

The PAYSTREAK

Volume 23, No. 1, Spring, 2023

The Newsletter of the Alaska Mining Hall of Fame Foundation

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Honoring Two Women Gold Miners and a Pre-Felix Pedro Tanana Basin Miner Explorer



Emma Grace Lowe Born in Seattle, Washington in 1903, Grace Lowe has the distinction of being one of the very few women that operated profitable gold mines in Alaska in the Tolovana Mining District and later a less profitable operation in the Rampart District. She was fiercely independent and had an aggressive reputation when crossed, but she was a quick learner with a strong work ethic that led to successful stints in the mining business. Soon after her arriving in Fairbanks, Grace had become part owner of the Black Rapids Roadhouse along the Richardson Highway. She married Ira Warren Morgridge in Fairbanks on July 15, 1926, but that relationship was short lived. In 1934 she teamed up with others on Gertrude Creek in the Livengood district and later with Luther Hess on Wilbur Creek. Subsequently she mined elsewhere but was never as successful as she had been in the Livengood area. After her gold mining activities declined due to the fixed price of gold, the effects of several costly lawsuits, and deteriorating health, Lowe spent much of the rest of her life in Fairbanks and California, and quietly passed away at the Denali Center in Fairbanks in 1990.



Frederick James Currier was one of those persistent early Tanana Basin miners that preceded Felix Pedro's discovery of the Fairbanks district. He was born in River Falls, Wisconsin in 1860 just before the onset of the American Civil War. In 1894, he got the gold bug after meeting with miners in a hotel in Victoria, British Columbia, and subsequently traveled first to Juneau, later to Dyea, where he and partners climbed Chilkoot Pass, and eventually traveled via river boat way to the 40 Mile region two years before the Klondike discovery. He mined on Mastodon Creek in the Circle district in 1895-1896 but returned to Wisconsin, only to come back to Alaska with his own sternwheeler in 1898 and a new team of partners. Currier's focus was the Chena River basin in the then unknown Fairbanks district. He and partners spent years prospecting the entire length of the stream, building cabins along the way, but he eventually ended up managing a placer mine in Dawson. In 1904, he moved his family to California and would spend the rest of his life managing orchards, passing away at the age of 75.



Bridget Mannion Aylward emigrated from her home in Turlough, Ros Muc, County Galway, Ireland to the United States in 1886 seeking a better life. She first settled in St. Paul, Minnesota and later moved to Seattle, Washington, where she became the cook of a wealthy family. In 1891 Captain John Healy persuaded investors to build a trading post on the 40-Mile River and Aylward signed on with this north country adventure. When Fort Cudahy was built in 1893, she became the first non-native women in the Yukon River Basin. She married miner Edward Aylward in 1894, which was the first non-native marriage in the 40 Mile Area. Bridget and Edward successfully mined gold side by side on Napoleon Creek and she was dubbed 'The Queen of Alaska' due to her work ethic and kindness. She moved to the States in the early 1900s and eventually returned to Ireland in 1948. Prior to her death in 1958, the Bridget Aylward Trust Fund was established to educate children in Ros Muc, Ireland, funded by gold that Bridget and Edward mined in Alaska. That Trust is active to this day.

**And Alaska Mining Hall of Fame Foundation (AMHF)
Induction Ceremony, March 29th , 2023
Alaska Mining Hall of Fame Museum, Fairbanks, Alaska**

Program

The general public is invited to Alaska Mining Hall of Fame Foundation (AMHF) induction ceremony from 7:00-to-9:30 PM on Wednesday, March 29th, 2023. The ceremony will take place in the Alaska Mining Hall of Fame Foundation Museum at 406 Cushman, Fairbanks, Alaska.

Power Point Presentations will be presented of all three inductees. There is no charge for admission. Refreshments (coffee and tea and cookies/donuts) will be served.

Coffee and Donuts----- 7:00-to-7:15 PM

Introduction by Tom Bundtzen, President AMHF----- 7:15-to-7:30 PM

Presentation of Inductees

Presentation of Grace Lowe, by Joan Skilbred----- 7:30-to-8:00 PM

Presentation of Frederick Currier by Randy Zarnke----- 8:00-to-8:30 PM

Presentation of Bridget Aylward by Leslie Thomas----- 8:30-to-9:00 PM

Coffee Break----- 9:00-to-9:15 PM

Recollections of Inductees from the General Audience----- 9:15-to-9:30 PM

Adjournment----- 9:30 PM

Introduction and Acknowledgements

The March 29, 2023, induction ceremony of the Alaska Mining Hall of Fame Foundation (AMHF) features two women placer gold miners and an adventure-driven explorer that preceded Felix Pedro in the search for gold in the Tanana River basin. All three inductees were nominated by those outside the organization and after review, were accepted by the Honors Committee of the AMHF.

Emma Grace Lowe has the distinction of being one of the very few women that fully operated and managed profitable placer gold mines in Interior Alaska. She was smart, fiercely independent and had an aggressive reputation when crossed; but also a quick learner with a strong work ethic that led to successful stint in her mining career. She excelled in the Livengood district and less so in the Rampart district, but faced significant push-back from others, including from former partners, which resulted in several draining lawsuits. Decades later, she would be admitted to Denali Center in Fairbanks and passed away in Fairbanks in 1990. Despite her legal setbacks, Grace left her mark and proved that a woman is more than capable of succeeding in the then male-dominated placer gold mining business.

Although many are familiar with the exploits of Felix Pedro, who is widely credited with the 1902 discovery of gold in what became the Fairbanks Mining district, few are aware that a number of prospectors preceded the famed Italian discoverer in the search for gold in the Tanana River basin. Frederick J. Currier was a leader among those early Tanana River Basin prospectors and was one of the first prospectors to mine gold in what became the historic and 'pre-Klondike', Circle Mining district in 1893—while also linking up with Inductee Bridget Mannion at Fort Cudahy at the mouth of the 40 Mile River. He began his search for gold in the Tanana basin in 1898—years before the Pedro discovery. After leaving Alaska, He would spend his remaining years managing orchards of southern California.

Bridget Mannion emigrated from her Irish home in 1886 to seek a home for herself in the United States. After living first in Minneapolis, Minnesota, she moved to Seattle to become a cook for Henry Yesler, a wealthy entrepreneur and a founder of the City of Seattle. While working at a dinner engagement, she heard Captain John J. Healy (also from Ireland) persuading Chicago business interests to establish a trading post in the newly discovered 40-mile district of eastern interior Alaska—several years before the great Klondike discovery. She joined the expedition and helped with the establishment of Fort Cudahy in 1893. Bridget married Edward Aylward in 1894 and both mined together on Napoleon Creek, amassing a fortune in gold. In 1896 She was heralded as the “Queen of Alaska” in a Seattle newspaper. Years later, after returning to Ireland, Bridget established the Bridget Aylward Trust to educate children in her hometown of Ros Muc, Ireland—funded by 40 Mile gold. One unique feature to this induction ceremony held in Fairbanks is the Mannion presentation via *Zoom* technology by Leslie Thomas of Wisconsin and Bridie Kineavy of Ireland—with the latter contribution beginning at 4 AM Irish time!

Joan Skilbred wrote the biography of Grace Lowe. Randy Zarnke wrote the biography of Frederick Currier sourcing his own published biography of Currier: *An Alaskan Adventure, a Story of Finding Gold in the Far North from 1893-1903*. Leslie Thomas wrote the biography of Bridget Mannion Aylward. Tom Bundtzen edited all biographic sketches and produced this newsletter.



Contributions to the AMHF

The Alaska Mining Hall of Fame Foundation is funded through donations of money, time and effort, and through sales of books and other paraphernalia. The Foundation is a tax-exempt organization, so all donations are tax deductible.

Donations to the Foundation should be mailed to:

Karl Hanneman, Treasurer
Alaska Mining Hall of Fame Foundation
P.O. Box 81108
Fairbanks, Alaska 99708

Contributions to the Foundation

Contributions help the Foundation produce, publish and update the AMHF website, and operate our new museum at 406 Cushman in downtown Fairbanks (see accompanying article). We were able to reproduce all *Paystreak* Newsletters from 1997-to-Present. The thirty-seven (37) *Paystreak* newsletters can be downloaded from the website, which is: www.alaskamininghalloffame.org.

We thank all contributors, regardless of the level of their donation, which are: Copper (\$1-\$99), Silver (\$100-\$499), Gold (\$500-\$999); '98er, (\$1,000) and Platinum (>\$1,000). Some of the more recent contributions have been in memory of legislator, and placer gold miner Robert Bettisworth, gold miner Walt Wigger, mine educators Ray Smith and Jim Madonna. The AMHF especially thanks Teck Resources, operator of the Red Dog Zinc-Lead-Silver Mine, the Usibelli Foundation, Margaret Cox Rich, Taiga Mining Company (Taiga), the Bill Stroecker Foundation, Design Alaska Inc., Robert Tsigonis, Larry and Darlene Peterson, June and Norman McAtee, Jeanne Ostnes, and Dave and Pat Carnes for their generous donations during the last several years. Also included below are those that have contributed through the Pick-Click-Give Program by year.

