

# ALASKA HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

## 2020-2021 Officers and Board of Directors

William Schneider, President  
Rachel Mason, Vice President  
Tim Troll, Treasurer  
Angela Schmidt, Secretary  
Karen Brewster  
Carol Gales  
Patuk Glenn  
J. Penelope Goforth  
Ian Hartman  
Michael Hawfield  
Erik Johnson  
Sara Piasecki  
Rebecca Poulson  
David Ramseur  
Anastasia Tarmann

Judy Bittner, State Historic Preservation Officer/Office of History & Archaeology  
Patience Frederiksen, Director, Division of Libraries, Archives, Museums  
Executive Director: Joan (Jo) Antonson  
*Alaska History* Editor: Ross Coen  
*Alaska History News* Editor: David Ramseur

## President's report - William Schneider

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 David Ramseur, editor of *Alaska History News*, 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 accomplished much this year. The Advocacy Committee continued to be active, particularly working to keep the National Archives regional center in Seattle open. The newsletter has a new editor, David Ramseur, and the content and design have been reviewed and changed. Planning the second virtual annual meeting and conference and applying for a SHARP grant from the Alaska Humanities Forum and National Endowment for the Humanities to help cover conference expenses took time. A significant donation from Jeanie Sherwood re-endowed the *Alaska History* Award and a new account with the Alaska Community Foundation for it established. A great deal of work has been done on a guide to sources for the study of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, the Society's project to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of passage of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

## Secretary's report - Angela Schmidt

Annual business meeting:  
October 10, 2020  
Meetings of the Board of Directors:

October 22, 2020  
January 19, 2021  
April 5, 2021  
July 8, 2021  
September 27, 2021

**Treasurer's report - Tim Troll**

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 October 14, 2021: \$32,605.15  
[of this \$15,000 is for the Asper-Smith/Wohlforth project and \$500 for the Stepo! Project, so AHS general funds in this account are \$17,105.15.]  
Savings account: \$7,901.18  
Alaska Community Foundation endowment fund: \$126,968.11  
[of this \$10,747.00 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  
Corpus: \$10,000  
Total AHS assets as of October 14, 2021—less \$15,500: \$174,974.44

The 2020 IRS tax return was filed in August; Steve Scheaffer, CPA, Kerr, McVey, Scheaffer & Associates of Anchorage is our accountant.

The Society has insurance for its office, Board of Directors and executive director. The office is at 1501 W. 36<sup>th</sup> St., #210, in Anchorage. Business license, non-profit registration and charitable organization registrations 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.

Jeanie Sherwood re-endowed the *Alaska History* award with a \$10,000 donation last summer. The Finance Committee (Tim Troll, Mike Hawfield, Erik Johnson, Will Schneider and Jo Antonson) investigated several options for investing the funds and determined that establishing a dedicated *Alaska History* account through the Alaska Community Foundation was the best option. The Board of Directors approved the recommendation, and the fund has been created.

A total of 61 individuals donated money to the Alaska Historical Society this year. A total of \$4,397.29 was donated to the endowment with the largest contributions from Karl Gurcke and Ron Inouye. Last year 37 individuals donated \$1,999.50 to AHS through the Pick.Click.Give program. (The Society is approved for the Pick.Click.Give program for 2022.) In addition, several individuals renewed at patron or higher levels of membership (they are listed in another section of this report).

The Alaska Historical Society is the non-profit sponsor for Anne Coray and Steve Kahn who are working on a film about Brown Carlson, an early resident in the Lake Clark area. To date, 21 people have donated to that project. 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, and for Tyler Gates and Gama Comagic to prepare a videoproduction on Mike Stepovich and other Yugoslavians in Alaska. The Society is holding a \$15,000 grant from the Atwood Foundation for the guide, and a \$500 private donation for the videoproduction.

Fund raising activities the past year included:

Appeal for donations with membership renewal mailing

Permanent Fund Dividend Pick.Click.Give. program.

