACHEL MASON, Conference Chair

ABOUT OUR THEME

Conflicting Visions of Alaska History

From the time of the first European explorations and Russian colonization, Alaska history provides numerous examples of conflicting visions. The Russians coerced Native labor to pursue sea otters for a profitable commercial trade, disrupting the Native subsistence economy and decimating Native populations. Following the U.S. purchase of Alaska, conflicts arose as whalers, miners, fish processors and others raced to reap the profits from this resource-rich territory, often with disastrous consequences.

The discovery of oil in Prudhoe Bay served as a catalyst to settle Native land claims, and the passage of the

Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act created its own conflicting visions of the future. As oil became the primary driver of Alaska's economy, pro-development policies dominated Alaska's government, while conservation was often associated with Outside organizations.

These conflicts and many more will be framed by our keynote speaker, Brown University Professor Bathsheba Demuth. She is a cutting-edge environmental historian whose first book, *Floating Coast: An Environmental History of the Bering Strait*, won numerous national awards.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Thursday, October 6 • 7–8 p.m.

Keynote Speaker: Bathsheba Demuth

History from a Dogsled: The Yukon and the Stakes of Telling the Past

Ask someone from the Lower 48 what they know about the Yukon River, and most will invoke the Klondike gold rush, or perhaps the writing of John McPhee. Even in Alaska, celebrations of extraction frequently overshadow public commemoration of other, particularly Indigenous, histories. This talk looks at the intertwined, co-dependent lives of people, dogs and salmon along the 19th century Yukon River for examples of how to tell more capacious, polyvocal narratives—and the stakes of doing so for and about Alaska, a place where the politics of who speaks the past has bearing on present conflicts over land, meaning, and the possibilities of the future.

***Bathsheba Demuth** is an associate professor of history and environment and society at Brown University, where she specializes in the lands and seas of the Russian and North American Arctic. Her interest in the north began when she was 18 and moved to the village of Old Crow in the Yukon, where she spent several years mushing, hunting, fishing, and otherwise learning the ways of the taiga and tundra.*

*Demuth's book **Floating Coast: An Environmental History of the Bering Strait** was named a best book of 2019 by Nature, National Public Radio, Kirkus Reviews and Library Journal, among others. Demuth holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Brown, and master's and doctoral degrees from the University of California, Berkeley. Her writing has appeared in publications from The American Historical Review to The New Yorker. A current Carnegie Foundation Fellow, she is working on a book about the environmental pasts of the Yukon River. When not in Alaska, she lives in Rhode Island.*



WEEK 1: OCTOBER 6-8

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6	
6-7 p.m.	<p>OPENING RECEPTION</p> <p>» In-person event at the Anchorage Museum Atrium</p> <p><i>AHS invites those attending the opening reception in person to buy a book—or two, or more—for just \$10 per book, though additional donations are welcome. Five boxes of Alaskana books have been generously donated to the society to help raise funds for our programs. Many are in new condition and would make great gifts.</i></p>
7-8 p.m.	<p>KEYNOTE LECTURE</p> <p>» Bathsheba Demuth – History from a Dogsled: The Yukon and the Stakes of Telling the Past (In-person/online event)</p>
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7	
9-10:30 a.m.	<p>CONTESTED FIGURES & EVENTS IN ALASKA HISTORY</p> <p>» Russ Vanderlugt – Dean of Alaskan Experts? The Conflicting Legacies of William Dall and Ivan Petroff</p> <p>» Jim Barnett – Looking Again, Re-examining the Legacy of Captains Cook and Vancouver in Alaska</p> <p>» Betsy Longenbaugh and Ed Schoenfeld – Viewing History Through the Lenses of Murder</p>
11 a.m.– 12:30 p.m.	<p>CONFLICTS OVER ALASKA NATIVE SOVEREIGNTY</p> <p>» William Schneider – The Struggle for Recognition of Sovereignty and the Federal Government’s Responsibility to Alaska Natives</p> <p>» Stephen Haycox – Competing Visions of Tribal Sovereignty in Alaska</p>
2-3 p.m.	<p>THE ANCSA GUIDE: RECOGNIZING THE ALASKA NATIVE CLAIMS SETTLEMENT ACT AND ITS HISTORY</p> <p>» Sue Sherif, William Schneider, Karen Brewster</p>
4-5:30 p.m.	<p>PANEL DISCUSSION: TEACHING ANCSA</p> <p>» Charleen Fisher, Michael Hawfield, Jennifer Romer, Michael Hoyt</p>
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8	
9-10:30 a.m.	<p>REFLECTING ON ALASKA THROUGH CANVAS AND PEN</p> <p>» Doug Capra – The Turbulent Genesis of Rockwell Kent’s <i>Wilderness: A Journal of Quiet Adventure in Alaska</i></p> <p>» Sheila Sparks Ralph – Vic Sparks, Skagway’s Sourdough Artist</p>
11 a.m.– 12:30 p.m.	<p>REGIONAL SOLUTIONS TO UNIQUELY ALASKAN CHALLENGES</p> <p>» Spencer Abbe – The Committee Discusses Prophecy: City Planning for Earthquake Recurrence after 1964</p> <p>» Leslie McCartney – Kotzebue Communities of Memory Project Jukebox</p> <p>» Daniel Monteith – Time Capsule, Treasure Trove: Alaskan Voices of Living on the Land, 1972-1979</p>
2-3:30 p.m.	<p>CANNING SLIPPERY SALMON</p> <p>» Katherine Ringsmuth – “How to Eat Canned Salmon:” The Salmon Industry and the Rise of National Advertising</p> <p>» Virtual tour of the “Mug-Up” exhibit at the Alaska State Museum</p>
4-5:30 p.m.	<p>DIFFERENT WAYS OF PRESENTING HISTORY</p> <p>» Sabena Allen – Climate Change, Oral History, and Conflicting Notions of Knowledge: A Methodological Approach</p> <p>» Rachel Mason – Anthropology and History: Different Postulates about the Possibility of Objective Truth</p> <p>» David Reamer – Public History Practice in Alaska: Lessons Learned from Eager Consumers</p>