Name	Contribution Level	Dedication	Year
Lynden Transport	Platinum	General	2013
Teck Resources Red Dog Mine	Platinum	General	2013
Doug Colp Family	98er/Gold	General	2013
Jason Brune	Silver	General	2014
Malie Gray	Copper	General	2014
Clark Milne	Copper	General	2014
Peter Montesa	Copper	General	2014
Jules Tileston	Copper	General	2014
Six Anonymous	Silver	General	2014
Usibelli Foundation	Gold	General	2014
Candy Waugaman	Platinum	General	2015
Karen Erickson	Copper	General	2015
Usibelli Foundation	Platinum	General	2015
Alaska Women in Mining	Gold	General	2015
Brian Rogers, Sherry Modrow	Gold	General	2015
Marty K. Rutherford	Gold	General	2015
Karen Purdue	Gold	General	2015
Mr. and Mrs. Jim Thurman	Silver	General	2015
Karen Clautice	Copper	General	2015
Christine and Corbette Upton	Silver	General	2015
Bill Brophy	Copper	In Memory of Bob Bettisworth	2015
Leo and Fredi Brown	Copper	In Memory of Bob Bettisworth	2015
George Horner-Trust	Silver	In Memory of Bob Bettisworth	2015
Laurence Peterson	Silver	In Memory of Bob Bettisworth	2015
Sigwald and Arlene Strandberg	Silver	In Memory of Bob Bettisworth	2015
Laurence Peterson	Gold	In Memory of Jim Madonna	2015
Lisa and Milton Behr	Gold	In Memory of Walt Wigger	2015
David and Aldean Kilborn	Silver	In Memory of Walt Wigger	2015
Nathaniel May	Copper	General	2015
Michael Whelan	Silver	General	2015
Aaron Pfeil	Copper	General	2015
Clark Milne	Silver	General	2015
Karen Lapp	Copper	General	2015
Jeff Lapp	Copper	General	2015

Name	Contribution Level	Dedication	Year
Bill Stroecker Foundation	Platinum	General	2015
Clark Milne	Silver	General	2016
Joel Stratman	Copper	General	2016
Michael Whalen	Silver	General	2016
Richard Hughes	Silver	General	2016
Karen Lapp	Copper	General	2016
Patricia Peirsol	Copper	General	2016
Matthew Hanson	Copper	General	2016
Jason Brune	Silver	General	2016
Jeff Lapp	Copper	General	2016
John Cook	Copper	General	2016
Mark Hottman	Copper	General	2016
Two Anonymous	Silver	General	2016
Sarah Isto	Silver	General	2016
Tom Bundtzen	Silver	General	2016
Chris Olsen	Silver	General	2016
David and Heidi Doudna	Gold	General	2016
Karen Purdue	Gold	General	2016
Karen J. Erickson	Platinum	General	2016
Richard E. Wagner	Copper	General	2016
Harold and Leslie Noyes	Gold	General	2016
Karen Clautice	Copper	General	2016
Winston and Glenda Burbank	Silver	General	2016
Joseph and Victoria LeTarte	Silver	General	2016
Richard and Cherie Solie	Silver	General	2016
Debbie and Jeff Johnson	Silver	In Memory of Walt Wigger	2016
Helen Warner	Copper	General	2016
Laurence and Darlene Peterson	Silver	General	2016
John and Arlene Orbeck	Copper	General	2016
Lyman Family	Silver	General	2016
Ruth Ibbetson	Silver	General	2016
Alaska Women in Mining	Gold	General	2016
Bill Stroecker Foundation	Platinum	General	2016
Usibelli Foundation	Platinum	General	2016
Jason Brune	Silver	General	2017
Patrick Dolphin	Copper	General	2017
Matthew Hanson	Copper	General	2017
Richard Hughes	Silver	General	2017
Sonny Lindner	Copper	General	2017

Name	Contribution Level	Dedication	Year
Clark Milne	Silver	General	2017
Jerry Sadler	Copper	General	2017
Joel Stratman	Copper	General	2017
Terry Taylor	Copper	General	2017
Michael Whelan	Silver	General	2017
3 Anonymous	Silver	General	2017
Bill Stroecker Foundation	Platinum	General	2017
Usibelli Foundation	Platinum	General	2017
Fairbanks Branch, Alaska Miners	Gold	General	2017
Don Gray	Copper	General	2018
Richard Hughes	Silver	General	2018
William Kinne	Copper	General	2018
Clark Milne	Silver	General	2018
Patricia Peirsol	Copper	General	2018
Michael Whalen	Silver	General	2018
Jason Brune	Silver	General	2018
Matthew Hanson	Copper	General	2018
Mark Hottman	Copper	General	2018
Jamison Parry	Copper	General	2018
Jerry Sadler	Copper	General	2018
Usibelli Foundation	Platinum	General	2018
Terry Taylor	Copper	General	2018
Bill Stroecker Foundation	Platinum	General	2019
Larry and Darlene Peterson	Silver	General	2019
Jason Brune	Copper	General	2019
Matthew Hanson	Copper	General	2019
Gay Ellen Heath Griffin	Copper	General	2019
William Kinne	Copper	General	2019
Clark Milne	Silver	General	2019
Jameson Parry	Copper	General	2019
Patricia Peirsol	Copper	General	2019
Jerry Sadler	Copper	General	2019
Michael Whalen	Silver	General	2019
Margaret Cox Rich	Platinum	In Memory of Ray Smith	2020
David and Patricia Carnes	Platinum	General	2020
Larry and Darlene Peterson	Platinum	General	2020
Taiga Mining Company	Platinum	General	2020
Scott Bothwell	Copper	General	2020
Jason Brune	Silver	General	2020
Don Gray	Copper	General	2020

Name	Contribution Level	Dedication	Year
Matthew Hanson	Copper	General	2020
William Kinne	Copper	General	2020
Clark Milne	Silver	General	2020
Heath Nowak	Copper	General	2020
Jameson Parry	Copper	General	2020
Patricia Peirsol	Copper	General	2020
Jerry Sadler	Copper	General	2020
Michael Whelan	Silver	General	2020
Bill Stroecker Foundation	Platinum	General	2021
Taiga Mining Company	Platinum	General	2021
Phil Younker	Silver	In Memory of Ray Smith	2021
Anonymous 1	Silver	General	2021
Anonymous 2	Silver	General	2021
Larry and Darlene Peterson	Silver	General	2021
Rob and Donna Brady	Copper	General	2022
Jason Brune	Silver	General	2022
Patrick Dolphin	Copper	General	2022
Matthew Hanson	Silver	General	2022
Richard Hughes	Silver	General	2022
William Kinne	Copper	General	2022
Clark Milne	Silver	General	2022
Jameson Perry	Copper	General	2022
Patricia Peirsol	Copper	General	2022
Jerry Sadler	Copper	General	2022
Anonymous 1	Silver	General	2022
Anonymous 2	Silver	General	2022
Teresa Chepoda	Silver	In Memory of John Usibelli	2022
Ann and Mike McCann	Silver	General	2022
Bill Stroecker Foundation	Platinum	General	2022
Design Alaska Inc.	Gold	General	2022
Taiga Mining Company	Platinum	General	2022
Robert Tsigonis	Gold	General	2023
Jeanne Ostnes	Platinum	General	2023

Bolded indicates donations made to the Foundation since October 2022

AMHF Museum Completed in October, 2022 Now in Operation

After several years of delays caused by the COVID-19 epidemic and other construction issues, the new Alaska Mining Hall of Fame Foundation Museum was opened on October 8th, 2022 in Fairbanks at 406 Cushman —right next to McCafferty’s Coffee shop and near the old historic City Hall—now a distillery-- where the Alaska Miners Association was incorporated in 1939. The new museum first took shape in the fall of 2019, when building owner Charles Cole and AMHF President Tom Bundtzen signed an agreement to lease 3,550 square feet at what was Carrs Clothing Store—and before that--a grocery store.

We were honored to have Governor Mike Dunleavy open up the museum on October 8, 2022. Subsequently, the Foundation has held several Wednesday Evening Lecture Series, an Xmas Party, and several tours of the facility including one by the OLE! Educational Group from Anchorage, the south-central equivalent to the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) in Fairbanks. The AMHF has been open nominally open to the public Wednesday through Friday in the afternoons. We thank the many volunteers that have made the opening a success. A short course on Strategic Minerals will be held March 24-April 14th. The Fairbanks Genealogical Society is using the Museum for their monthly meetings. We are looking forward to opening up the AMHF Museum Monday through Friday 9AM to 6PM beginning May 15th. There is no charge for visiting our museum—but donations are welcome. The following photos were taken by Joan Skilbred and graciously provide for the newsletter.



Alaska’s Governor Michael Dunleavy on the left addressing the group at the grand opening of the AMHF Museum on October 8th, 2022, with AMHF President Tom Bundtzen on the right.



AMHF Volunteers Marylin Russell (left) and Wanda Huber (right) are items on display while assisting in the set-up of the new AMHF Museum.



Live music provided by Paul and Jackie Boyd at the December 17, 2022, Xmas Party



Xmas Party on December 17th, 2022, at the AMHF Museum

KEYSTONE CANYON

Historical Presentation

THE GREAT SHOOTOUT

CR&NW RR

ALASKA

ALASKA HOME RY.

AK-Home RR

Sponsored By:
**PIONEERS OF ALASKA &
 ALASKA MINING HALL OF FAME MUSEUM**
Compiled & Presented by Joan Skilbred of Fairbanks

Compelling Valdez Railroad History
 Industrialists - Capitalists - Politicians - Residents of Valdez
 Action-Adventure Scandal-Intrigue

FREE EVENT

Thursday, March 17, 2023 at 7:00 am
 Alaska Mining Hall of Fame Museum

Advertisement of March 17, 2023 Lecture at AMHF Museum

Previous Inductees, Alaska Mining Hall of Fame

Fairbanks, Fall 1997

Six charter members of the Alaska Mining Hall of Fame Foundation were previously elected into the National Mining Hall of Fame in Leadville, Colorado.

Stephen Birch: Founder and developer of Kennecott Copper Mines.

Frederick Bradley: Successful manager of Treadwell and A-J Mines, Juneau.

John Treadwell: Founder of Treadwell Mines, Juneau.

Alfred H. Brooks: Chief Geologist of U.S. Geological Survey in Alaska during Alaska-Yukon Gold Rush Era.

Ernest Patty: University of Alaska renowned teacher and later president, and manager of dredge firms in the Coal Creek-Woodchopper district.

Clarence Berry: Prominent Klondike and Interior Alaska miner.

Fairbanks, Spring 1998

Induction Ceremony Honoring Early Yukon Basin Traders and Prospectors

Alfred Mayo: “Captain Al” well-known Yukon River trader, prospector.

Jack McQuesten: Known as the “Father of the Yukon” grubstaked many prospectors.

Arthur Harper: Respected trader and prospector and promoter of the Yukon; his son Walter, first stepped foot on the summit of Mount McKinley (Denali).

Howard Franklin: Fortymile prospector, discovered first “bedrock” placer gold in Alaska.

John Minook: Creole-Athabaskan prospector who discovered the Rampart and Melozitna districts—became an important inspiration for Indigenous rights, including US Citizenship.

Felix Pedro: Discoverer of Fairbanks district in 1902.

Nome, Summer 1998

Induction Ceremony Honoring Pioneers of Nome Gold Rush

John Brynteson: A ‘Lucky Swede’; an experienced hard-rock miner, discoverer of the Cape Nome district.

