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POB 110525
Juneau, Alaska 99811-1720
P: 907/465-2276
F: 907/465-2465

Alaska State Historical Records Advisory Board (ASHRAB) Membership

Dean Dawson, Coordinator
Laura Samuelson, Nome
Dennis Moser, Fairbanks
Bruce Parham, Anchorage
Toby Allen, Anchorage

Judith Bittner/Jo Antonson, Anchorage
Richard Valenti, Fairbanks
Zachary Jones, Juneau
LaRue Barnes, Cordova
Susan Means, Anchorage

Alaska State Historical Records Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date:	October 1, 2014
Meeting Location:	Seward Library & Museum
Minutes Recorded by:	Susan Means & Dean Dawson
Roll Call:	<p>Present at the Meeting:</p> <p>Jo Antonson, Office of History & Archaeology Judy Bittner, Office of History & Archaeology Dean Dawson, Alaska State Archives Toby Allen, Municipality of Anchorage Richard Valenti, Fairbanks Bruce Parham, Anchorage Susan Means, Anchorage LaRue Barnes, Cordova Dennis Moser via telecon, UAF</p> <p>Others Present:</p> <p>Larry Hibpshman Penelope Goforth</p> <p>Members Absent:</p> <p>Laura Samuelson, Nome Zachary Jones, Juneau</p>

I. Greeting & Roll Call.

The meeting began at 1:00 p.m. Roll call was conducted. Dean had notified that he would be late arriving due to a flight delay. Toby agreed to chair the meeting and Susan to take notes until he arrived. Dennis, who was participating by phone, mentioned he would have to leave at 3:00 p.m. A quorum was established.

II. Acceptance of May 15, 2014 Minutes.

Rich moved to approve the minutes, Bruce seconded, and the motion passed unanimously without comments. LaRue and Susan abstained as they were not present at the May meeting.

III. Current Business.

A. Board Member Updates

Rich: Fairbanks North Star Borough mayor has recommended the Borough acquire a new financial software system with a records management component. They expect to start implementing the system January 2014 and to have it fully implemented within 8-12 months. It will include workflow, e-records, and paper legacy records management modules. They have not selected the software for the records management component yet, but it will have to be compatible with the IFAS (Integrated Financial and Administrative Solution) software system.

Bruce: No updates really as he has been traveling a lot. With some nudging from Jo, Bruce mentioned the Cook Inlet Historical Society (CIHS) recently received a \$25,000 grant from the Atwood Foundation to upgrade the “Legends and Legacies” project. This is an outgrowth of the late John Bagoy’s book “Legends and Legacies: Anchorage 1910-1935,” which was published in 2001 and provides information about “who lived in early Anchorage... when, what they did, where they came from, what happened to them, and who their children are.” There is now an exhibit at the Anchorage Museum and an online exhibit. The grant will cover writing additional biographies and updating the website. Work on projects funded through the Anchorage Centennial Community Grant program of the Alaska Humanities Forum and the Anchorage Centennial Committee is also underway. The CIHS also has two new grant programs. The Brian Davies Memorial Grant for Alaska History supports creative projects and in-depth research that contribute to the study of Alaska history. The John Reeder Memorial Travel Grant targets individuals conducting research in a library or archives in Alaska. Each grant is in the range of \$400 - \$1,000. This year’s application deadline is October 31. More information is available on the CIHS website (<http://www.cookinlethistory.org/reeder-davies-scholarships.html>). Bruce’s bibliography of Anchorage and Southcentral Alaska is available on the Anchorage Centennial website (<http://anchoragecentennial.org/resources/anchorage-and-southcentral-alaska-a-history-resource-app>). Bruce also mentioned the Anchorage GeoHistorian Project, a partnership among the CIHS, Anchorage School District (ASD), and Anchorage Parks and Recreation Department. Starting Fall 2014, middle school students will create digital content about local historical sites, which will be available online and wirelessly (e.g., by smart phone or tablet using QR codes). CIHS will help select sites and assist with research and quality control, ASD students will create 1-2 minute narratives, and Parks and Recreation staff will install QR plates at the selected historical sites. John Trampush is the ASD coordinator (trampush_john@asdk12.org or 907.742.4364). Bruce will send

additional information to Dean to distribute to the Board. "Picturing Anchorage," a reader about Anchorage and its history, was added to the ASD second-grade curriculum in 2013 and has now been published as an iBook. Developed by ASD through a grant from the Alaska Humanities Forum and the National Endowment for the Humanities, the book incorporates ASD's Social and Emotional Learning and culturally responsive schools standards. Per the publisher, Houghton Mifflin, it is the first social studies textbook in the U.S. to have embedded Common Core State Standards. It has been translated into Yup'ik, Russian, Spanish, Japanese, and German. (www.asdk12.org/news/archives/ibookexploresanchorage.html and www.asdk12.org/depts/SocialStudies).