WEEK 2: OCTOBER 13-15

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13	
9–10:30 a.m.	CONFLICTS OF COLONIALISM AND RACE » Adam Kersch – Infectious Diseases, Race, and Settler Colonialism on Sheet'ká Kwáan
11 a.m.–12 p.m.	ATWOOD RESOURCE CENTER AT THE ANCHORAGE MUSEUM TOUR » Virtual tour with Heather McClain, Chloe Nielsen, Monica Shah
2–3:30 p.m.	CONFLICTS IN ALASKA NATIVE HEALTH & EDUCATION » Mary Ehrlander and Hild Peters – Health Conditions among Alaska Natives in the Early 20th Century » Benjamin Jacuk – A Reindeer in Caribou's Clothing: Sheldon Jackson's Alaska Boarding Schools and Structural Violence » Taiyoh Itoh – The Cornerstone on Troth Yeddha': Alaska Native Activism in Higher Education
4–5:30 p.m.	RUSSIA & ALASKA: A CONFLICTED HISTORY » Ian Halter – Suspicion and Triumph: Remembering Alaska's Cession in Russia and the United States » David Ramseur – The Thaw and Refreeze of the Alaska-Russia Ice Curtain » Brandon Boylan – Alaska in the Context of Russia's War on Ukraine
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14	
9–10:30 a.m.	ENVIRONMENTAL AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION » Heather Feil – To Preserve Unimpaired ... Evolution of Alaska's National Parks » Ava Martin – The Historic Environment and Best Practice in Scotland and Alaska
11 a.m.–12 p.m.	WORKSHOP: PRESERVING PAPER DOCUMENTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS ON A SHOESTRING BUDGET » Rachel Cohen
2–3:30 p.m.	ANNUAL AHS MEETING, AWARDS, AND MEMORIALS
4–5:30 p.m.	PANEL DISCUSSION: HISTORY AND PUBLIC OUTREACH » Ian Hartman, Francesca DeBruck, Julie Varee
7–9 p.m.	ANCHORAGE BAR TOUR » In-person tour with Doug Vandergraft, starting at Anchorage Museum (\$25 per person)
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15	
9–10:30 a.m.	CONFLICTS OVER TRADE AND COMMERCE » Christopher Petrakos – Violence on the Yukon: Traders, Trappers, and Imperial Contestation on the Alaska-Yukon Borderlands, 1847-1870 » J. Penelope Goforth – The Alaska Commercial Company: Corporate Villain or Benevolent Enterprise?
11 a.m.–12:30 p.m.	CONFLICTS OVER TRANSPORTATION » Mark Moore – Researching R.G. LeTourneau's <i>Overland Trains: Stories from the North</i> » Leanna Prax Williams – Altering Course: Alaska's Aviation Industry and the 1938 Civil Aeronautics Act » Philip Wight – Whose Haul Road? How the Dalton Highway Became Public, 1968-2001
2–3:30 p.m.	OLYMPIANS AND DRINKERS » Pierce A. Bateman – "Our Anchorage, an International Host:" A History of Alaska's Bids to Host the Winter Olympic Games, 1942-Present » Douglas L. Vandegraft – Bars and Alcohol in Alaska: Conflict and Controversy
4–6 p.m.	DENA'INA INDIGENOUS SIGNAGE TOUR » In-person tour with Aaron Leggett, starting at Anchorage Museum (\$25 per person)

CONTESTED FIGURES AND EVENTS IN ALASKA HISTORY

Friday, October 7 • 9–10:30 a.m.

Moderator: David Ramseur

Dean of Alaskan Experts? The Conflicting Legacies of William Dall and Ivan Petroff

Affiliated with the Smithsonian for 62 years, William H. Dall was considered by many to be the enduring “Dean of Alaskan Experts” and Alaska’s premier historian. During the 1880s, however, Russian-born Ivan Petroff legitimately challenged Dall’s authority as Alaska’s expert. Petroff’s role as sole census agent for all of Alaska in 1880 coupled with his research and writing associated with Bancroft’s *History of Alaska* published in 1886 led to his ascendancy just prior to his rapid descent into obscurity. Despite Petroff’s checkered career, his unique knowledge, skills, perspectives and experiences throughout the region enrich our understanding of Alaska’s diverse past.

During the past year, Russ Vanderlugt worked toward completion of his doctoral dissertation and accepted a joint staff position in the Alaskan Command. His dissertation is titled “Among the Dene: Allen’s 1885 Trans-Alaska Expedition.”