Erik Lindblom: The eldest of the “Lucky Swedes”, a tailor.

Jafet Lindeberg: The Norwegian of the ‘Lucky Swedes’, president and manager of the very successful Pioneer Mining Company.

Charles D. Lane: Tough, honest, and wealthy miner who helped the Lucky Swedes in their legal battles.

Juneau, Spring, 1999

Induction Ceremony Honoring Discovery of Juneau District

Joe Juneau: Native of Quebec, a California 49er, co-discoverer of gold in the Juneau district.

Richard Harris: Irish immigrant, co-discoverer of gold in Juneau district.

George Pilz: German immigrant who sent and financed the Juneau and Harris prospecting ventures in the Juneau area.

Kawa.ée: Tlingit leader who brought rich gold samples from Gastineau Channel area to George Pilz.

Livingston Wernecke: Geologist-engineer for the Bradley companies of Juneau.

Bartlett Thane: Promoter-founder of the world's largest gold mine, the Gastineau at Juneau.

Anchorage, Fall 1999

Induction Ceremony Honoring Mining Pioneers of Southern/Southwest Alaska

Andrew Olson: Swedish immigrant, innovator at Flat; the original organizer of the platinum mining complex in the Goodnews Bay Mining district.

Evan Jones: Welsh immigrant; the true father of Alaska coal mining industry.

Wesley Earl Dunkle: Kennecott engineer and innovative geologist, co-founder of Star Air Service, predecessor of Alaska Airlines.

Fairbanks, Spring 2000

Induction Ceremony Honoring Early 20th Century Interior Pioneers

Emil Usibelli: Italian immigrant and founder of Usibelli Coal Mine, Inc., Alaska's only and historically largest producer of coal; civic benefactor in Fairbanks.

John B. Mertie Jr.: Leading U.S. Geological Survey geologist; outstanding earth scientist, mathematician, and world expert on platinum.

Fannie Quigley: Prospector, renowned for her bush skills, legendary Kantishna district character.

Juneau, Spring 2001

Induction Ceremony Honoring Early Government Role in Mining

Benjamin D. Stewart: State and Federal mining administrator, mine safety proponent, Alaska constitutional delegate at Alaska Statehood Convention in Fairbanks.

Fairbanks, Summer, 2001

Induction Ceremony Honoring the Pioneers of the Large Scale Gold Dredging Industry of Nome and Fairbanks Districts

Norman C. Stines: Visionary engineer who planned and supervised original USSR&M activities in Fairbanks district.

Wendell P. Hammon: Installed the first three dredges in Cape Nome district; helped design financing for what became USSR&M dredge fleets in Alaska.

James K. Davidson: Water engineer that designed and built Miocene and Davidson ditch systems.

Anchorage, Fall 2001

Induction Ceremony Honoring Discovery of Flat District

John Beaton: Co-discovered Iditarod district with William Dikeman.

Fairbanks, Spring 2002

Induction Ceremony Honoring Successful Miners and Engineers of Early 20th Century

Frank G. Manley: Highly successful miner in Fairbanks, Hot Springs district, and Flat. Founder of the First National Bank, Fairbanks.

Herman Tofty: Norwegian immigrant who worked prospects near Manley Hot Springs.

Chester Purington: Acclaimed international mining engineer; wrote treatise on Alaska placer fields.

Thomas P. Aitken: Arguably the most successful small scale mine developer during the Alaska-Yukon Gold Rush; worked both lodes and placers in Alaska and Yukon.

Anchorage, Fall 2002

Induction Ceremony Honoring Immigrant Pioneers

Peter Miscovich: Croatian immigrant who settled in Flat, Alaska 1910. Pioneered the use of hydraulic mining techniques.

David Strandberg: Swedish immigrant who joined the Klondike gold rush in 1898 and the Iditarod rush of 1910. Built placer mining dynasty Strandberg & Sons, Inc.

Lars Ostnes: Norwegian immigrant who mined in the Iditarod district and developed placer mines in remote western Alaska for over 50 years.

Fairbanks, Summer 2003

Golden Days Induction Ceremony (also recognized during Fall AMA convention)

Kyosuke "Frank" Yasuda and Nevelo Yasuda: Japanese immigrant and his Eskimo wife, discovered Chandalar gold and founded the community of Beaver.

Anchorage, Fall 2003

Induction Ceremony Honoring Early and Mid-20th Century Placer Miners

John Gustavus (Gus) Uotila: By 1915, Gus Uotila was known as a tough Iditarod teamster. He mentored placer mining operations throughout Alaska and became a respected overland freighter.

Simon Wible: He mined gold, built water canals, and became a wealthy man in California. When the time the gold rush came along, he pioneered hydraulic mine technology on the Kenai Peninsula.

Fairbanks, Spring 2004

Honoring Early Pioneers Associated with USSR&M Dredge Fleet

Roy B. Earling: Built pre-World War II FE Company into one of the most efficient and successful dredge mining firms in the world.

James D. Crawford: Well organized manager who acquired new dredge properties and guided FE Company into successful post-World War II period of gold mining.

Jack C. Boswell: Engineered the development of the rich Cripple deposit; and helped build giant FE machines used to dig deep placer deposits. Published historian of USSR&M era.

Genevieve Parker Metcalfe: Breakthrough woman mining engineer who developed initial plans for FE Fairbanks operations, wrote a landmark thesis on Alaska placer mining, and was a champion athlete and scholar.

Earl Richard Pilgrim: First Professor of Mine Engineering at University of Alaska. Independent Kantishna miner and pioneer, and noted FE consultant; "Mr. Antimony" in the US.

Anchorage, Fall 2004

Honoring Those in the Mining Legal Profession,

In Cooperation with the History Committee of the Alaska Bar Association

William Sulzer: Bill Sulzer became a prominent New York attorney and politician and briefly served as Governor of New York. The ever-optimistic Sulzer mined copper in southeast Alaska and developed lode gold in the Chandalar district.

Joseph Rudd: Shortly after statehood, Rudd drafted the State's mining law on state lands and was sought for his expertise on natural resource issues throughout his career. He was killed in a plane crash in Anchorage upon his return from Juneau after discussing with other Alaskans challenges to President Carter's Implementation of the 1978 Antiquities Act.

Anchorage, Fall 2005

Honoring the Discoverers and the Developer of Platinum Resources at Goodnews Bay

Per Edvard (Ed) Olson: Born in 1898, Edward Olson was born into a large farm family in Sweden and immigrated to the United States in 1905. In 1934, he assumed the position of general manager of the Goodnews Bay Mining Company (GBMC), the largest supplier of platinum in the U.S. during 1934-1975.

Walter Smith: In the summer of 1926, Yupik Eskimo Walter Smith and his young apprentice Henry Wuya found placer platinum in a stream draining a remote, uninhabited coast of southwest Alaska. The GBMC eventually purchase Smith's claims. Smith and Wuya are recognized as discoverers of Goodnews Bay platinum.

Henry Wuya: was born to Eskimo parents in Quinhagak on the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. Wuya was proficient in English when few Yupik people knew English. He mentored with the older and experienced prospector, Walter Smith.

Fairbanks, Spring 2006

Honoring Two Pioneers Important to both Canadian and American Mining Communities

Ellen (Nellie) Cashman: Ellen (Nellie) Cashman was a quintessential gold stamper who participated in many gold-silver rushes of the late 19th and early 20th Centuries. Nellie's final home was Nolan Creek in the Koyukuk district of northern Alaska. Cashman died of Cancer in 1925 at St. Anne's Hospital, Victoria, British Columbia, a medical facility she helped found several decades earlier.

Jack Dalton: One of the premier horse freighters of the Alaska-Yukon gold rush era, Jack Dalton opened up the 'Dalton Trail' for prospectors and trades from Haines to Central Yukon, Canada. In later years he worked as a freight engineer for the Alaska Railroad. The Dalton Highway, named after his son, another transportation pioneer, is a tribute to the Dalton family in Alaska.

Juneau, Summer 2006

Honoring the Mining Legal Profession, in Cooperation with the History Committee of the Alaska Bar Association

Frederick (Fred) Eastaugh: Nome-born Fred Eastaugh was an Alaskan accountant, a ship's officer for the Alaska Steamship Company and Alaska mining attorney. Eastaugh was appointed to the Alaska Minerals Commission in 1991 by Governor Walter Hickel. Upon Eastaugh's death a year later, Hickel ordered state flags flown at half-mast.

Anchorage, Fall 2006

Honoring an Outstanding Statesman and an Outstanding Prospector Active in the mid-20th Century Alaska Mining Industry

Charles F. (Chuck) Herbert: was one of the premier miners of his generation. Educated at the School of Mines in Fairbanks, he mined placer gold deposits, sought metalliferous lodes, and served with distinction in several public roles. During early years of Statehood, he played a crucial role in the selection of Alaska's North Slope Lands. Later as DNR Commissioner, he revitalized the State land selection process.

Rheinart M. (Rhiny) Berg: Berg's strength and stamina were legendary during most of his 86 years of life. He worked as an underground miner in the Wrangell Mountains and Fairbanks districts, as a trapper and prospector, and he discovered the Bornite copper-cobalt deposit. He later developed the Candle placer district on the Seward Peninsula. He gained great wealth, which he mostly gave away.

Juneau, Spring 2007

Honoring an Outstanding Statesman and a Mine Attorney Active in Southeast Alaska's Mineral Industry

Phillip R. Holdsworth: Phil Holdsworth's professional career extended nearly seventy years. He was a practical miner at the age of sixteen. Later he operated mines, assay labs, and mills. In World War II, he defended a Philippine mine as a guerilla warrior. After serving as Alaska's first commissioner of Natural Resources, Holdsworth became Alaska's elder natural resource statesman before his death in 2001.

Herbert L. Faulkner: H.L. (Bert) Faulkner's law career extended for almost seventy years. He was a sheriff, U.S. Marshall and attorney. Faulkner was an important lobbyist during the early years of the Alaska Miners Association. He would represent almost every major mining company operating in Alaska during his lifetime.

Fairbanks, Summer 2007

Honoring Two of Alaska's Outstanding Mine Educators

Earl H. Beistline: Earl Beistline had a distinguished career as mining educator at the University of Alaska in Fairbanks. Beistline brought to the classroom a unique blend of theoretical and practical knowledge in the field of mining. During all of his adult life, he was a tireless and outspoken advocate of Alaska mining industry interests.