Silent auction: done virtually in March this year, it raised \$3,055.60

### **2021 Financial donors**

Katherine L. Arndt, Fairbanks  
Julie Balakirova, Anchorage  
James K. Barnett, Anchorage  
Sarah Barton, Palmer  
Cheryl Berrong, Fairbanks  
John B. Branson, Port Alsworth  
Janet Brower, Fairbanks  
Thomas K. Bundtzen, Fairbanks  
Brenda Campen, Sitka  
Daria O. Carle, Anchorage  
Rosemary Carleton, Sitka  
Kathryn & Chuck Cohen, Juneau  
Elizabeth Cook, Fairbanks  
Cordova Historical Society  
Rachel Joan Dale William Hardcastle, Anchorage  
Rodger & Carmen David, Anchorage  
Loren Domke, Juneau (endowment donation)  
Janine & Michael Dorsey, Anchorage  
Mary F. Ehrlander, Olympia, WA  
Loren Else, Rochester, MN  
John H. Fournelle, Madison, WI  
Patience Frederiksen, Douglas  
Michael J. Frieser & Robin E. Dern, Eagle River  
Naomi Gaede Penner, Parker, CO  
Patt Garrett, Anchorage  
Lambert de Gavere, Anchorage

Patuk Glenn, Eagle River  
Madeline Gocke, Willow  
Karl Gurcke, Skagway (endowment donations)  
John R. Hemmeter, Anchorage  
Patricia Holloway, Fairbanks  
Ray Hudson, Middlebury, VT  
Sarah Isto & Gordon Harrison, Juneau  
Colleen Kelly, Seward  
Sarah King Fund and Hillcorp Alaska, Alaska Community Foundation  
Mark Kirchhoff, Juneau  
Jean Kline, Douglas  
Gladi Kulp, Juneau  
Nancy Lesh, Anchorage  
Mary C. Mangusso, Fairbanks  
Rachel Mason, Anchorage  
Susan M. Means, Anchorage  
Lael Morgan, Anchorage  
R. Bruce Parham, Anchorage  
Art Petersen, Juneau  
Paul Pfeiffer, Anchorage  
Donn J. Reese, Anchorage  
Katie Ringsmuth, Eagle River  
Patricia L. Seifert, Fairbanks  
Wayne Selmer, Kalispell, MT  
Sue Sherif, Fairbanks  
Gillian Smythe, Anchorage  
Robert & Catherine Spude, Santa Fe, NM  
Gary Stevens, Kodiak  
Carol Sturgulewski, Anchorage  
Tim Troll, Anchorage  
Douglas Vandegraft, La Conner, WA  
Lila Vogt, Anchorage  
Tom Williams, Fairbanks  
Thomas Wohlforth, Anchorage  
Vicky Wisenbaugh, Tenakee Springs  
J. William T. Youngs, Cheney, WA

### **2021 Brown Carlson Film Project financial donors**

Colleen Bridge, Anchorage  
Karl Gurcke, Skagway  
Linda Harriger, Fairbanks  
Jesse Hronkin, Wasilla  
Pauline G. Wilson, Fairbanks

### **Annual silent auction**

The annual silent auction was held in March 2021. David Ramseur and Ian Hartman wrote item descriptions, and Carol Gales designed the catalog. The auctions rely on donations, primarily from members. Thank you to the individuals who have donated items this past year.

### **2021 Auction donors**

Chris Allan, Fairbanks  
Joan Antonson, Anchorage  
Terrence M. Cole Family, Fairbanks

Margritt Engel, Anchorage  
Steve Haycox, Anchorage  
Nancy Lesh, Anchorage  
Art Petersen, Juneau  
Frank Roppel, Wrangell  
Shelton Family, Washington  
Tim Troll, Anchorage

### **Board of Directors election - Erik Johnson**

Annually, the Alaska Historical Society elects five of its fifteen members on the Board of Directors to three-year terms. The bylaws state an individual only can serve two terms before taking a year off. The Past President, if ending his or her second term serves another year. This year Tim Troll completed his second term and must take a year off. Patuk Glenn, Rachel Mason, Angela Schmidt, and Will Schneider completed their first terms and agreed to run for a second. Averil Lerman, Kaila Pfister and Wendy Ranney agreed to be on the ballot.