Looking Again, Re-examining the Legacy of Captains Cook and Vancouver in Alaska

Modern historians have reevaluated the reputation of many European explorers because of violence or enslavement of Indigenous people they encountered. Because of this concern, the maritime investigations by two British explorers, Captains James Cook and George Vancouver, have been the focus of reassessment

by some Alaskans. This paper will review the record of Cook and Vancouver during their time in Alaska in the context of 18th century practices and otherwise consider how they might be evaluated today. It will also consider similar and ongoing debates on this topic in other Pacific regions, particularly the naming/statue controversies surrounding Captain Cook.

Jim Barnett is former president of Cook Inlet Historical Society (1995-2015) and a published author and editor on topics of Alaska history, including the surveys of Captains Cook and Vancouver in Alaska.

Viewing History Through the Lenses of Murder

This presentation will focus on specific murders and the community response to those events. By examining how a community reacts to the extreme event of murder, attitudes about wealth, sex and race are starkly revealed. We will discuss at least five historic murders, occurring between 1902 and 1960, in the context of the time they occurred. They address the topics of powerful business leaders, the dangers of being a prostitute, workplace violence and newspaper coverage of murders of Alaska Native women.

Betsy Longenbaugh is the author of Forgotten Murders from Alaska’s History, released this year by Epicenter Press. She is a former newspaper reporter and social worker.

Ed Schoenfeld was a reporter in Alaska for more than 35 years. He is married to Betsy Longenbaugh.

CONFLICTS OVER ALASKA NATIVE SOVEREIGNTY

Friday, October 7 • 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Moderator: Judy Bittner

The Struggle for Recognition of Sovereignty and the Federal Government's Responsibility to Alaska Natives

The relationship between the federal government and Alaska Natives is based on recognition of Aboriginal rights and the government's trust responsibility to Natives. The interpretation of Aboriginal rights and the administration of the federal trust have been shaped by legal and social interpretations deeply imbedded in Euro-American culture and often with little understanding of Natives and their rights and concerns, particularly when they conflict with settler interests. This paper explores the cultural divide and suggests some reasons why it exists.

William Schneider is a professor emeritus from the University of Alaska Fairbanks and a board member of the Alaska Historical Society.

Competing Visions of Tribal Sovereignty in Alaska

In 1993, Ada Deer, assistant secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior, announced her department's recognition of 227 Native tribes in Alaska. The announcement greatly strengthened a movement advocating sovereignty for those tribes. Alaska Native tribes' efforts to assume greater control over their own affairs have led to some confrontations with state agencies, particularly law enforcement. Since 1993, however, the state has taken several steps to further enhance tribes' control over their lands and members. This paper reviews the history of the tribal sovereignty movement in Alaska and some of its consequences for the tribes and for the state.

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

THE ANCSA GUIDE: RECOGNIZING THE ALASKA NATIVE CLAIMS SETTLEMENT ACT AND ITS HISTORY

Friday, October 7 • 2–3 p.m.

Moderator: Will Schneider

A group of dedicated volunteers and researchers has compiled the *Guide to Sources for the Study of the 1971 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act*. It documents primary source material in major Alaska archives and key published sources accessible in many of our libraries. The guide features an interpretive essay on ANCSA's history and legacy, a timeline of key events, a listing of the key players in the ANCSA movement, detailed inventories of archival collections with ANCSA material, an annotated bibliography, and educational resources. The presentation will discuss key moments in the events leading up to ANCSA, the passage of the act, and the subsequent evolution of issues emanating from the legislation, and will demonstrate how to use the guide by highlighting specific collections and documents.

William Schneider is a professor emeritus from the University of Alaska Fairbanks and a board member of the Alaska Historical Society.

Sue Sherif is a retired librarian who works as a volunteer for the Alaska Historical Society.

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 30 years on a variety of historical and cultural topics. Karen serves on the Alaska Historical Society board and is the editor of *Guide to Sources for the Study of the 1971 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act*, released by AHS in 2022.

PANEL DISCUSSION: TEACHING ANCSA

Friday, October 7 • 1:30–3 p.m.

Moderator: Charleen Fisher

In commemoration of the 50th anniversary of ANCSA, we present a panel to discuss how ANCSA is taught in the classroom, suggestions for incorporating the topic in social studies curriculum, and how to engage students and the general public with the issues raised by the act and its implementation.

Dr. Charleen Fisher is a member of the Gwich'in, Koyukon, and Dena'ina community from Beaver, Alaska. Currently teaching at the University of Alaska Fairbanks as an assistant professor, she has many years of experience as a K-12 teacher and principal in the Yukon Flats and Fairbanks North Star Borough School districts. She has a bachelor's degree in political science, a master's degree in language and literacy, and a doctorate in Indigenous studies from UAF.

Mike Hawfield, of Homer, serves on the board of the Alaska Historical Society and is a retired associate professor of history at the University of Alaska Anchorage. He taught a variety of history courses at Indiana University, Purdue University, and the University of Notre Dame before joining the faculty of the Kenai Peninsula College of UAA, where he taught U.S. and Alaska history. Mike is the author of "Resources for the

teaching of ANCSA," Volume III of the Guide to Sources for the Study of the 1971 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

Jennifer Romer is Yup'ik and Gwich'in. She is the senior director, Education and Innovation, with Cook Inlet Tribal Council, Inc. She has 15 years of classroom and athletic coaching experience. She studied history and political science as an undergraduate at UAF. She also holds a master's degree in secondary social studies from George Washington University, and a master's in sports business from New York University. Her most recent large project was the development of a third grade curriculum on Alaska Native history and culture. She is passionate about promoting civic mindedness and lifelong learning.