Ernest N. Wolff: Ernie Wolff was a notable personality on Alaska's mining landscape for more than sixty years. During this time he prospected, mined, taught and administered at the University of Alaska, wrote a classic book, *Handbook for the Alaskan Prospector*, and served on public bodies; all of this always in his unique style with a kind of gentle truculence.

Anchorage, Fall 2007

Honoring Those Involved in the Southwest Alaska's Quicksilver Mining Industry

Robert F. Lyman: Besides operating small scale mercury lodes, he managed Alaska's largest mercury mine at Red Devil, Alaska, which, during the 1950s, produced nearly 20 percent of U.S. domestic requirements of the strategic metal.

Wallace M. Cady: Produced, with other USGS colleagues, 'The Central Kuskokwim Region, Alaska', a geological framework of a large, 5,000 mi² area centered on Alaska's premier mercury mining region.

Russell Schaefer: One of Alaska's 'tough guy prospectors' that accomplished much in the Kuskokwim Mercury Belt of southwest Alaska.

Fairbanks, Spring 2008

Honoring Three Attorneys and a Civic Minded Woman Important to the Interior Alaska Mining Industry

Luther Hess: First rate mining lawyer and active mine developer in several interior Alaska gold camps. Helped organize the Alaska Miners Association (in 1939) and served as AMA's first President.

Harriett Hess: Worked with husband Luther on a variety of mining education issues and was a pioneer regent of the University of Alaska system. Worked as pro-development, pro-mining Democrats during the Roosevelt Administration.

Ernest B. Collins: Pursued a long and successful career in Interior Alaska as a placer miner, lawyer, Alaska Territorial legislator, and delegate to Alaska Constitutional Convention.

John (Johnny) McGinn: A smart mining lawyer who, with James Wickersham, cleaned up corruption in Nome and financed many small gold and silver projects in Interior Alaska and Yukon, Canada.

Anchorage, Fall 2008

Honoring Two Engineers and a Prospector Who Helped Bring Success to the Kennecott Mines in the Chitina Valley of South-Central Alaska

Earl Tappen Stannard: An innovative engineer at Kennecott's Alaska mines, and later a CEO of Kennecott Copper Corporation.

William Crawford Douglass: A gifted mining engineer and exceptional manager at Kennecott's Alaska copper mines.

Reuben Frederick McClellan: Organized the mining partnership that made the initial discoveries and negotiated the sales of the mineral claims that became the Kennecott copper mines in Alaska.

Anchorage, Fall 2009

Honoring Four Pioneers Important to the Willow Creek Mining District

Robert L. Hatcher: Began the lode mining boom in the Willow Creek district when he discovered gold-quartz veins on Skyscraper Mountain that later became part of the Independence group of mines.

Orville G. Hering: Instrumental in forming the east-coast based exploration group, Klondike and Boston Gold Mining Company and in forming the Willow Creek Mining district.

Byron S. Bartholf: Represents a large family group that was instrumental in the development of the gold lodes in the Willow Creek district.

Walter W. Stoll: An exceptional mine operator of the Independence gold mine, which became the largest gold producer (in ore tonnage) in the Willow Creek district.

Fairbanks, Spring, 2010

Honoring two-civic-minded pioneers important to Interior and Western Alaska Development

John P. Clum: Long after his involvement with the capture of Geronimo in Arizona, Clum established reliable postal service throughout Alaska—he became the Postal Inspector for the Alaska Territory.

Irving McKenny Reed: Notable Associate Mining Engineer for the Alaska Territory and pioneer of Nome; was chair of the Alaska Game Commission prior to WWII and the Territorial Highway Engineer prior to Statehood.

Anchorage, Fall, 2010

Honoring Pioneers Important to the Seward Peninsula Gold Dredging Industry

Nicholas B. and Evinda S. Tweet: Partners in marriage and mining, they created a family-owned firm that has mined gold in Alaska for more than 100 years.

Carl S. and Walter A. Glavinovich: Brothers who devoted more than 100 years of their collective lives to dredging in the Nome district, one of Alaska’s Premier placer gold districts.

Anchorage, Fall, 2011

Honoring Two Pioneers Active in South-Central Alaska Mining and Economic Development

Martin Radovan: A Croatian prospector who prospected the Chitina Valley for decades and found the high grade but also high altitude ‘Binocular’ copper prospect. He never made a mine but his dreams live on.

Arthur Shonbeck: He joined numerous stampedes during the Alaska-Yukon Goldrush and was an outstanding civic leader of Anchorage. He drowned with AMHF Inductee John Beaton in Ganes Creek west of McGrath.

Fairbanks, Spring 2012

Honoring Pioneers Important to the Mid-20th Interior Placer Mining Industry

Oscar Tweiten: Arrived in Fairbanks during the Great Depression and mined on Cleary Creek in the Fairbanks for more than 50 years.

Glen D. Franklin: A gifted athlete who studied business administration at the University of Alaska in the 1930s; mined with others throughout Alaska and Yukon Territory for several decades.

Donald Cook: An Oregon-born graduate of the University of Alaska, who pursued a stellar career in Education at the University of Alaska-Fairbanks. He was an expert on USSR&M Gold dredges.

Anchorage, Fall, 2012

Honoring Pioneers Important to the Iditarod and Innoko Districts of Southwest Alaska

Merton Marston: Indiana newspaper man who became wealthy as a result of grubstaking the discoverers of the Iditarod district—later managed hotels in the Pacific Northwest.

Mattie ‘Tootsie’ Crosby: Beloved personality in Flat, the center of the Iditarod district for more than 50 years—the only Afro-American who lived and worked in that district.

Toivo Rosander: Finnish immigrant who mined in the Ophir-Innoko area for 70 years with wife Dyna and boys Ron and Ken. Managed to convince many skeptics about the economic and social value of placer mining.

Juneau, Spring, 2013

Honoring Two Pioneers Important to Mineral Development in Southeast Alaska

Alexandre Choquette: French Canadian prospector who began in the 1849 California Gold Rush and ended in the Klondike Gold Rush of 1896. At the time of his death, Choquette was a true north-country legend.

John F. Malony: Was important to early mineral development of Southeast Alaska—served as mayor of Juneau and helped form Alaska Electric Light and Power, Alaska’s first modern electric utility.

Fairbanks, Summer 2013

Honoring an outstanding citizen, educator and placer mine expert

Doug Colp: Born and raised in Southeastern Alaska, Colp Became a legendary expert on placer mine technologies, a UAF Educator, and, with his wife Marcel, a civic-minded resident of Fairbanks.

Anchorage, Fall, 2013

Honoring Geologists from the U.S. Geological Survey

Arthur C. Spencer: Provided the first geologic descriptions of the Kennecott Mines in the Chitina Valley and authored a classic: USGS Bulletin 287—The Juneau Gold Belt—in 1906.

Josiah E. Spurr: Forged a career as a renowned economic geologist—and helped found the Society of Economic Geologists. Best known for his pre-Klondike adventure--*Through the Yukon Gold Diggings*.

Stephen R. Capps: An outstanding regional geologist that specialized in the study of Alaskan placer gold deposits in glaciated areas. Was among the first federal geologists to study ‘strategic minerals’.

Fairbanks, Spring 2014

Honoring Three Early Mining Pioneers Important in the Alaskan Mining Industry

‘Wise Mike’ Stepovich: Self-educated immigrant from Montenegro came to Fairbanks shortly after the 1902 discovery and mined gold on Fairbanks Creek for 40 years; his son Mike Stepovich II would be Alaska’s last Territorial Governor.

Helen Van Campen: Had a remarkable career in Alaska that included equestrian sports, journalism and gold mining. Helen Van Campen Memorial Scholarship Fund at the University of Alaska-Fairbanks has provided journalism students with funding to help start their careers.

Peter Petrovich Doroshin: A Russian Mining engineer that discovered placer gold on the Kenai Peninsula in 1848; was a pioneer in investigating Alaska’s abundant coal resources.

Anchorage, Fall, 2014

Honoring Three Pioneers Associated with the Kennecott Mines in Alaska

Alan Mara Bateman: Important Kennecott consultant at McCarthy; Editor of *Economic Geology* for more than five decades.

Edward M. MacKevett Jr. Pioneer geologist of Kennecott deposits near McCarthy and Alaska’s premier mercury-antimony and REE-Th-U districts.

William H. Seagrave Best known for his management skills in the early Kennecott mines of Alaska, in both Prince William Sound and in the Chitina Valley

Anchorage, Fall, 2015

Honoring Pioneers Associated with the Red Dog Zinc-Polymetallic Mine and a Hatcher Pass Pioneer

Robert (Bob) Baker: The Kotzebue-based bush pilot and amateur prospector who is given credit for the discovery of the Red Dog zinc-polymetallic deposit, currently Alaska's most important metal mine.

Irv Tailleir A legendary U.S. Geological Survey Brooks Range geologist who followed up on Baker's recommendations and wrote the open-file report documenting the importance of the Red Dog deposit.

Don S. Rae: Respected prospector and assayer who worked in Southeast Alaska and Hatcher Pass.

Fairbanks, Spring, 2016

Honoring Pioneers Associated with Alaska's Gold Dredging Fleet

Patrick H. O'Neill: Born into a large Cordova family of Irish descent, O'Neill would graduate from the University of Alaska with several Engineering degrees, become dredge superintendent for the FE Company in Fairbanks, and complete a remarkable career operating fleets of gold-platinum dredges in South America. He was a strong supporter of the University of Alaska for his entire life.

Walter W. Johnson: His firm, the Union Construction Company, would construct one third of all the bucketline stacker dredges to operate in Alaska (32). UCC would operate in other international locales.

Anchorage, Fall, 2016

AMHF Honors Three Pioneers Associated Placer Mining, Invention, Mineral Industry Management, Scientific Inquiry, and Public Service

John Arthur Miscovich: Renowned second-generation placer gold miner from the Iditarod Mining district; John was perhaps better known for his *Intelligent*TM and other water technology inventions.

Cole Edwin McFarland: combined the hard work of a pioneering Alaskan placer mining family with the responsibilities of being President of Placer Dome U.S. Inc., a successful international mining firm.

Donald John Grybeck: had a distinguished career as a scientist, teacher, miner, and earth science manager. His lasting legacy is the USGS Alaska Resource Data Files (ARDF), which he designed.