Toby: The Municipality of Anchorage is working to implement the SAP system. Funding is an issue so records management is on the back burner for a while. The Anchorage Police Department has hired a new records coordinator. There is a lot of activity around the Anchorage Centennial. He predicts a lot of projects being done for the Centennial will be good candidates for next year's Archival Excellence Awards.

Susan: The National Archives at Anchorage closed to the public on June 20, 2014. The bulk of the records were shipped to the National Archives at Seattle; Territorial-era U.S. District Court records and Alaska Railroad Corporation records were donated to the Alaska State Archives. The last records shipped out of the Anchorage facility on July 23 and have been received and shelved at their destination locations. Susan is working with the Alaska State Archives to provide copies of finding aids for the court records. The Alaska State Archives already has copies of all the documentation and finding aids relevant to the railroad records. Approximately 36 linear feet of records of the Alaska Rural Rehabilitation Corporation: Matanuska Colonization Project were donated to the University of Alaska Anchorage Archives and Special Collections. Two pallets (about 75 cubic feet) of NARA microfilm publications were donated to the University of Alaska Fairbanks, which will coordinate re-homing of these materials among the archives and libraries in Alaska. The National Archives at Anchorage website now directs researchers to contact the National Archives at Seattle (206.336.5115 or seattle.archives@nara.gov).

Jo: The Alaska Historical Commission was a primary sponsor of the recent Alaska Cold War Conference and National Nike Veterans Reunion, held September 4-6 in Anchorage. Staff of the UAF Rasmuson Library Oral History Program conducted interviews with veterans. Presentations by Sergei Khrushchev and Bob Wallace were fascinating. The next Commission meeting will be in Juneau, November 13. It's time to start thinking about Alaska Purchase sesquicentennial grant project candidates.

LaRue: The Ilanka Cultural Center has been implementing a new POS (Point-of-Sale) system and there has been quite a learning curve! She mentioned fielding some questions about why the National Archives at Anchorage was closing and how to access Alaska records once they were in Seattle, so she was glad to know where to direct inquiries.

Larry: Larry mentioned that he was attending the meeting as a guest nows that he has retired from the Alaska State Archives. His publication, "Records of Alaskan Natives in

Religious Archives," has been completed and is up on the Archives' website (<http://archives.alaska.gov/pdfs/AKNativesinReligiousArchives.pdf>).

Pennelope: She is working with the Port of Anchorage to submit a grant application to the National Park Service Maritime Grant Program for \$40,000 to organize and make available all the material in the Port's Marine Library. There is \$1.7 million available nationally, so they are hopeful the funding will come through this year. The Library contains a small chunk of things from the 1940s, but most date from the 1950s to the 1980s. There are lots of engineering reports, dredging reports, and reports on equipment. It is probably the only maritime collection in Anchorage. The Port would retain custody of the materials and are committed to making it accessible to the public. At present, the collection is housed on the second floor of a building on the old dock, but it will be moved to the new Administration Building when it is completed. Pennelope is working on a book based on Alaska Commercial Company ledgers she found, transcribed, and arranged for their donation to UAF archives..

Dennis: UAF's Rasmuson Library, Alaska and Polar Regions Collection and Archives, received the 75 cubic feet of NARA publications microfilm this summer. He will distribute the microfilm to libraries and archives around the state, but is looking to the institutions to let him know which microfilm publications they want. Susan offered to get with Dennis offline to work on this.

Dean: Dean arrived about 2:00 p.m., assumed coordinator responsibilities, and made his update, which included information about dialog among the Alaska State Archives, the Governor's Office, and NARA regarding a joint project to digitize high priority Alaska records now located in Seattle. Bruce has worked with Dean to identify some high priority records such as those of the Alaska Road Commission and some Bureau of Land Management series. Pennelope recommended the US Customs Office records should be digitized. He mentioned there appears to be strong support for the project from the DC Office of the Governor and Alaska's congressional delegations. The State of Alaska would support funding for the plan; the National Archives at Seattle may become a NARA scanning/digitization hub, hiring three students and a manager. The Washington State Archives have agreed to use of their large format color scanner for oversize documents. It is estimated that about \$80,000 will get the project rolling. Dean mentioned that both the state records manager and records analyst positions are vacant at the Alaska State Archives. The State Archives accessioned about 3,000 boxes of Alaska Railroad and Territorial Court System transferred from NARA into the new SLAM vault. He said that ASHRAB's advocacy was critical in receiving the records.