Michael Hoyt is Tlingit from Wrangell, of the Teeyhittaan clan, and Iñupiaq from Diomedé. He currently teaches social studies and language arts at Nome-Beltz Middle High School, and is an adjunct instructor for UAF Northwest Campus courses relating to Alaska Native history and education. Hoyt received his bachelor's degree in philosophy from Northwest Nazarene University and a master's in education from the University of Alaska Southeast.

REFLECTING ON ALASKA THROUGH CANVAS AND PEN

Saturday, October 8 • 9–10:30 a.m.

Moderator: Rachel Mason

The Turbulent Genesis of Rockwell Kent's *Wilderness: A Journal of Quiet Adventure in Alaska*

American artist Rockwell Kent's inspirational classic, *Wilderness: A Journal of Quiet Adventure in Alaska* (1920), tells only half the story. Hundreds of letters to and from him during that 1918–1919 moratorium on Fox Island in Resurrection Bay reveal a distressing subtext. His philandering is destroying his marriage. The Great War's patriotic fervor maddens him. The influenza epidemic alarms him as he battles storms, rough seas, and the fierce north wind. At midlife now, his art career is going nowhere. Kent battles his isolation, anxiety, and depression, using that negative energy to produce stimulating art and an inspiring book.

Doug Capra wrote the foreword to the Wesleyan University Press special edition of Kent's *Wilderness* and has published many articles about artists in Alaska. He is the author of *The Spaces Between: Stories from the Kenai Mountains to the Kenai Fjords*.

Vic Sparks, Skagway's Sourdough Artist

This talk offers a brief retrospective of the artwork of Skagway's sourdough artist, Vic Sparks (1884 – 1962). Across multiple modalities which ranged from oil and watercolor paintings to posters to political cartoons and hand-illustrated cards, Sparks captured Skagway, its people and the surrounding landscape at a pivotal time as it transitioned from a dying gold rush boom town in America's last frontier to a vibrant tourist destination. Sparks never abandoned his dedication to art as he painted and sketched the glorious landscape, decaying buildings, abandoned storefronts along the Klondike trail, and Indigenous culture.

Sheila Sparks Ralph, former professor of nursing at Shenandoah University, with doctoral and registered nursing degrees, is the co-author of *Nursing Diagnosis Reference Manual* and *Vic Sparks, Skagway's Sourdough Artist*. She is the granddaughter of Vic Sparks.

REGIONAL SOLUTIONS TO UNIQUELY ALASKAN CHALLENGES

Saturday, October 8 • 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Moderator: Wendy Ranney

The Committee Discusses Prophecy: City Planning for Earthquake Recurrence after 1964

After the magnitude 9.2 earthquake rattled Alaska on March 27, 1964, many Alaskans faced a difficult decision: to relocate, or to rebuild? Their key consideration was a looming question: would there be another earthquake? If so, how should this potential event impact how Alaskans lived and built? This presentation uses meeting minutes of the Federal Reconstruction and Development Planning Commission for Alaska and personal papers of city planner Vic Fischer and geologist Ruth Schmidt to tell the story of grappling with Alaska's earthquake-prone future in the mid-20th century.

Spencer Abbe is a doctoral candidate in history at the University of Oregon. He is writing a dissertation entitled "The Dangers Which Plague This Country: Empire and Disaster in the North Pacific, 1700-1964," which examines the history of earthquakes, tsunamis, and volcanic eruptions in the Russian Far East and Alaska from the arrival of the Russian Empire to the mid-20th century.

Kotzebue Communities of Memory Project Jukebox

In 1996, community members of Kotzebue came together to share their stories about their experiences with war, be it World War II, the Korean War or the Vietnam War. Many described what it was like being in the military and then returning home. Others told

stories about what it was like at home during the various wars. This was the first time many participants were able to speak about their emotional and traumatic experiences and how they were dealing with their inner conflicts. This paper will highlight some of these stories featured in the Kotzebue Communities of Memory Project Jukebox.

Leslie McCartney is a cultural anthropologist specializing in oral history. She is an associate professor and the curator of the Oral History Collection at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Time Capsule, Treasure Trove: Alaskan Voices of Living on the Land, 1972-1979

After the passage of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, a joint commission comprised of both federal and state officials traveled to most of the rural communities in Alaska and conducted land use hearings between 1972 and 1979. The testimonies by residents all over the state provide a compelling time capsule of Alaskans' relationship with the land and resources. This work will feature a couple of communities and discuss the wealth of information and knowledge from within these testimonies.

Daniel Monteith has been a professor of anthropology at the University of Alaska Southeast for over two decades. His recent work focuses on social justice issues and community history and anthropology in Southeast Alaska. He became interested in this topic as he did work at the state archives for the Alaska Historical Society's project on ANCSA.

JOIN ONE OF OUR IN-PERSON TOURS!

Anchorage Historic Bar Tour of Fourth Avenue

Friday, October 14 • 7–9 p.m.
Leader: Doug Vandegraft
Meet at: Anchorage Museum
Registration fee: \$25

From its earliest days until the late 1970s, Fourth Avenue was the Main Street of Anchorage. Both sides of the street were lined with stores, offices, restaurants and, of course, bars. In 1964, on the eve of the earthquake, there were at least 25 bars on Fourth Avenue. By 1980, there were only 11.

Join Doug Vandegraft, author of *A Guide to the Notorious Bars of Alaska*, for a walking tour of Fourth Avenue, and visit historic bars still in business.