A total of 153 valid ballots were returned. Members elected Patuk Glenn, Averil Lerman, Rachel Mason, Angela Schmidt, and Will Schneider. The 2021-2022 Board of Directors will meet October 16 to elect the officers for the year.

### **Membership - Will Schneider**

The Society has 416 members, up 34 from last year. Members are from 46 Alaska communities, 29 other states and Washington, DC, and the countries of Canada and Germany. A renewal letter was sent in January, and a reminder in March to those who did not respond. Two individuals became life members, 38 members renewed at the patron level, and 9 people gave gift memberships. The Society gained 52 new members. We have 36 life members.

#### **2021 New members**

Milo D. Adkison, Juneau  
Dan Berriochoa, Fairbanks  
Gretchen T. Bersch, Anchorage  
Deirdre Bryan, Anchorage  
Don Chandler, Placerville, CA  
Robert Daniel, Anchorage  
Craig Decker, Wrangell  
Marilyn Doyle, Juneau  
Clark Fair, Homer  
Robin & Paul Fast, Malden, MA  
Andrew Fraiser, Anchorage  
Eric Fuglestad, Anchorage  
Nathanael Ferguson, Leander, TX  
Dusty Finley, Eagle River  
Tyler Gates, Chugiak & Montenegro  
Janice Gilman, Anchorage  
Jonathan Goodson, St. George Island, FL  
John & Sarah Hamilton-Hancock, Metlakatla  
Kate & Hamish Laird Family, Cordova

Britta Hamre, Anchorage  
Tanya Hardgrove, Hysham, MT  
Sara Hay, Wasilla  
John A. Hayes, Long Beach WA  
Anne Haynes, Homer  
Carol Hoefler, Ester  
Michael Hoyt, Nome  
Kelley Jewell, Gresham, OR  
David E. Johnson, Sitka  
Percy G. Jones, Palmer  
Ken Karstens, Thornton, CO  
Laura Koenig, Anchorage  
Manny Lopez, Anchorage  
James S. Magdanz, Fairbanks  
Jennie E. McLean, San Angelo, TX  
Corrine & Mike McVee, Anchorage  
Richard H. Mylius, Anchorage  
Karen Norris, North Pole  
Matt Olsen, Marietta, GA  
Dan O'Neill, Fairbanks

Warren Payne, Petaluma, CA  
Kalia Pfister, Anchorage  
Wendy Ranney, Cordova  
Ronald I. Regnart, Anchorage  
Aaron M. Schutt, Anchorage  
Patricia L. Seifert & Family, Fairbanks  
Bert Stammerjohan Family, Cordova

John V. Stanford, Jr., Anchorage  
Kristie Swanson, Douglas  
Gerrit Verbeek, Anchorage  
Jennifer L. Williams, Norwalk, OH  
Andreas Wommelsdorf, Mainz, Germany  
J. William T. Youngs, Cheney, WA

### **2021 Patron members**

James R. Arneson, Kodiak  
Tom Begich, Anchorage  
Judy Bittner, Anchorage  
Colleen Bridge, Anchorage  
Teresa W. Carns, Anchorage  
John B. Chenoweth, Juneau  
Ann Fienup-Riordan, Anchorage  
Ayse C. Gilbert, Anchorage  
Carol Gustafson-Goldsmith, Kailua, HI  
Michael Hawfield, Homer  
Stephen Haycox, Anchorage  
Allison K. Hoagland, Washington, DC  
Barbara Hood, Anchorage  
Wayne Jensen, Douglas  
Robert M. Johnson, Anchorage  
Jean Kline, Douglas  
Marilyn R. Knapp, Bellingham, WA  
Averil Lerman, Anchorage  
Susan (Shana) Loshbaugh, Fairbanks

Donna Matthews, Anchorage  
Molly McCammon, Anchorage  
Dorothy Moore, Valdez  
Richard Mylius, Anchorage  
Frank Norris, Santa Fe, NM  
David W. Norton, Fairbanks  
R. Bruce Parham, Anchorage  
William Pegau, Cordova  
Sara Piasecki, Anchorage  
Sandy & Thad Poulson, Sitka  
Wendy Ranney, Cordova  
Timothy Rawson, Anchorage  
Katherine J. Ringsmuth, Eagle River  
Laury Scandling, Juneau  
Anthony Sisto, Eagle River  
Gina Spartz, Juneau  
Michael Tola, Fairbanks  
Tim Troll, Anchorage  
Terry & Mary Wanzer, Ketchikan