Fairbanks, Spring, 2018

AMHF Honors Three 'Minority' Mining Pioneers

William T. Ewing: was born into slavery in 1854 in Keytesville, Missouri. After working his way across the United States, Ewing joined the Tacoma Police Department. He stampeded to Alaska in 1896, and in 1903, struck it rich in the Fairbanks District with partner James McCarty. After he passed away in 1923, his entire estate went to the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama.

Kate Kennedy: lived in the copper mining boomtown of McCarthy, Alaska for nearly three decades. In the early 20th Century, Kate Kennedy, a divorced woman, became the largest property owner in the Chitina Valley and was McCarthy's best known entrepreneur.

Eugene Swanson: was reported to be the only consistently successful gold miner in the Rampart District, according to a 1938 article by the Fairbanks Daily News Miner. He served as a Buffalo Soldier during the Alaska Yukon Gold Rush. An honor guard of black soldiers from the U.S. Army attended his 1942 funeral in Fairbanks.

Anchorage, Fall, 2018

AMHF Honors Frontier Mining Camp Pioneers

Joseph B. Quigley: Born in Pennsylvania, Joe Quigley would ascend Chilkoot Pass in 1891, years before the Klondike Gold Rush. Quigley is best known for his work in the Kantishna District in the shadow of Mount McKinley (now Denali).

Tekla M. Kanari: was a Finnish Immigrant who, along with husband John, formed and operated Trinity Mining Company in the remote Kougarak Mining district north of Nome. She made many wire transfers of funds to relatives and friends in war-torn Finland during WWII.

Alvin H. Agoff: Son of a Russian immigrant, Alvin Agoff mined gold, trapped, and freighted with sled dogs in the Iditarod Mining district for more than 50 years. His family legacy lives on with Prince Creek Mining Company, the last heritage mining operation in the Iditarod.

Anchorage, Fall 2019

AMHF Honors Pioneers of the U.S. Bureau of Mines (USBM)

Thomas L. Pittman: was a noted metallurgist, and minerals officer for the U.S. Bureau of Mines in Juneau; at the time of his passing, was the longest serving employee of the USBM in Alaska.

John Joseph Mulligan: Born in New York, Mulligan arrived in Alaska in 1949 and worked in the Territory on many strategic mineral projects in in Alaska. He became Chief of Field Operations for the USBM in Alaska in 1970, a position held until his retirement in 1985.

Donald Paul Blasko: came to Alaska as a USBM new petroleum resource officer, and managed USBM studies during D-2 Lands debates; played a role in the Red Dog deposit discovery verification.

Fairbanks, Summer, 2020

AMHF Honors Pioneers Associated with Interior and Northern Alaska Gold Mining

Roshier Creecy: Born in Virginia in 1866, he sought to escape a southern Culture intent on retaining racial hierarchy. Roshier was a Buffalo Soldier for the 9th Calvary and mined in Wiseman district of Northern Alaska for decades.

Arnold Nordale: The civic minded mining engineer was born in Juneau in 1896 and grew up in Fairbanks. Nordale worked for the Alaska Road Commission and ultimately the USSR&M dredging company in Fairbanks and the Yukon Consolidated Gold Corporation in Dawson—managing a dredge fleet of similar size to the USSR&M fleet in Fairbanks.

Raymond L. (Ray) Smith: Born and raised in Maine, Smith came north to Alaska in 1939 and obtained a mining engineering degree at the University of Alaska in Fairbanks. He became President of Michigan Technological University in 1965, and is widely credited for fundamentally improving the quality of the educational institution. Upon his retirement, he maintained close ties with friends and colleagues in Alaska for the rest of his life. He died in Arizona at the age of 101.

Anchorage, Fall, 2022

John Qipqina Schaeffer Jr. A visionary Inupiaq leader from Northwest Alaska that was instrumental in negotiating a 1982 agreement with Cominco Limited for NANA Regional Corporation, which led to the development of Red Dog Mine, one of the world's largest producers of zinc.

Charles Griswald (Riz) Bigelow is widely recognized as one of the most successful mineral exploration geologists in Alaskan history. Bigelow put together teams that discovered the Arctic, Greens Creek, Pogo, and other properties, several of which have become producing mines.

Charles Caldwell Hawley Born in Evansville, Illinois, Hawley became one of the most respected Alaskan geologists and mine historians of his generation. Wrote the now classic book 'A Kennecott Story', which provides a succinct summary of the history of Kennecott Copper Corporation.



Grace Lowe on March 26th, 1939. Source: Seattle Sunday Times

Emma Grace Lowe

January 12, 1939-to-May 10, 1990

Emma Grace Lowe has the distinction of being one of the very few women that operated profitable gold mines in Alaska in the Tolovana Mining District and later, a less profitable operation in the Rampart District. She was fiercely independent and had an aggressive reputation when crossed, but she was a quick learner with a strong work ethic that led to a successful stint in her mining career.

Emma or Grace as she was known, was born January 12, 1903 in Seattle, Washington to Vallentine V. and Bonnie G. Lowe. Her father was an upholsterer who worked in a furniture shop. Their children were Helen, Edwin, Grace and Roy. By 1923 Grace was working as a clerk in the King County auditor's office in Seattle and she had attended two years of college. It was not long

before she decided to come to Alaska, showing up in the Fairbanks newspapers in the spring of 1926.

Grace had become part owner of the Black Rapids Roadhouse along the Richardson Highway. Before the summer was out, she had married Ira Warren Morgridge in Fairbanks on July 15, 1926. By fall the marriage had failed, as indicated in an October 1926 Seward hotel listing showing Ira staying at the Van Gilder and Grace staying at the Sexton on the same day. Ira ended up moving back to Cordova. It was at that time that Grace's lifelong best friend, Evelyn Greenway, shows up as part owner of the roadhouse.

Grace spent summers at the roadhouse and winters in Fairbanks working and playing on the women's city basketball team. She was an aggressive player and assisted her team to rack up many victories during the dark cold months of winter. Usually by March each year, Grace would leave Alaska for a visit to Washington or Oregon to see friends and family, returning within a couple of months in time for breakup and all that summer had to offer.



1927-1928 Women's Fairbanks City Champions, Back Row, L-R, Grace Lowe, Unidentified, Josephine Miller; Front Row L-R, Evelyn Greenway, Albina Miller, Grace Clark. Photo Credit: University of Alaska Archives

It was in the late 1920's that Grace and her friend Evelyn set their sights on the mining camp of Livengood, Alaska located within the Tolovana Mining District. They were spending a lot of time there, and Evelyn ended up marrying Sam Godfrey in Seattle in 1932.

In the mid and late twenties, Grace was working on getting mining ground and began staking claims. Apparently, her brother Roy was also in the Livengood district for a few years because he shows up on many of the documents filed by Grace. These mining claim and related legal documents range in years from 1925 to 1950, and show Grace was active in prospecting, staking and often working claims in the Livengood district during those years.

Grace and Evelyn still owned the Black Rapids Roadhouse and Grace would travel there to check on it from time to time. In late May of 1932, she made history when she rode a motorcycle from Fairbanks to the Black Rapids Roadhouse using ferries to cross the major rivers.

A few months later Grace was earning a living in Fairbanks running the Igloo barbershop. Apparently, the barber trade was not to her liking, because she only did that job for a few months. She then set her sights back on Livengood.

In 1934 Grace joined up with Ben Dahl to mine with Chuck Douglas in Douglas's operation on Gertrude Creek in Livengood. According to newspaper reports, she was part owner with Luther Hess on five claims on that creek. One year later in 1935, Dahl and Douglas are out of the picture, and she is listed as mining with Andy Warwick with an open cut operation, and the following season they were major players in the Livengood mining scene.

The following is an excerpt from the Fairbanks Daily News Miner, dated October 8th, 1936:

MINING IS NOT MONOPOLY OF MEN IS PROVEN

"The old belief that mining is strictly a man's game has been rudely shattered by the experience of Miss Grace Lowe of Fairbanks and Livengood.

Always a lover of the outdoors, Miss Lowe became interested in mining a few years ago and now she is in partnership with Andy Warwick, a full-fledged placer mining operation on Gertrude Creek, two miles from Livengood.

Miss Lowe's interest in mining is active. She works in the cut and knows as much about the paystreak, bedrock formation and best way to handle dirt as any veteran. Proof of the pudding is that the mine is a going proposition.

Gertrude Creek, in common with other streams in the Livengood district, is oftentimes short of water and to help out, Miss Lowe and Mr. Warwick bought a caterpillar tractor during the summer. Miss Lowe drove it from Fairbanks to Livengood and frequently operates it at the mine. It has been found to be of great assistance".



Grace Lowe and Frank Bowers in Livengood, with fox pups. Circa 1936 Photo Credit: Tim Robinson.

Grace was making money and in one 1938 newspaper article, it said she had made \$40,000 in one season. That was a lot of money in those days, and it showed in the aviation reports of the newspaper. Grace was commuting by plane between Fairbanks and Livengood much more often than before. Another indicator of her success was that in May 1937 she paid the Territorial gold tax, and since she made an overpayment, the Territorial Legislature awarded her a refund on the excess in the amount \$147.82.

In the summer of 1938 Grace's mining partner Andy Warwick, entered into another partnership with Luther Hess, for a mining operation on Wilbur Creek, also in the Tolovana Mining District. They purchased two new dozers and commenced work. Grace was still running the mining operation on Gertrude Creek. She and Andy were still business partners.

That winter, Grace did take her annual trip to the lower 48 to see friends and family in Oregon and California. While down there she was featured in a couple of magazine and newspaper articles about the novelty of being a female gold miner. One of these articles even had a big photo image of her.

Grace returned to Alaska and was back in Livengood for the 1939 season. She had purchased a brand new 471 pumping unit from Wells Alaska Motors. Right after the new pump was installed, Luther Hess filed a lawsuit against Grace over the five claims they jointly owned on Gertrude Creek in Livengood. They were the same claims that Grace had been actively mining on for the past several years.

According to the newspaper reports, the five claims were owned jointly by Hess and Lowe with Hess having the controlling share. Luther wanted the claims to be partitioned giving Grace her ¼ share, but it was deemed that due to the spotty nature of the paystreak and lack of water, the court deemed there was no way an equitable partition of the ground could be done.