Dena'ina Indigenous Signage Tour

Saturday, October 15 • 4–6 p.m.
Leader: Aaron Leggett
Meet at: Anchorage Museum
Registration fee: \$25

Join Aaron Leggett, senior curator of Alaska history and Indigenous cultures at the Anchorage Museum and president of the Native Village of Eklutna, on a tour to learn about Dena'ina place names and recent efforts to recognize and celebrate them in the Municipality of Anchorage.

CANNING SLIPPERY SALMON

Saturday, October 8 • 2–3:30 p.m.
Moderator: Bob King

“How to Eat Canned Salmon:” The Salmon Industry and the Rise of National Advertising

By the turn of the 20th century, Alaska salmon packers had built fully automated salmon canneries on nearly every salmon stream from Ketchikan to Bristol Bay. The sheer volume of mass-produced canned salmon glutted local markets and led to fierce competition among canners. Rather than overproduction, however, the real threat to the fledgling industry was underconsumption. Simply put, too few Americans knew how to eat canned salmon. This visual presentation explores how the canned salmon industry moved

beyond local sellers by working in tandem with the new early 20th century fields of advertising and print media to reach a national market.

Virtual Tour: “Mug-Up” Exhibit at the Alaska State Museum

Katherine Ringsmuth holds a doctoral degree and is the Alaska state historian and deputy state historic preservation officer. She curated the exhibition “Mug Up: The Language of Cannery Work,” and just completed the NN Cannery History Project, a seven-year public history endeavor of which she served as project director.

DIFFERENT WAYS OF PRESENTING HISTORY

Saturday, October 8 • 4–5:30 p.m.

Moderator: Averil Lerman

Climate Change, Oral History, and Conflicting Notions of Knowledge: A Methodological Approach

This paper explores methodological approaches involving Tlingit oral history in relation to climate change and the history of natural disasters in Southeast Alaska. It considers how these histories have been subjugated and written off as “myth” through the process of settler colonialism and ethnographic collection. Oral history already stands as history within Native communities, but such knowledge is often ignored by the academy and the U.S. government in favor of “objective” science. Traditional knowledge is deeply rooted in place and intimacy with the land and waters. It is thus vital in the face of anthropogenic climate change and environmental pollution.

Sabena Allen is a Gaanaxteidi Raven and a child of the Kaagwaantaan who was born in Sitka, Alaska, and grew up between Southeast Alaska and southern Maine. She is now a doctoral student in the anthropology department at the University of Chicago, where her work focuses on Tlingit responses to catastrophe through time and their current implications regarding climate change.

Anthropology and History: Different Postulates about the Possibility of Objective Truth

Long before the current popularity of “alternative facts,” I decided that a major difference between historians and anthropologists is that historians believe it is possible to get the facts straight. Anthropologists

have always recognized that everything depends on one’s perspective. As a cultural anthropologist, I have a special interest in the point of view of contemporary people. This paper looks at two historical projects I’ve worked on for the National Park Service—the history of Seward’s red light district and the Aleutian Lost Villages project—and discusses what an anthropologist brings to the understanding of history.

Rachel Mason is the senior cultural anthropologist for the National Park Service, Alaska Region. She has worked as an anthropologist in Alaska for many years. She is the vice president of the Alaska Historical Society.

Public History Practice in Alaska: Lessons Learned from Eager Consumers

An underexplored aspect of history practice is the role of the audience. For many historians, especially those in academia, the audience can be an inconsequential consideration. Such an approach, however, tends to build barriers between historical products and otherwise eager consumers. This presentation tracks the personal experiences and hard-learned lessons from more than three years of public-facing and audience-engaged historical practice, with implications on topic selection, topic breadth, public appetite for history, tone, utility of history, and role of historians in social media.

David Reamer is an academic and public scholar interested in the intersections of social justice, history, and community construction. He writes daily on Twitter, weekly for the Anchorage Daily News, and periodically elsewhere on a range of topics from housing discrimination to waffles.

CONFLICTS OF COLONIALISM AND RACE

Thursday, October 13 • 9–10:30 a.m.

Moderator: Wendy Ranney

Infectious Diseases, Race, and Settler Colonialism on Sheet'ká Kwáan

When Europeans and Euro-Americans came to Alaska they brought infectious and deadly diseases. Russian and American colonial officials imagined that these diseases were a sign of their superiority, rather than a consequence of settler colonial expansion. While colonizers initially articulated their superiority through language of civilizational difference, they later assumed the disparate effects of colonially imported diseases was a marker of whites' supposed racial superiority. I argue

that infectious diseases were crucial to the formation of racial whiteness in Sheet'ká (Sitka, Alaska). This presentation thus examines the contested and racialized history of infectious diseases and colonial expansion in Southeast Alaska.

Adam Kersch is a medical anthropologist and earned his doctorate in 2022 from the University of California, Davis. His doctoral research focused on the relationship between infectious diseases, settler colonialism, and racism in Sheet'ká. Using historic and ethnographic research methods, Adam seeks to engage academic and general audiences while working closely with communities.

VIRTUAL TOUR

Thursday, October 13 • 11 a.m.–12 p.m.

Atwood Resource Center at Anchorage Museum

The Anchorage Museum collection highlights the environment, people and cultures of the Circumpolar North. The collection has grown since the Museum's founding in 1968 to span over 26,000 objects and over 700,000 photographs and archival materials. The collection serves as a focal point for honoring the stories and legacies of these works for the public and for future generations—connecting people, building relationships and common understanding.

