WEBSITES OF INTEREST TO RESEARCHERS OF JUNEAU & ALASKA HISTORY

The following are recommended on-line resources that may prove useful for your research needs. Included are sites that are local to the Juneau-Douglas area as well as others which cover a broader swath of material – statewide, national and international. Given Alaska’s long period before Statehood as well as the tremendous variety of places of origin and travel of folks who landed at one time or another in Juneau or Alaska, these sites are all places to find the information needed to uncover or discover the stories.

JUNEAU & ALASKA SITES

http://dnr.alaska.gov/ssd/recoff/about.cfm

The Alaska Department of Natural Resources’ Recorder’s Office oversees 34 recording districts that record, index, and archive all of the documents that create the Official Public Record of the State of Alaska. Approximately 1,000 new documents are recorded and added to the record each day. Millions of documents have been recorded in the official records since prior to statehood. All official records are public information and may be viewed by, or copied for anyone. The public can find documents by accessing the statewide recording system database at any DNR recording office throughout the state (Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, Palmer, Kenai, Ketchikan, Sitka, Bethel, Homer, Valdez and Kodiak), or on the Internet.

http://vilda.alaska.edu/

Alaska’s Digital Archives purpose is to provide a single easy to use location for institutions across this state to share their historical resources. Their goal is to support the instructional and research needs of Alaskans and others interested in Alaska history and culture.

http://library.alaska.gov/hist/hist_docs/indexes/Index_to%20Alaska_Free_Press.pdf

The Alaska Free Press Index provides a great resource for locating information about the Natives, early pioneers, births, marriages, deaths, businesses, housing, passenger lists, mining, court proceedings, many topic articles, etc. from January 19, 1887 through March 21, 1891.

http://alaskaweb.org/srchltndx.html

Alaska Searchlight Index was created from a handwritten card file of names which include companies and business names. Seven issues were discovered and microfilmed during the Alaska Newspaper Project (1992-1998) that were not included in this index. Approximately thirteen issues are believed to be still missing.

http://archives.alaska.gov/

The Alaska State Archives preserves more than 30,000 cubic feet of State and territorial records. The bulk of the State Archives’ holdings are State records (1959-present) that document the work of State agencies (Office of the Governor, Department of Fish & Game, Department of Natural Resources, etc.), as well as the Alaska State Legislature and State Court System. The State Archives also holds select territorial records (1867-1959), with the largest holdings consisting of Territorial Court records, Governors’ correspondence, and land records from the Recorders Office.


Digital Betty is a collection of Vital Records dating 1898 - 1936 from Juneau and Douglas, Alaska. Local genealogist Betty Miller spent fifteen years combing through local newspapers, mainly the Alaska Daily Empire, to compile these lists and organize them into 6 volumes, which are organized both alphabetically and chronologically.


Digital Bob is a searchable archive containing articles by Robert DeArmond, one of Juneau’s preeminent historians, on the history of the Gastineau Channel area. Digital Bob is comprised of three principle series Days of Yore, Gastineau ByGones, and News of the Gold Camp. These columns were published in The Juneau Empire, and Rudy Ripley’s local television guide, Info Juneau. Days of Yore was published in Info Juneau as a weekly column from 1985-1991. Gastineau ByGones was a weekly column that was published in the Empire mid-1978-1981 (Southeast Alaska Empire (’78-’80) and Juneau Empire (’80-81). News of the Mine Camp was published daily in the Juneau Empire celebrating Juneau’s 100th birthday in 1980.
Digitized Index Cards from Captain "Kinky" Bayers Collection contain Kinky Bayer’s colorfully annotated references to historical and current events in Alaska towns. Some examples of topics are: Aboriginal rights claims, Canadian versus American duties, building construction, accident reports, biographical information, geographical and cultural landmarks. Specific dates of events are given, as well as information sources.

Gastineau Channel Memories was published in 2001 and is now out of print. This site presents the web version of Gastineau Channel Memories 1880-1959, the first of three volumes on local history, prepared under the direction of the Pioneer Book Committee. Volume II, still in print, was issued in 2004 and Volume III in 2008. These are available in hard copy at a number of libraries including UAS, the State and the Juneau Public Library.

Historic Preservation in Juneau, a project of the Juneau Community Development Department, this site includes surveys and inventories of Juneau’s buildings and historic neighborhoods, and is searchable in a variety of ways including maps, year built, historic use and architect/contractor to name a few.

Juneau Community Development Department Maps and Drawings Page includes both contemporary and historic materials of the various geographic areas of Juneau and Douglas, including a plot survey of Evergreen Cemetery.

Juneau-Douglas City Museum Virtual Exhibits and Collections is an online database of the Museum’s permanent collection which includes objects, photographs, archives, the education collection and the reference collection. The database can be browsed or searched using keywords.

Juneau Trails Project is a product of Discovery Southeast– a Juneau-based natural history education group–who studied, mapped and interpreted 10 trail networks between Berners Bay and Douglas. Each trail description begins with bedrock geology, then the surficial deposits of glaciers, seas, streams, etc. followed by descriptions of the plant communities distinctive to each geologic landform, and the fish and wildlife that respond to those vegetation types. Finally, there is information about human industry, habitation, recreation, and conservation in the areas.