Judge Pratt ordered the ground to be sold and Grace would get a forced buyout of her interest in those claims she had been successfully mining. This ended Grace's operations on Gertrude Creek.

Grace felt betrayed and lashed out at Andy Warwick, her former mining partner. As an act of revenge in 1940, she filed a \$100,000 lawsuit against Warwick for "breach of matrimonial promise", and the case was dismissed by the court. Grace lost again.

During the 1940's Grace began filing claims and owned a few on Amy Creek including Discovery Claim. She also had holdings along Livengood Creek and Livengood Bench. Many of these were staked with her brother Roy Lowe. For the next ten years, the claim records show her staking activities in these areas.

In November 1940 Grace lost a lawsuit over water rights on Amy Creek in the Livengood District that was brought against her by Andy Warwick's brother-in-law Max Miller and Howard Sparks. Once again, she was shut out from mining, but according to later records, it looks like she managed to secure water rights again. She did her assessment work and did some mining on Amy Creek during the 1940's but did not meet with the successes she had in her previous operations on Gertrude Creek.

She tried to get ground on Fish Creek in the Fairbanks District, but was sued for claim jumping by the United States Smelting & Refining and Mining Co. (USSR&M), which operated a large gold dredging fleet in the Fairbanks district. She lost that case as well as further bruising her reputation as a sore loser.

In 1941 She met with Ruth Gruber who was a government agent sent to Fairbanks. Ruth later wrote about meeting Grace in her memoir "Inside Of Time, My Journey From Alaska to Israel." In that book she describes their meeting:

“Women in Fairbanks were doing everything, from owning and running businesses and shops to serving as judges and community leaders. I even met a woman miner, whose name was Grace Lowe. “She’s the boss of her mine at Livengood,” a man told me, “and believe me, she’s the boss all right. She can run the Cat (bulldozer) and the truck. She can cook and do most everything. She came up here in the middle twenties and ran a roadhouse with another woman. Then in the thirties she got her mine and ran it with some helpers. She’s made a lot of money and has properties Outside, too. She’s a real character—intelligent, easy to look at, and has the respect of a lot of us men in town.”

Grace Lowe lived up to her reputation. She was wearing a red sweater and blue denim slacks the day I met her, and she looked like Rosie the Riveter, tough and glamorous at the same time. “It’s hard on some women up here,” she told me. “But I get along fine. It’s just as hard on the sourdoughs. Take this week—it’s been eighty degrees each day, and half of them nearly keeled over from heat prostration.”

Several years later, Grace went to the mining camp of Eureka in the Rampart district, and tried to get back into mining but was never nearly as successful as she had been in Livengood. The financial stress of all that litigation and the frustration of the losses brought out the worst in Grace. She took to drinking heavily and became combative and embittered as she aged.

She sued anyone who got in her way and often lost those battles which further fueled her bitterness. One famous foe was attorney Ted Stevens whom she sued several times in an ongoing dispute over a petty charge of mail fraud

that involved Grace refusing to return a lid to a cooking pot. At that time Ted Stevens was the Federal District Attorney in Fairbanks and Grace went after him with her full fury, much to the dismay of Stevens, later to become a powerful U.S. Senator for Alaska for decades.

In her later years Grace spent more and more time at her home on Rabbit Island in Fairbanks or in California with friends and relatives. In 1975 her house was located within the right of way of the new Steese Expressway that was going to be built. Grace refused the offer from the State for her property, and while she was in the lower 48 recovering from a stroke, the State sent movers in to pack up her belongings and put them in storage. Another loss, for Grace.

She lived out her last years in public housing after losing her home and being physically limited due to the effects of the stroke. She was moved to Denali Center in Fairbanks at the end of her life and quietly passed away there on May 10, 1990.

Today the only thing left of Grace Lowe’s mining career beyond court records and newspaper articles is her D-8 bulldozer. It is sitting quietly right where she last parked it, so long ago that trees are now growing up through it.

In the *Seattle Daily Times* published on November 18, 1938, an article appeared about Grace being a female miner in an industry dominated by men. When asked about her life as a miner Grace was quoted as saying:

“It’s a fascinating , nervous life, and something’s bound to go wrong every day. But if you ever get the ‘mining bug,’ you stick with the game—and like it.”

Over the years many stories abound about Grace Lowe and her legendary antics. While she may not have been what some would call “ladylike,” she still made her mark in Alaska’s mining history just the same.

Written by Joan Skilbred

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More than sixty newspaper articles were researched by Skilbred in writing the biographic sketch of Grace Lowe. Selected sources are referenced below.

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Fairbanks Daily News Miner, December 20, 1927 *"Evelyn Greenway and Grace Lowe Boarding Steamer Alameda"*

Seward Daily Gateway, March 24 1928 *"Grace and Evelyn leave Seattle on the SS Yukon headed for Alaska"*

Fairbanks Daily News Miner April 5th, 1928 *"Grace and Evelyn return to Fairbanks after several weeks in the States"*

Fairbanks Daily News Miner October 13, 1928 *"Town Girls Organize Basketball Squad"*

Fairbanks Daily News Miner September 26, 1929 *"Lady's muskrat coat and orthophonic portable--contact Grace Lowe"*

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Frederick Currier at Fort Independence circa 1899 Credit: Amy June Currier Jorgensen Collection

Frederick James Currier

February 13, 1860-to-November 25, 1935

Although many are familiar with the exploits of Felix Pedro, who is widely credited with the 1902 discovery of gold in what became the Fairbanks Mining district, few are aware that a number of prospectors preceded the famed Italian discoverer in the search for gold in the Tanana River basin. Frederick J. Currier was one of those early Tanana River Basin prospectors. Currier was also one of the first prospectors to mine gold in what became the historic and 'pre-Klondike', Circle Mining district.

Frederick James Currier was born on February 13, 1860 in River Falls, Wisconsin to James Kimball Currier and Florilla Locke Currier. He had two younger sisters, Mary Louise and Lillian, and a brother, Harry. As a youth growing up in Wisconsin, Frederick was always a young man looking for adventure.

Fred loved the outdoors, camping, fishing, and hiking. He was a graduate of River Falls Normal School, majoring in natural sciences. He married Abbie M. Parker of River Falls on June 24, 1885, when he was 25 and she was 22. They had five children: Gladys, Ruth, Donald, Maxwell, and Geneva. The two older children were born in River Falls, and the others were born in Turton, South Dakota, where the family moved to a wheat and stock farm in 1888. In 1893 the family returned to River Falls, leasing the farm in South Dakota, so the older children could be entered in the primary schools and have better educational advantages than were offered in the Dakota Territory.

In March of 1894 Fred J. Currier went by way of the Canadian Pacific Railroad to Vancouver, B.C., intending to go down into Oregon to purchase an apple orchard and then move his family out there. Instead, he met two miners in a hotel in Victoria who were about to depart on a trip into the interior of Alaska to seek gold. They showed Fred J. gold nuggets and invited him to accompany them. Fred accepted, forgetting the apple orchard idea.

Fred teamed up with five other men to form a partnership for their trip to Alaska. They traveled by ship up the Inside Passage of Southeast Alaska. They stopped in Juneau to purchase clothing, food and mining gear. They proceeded on further north and landed at Dyea. From there, the party hiked up through Chilkoot Pass and down to the chain of lakes on the north side.

The party began the trip with 800 pounds of supplies for the party of six. People coming north a few years later were required to have 1,000 pounds of gear per person before being granted permission to ascend the pass. Currier's party came before such regulations were in place. The group built a raft and began floating downriver to the 40 Mile country. The raft promptly hit a rock and they lost half their gear. Despite this loss, their spirits remained high, a trait which would characterize Currier and his various mining partners over the next ten years.

The group developed a well-organized plan for making camp at the end of each day on the river. Two men were responsible for gathering firewood. Another pair set up their tent and gathered spruce boughs for a “mattress.” The final pair served as cooks. Utilizing this system, the team completed all the necessary tasks with maximum efficiency.

The crew stopped to build boats, which would result in safer and faster travel on the river. At this time, Currier learned the joys of whip-sawing lumber from full trees. They built two boats, each of which was 32 feet long with a five-foot beam. They traversed the infamous Five Finger Rapids on the Yukon with no problem.

The party eventually arrived at 40 Mile, after 42 days on the trail from Juneau. They spent most of the summer of 1894 in the 40 Mile working for the owner of a local trading post. Their work consisted mostly of turning trees into lumber and lumber into cabins. (*editors note—Currier met AMHF inductee Bridget Aylward and her husband Edward at Fort Cudahy*).

They learned of a big strike on Mastodon Creek downriver, west/southwest of Circle and purchased a claim on Mastodon Creek.

At the end of the summer, the group split up to pursue their personal goals. Two men stayed with Currier. They built a scow (18 feet long, with a beam of eight feet and three-foot sides) and launched for Circle. The trip nearly ended in disaster, as the river began to freeze around their boat. After eight days on the river, they landed nine miles above Circle, just as the Yukon turned into a river of ice.

The crew built a cache to protect their gear and hiked into Circle, which was a boom town with more than 100 cabins. They built a cabin, where they would spend the winter of 1894-95. Many of the men in camp played a musical instrument and the Currier cabin became a nightly gathering place for dances and card games.

Like most men new to the country, Currier loved the Northern Lights but had difficulty adjusting to the long nights. Christmas festivities included dog races, human races, wrestling, shooting, a feast and a dance.