The virtual tour will highlight the current work being done in the Atwood Resource Center (ARC) Archives and Library, including a walk-through of the spaces where staff, researchers, and the community can access and engage with the collections. Staff will also share some of the current and ongoing projects they are working with, as well as the redesign of the ARC that is currently underway.

The virtual tour will be guided by museum employees Heather McClain, Chloe Nielsen and Monica Shah.

CONFLICTS IN ALASKA NATIVE HEALTH AND EDUCATION

Thursday, October 13 • 2–3:30 p.m.

Moderator: Rebecca Poulson

Health Conditions among Alaska Natives in the Early 20th Century

Early in the 20th century, health conditions differed strikingly between Alaska Natives and non-Natives. The U.S. government provided woefully inadequate resources to meet Indigenous Alaskans' health care needs as epidemics swept through the territory and tuberculosis killed highly disproportionate numbers of Alaska Natives every year. This paper focuses on conditions in the northern Interior and the efforts of Dr. Grafton and Clara Burke to improve health and well-being primarily among Alaska Natives. The medical care, childcare, and community outreach programs the Burkes provided at St. Stephen's Hospital and Mission Home at Fort Yukon enhanced well-being and longevity for generations.

Mary Ehrlander is professor emeritus of history and Arctic and Northern studies at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Hild Peters is executive officer for the College of Natural Science and Mathematics at UAF.

A Reindeer in Caribou's Clothing: Sheldon Jackson's Alaska Boarding Schools and Structural Violence

Throughout the last 120 years it has been no secret to Alaska Natives that the church-run boarding schools had a lasting effect upon our people. This presentation will set out to answer, through the framework of structural violence, how these institutions erased the Indigenous peoples of Alaska. It will look at Sheldon Jackson's ideas for education of Alaska Natives and his eco- and ethno-tourism ideas. It also will address perceptions boarding school administrators had of Alaska Natives and how they believed they were helping Indigenous communi-

ties. This presentation will look at the history of the boarding schools in Alaska (predominantly church-run) and their perceptions of Alaska Natives, while fronting as helping Indigenous communities.

Benjamin Jacuk (Dena'ina, Sugpiaq) is the Indigenous researcher at the Alaska Native Heritage Center. His area of study focuses on church-run boarding schools in Alaska and their lasting effects on Indigenous populations. Benjamin has two master's degrees from Princeton Theological Seminary and has been a representative in the United Nations Permanent Forum for Indigenous Issues.

The Cornerstone on Troth Yeddha': Alaska Native Activism in Higher Education

Alaska's universities have witnessed conflicting visions of colonizers and Indigenous peoples for over a century. While the number of Alaska Native college students rapidly increased around the time of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971, largely racist institutional policies and practices prevented them from thriving. Advocacy work done by Alaska Native peoples themselves and a few non-Native allies in the community and the State Legislature forced the university administrations to resolve some, but not all, of the problems. This presentation will highlight Alaska Native peoples' colonial experiences in higher education and reclamation of their educational sovereignty.

Taiyo Itob is a doctoral student studying educational policies at the University of Oregon. He works as a research associate in the Office of Institutional Research at the University of Alaska Anchorage.

RUSSIA AND ALASKA: A CONFLICTED HISTORY

Thursday, October 13 • 4–5:30 p.m.

Moderator: Gunnar Knapp

Suspicion and Triumph: Remembering Alaska's Cession in Russia and the United States

Using both Russian- and English-language sources from the 1860s to the present, this paper surveys the many ways non-Natives (both Russian and American) have remembered, and remember, Alaska's cession—from invocations of “Seward's Folly” to accusations of impropriety, subterfuge, and collusion. The paper argues there are meaningful connections between perceptions of cession's irregularity (then and now) and posterity's myriad, often-contradictory strategies for making sense of the same. In turn, investigating these connections reveals how imperial nostalgia and settler-colonial anxiety have shaped, and continue to shape, the stories we tell about 1867.

Ian Halter is a doctoral candidate in history at the University of Oregon. At present, Ian is a Bancroft Library Meylan Fellow at the University of California, Berkeley, where he is completing his dissertation—a social history of Alaska Native homelands in the era of Alaska's so-called cession, from 1860 to 1896.

The Thaw and Refreeze of the Alaska-Russia Ice Curtain

For centuries, Alaska and its closest western neighbor have struggled through hot and cold relations. That history of Alaska-Russia relations has been the subject of widely conflicting visions, told initially by European explorers and colonialists and today darkened by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. I will explore the major conflicts in Alaska-Russia relations, from the 18th century fur trade to the 19th century purchase of Russian-

America, to the 20th century's Cold War, to today's refreeze of the “Ice Curtain.” I'll assess whether there are lessons for future Alaska-Russia relations based on the many conflicting visions of its past.

David Ramseur is a 43-year Alaskan who worked as a newspaper reporter before a nearly 30-year career in politics and government as a top aide to Gvs. Steve Cowper and Tony Knowles and U.S. Sen. Mark Begich. He is the author of the 2017 book, Melting the Ice Curtain: The Extraordinary Story of Citizen Diplomacy on the Russia-Alaska Frontier and serves as president of the Alaska Historical Society.