### **New life members**

Matthew Bergman, Vashon, WA  
Charles Lew Tobin, Nome

### **2021 donors of gift memberships**

Joan Antonson, Anchorage  
Nancy Bird, Cordova  
Judy Bittner, Anchorage  
Rex G. Finley II, Anchorage  
Andrew Fraiser, Anchorage  
Mary Jane Hancock, Houston, TX  
Linda Harriger, Fairbanks  
Gladi Kulp & Jon Pond, Juneau  
Lou Thompson, Santa Rosa, CA

### ***Alaska History journal*** - Ross Coen, editor

The first issue of volume 36 of *Alaska History* was printed and distributed last spring, and the fall issue is at the printers and due to be shipped in late December.

The spring issue articles:

William Schneider, "When a Small Typo Has Big Implications"

Chris Allan, "Daredevil: How the Aviator Clarence Prest Tried (and Failed) to

Pioneer an Air Route through Alaska to Siberia”  
Sergei Kan, “Orthodox Church Brotherhoods of the Sitka Creoles, 1870s–1910s”

The fall issue articles:

Rolfe G. Buzzell, “Women of the Sunrise Mining Camps, 1895–1901”

Dorota Kupis, “Early Jesuit Missions in the Yu’pik Territory: Interactions with Other Faiths and Native People”

John Branson, “The Bomber Valley Incident, September 3-29, 1944”

As usual, both issues feature book reviews and *Alaskana*. Thanks to Jo Antonson for her work as book review editor and Kathy Ward for compiling *Alaskana*.

The recipient of the Morgan and Jeanie Sherwood Award for Best Article in Volume 34 (2020) is Robert L. “Bob” Spude for “Fairbanks Assayer Gustave Eugene Beraud and 88 Tons of Gold, with Comments on the Assayers in the Alaska-Yukon Goldfields, 1898-1920.” Bob received a \$500 prize. The awardee is selected each year by the journal’s editorial advisory board. Sadly, one of the editorial advisors, Terrence Cole, died this past year.

Jeanie Sherwood generously re-endowed the endowment last summer and an account has been opened at the Alaska Community Foundation for it.

The journal’s printer is Sheridan Books, based in Pennsylvania with offices in several other states. It does a good job, and it is by far the most economic option we have. From time to time we request quotes from other printing companies just to compare, and Sheridan is always the best. It appears Sheridan, like many businesses today, is facing understaffing and supply issues at the present time. The fall issue is not scheduled to be completed until late December.

There are a couple of articles “in the can” for the Spring 2022 issue, and a few manuscripts are currently out for review. That said, submissions are always encouraged.

***Alaska History News* quarterly newsletter** - David Ramseur, editor

*Alaska History News* has been compiled, printed and distributed quarterly. This past year Frank Broderick, Archgraphics, 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 is the new editor and has brought his journalism experience to improving and expanding the content. Rachel Mason continues to write the news and notes and Chris Allan provides oddments. Carol Gales is going to start doing the newsletter layout with the next issue.

## Records and collections - Jo Antonson

The University of Alaska Anchorage Archives and Manuscripts Department houses the Alaska Historical Society's records and donated collections. 25 individuals donated papers, films, photographs, and other materials to the Society this past year. Thanks are due Arlene Schmuland and her staff for processing the donations and making them available to researchers.