Sealaska Heritage Institute houses rare books, historical photographs, audiovisual recordings, manuscript materials, and ethnographic objects that document the history, culture, heritage, art, and language of the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian people of the Northwest Coast. SHI makes these materials available to the public for educational and research purposes. This site allows users to search their archival catalog, their book collection and digital scans of a portion of their collection of photographs, artifacts and manuscripts. They also provide links to sites for Southeast Alaska Native Genealogy research.

SLED, the Statewide Library Electronic Doorway, is an easy-to-use website that connects people to library, government, local community, and Internet information resources. Connections to new information resources are constantly being added to SLED.
NATIONAL SITES

http://cdnc.ucr.edu/cgi-bin/cdnc

The California Digital Newspaper Collection is a project of the Center for Bibliographical Studies and Research (CBSR) at the University of California, Riverside and is a freely accessible repository of digitized California newspapers from 1846 to the present.

California Digital Newspaper Collection – Alaska X Files is a storage spot on this internet archive where local historian Jim Geraghty tags articles of particular relevance to Alaska history at:
http://cdnc.ucr.edu/cgi-bin/cdnc?a=cl&cl=Tags.X&c=--------en--20--121--txt-txIN-------

http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/

Chronicling America is a website providing access to information about historic newspapers and select digitized newspaper pages, and is produced by the National Digital Newspaper Program (NDNP). NDNP, a partnership between the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the Library of Congress (LC), is a long-term effort to develop an Internet-based, searchable database of U.S. newspapers with descriptive information and select digitization of historic pages. Supported by NEH, this rich digital resource will be developed and permanently maintained at the Library of Congress. An NEH award program will fund the contribution of content from, eventually, all U.S. states and territories.

http://www.genealogybank.com

Genealogy Bank is an online genealogical resource from NewsBank, Inc. Featuring a wealth of material including modern obituaries and historical newspapers, books, pamphlets, military records, government documents and more, Genealogy Bank helps you discover fascinating information about your family history.

http://www.loc.gov/maps/

The Library of Congress is the nation's oldest federal cultural institution and serves as the research arm of Congress. It is also the largest library in the world, with millions of books, recordings, photographs, maps and manuscripts in its collections. The Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps found here are a useful resource for historical research, planning, preservation, genealogical research, sociological studies and research of urban geography.

http://www.archives.gov/

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) is the nation's record keeper. Of all documents and materials created in the course of business conducted by the United States Federal government, only 1%-3% are so important for legal or historical reasons that they are kept by them forever. These valuable records are preserved and are available, whether you want to see if they contain clues about your family’s history, need to prove a veteran’s military service, or are researching an historical topic of interest.

http://www.oac.cdlib.org/

The Online Archive of California (OAC) is a website that provides free public access to detailed descriptions of primary source collections (artwork, manuscripts, papers, historic photographs, and so on) maintained by more than 200 libraries, special collections, archives, historical societies, and museums throughout California — including collections maintained by the 10 University of California (UC) campuses.

http://digitalcollections.lib.washington.edu/

The University of Washington Libraries’ site features materials such as photographs, maps, newspapers, posters, reports and other media from the University of Washington Libraries, University of Washington Faculty and Departments, and organizations that have participated in partner projects with the UW Libraries. The collections emphasize rare and unique materials.
CANADIAN SITES

http://royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/search-archives/
The British Columbia Archives provides research access to records of enduring value to the province for both the provincial government and public researchers. Users can search fonds descriptions, textual records, visual records, moving image records, sound recordings, cartographic records, library, web pages and combined genealogy indexes which include births (1854-1903), marriages (1872-1938), deaths (1872-1993), colonial marriages (1859-1872) and baptisms (1836-1888).

http://www.britishcolonist.ca/
The British Colonist was first published in Victoria on December 11, 1858, and it became the leading paper in the colonies of Vancouver Island and British Columbia until the emergence of competitors in the 1890s. From the discoveries of gold and outbreaks of war, to mundane shipping news and advertisements for insomnia cures, much of the history of British Columbia and its people exists only in the pages of this publication. This website contains all the issues of the British Colonist (also called The Daily British Colonist, the Daily Colonist, and other variants) from its first issue to December 1920.

Public Record Office Victoria holds records created by Victorian Government departments and authorities including the State’s courts, local councils, schools, public hospitals and other public offices. These date from the establishment of the Port Phillip District in the mid-1830s right through to today and include information relating to areas of activity managed or regulated by government such as the administration of justice, immigration, health and welfare, land, education, Indigenous communities, planning, transport, and resource management.

http://www.tc.gov.yk.ca/archives.html
The Yukon Archives acquires, preserves, and provides access to the Yukon's documentary heritage. Photocopy, map and photograph reproduction services are available. The Archives can also order reference material for patrons from other institutions through inter-library loan. If you are unable to visit the Archives in person, reference assistance is available through correspondence.

INTERNATIONAL SITES

http://www.ancestry.com/
Ancestry bills itself as the world's largest online family history resource where you can find your family in millions of family trees and more than 14 billion birth, marriage, death, census, and military records, start a free online family tree and let them do the searching for you and/or share your family tree and discoveries with friends and relatives. There is a subscription fee for this service, after a free 14-day trial. Note: The Juneau Public Library has a subscription to Ancestry which is accessed from when at a library branch (must use the library’s network).

https://books.google.com/
Goggle Books allows you to search the latest index of the world's books. You will find millions of great books you can preview or read for free.

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