Alaska in the Context of Russia's War on Ukraine

Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 and the ongoing war have rattled the world. The unprecedented attack has thrown into crisis various international institutions and diplomatic arrangements, energy trade, European politics, and indeed the international order. It has also intensified the conflict between the United States and Russia, reminiscent of the Cold War, with some arguing the Cold War never ended (e.g., Kotkin 2022). This paper considers the burgeoning consequences the event has had on Alaska, U.S.-Russian relations in the North, and the Arctic. Such consequences include new military, political, and economic developments in Alaska.

Brandon M. Boylan holds a doctoral degree and is professor of political science and director of the Arctic and Northern Studies Program at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. He researches and teaches on international relations, international security, and Arctic politics and security.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Friday, October 14 • 9–10:30 a.m.

Moderator: Erik Johnson

To Preserve Unimpaired ... Evolution of Alaska's National Parks

What some interpret as the National Park Service's "dual mandate," others see as a struggle between development and preservation. In carrying out the responsibilities of the Organic Act, the employees, and volunteers of the NPS preserve "unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations." Let's discuss the history and implications for Alaska's National Parks.

***Heather Feil** started work for the National Park Service in 2003, holding a variety of cultural resource positions across the nation, from the Great Smoky Mountains to Golden Gate National Recreation Area. She has been an architectural historian for the Alaska Regional Office since 2010 and has traveled to many of the park sites here in Alaska, striving to preserve our rich cultural history through the built environment.*

The Historic Environment and Best Practice in Scotland and Alaska

Scotland and Alaska both have valuable historical structures and storied landscapes, but with different methods of preserving them. During my time studying abroad in Scotland, I not only took a course on heritage and tourism (focusing on Historic Environment Scotland, or HES), but visited many sites run by public and private organizations. Due to its established but modern nature, HES is a consistent system and public-facing brand. I will compare my knowledge and experience from study abroad with my time living and working in Alaska, along with research into current regulations and practices affecting Alaska (originating from both federal and state entities). I believe that the Alaska agencies governing the practice of history, heritage, and historic preservation could learn from HES's successes and failures, implementing ideas for best practice to our benefit.

***Ava Martin** is a senior at the University of Alaska Anchorage, majoring in history. Her paper draws on her year of study abroad in Scotland. She is the recipient of the Alaska Historical Society's Student and Beginning Professional Award this year.*

WORKSHOP

Friday, October 14 • 11 a.m.–12 p.m.

Presenter: Rachel Cohen

Preserving Paper Documents and Photographs on a Shoestring Budget

This workshop is an introductory overview of basic archival principles for those working with physical collections and those wishing to prepare their personal papers for donation to an archive or museum. We'll briefly cover how to manage materials, writing descriptions, basic preservation, digitization considerations, and the donation process. All of this will be discussed with a common sense-based approach knowing that best practices, while ideal, are often not viable for people working with limited time and resources.

Paper-based materials such as photos and documents will be the primary focus. A resources list will also be provided to attendees.

*Originally from Juneau, **Rachel Cohen** is the archivist at the Alaska and Polar Regions Collections & Archives at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. She holds a master's degree in library and information science from the University of Illinois with a focus in special collections, and a master's degree in theater history and literature. She has worked in special collections in Alabama, Illinois and Alaska. Her research interests are historical children's materials, costume, printing history, and Alaskan political history in the mid-20th century.*

PANEL DISCUSSION: HISTORY AND PUBLIC OUTREACH

Friday, October 14 • 4–5:30 p.m.

Moderator: Ian Hartman

This panel discussion will explore the role of community engagement and outreach in the presentation of history. The panelists will provide insight into the roles and responsibilities of museum curators, archivists, and academic historians as they craft inclusive narratives that center Alaska's diverse communities.

***Ian Hartman**, moderator, is associate professor and chair of the History Department at the University of Alaska Anchorage.*

***Francesca DuBrock** is the chief curator for the Anchorage Museum.*

***Julie Varee** is a community outreach archivist for the Anchorage Museum.*

CONFLICTS OVER TRADE AND COMMERCE

Saturday, October 15 • 9–10:30 a.m.

Moderator: Ian Hartman

Violence on the Yukon: Traders, Trappers, and Imperial Contestation on the Alaska-Yukon Borderlands, 1847-1870

Between the construction of Fort Yukon (Gwichyaa Zheh) in 1847 and its destruction in 1870, the Yukon River near the 141st Meridian West became a place of imperial collision. The transition from a subsistence economy to a rapacious, extractive, capitalist economy fundamentally altered relationships along the Yukon River, producing conflict over access to resources. This research complicates the accepted historiographical view that relations between settlers and Indigenous people in the far north was a relatively staid and peaceful affair. The presentation shows that the collision of empires and the creation of new economic realities resulted in relationships characterized by competition, warfare and violence.

Christopher Petrakos is a British historian at the University of Toronto Mississauga and is currently working on a book centering on 19th-century British missionaries in the far north at the Alaska and Yukon border.

The Alaska Commercial Company: Corporate Villain or Benevolent Enterprise?

As the first American business to be established in Alaska after the Treaty of Cession in 1867, the Alaska Commercial Company—a fur-trading outfit that evolved into a chain of mercantile stores still existing today—has been the subject of both praise and condemnation. Negative views have been aired in Congressional hearings, articles, and complaints regarding the fur seal monopoly granted by the government to the company, including accusations of slavery. Conversely, commendations from U.S. Revenue Cutter Service officers, treasury officials, and others regarding aid provided to Indigenous peoples and gold rush miners tell a story of a company that incorporated humanitarian actions into everyday business practices.