### 2021 Donors of materials to AHS:

George Albrecht, Rockville, MD, booklet titled *Alaskana* written by Marie Drake in 1938  
Barbara Boyd, El Cajon, CA, photos and letters from Juneau, c. 1912, and photos from Flat, 1930s  
Sally Brandes, Lone Tree, CO, Chitina real photo postcard and 1959-50 AK game regulations booklet  
Martin L. Cannon II, Black Butte Ranch, OR, 1972 Chevron map of Alaska  
Don Chandler, Placerville, CA, photo album Eklutna Board School  
Mary Chapman, University Place, WA, 5 picture postcards from Alaska, 1963  
Julie Collins, Santa Rosa, CA, 3 photo albums from Sitka c. 1942, and completed permit from military to enter Alaska in 1942  
Peggy Cox, Omaha, NE, 1900 photo of Juneau church  
Marian Desrosiers, West Barnstable, MA, postcards and 80 slides of Alaska, 1970s  
Frederick Giannelli, Harwich, MA, AK Purchase Centennial commemorative Jim Beam whiskey bottle  
Lynne Green, Eagle River, AK, 75 slides of south-central Alaska, 1955-1961, including the statehood celebration and Fur Rendezvous activities in Anchorage  
Nancy Lesh, Anchorage, AK, complete bound set of *The Alaska Journal*, 1971-1986; 41 issues of *Alaska Geographic*  
Joanne Lynk, Wadena, MN, 1930s Alaska Steamship, Alaska Railroad and Northern Pacific promotional pamphlets about Alaska  
Erin Morgan, Seattle, WA, copy of great-aunt's account of living and working in Alaska late 1920s-30s, primarily Juneau  
Marilyn Morton, Rockwood, PA, uncle's 11 photos from Valdez area, 1944  
Dr. Joseph H. Shelton Family [Katie Shelton Westbrook], Bainbridge Island, WA, 1950-60s photos and slides of Alaska, several newspapers, toy bidarka, Native doll made in Hooper Bay  
Alvin Schaut, Plainfield, WI, color photo postcard of Whitehorse Rapids—Alaska!  
Joe Story, photos of Anchorage, set of steamship menus, pamphlets  
Jeanne M. Trachta, Council Bluffs, Iowa, 40 slides of southcentral Alaska, 1940-1960  
Robert L. Vaughn, Pleasant Hill, MO, AK Steamship Co. map of southeastern & southwestern routes  
Sally Ward, Richfield, MN, tinted photo of 2 prospectors tracking boat up Knik River  
Denise Woodley Bellevue, WA, June 27, 1900 edition of the *Nome Gold Digger* newspaper  
Kent Woodward, Loveland, CO, slides of trips to Alaska in 1972, 1976, 1977 and 1980 taken by his uncle, a pilot  
Wyandot County Historical Society, Upper Sandusky, OH, photo postcard sent in 1944  
Joseph Young, Alameda, CA, Hegg photograph

### Website/Facebook/Instagram -Karen Brewster, Erik Johnson

Content is added to the website, and posts are made on Facebook. Billy Finley, Couloir Graphics, provides technical assistance for the website. The conference sessions from last year are on the website, and those from this year will be added.

Jo Antonson checks the e-mail. Thank you to the members who assist with answering research questions that are forwarded to you.

### **Alaska Historical Commission nominations - Ron Inouye**

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 last summer, and the Alaska Historical Society recommended she be reappointed. When asked by the Governor's Boards and Commissions staff for several additional names, the Society submitted two additional names, Ian Hartman and Patty Piersol. At this time, the website does not indicate Governor Dunleavy has made an appointment.

Thank you to Rebecca and Ray for serving on the commission. Members are encouraged to contact them to suggest projects the commission might undertake. They should also be advised of issues of concern regarding Alaska history, historic preservation, and geographic place names.

### **Annual meeting / conference - Rachel Mason**

Committee members included Patuk Glenn, Mike Hawfield, Tim Troll, Karen Brewster, Will Schneider, and Carol Gales. The Board of Directors decided it would be wisest and most practical to do the 2021 conference virtually. The program committee discussed and recommended the theme "Communities Remembered and Imagined" and sent out a call for papers. They recommended Tom Kizzia as the keynote speaker. Tom was completing a book on the town of Kennecott after the mine closed in 1938 until the National Park Service obtained the property in the 1980s. The program committee wanted to include sessions to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act as well.

The program committee elected to use the Zoom platform for the meeting, because it worked pretty well last year. Karen Brewster agreed to be the Zoom host. Comments about the 2020 conference were considered. One recommendation was to have a printed conference program, and Carol Gales stepped up to do the design and generally oversee the project. A copy of the program was mailed to all who registered at least five days before the conference.

