



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 8, 2014

Alaska State Historical Records Advisory Board Awards Archival Certificates of Excellence

JUNEAU – On October 1 the Alaska State Historical Records Advisory Board (ASHRAB) awarded Larry Hibpsman of Kenai and Mark Whitman of Juneau archival Certificates of Excellence for their impressive authorship, historical research and dramatic presentations.

Hibpsman, who recently retired from the Alaska State Archives after 25 years of service, was chosen in the publications category for his 48-page monograph entitled “Records of Alaska Natives in Religious Archives,” which describes the archival repositories of fifteen organizations that sent missionaries and messengers to Alaska from 1794 forward. This valuable research tool consolidates descriptive data located all over the United States under one cover; the publication is available on the State Archives website here <http://archives.alaska.gov/>.

The ASHRAB also chose Mark Whitman of Juneau under its public events classification. For many years Whitman has made Juneau local history come alive with his colorful presentations featuring China Joe, Juneau’s first baker; the notorious Birch Brothers; and, imaginative story teller Dick Willoughby. Dressed in period costume and armed with the results of meticulous research from archival documents, photographs, newspapers, and personal interviews, Whitman weaves a coherent and verifiable narrative to live audiences.

The ASHRAB, coordinated by the State Archivist, is a 9-member Governor-appointed state board. The ASHRAB believes that the collection and preservation of historical records, Alaska’s priceless legacy, are fundamental to understanding our past and guiding our future. This was the ASHRAB’s fourth year recognizing archival excellence among several worthy nominations.