J. Penelope Goforth is a former journalist who has written many articles and a book, *Sailing the Mail in Alaska*, about Alaska maritime history. She has lived and traveled throughout the Aleutian Islands, Bristol Bay and Southeast Alaska for many decades.

CONFLICTS OVER TRANSPORTATION

Saturday, October 15 • 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Moderator: Karen Brewster

Researching R.G. LeTourneau's Overland Trains: Stories from the North

Writing a book about R.G. LeTourneau's Overland Trains wasn't just about the machinery. "The Monster" carved its way into the people of Alaska and Yukon Territories. Within the course of two years, I interviewed nearly two dozen family members of those who had direct contact with the Overland Trains. The stories and first-person accounts used in writing the Overland Trains story aren't found on the internet. They're found by listening, somewhat of a lost art.

Mark Moore recently published his new book, R. G. LeTourneau's Overland Trains. He lives with his wife and yellow lab Henry in Gig Harbor, Washington.

Altering Course: Alaska's Aviation Industry and the 1938 Civil Aeronautics Act

The 1938 Civil Aeronautics Act radically altered the course of Alaska aviation. While the territory had long begged for federal funding to support development, the 1938 act may not have been what the industry had in mind, since the money came with strings attached. The provisions of the 1938 act represented a paradigm shift for Alaska's "pioneer pilots," as the federal government would now determine routes, rates, and communications. This paper considers the impact of the Civil

Aeronautics Act in the Alaska territory, and explores whether industry and government's conflicting visions for aviation could be reconciled.

Leanna Prax Williams is an interdisciplinary doctoral student housed at the Arctic and Northern Studies Program of the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Her research centers on the depiction of Alaska aviation in mass media and popular culture.

Whose Haul Road? How the Dalton Highway Became Public, 1968-2001

This presentation explores the history of the Dalton Highway, or "Haul Road." Built between 1969 and 1974 to facilitate the construction of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System, the Dalton is the only surface transportation system that connects Arctic Alaska with the rest of the state. State leaders and Alyeska promised the Dalton would be a "private industrial highway," and it largely remained that way for 20 years, until lawsuits made it public in 1994. How did this come about? This presentation will explore the legal history of access on the Dalton Highway and what it means for contemporary Alaska.

Philip Wight holds a doctoral degree and is an assistant professor of history and Arctic and Northern studies at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. He is an energy and environmental historian who focuses on infrastructure, mobility, and climate.

OLYMPIANS AND DRINKERS

Saturday, October 15 • 2–3:30 p.m.

Moderator: Pennelope Goforth

“Our Anchorage, an International Host:” A History of Alaska’s Bids to Host the Winter Olympic Games, 1942-Present

Among the hopes and dreams of Alaska’s boosters, none has tantalized residents longer or had a greater impact on urbanization than the possibility of hosting the Winter Olympics. Between 1954 and 1989, Anchorage made five failed bids to host the games. Despite their many unsuccessful attempts, Anchorage leaders were able to achieve their goals of urban development by gaining citizens’ support for hosting the Olympics, with citizens in turn voting for improvement projects to clinch the bids. This helped advance many an Anchorage booster’s long-term goal of making the city a center of global activity instead of a periphery.

***Pierce A. Bateman** is a historian of the Pacific World and Alaska. Born and raised in the 49th State, he has begrudgingly left his home to complete a doctoral degree in history at the University of Oregon.*

Bars and Alcohol in Alaska: Conflict and Controversy

The Alaska Act of 1868 made it illegal to import liquor into Alaska. Yet bars operated openly in Sitka and Wrangell. Prohibition took effect on January 1, 1918. However, alcohol continued to be imported, brewed, and served. Laws prohibiting the sale of liquor to Alaska Natives were still in effect until 1953. Until 1971, women were not allowed to tend bar unless their name was on the liquor license. The age of a bar also raises controversy, and depends on individual definition. This presentation will summarize some of the conflicts and controversies related to bars and alcohol in Alaska.

***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.*

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Friday, October 14 • 2–3:30 p.m.

Join the Zoom Meeting: www.tinyurl.com/AHS-bizmtg22

AGENDA

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| 1. Call to order and welcome remarks
Introduction of 2021-22 officers and board of directors | David Ramseur |
| 2. Approval of minutes of 2021 annual meeting
Secretary's report | Angela Schmidt |
| 3. Treasurer's report | Erik Johnson |
| 4. Bylaws revisions | David Ramseur |
| 5. Committee reports: | |
| Board of Directors election | David Ramseur |
| Membership | Jo Antonson |
| Newsletter | David Ramseur |
| <i>Alaska History</i> | Ross Coen |
| Records and collections | Jo Antonson |
| Website | Karen Brewster |
| Social media | Wendy Ranney |
| 2022 annual meeting | Rachel Mason |
| Advocacy | Ian Hartman |
| Alaska History Day | |
| State Library, Archives and Museums | Patience Frederiksen |
| Office of History & Archaeology | Judy Bittner |
| Special projects | |
| ANCSA 50th anniversary | Will Schneider |
| United States 250th anniversary | Erik Johnson |
| Non-profit sponsor projects | Jo Antonson |
| Memorials | Ron Inouye & Angela Schmidt |
| Awards | David Ramseur |
| 6. Other business | |
| 2023 conference location | David Ramseur |
| AHS lecture series | Will Schneider |
| Logo redesign | David Ramseur |
| Member remarks | David Ramseur |
| 7. Adjourn | David Ramseur |





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