Thirty 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. Over 100 people registered for the conference. Thanks to David Ramseur, Ian Hartman and Will Schneider, the Alaska Historical Society applied for and received a \$7,500 grant through the Alaska Humanities Forum and National Endowment for the Humanities, to make up for lost conference revenue last year and this year. It is greatly appreciated.

## Advocacy - Ian Hartman

Committee included: Will Schneider, David Ramseur, Penelope Goforth, Anastasia Tarmann, Judy Bittner, Patience Frederiksen

After a scare at the end of the year that the closure and sale of the National Archives and Records Administration facility in Seattle was being fast-tracked, in February a Seattle district judge temporarily suspended the closure and transfer. In April the Office of Management and Budget reversed its earlier decision and ended the federal government's effort to sell the Seattle building and close the facility. Senators Lisa Murkowski and Dan Sullivan and Representative Don Young were helpful in getting the project stopped. Since the decision, the AHS with other historical groups in the Pacific Northwest continues to urge federal representatives to provide funding to rehabilitate the building or to build a new facility to house the records.

A committee chaired by Ross Coen, organized to investigate inventorying statues and monuments in Alaska, but has not gotten very far. The City of Sitka removed the statue of Alexander Baranov in front of Centennial Hall. Plans are to put it in the museum and supplement it with additional information.

The Advocacy Committee crafted and distributed a "Statement on History, the Climate of Divisiveness, and Support and Solidarity with Alaska's Jewish Community" earlier this month. Two recent incidents prompted the action: vandalism to the Alaska Jewish Museum; and the misuse of history when some Anchorage residents who attended a public hearing to oppose adoption of an indoor mask mandate wore Stars of David drawing parallels to German Jews targeted by the Nazi regime. The statement was widely distributed, appeared as a letter to the editor in the *Anchorage Daily News*, and is posted on the AHS website.

The AHS kept in contact with the Alaska Division of Libraries, Archives and Museums and the Office of History and Archaeology regarding their state and federal funding. Both programs took reductions. Letters were sent regarding the cuts and then about the vetoes urging that the matching funds be restored to the Office of History and Archaeology. Also this past year, the committee sent a letter to University officials about the importance of the University of Alaska Press.

In light of our conference session last week, there is interest in advocating around the issue of history education in K-12 and perhaps the University system. There seems to be some interesting opportunities to dialogue with teachers and learn more about how we can strengthen standards or engage the state legislature to support history education.

## **Special projects**

### Rebuilding Brown Videoproduction

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. Work is progressing on the film they are pursuing to tell Carlson's story and their story of restoring his cabin. The story line is complete, and additional film footage was sent to the producer at the end of this summer.

### Alaska State Museum Catalog: Our Stories, Many Voices

The Society agreed to serve as fiscal sponsor for Sarah Asper-Smith and Charles Wohlforth to write, design, and produce a catalog for the Alaska State Museum's history exhibit. They received a \$15,000 award from the Atwood Foundation and are seeking additional grants so Charles can begin researching and writing the text.

### Stepo!

Filmmaker Tyler Gates, former Alaska resident now living in Montenegro, and Gama Comagic asked the Alaska Historical Society to serve as fiscal sponsor for a videoproduction project to document the many Yugoslavians who emigrated to Alaska, with special attention to the Stepovich family in the Fairbanks area. Gates visited Alaska this summer and spent time with members of the Stepovich family in Fairbanks. They expect to step up their efforts to raise funds and apply for grants and have recently made a \$500 donation to the project.

### Chena History

Dan O'Neill asked the Society to serve as non-profit sponsor for his project to research and write a history of the area around Chena hot springs. The Board of Directors approved doing so. Federal grant requirements changed, however, and the non-profit organization needs to be significantly involved when a grant is awarded. Currently Dan is proceeding with his research, but no funds are coming through the AHS for his work.

### Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary - Will Schneider, Karen Brewster, Patuk Glenn, Ron Inouye, Bruce Parham, Sue Sherif, Jo Antonson, Steve Rollins

The committee is well on the way to producing its guide to the sources for the study of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. Steve Rollins, Director of the UAA/APU Consortium Library, worked with Will Schneider to develop a project proposal and the Alaska Library Network agreed to be the fiscal sponsor. The Rasmuson Foundation awarded a grant of \$11,000 for the project, and Alaska Native regional corporations contributed funds: Bristol Bay, Calista, Koniag, Doyon, Sealaska, Bering Straits; and Steve provided additional funding from a related grant he received from the Atwood Foundation.