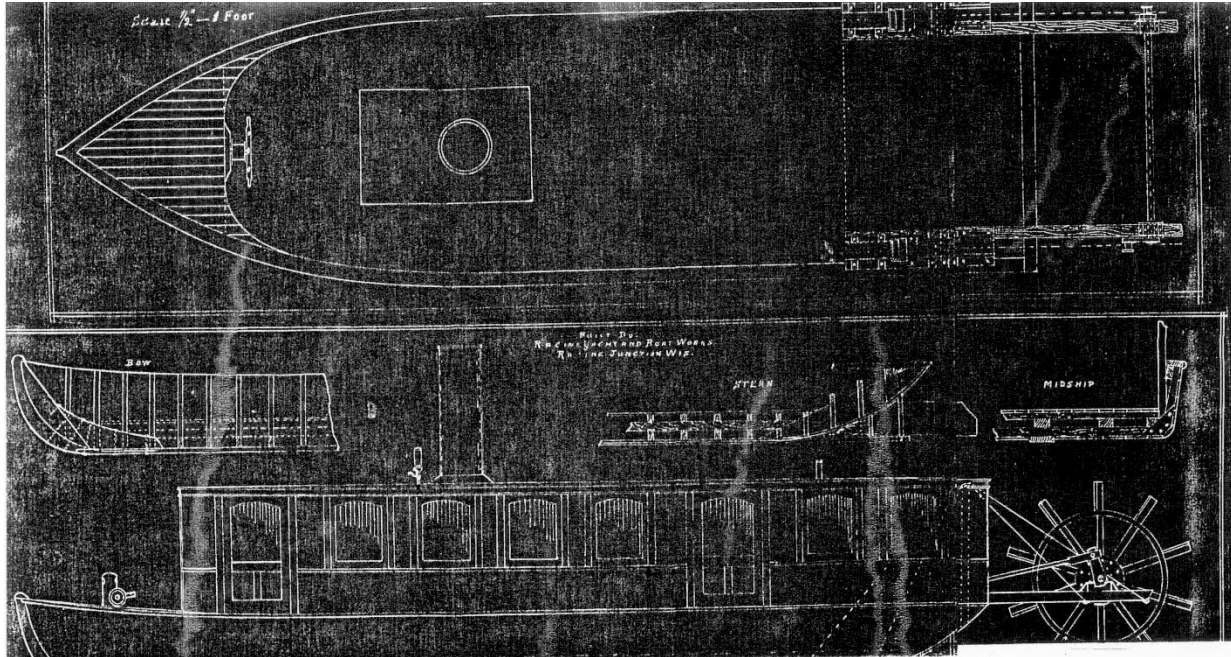
A dark and serious event occurred that winter. Food and other items were stolen from at least two caches, including one cache belonging to local Natives. The miners called a community-wide meeting to address the problem. The incident was handled as formally and officially as possible, given their remote location and lack of an organized government. In the end, the culprit was ordered to leave the community with no food or equipment. In reality, it was a death sentence.

The local Indian chief died that winter, and Currier was able to witness the selection of a new chief. Currier was intrigued by the gift-giving process woven into the fabric of a Native potlatch. He also hunted moose with the local Natives. Currier took a moose and five wolves.

In the spring of 1895, the Currier crew moved out to their claim on Mastodon Creek. The claim was two miles above the tree line. All wood needed for building and for fires had to be hauled that distance. Because they were just getting started, the party had no extra cash to buy equipment or hire workers. All that wood was carried by Fred and the team.



Currier prospecting above timberline in East-Central Alaska undated Credit: R. Zarnke



Blueprint of the small 40 foot long riverboat steamer *Potlatch* contracted out and built for Currier for his second Alaskan adventure beginning in 1898 Credit: Randy Zarnke

Water is necessary for any placer mine. The partners learned early on that it was wise to build a dam to hold back water in the spring. They didn't need the water at that time but couldn't be sure that the creek would still be flowing later in the summer when they would need it.

In mid-summer, they heard a report of a big strike on the Porcupine River, a tributary of the Yukon. They dropped what they were doing and rushed off with half the men on the creek in hopes of staking a rich claim. The initial report turned out to be a fabrication. It was another lesson learned for Currier.

During the winter of 1895-96, the party drift-mined their Mastodon claim. It was one way of remaining productive during the cold months, but it was also back-breaking work. The Currier group had an opportunity to sell their claim in 1896 and accepted the offer. This development gave Currier a chance to pursue another idea which had been brewing in his head. He dreamt of exploring for gold prospects on the Tanana River drainage.

After returning home to Wisconsin, Fred contracted to have a small sternwheeler (40 feet, with a 50-horsepower boiler) built, which he named the *Potlatch* (see above). In the spring of 1898, the boat was shipped by rail to Seattle and then on a large boat to Unalaska. Fred also recruited a new team of partners.

At the very beginning of their trip up the Yukon River, the *Potlatch* was joined by another mining crew aboard the *Tanana Chief*. The two parties loosely agreed to work together. After a long trip up the Yukon and Tanana Rivers, they entered the Chena River. Their boat was not ideally suited for a trip to the headwaters, so they "parked" the *Potlatch* in a side slough, and began ferrying equipment and supplies upriver.

Half the team would hike approximately ten miles upriver and stop to build a crude cabin. It generally took them three days to complete the structure. The other half of the party would begin carrying supplies up to the cabin. The construction crew would then walk another ten miles and the process would be repeated.

The team eventually reached what we now call the Middle (or East) Fork of the Chena, where they decided to look for gold. At this point, they built a larger (more permanent) cabin, which they named Fort Independence. We assume the name arose because the gold they hoped to find would give members of the party their financial independence. Another group of miners aboard the *Jennie M* joined up with the crew of the *Potlatch* and over-wintered on the Middle Fork.



'Fort Independence' in 1898 on the East Fork, Chena River, where Currier's prospecting team was based. Photo credit: Amy June Currier Jorgensen Collection



Currier with his faithful pack dog Bella, circa 1898 Photo Credit: Amy June Currier Jorgensen Collection

During their first season of mining on the upper Chena, the party broke into groups of two men and each prospected a different area. After determining the best area, they teamed back up and worked together. The group was included in the 1900 national census, which suggests that census workers in Alaska were a tad more dedicated than those in the Lower 48.

In 1900, the miners received word of a big strike in Nome. They decided to abandon their claims on the Chena River and head to the Seward Peninsula. When they got back down to the *Potlatch*, beavers had dammed up the slough where their boat had been left. They worked for days trying to gain it's freedom but eventually gave up and left aboard the *Jennie M*. Unfortunately, Currier arrived in Nome too late to secure a productive claim.

Never deterred, Currier went upriver to Dawson for the winter of 1900-01. He landed a job as a mine manager. He learned a new technique of using steam points to thaw frozen ground. The mine owner was curious to see the area between Circle and the Chena River, where Currier had mined previously. They bought horses and spent three months there. When the two men returned to Dawson, Currier was once again put in charge of a large mining crew, this time on Dominion Creek. The area was thriving. Unfortunately, Currier's crew felt that their services were being under-compensated. They threatened to strike unless they were given a raise. Currier and the mine owner struggled with the situation, but eventually decided to fire the entire crew and hire new men.

In the autumn of 1903, Currier returned to his home in Wisconsin. In 1904, Fred moved his family to the Santa Clara Valley of California, settling in Saratoga where he purchased a prune orchard. Currier's North Country prospecting days were over. Fred's first wife, Abbie, died in 1908. In 1918, Fred married Jennie (Jean) B. Smith of Saratoga.

Fred and Jennie honeymooned in various California beauty spots for six months. Fred then accepted a position as manager of the California Prune and Apricot Growers packing house in Red Bluff, California. He had sold his prune orchard in the Santa Clara Valley before his second marriage. A daughter, Amy June, was born to Jean and Fred on June 11, 1920.

In 1929 the Currier family returned to Saratoga

and built a beautiful home on a five-acre wooded estate which they called "Brookbanks" because Saratoga Creek ran through the property. They also purchased a prune orchard adjoining the property and Fred went back to ranching for the next six years, until his death on November 25, 1935. His death was the result of a blood clot in the pulmonary artery of the heart after abdominal surgery. He was 75 years old when he died. He is interred in Madronia Cemetery, Saratoga.

Written by Randy Zarnke

Editors note: Zarnke has written the book: *An Alaskan Adventure, A Story of Finding Gold in the Far North from 1893-1903* from which this biographical sketch is largely derived. It is available for purchase from the Alaska Trappers Association.



Arrival of Potlatch Party, and two of the Tanana Chief's party at the camp Currier called #10, where they built Fort Independence on the Middle Fork, Chena River. Currier is at the top center of the photo. Currier's dog Bella is carrying a pack on the far right. Everyone is protected in mosquito nets. Photo Credit: Amy June Currier Jorgensen.



Bridget Aylward undated. Photo Credit: Leslie Thomas

Bridget Mannion Aylward (1865-1958)

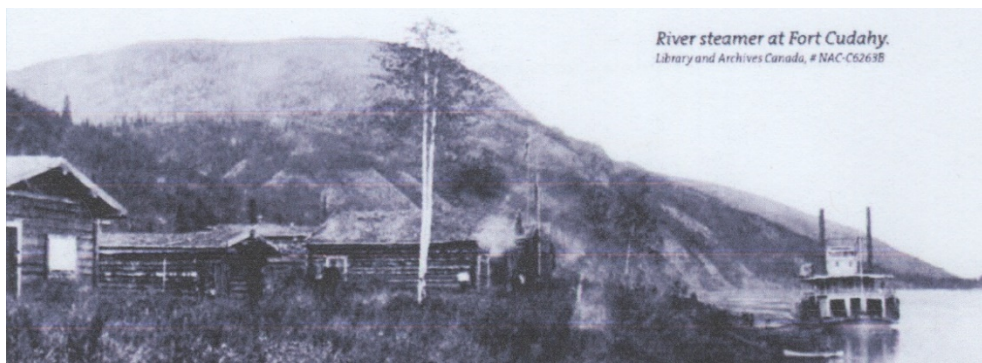
At the age of 21, Bridget Mannion emigrated from her home in Turlough, Ros Muc, County Galway, Ireland in 1886 to seek a better life for herself. She first settled in St. Paul, Minnesota, where she worked as a domestic at the Merchants Hotel. In 1889, Bridget moved to Seattle, Washington, where she became a servant and cook for the James Street residence

of Henry L. Yesler, a prominent entrepreneur and a founder of the City of Seattle. ^(1, 2, 11, 12)

During a dinner in 1891, where Briget was working as a cook, Captain John J. Healy (also from Ireland) persuaded Chicago businessman Portus B. Weare to invest and partner in a new trading post and shipping company in the 40 Mile Mining District of eastern Interior Alaska. In March, 1892, the North American Transportation and Trading Company was launched⁽³⁾.

At this same dinner, Bridget persuaded Healy to let her accompany him and his wife Belle to the 40-Mile district to work as a servent for them. In July of 1892, the Healys and Bridget, along with other helpers, left Seattle on the *Blanchard* for St. Michael at the mouth of the Yukon River. The *Blanchard* contained supplies and an unassembled steamboat, named the *P. B. Weare* after its financier. The 175-foot-long steamboat would be assembled at St. Michael to continue the journey along the Yukon River to the mouth of the Forty Mile River in Yukon, Canada⁽⁴⁾.