B. Archival Excellence Award Discussion & Vote

There were two nominations for the Award: Larry Hibpshman was nominated by Dean for his publication, *Records of Alaska Natives in Religious Archives*. Bruce said this was a significant piece of work that clarifies the various groups, easy to use, well-written; he would vote for the Award. Susan, Toby and Dean concurred that bringing this information together serves a useful purpose for researchers. LaRue mentioned that the photographs were a nice touch. Members discussed the evaluation criteria and how the nomination fulfilled the goal of getting information out to the public; there was a reasonable balance of text and photos. Toby discussed Alaskan villages and how there will be additional content for this publication once the villages are aware of this. Dennis felt this nomination is what ASHRAB and this *Award* need to strive for.

The second nomination was submitted by Carol Race for Mark Whitman's work that was characterized as an Exhibit or Public Event. Bruce mentioned that Mr. Whitman's work has community-wide appeal in Juneau and utilizes primary sources from the State Archives and Historical Collections. Jo said Whitman used Archives for discovering his content and that Dean sent additional, clarifying information to the Board that he received from Ms. Race. It was agreed that the material and nomination addressed the *Award's* criteria. Barbara Berg's reference letter mentioned Mark's use of Archives. Several letters of recommendation supported the nomination which Jo said constituted a comprehensive package. Rich liked the backup letter from Marjorie Hamburger and Whitman's interaction with children. Members agreed that recognizing Whitman for the value he has added to Living History is well-supported. Whitman's work publicizes the value of archives and his excellence has been documented in news stories.

There was discussion about the uniqueness of each nomination. Bruce felt recognizing more than one strong nomination was warranted. Susan felt that Mr. Hibpshman's publication assists those who are conducting research whereas Mr. Whitman's work sparks interest in history. LaRue said that both nominations showed diversity in the type of humanity they touched and added to Alaska's knowledge of itself. She stressed that Mr. Whitman's work was very educational. Rich concluded that Mr. Whitman's China Joe research intrigued him.

After substantive discussion, there was unanimous approval to award both Mr. Hibpshman's *Records of Alaska Natives in Religious Archives* and Mr Whitman's *Using Archives to Bring History Alive Archival Certificates of Excellence*.

C. Senior Consulting Archivist Program

Senior Consulting Archivists' Program. Dean described the status of the *Program*. Five archivists participated: Zach Jones (Organized Village of Kake); Dean (Alaska Aviation Museum & Pioneer Air Museum); Bruce (Palmer Colony House); Dennis (Fairbanks City Clerk's Office); and, Arlene Schmuland (Alutiiq Museum). Bruce and Dennis briefed the Board on their Palmer and City of Fairbanks consultations. Dean summarized Arlene's report of the Alutiiq Museum. The *Program* is well under budget as transportation and lodging costs were less than projected. Additionally, Rich briefed the Board on a preservation workshop he attended in Fairbanks in May. \

D. Evaluate & Finalize Logo

Dennis provided updated logos and the Board evaluated them for appropriateness and suitability, with color and grayscale reproduction in mind. Bruce motioned to approve/adopt the logo with the blue (turquoise) background, adding the feather from the logo with the gold background. Rich seconded this motion and Toby amended by adding the white feather into the final version. Unanimously passed. The Board thanked Dennis for his work.

E. NHPRC State Board Programming Grant Application Overview

Dean briefed the Board on the NHPRC State Board Programming Grant Application. The proposal intends to sponsor three journeyman archivists to perform detailed arrangement and description services to three locations for six weeks. Larry and Bruce have expressed a willingness to assist. The project would happen in 2016. The grant application also proposes five teleconferences, three face-to-face meetings, development of an Archives' Month poster. The NHPRC, which has been budgeted at \$5M, will render its decision on our application by January 31, 2015.

F. Finalize 5-Year Plan 2015 - 2019

The Board then discussed and finalized its *5-Year Plan*. After substantive discussion it was decided to title the monograph, *Strategic Plan 2015 to 2020, Preserving Alaska's Documentary Heritage: Records Tell the Tale*. The Board also agreed to several edits, amendments and deletions that Dean proffered. He will update the document, transmit to everyone, and post on the ASHRAB website.

IV. New/Other Business.

There was no new business to discuss.

V. Next Meeting Date, Time & Location.

The meeting concluded by consensus at 4:00 pm. No date/time was set for the Spring 2015 teleconference.