The scope of the project includes events leading up to land claims, provisions of ANCSA, and impacts of the act in the years since passage. The guide will include 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 and are writing several sentences about each individual and how they were involved with the ANCSA. Mike Hawfield is working on an educational component. Sue Sherif and Jo Antonson are compiling and annotating a bibliography. Karen Brewster is compiling and formatting the information. The guide is already over 500 pages. The plan is to have the draft ready by December 18, 2021, the anniversary date.

#### **United States 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary - Erik Johnson**

Five years to go. It is time for Society members to discuss possible projects and determine interest in pursuing them. The American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) is taking the lead nationally. It is encouraging each state to get a resolution passed by its legislature or an executive proclamation and to create a task force.

#### **Memorials - Ron Inouye**

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. This year those being remembered are:

Trefon Angasan, Jr., Bristol Bay  
Rita Blumenstein, Tununak  
Neal Brown, Fairbanks  
Robert Charlie, Minto and Fairbanks  
Terrence M. Cole, Fairbanks  
Mike Gravel, Seaside, California  
John Havelock, Anchorage  
Katie Hurley, Wasilla  
Jay Kerttula, Palmer  
Albert Kookesh, Angoon  
Bob Mitchell, Anchorage  
Ken Nail, Jr., Alabama  
Lyle D. Perrigo, Anchorage

Patrick Pletnikoff, St. George Island  
Millie Renkert, Anchorage  
John Sackett, Huslia  
Glen Simpson, Fairbanks  
Frank Soos, Fairbanks  
Cynthia Toohey, Girdwood  
Dixie Waddell, Chugiak  
Fred T. Williams, Copper Center

**Awards** - Will Schneider, Michael Hawfield, Rachel Mason, Angela Schmidt

The committee advertised for nominations, this year doing a special postcard mailing to encourage nominations. They reviewed the submissions and made award recommendations to the Board of the Directors. As part of the discussions, the committee recommended naming the Student and Beginning Professional Award to honor and remember Terrence M. Cole who encouraged so many of his students to become active in the Alaska Historical Society and present at the annual conferences. The Board of Directors endorsed the selections and approved naming the award for Terrence at their September meeting.

**Esther Billman Award 2021**

Gastineau Channel Historical Society for the *Gastineau Heritage News*'s remarkable history of Juneau-Douglas breweries.

**Evangeline Atwood Award 2021**

Joan Skilbred of Fairbanks for uncovering Alaska history and widely sharing it using media, lectures, displays and newsletters.

**Elva R. Scott Local Historical Society Award 2021**

Cook Inlet Historical Society and Anchorage Museum for a collaborative online series of eight programs amid the disruption of the Covid-19 pandemic.

**Contributions to Alaska History Award 2021 (3 awards)**

Irene Sparks Rowan of Anchorage for working to preserve and share the history of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

Dermot Cole of Fairbanks for bringing historical perspective to journalism and being the author of six books on Alaska history.

J. Penelope Goforth of Anchorage for being a dedicated researcher and impassioned advocate for Alaska history.

**Terrence M. Cole Student & Beginning Professional Travel Scholarship 2021**

Lauren Peters, Ph.D. student of Native American Studies at University of California Davis.

**President's Award (the Beaver Log)**

David Ramseur of Anchorage for editing, expanding and improving *Alaska History News*

**Other - Will Schneider**

Several other organizations made awards this past year that AHS would like to acknowledge and call to the attention of our members:

The Alaska Center for the Book has recognized the University of Alaska Press for its years of publications.

Barbara Hood will be inducted into the Alaska Women's Hall of Fame for her work with the Alaska Bar Association's History Committee as well as for her writing and for the past several years serving as president of the 49 Writers.

Chris Allan received the Appleman-Judd-Lewis Award for Excellence of a Cultural Resources Specialist from the National Park Service.