Unfortunately, by the time the group finished building the *P. B. Weare* in September, 1892, ice had begun to form on the Yukon River and the group was forced to winter in Nulato on the lower Yukon River. Once the ice breakup was completed, the group departed Nulato in the early summer of 1893 and arrived at the mouth of the Fortymile River later in the summer of 1893. There they established Fort Cudahy across the Yukon River on its' eastern bank.



River steamer, Fort Cudahy on east bank, Yukon River undated: Credit: Library and Archives Canada

Bridget Mannion and Belle Healy became the first non-native American women on that part of the Yukon River. Fort Cudahy consisted of the company trading post and warehouses along the Yukon River near the confluence with the Forty Mile River. The fort also had a sawmill, reading room, billiard hall, and small log cabins⁽⁵⁾.

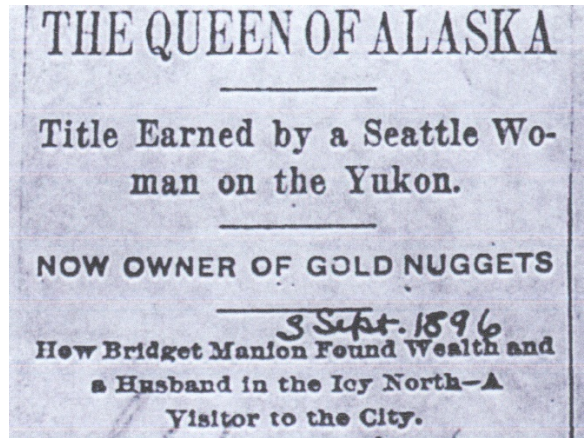
Bridget worked for the Healys at Fort Cudahy until early 1894 and had amassed her own small fortune. After receiving a reported 150 marriage proposals in one year, Edward Aylward (1853-1914), a successful prospector with an Irish brogue, won her heart. They were married on Easter Sunday in 1894 on the Fortymile River. Their marriage was the first non-native American marriage in the region (*note from editor—AMHF inductees and Yukon River traders Jack McQuesten and Al Mayo were white traders that married native women Margaret Mayo and Kate McQuesten on the Yukon, previous to the Aylward marriage. Both traders succeeded as river traders in large part because of the competence and know-how of their indigenous wives*).

Fr. Judge was the missionary priest and used a large tent for a church with logs for seating. Shortly after their wedding, Bridget and Edward went to Napoleon Creek in Alaska to begin their mining careers^(1, 2, 10, 14).

Frederick Currier, Wisconsin-born journalist and adventurer (see his biography in this newsletter) met Bridget and Edward at Fort Cudahy and took part in their wedding celebration. Currier noted:

*"Bridget was the belle of the camp....
Bridget put on her overalls and took her place with her husband at the sluice box"
(4, 13).*

Bridget became part of the fabric of the Forty Mile Mining District, working side-by-side with her husband, Edward while mining on Napoleon Creek. She was dubbed the "Queen of Alaska" due to her strong work ethic and kindness.



**From the Seattle Star September 3, 1896
Headlining Bridget Mannion Aylward as "The
Queen of Alaska".**

Prospectors entering the country were often short on supplies and work was non-existent during summer months. They always found a welcome hand at Napoleon Creek/Napoleon Gulch. A common remembrance was stated:

"Many a man owes Mrs. Aylward a debt of gratitude for having cheered his darkest hours⁽⁶⁾."

Bridget mined for gold on Napoleon Creek for five years until the end of the 1898 season. They were very successful gold miners and confident that they had enough gold to last a lifetime. Bridget and Edward Aylward left Alaska and retired to a home in Seattle's Capital Hill district. During the 1909 Alaska Yukon Pacific Exposition, which was Seattle's first 'World Fair', Bridget was officially crowned "Queen of Alaska". She became a member of the Yukon Order of Pioneers. Edward died March 29, 1914 and is buried in Seattle's Calvary Cemetery^(7, 10).

In 1948, Bridgett left Seattle and returned to her beloved Turlough, Ros Muc, Ireland. She died there on January 7, 1958 a month before her 93rd birthday. In her will, Bridgett requested that a trust be established to educate the children of Ros Muc, using proceeds from the gold she and Edward mined at Napoleon Creek in east central Alaska.

Since that time, the Bridget Aylward Trust Fund has benefitted many students. It remains active, funding education at Cola'iste na bPiarsach, Ros Muc (the secondary school in Ros Muc) to this day⁽⁸⁾.

During a genealogy conference at the Patrick Pearce Cultural Centre in Ros Muc in October, 2022, Peter Mannion, Leslie Thomas, and Bridie Ui Chona'mha provided a presentaion about Bridget. It included a special gift for the Ros Muc community from Judd and Gail Edgerton, current owners of the Napoleon Creek mining claims. After hearing about Bridget's story, and the Bridget Aylward Trust Fund for education, the Edgertons were moved to contribute several items, inlcuding a small vial of gold nuggets from their mine. Gail's grandmother was an Alaska territorial teacher. Gail wrote a fascinating essay about their 30+ years mining on Napoleon Creek, which was read at the event to an appreciative crowd.

The Edgerton gifts were presented to Principal Eoin O' Mainin and students of Cola'iste na pPiarscah, in Ros Muc to the background music of

Johnny Horton's 'North to Alaska', and are now showcased at the school.

During conference week, both the Irish Flag and the Alaska State Flag were displayed in front of the school, which is situated on a main road through the town.

In 2016, on what would have been her 101st birthday, Cola'iste na pPiarsach honored Bridget by erecting a headstone on her final resting place in Turlough, Ros Muc, beside her mother's grave.

The school and community held a dedication ceremony to honor her life and legacy⁽¹³⁾. While Bridget's beginnings may have been humble, her hard work, advenferous spirit and kind heart enabled her to live a remakrkable life with a meaningful and lasting impact.

Bridget's legacy from her gold mining days on Napoleon Creek and the Fortymile Mining district in Alaska is still providing educational opportunities for children in her home town of Ros Muc, County Galway, Ireland. Long after Bridget and Edward laid down their picks and shovels in the goldfields of Alaska, their mining actions are being felt to this day.

Written by Leslie Thomas

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- 1--From Galway to the Goldrush by Caroline McCall, for the Irish Club of Seattle: <https://www.yumpu.com/endocument/view/11415880/from-galway-tothe-gold-rush-irish-heritage-club-of-seattle>
- 2—Gold Rush Women—January 1, 2012 by Claire Rudolph Murphy and Jane Haigh (authors). Bridget Aylward is featured in this book.
- 3— <http://npshistory.com/publications/yuch/golden-places/chap2.htm>
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7—Seattle Times Sept 3, 1896 in John Kaene’s packet (Honorarary Consul of Ireland in Seattle) and interview with Bridget’s relative

8—Eoin O’ Mainin, Priomhoide, Cola’iste na bPiarsach, Ros Muc and Bridie Ui Chona’mha

9—Peter Mannion interview with Bridget’s relative Marilyn Smith

10 <https://pubs.usgs.gov/bul/2125/report.pdf> Note: Aylward mining claim is noted on page 40 of this publication: Yeend, Warren E., 1996-Gold placers of the historic forty-mile river region, Alaska by Warren Yeend p. cm. —(U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin 2125)

11—Bridget’s immigration record from Peter Mannion File/Ancestry, Passenger immigration database

12—Bridget’s St. Paul employment from Leslie Thomas File/Ancestry, St. Paul City Directories

13--Link to the Bridget Aylward dedication ceremony in Ros Muc, February 2016:<https://www.seanomainin.com/p816742814>

14—The Bridget Mannion Aylward “Queen of Alaska” Facebook Page:
<https://www.facebook.com/people/Bridget-Aylward-Queen-of-Alaska/100064126478301/>

15—Will of Bridget Aylward, National Archives of Ireland, 6th March 1956.



In 2016, students march in procession led by piper Gerry Broderick to Bridget’s gravesite, carrying both the Irish and the Alaskan Flags Photo Credit: Sean O’ Mainnin



Fr. Michael Brennon blesses Bridget’s grave at the 2016 dedication ceremony Photo Credit: Sean O’ Mainnin

Distinguished Alaskans Aid Foundation as '98ers

The Alaska Mining Hall of Fame Foundation was incorporated as an Alaskan non-profit corporation on April 27, 1997. The Foundation was organized exclusively for educational and charitable purposes, including donations to organizations that are tax exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the federal tax code. On September 17, 2003, the IRS confirmed the 501(c)(3) status of AMHF, and further categorized the organization under codes 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(6).

The foundation is a non-membership corporation that depends on services provided by its officers and directors, others interested in Alaskan mining, and on donations and grants.

The Foundation is especially indebted to thirty-two (32) individuals and organization that have contributed at least \$1,000 to become 98ers, in honor of the first stampeders to Alaska in 1898 at Nome.

The 98ers

Dr. Earl H. Beistline (d)	John Mulligan (d)
Cheryl Bradley	Patrick H. O'Neill (d)
Thomas K. Bundtzen	Jeanne Ostnes
David and Patricia Carnes	Larry and Darlene Peterson
Glen Chambers (d)	Elmer E. Rasmuson (d)
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Karen Erickson	Margaret Cox Rich
Wendell Hammon Jr.	William Stroecker (d)
Dr. Charles C. Hawley (d)	Taiga Mining Company
Dr. Walter Johnson	Teck Alaska Resources
Lyndon Transport	Dr. Robert H. Trent (d)
June and Norm McAtee	Mitch Usibelli
Wallace McGregor	Joe Usibelli, Sr.(d)
Neil McKinnon	Candy Waugaman (d)
Tom Mein	Dr. William Wood (d)
James Moody (d)	Dr. Kenneth L. Zonge

(d=deceased)

Most of the 98ers are recognizable as miners of national or international reputation. The late William R. Wood was President, Emeritus, of the University of Alaska. Dr. Wood suggested the organization of the Foundation. The late Elmer E. Rasmuson was an Alaska banker and benefactor, long interested in Alaska natural resource history.

The Foundation is seeking more ninety more 98ers, but it welcomes contributions at every level. For further information contact:

Karl Hanneman
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