

Alaska Native History and Cultures Timeline

1741 and before

- 1648 Russian Semeon Dezhnev sails through Bering Strait and lands in the Diomedede Islands. Russians in Siberia are aware of trade between Alaska, Chukchi, and Asiatic Eskimos.
- 1732 Russians M.S. Gvozdev and Ivan Fedorov in the Sv. Gabriel venture north from the Kamchatka Peninsula. Expedition members go ashore on Little Diomedede Island and later sight the North America mainland at Cape Prince of Wales and King Island. Contacts with Natives are recorded.
- 1732- Russian expedition under Mikhail Gvozdev sights or lands on Alaska

1741 to 1867

- 1741 Vitus Bering, captain of the Russian vessel the St. Peter, sends men ashore on Kayak Island near today's Cordova. Naturalist Georg Steller and Lt. Khitrovo collect ethnographic items during the time they spend on the island. This is generally accepted as the European discovery of Alaska because of the records and charts kept during the voyage. A month later, Bering makes contact with Native people near the Shumagin Islands.
- 1741 Several days before Bering saw land, Alexei Chirikov, captain of the St. Paul that had been separated from Bering's vessel the St. Peter in a storm, sights land in Southeast Alaska. He sends two parties ashore, neither of which return. One day Natives in a canoe come from shore toward the ship, but no contact is made. With supplies low and the season growing late, the St. Paul heads back to Kamchatka. At Adak Island in the Aleutian Islands, Chirikov trades with Aleut men. According to oral tradition, the Tlingit of Southeast Alaska accepted the men into their community.
- 1743 A Russian expedition departs from Kamchatka to trade for sea mammal furs with Native people in the Commander Islands. In 1747 fur traders reach the Near Islands in the Aleutians, and by 1759 are trading with Natives on Umnak and Unalaska islands in the Eastern Aleutians.
- 1743- Russian hunters begin hunting in Aleutians
- 1759- August 1: First Russian party under Stepan Glotov spends three years trading on Umnak and Unalaska. [Unalaska Arts and Historical Society: 1976]
- 1763 Reacting to trespass of their territory, Unangan/Eastern Aleuts destroy four Russian vessels at Unalaska, Umnak and Unimak islands and only 12 survive of the more than 200 men. The Russians retaliate and kill more than 200 Unangan/Aleuts and destroy their boats, weapons, and tools.

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- 1763-1766 Conflict between Russian fur hunters and Unalaska Natives in which Unangan (Aleuts) destroy four Russian ships and kill 175 hunters. Solov'ev returns to Unalaska and directs massacre of many Natives.
- 1764 Russian skipper Stepan Glotov and his crew winters on Kodiak Island. They repel several organized attacks on the camp. Glotov records information on Kodiak Islanders' war tactics and weapons.
- 1767 Russian Afanasii Ocheredin and Aleuts of Umnak Island attack and destroy villages in the Islands of the Four Mountains in the Aleutians.
- 1768 Russian Navy Captain Levashov winters at Unalaska, adopts two Aleut boys, and does watercolors showing Unangan/Eastern Aleut's tools and weapons, clothing, and houses.
- 1769- Captain M.D. Levashov winters in Unalaska at Amugaġ which became known as "Captain's Bay". [Bergsland: 1994: 69]
- 1770 Russian fur traders working for Pavel Lebedev-Lastochkin build a warehouse at Unalaska in the Aleutian Islands. Although not occupied permanently, the building indicates a sustained Russian presence in Alaska.
- 1772-1775 Permanent Russian settlement established at Unalaska [lluulaġ [Bergsland: 1994: 603]] by Solov'ev. [Partnow]
- 1774 Learning of Russian activity in the North Pacific, Spanish authorities order Juan Perez and Estéban Martinez to sail north from Mexico along the Pacific coast. They reach Prince of Wales Island in Southeast Alaska. The Spanish are interested in protecting, perhaps extending, their North American empire. The Spanish send expeditions to the North Pacific over the next 15 years. They record information about Native people and collect artifacts, particularly from Southeast and Southcentral coastal areas.
- 1776 Captain James Cook leaves Great Britain on his third major expedition for the North Pacific. He maps much of the southern coast of Alaska in 1778. His crew trades for sea otter pelts with Alaska Natives and sell the furs at Canton, China, on their journey home in 1779. A British fur trader leaves Canton for Southeast Alaska waters several years later. John Webber, the expedition's artist, depicts Native people, dress, housing, tools, boats, geography, and resources of the North Pacific.
- 1778 October: Captain Cook visits English Bay [Samgan Udaa [Bergsland: 1994:603]]. [Unalaska Arts and Historical Society: 1976]
- 1784 Russian fur trader Gregorii Shelikhov establishes a trading post at Three Saints Bay on Kodiak Island. The Russians attack men, women and children at Refuge

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- Rock on Sitkalidak Island, the AWA'UQ, and destroy several villages on Shuyak Island.
- 1786 Russian fur trader Gavriil Prilbylov finds the islands in the Bering Sea that bear his name. Russians took Unangan/Aleuts to the islands to hunt the Northern Fur Seals that breed there, and later moved families to the islands to live permanently.
- 1788- Spain claims Unalaska [Iluulaġ [Bergsland: 1994: 603]] and names it "Puerto de Dona Maria Luisa Teresa." [Unalaska Arts and Historical Society: 1976]
- 1778-1850 Ivan Pankov (born in 1778), Unangan (Aleut) leader of Tigaldaġ Island, develops the Unangaġ (Aleut) orthography with Father John Veniaminov (later glorified (the Orthodox equivalent of canonized) St. Innocent) and translates part of the Bible into Unangaġ. The Unangaġ (Aleut) Russian Orthodox Catechism is the first book written in a Native language of Alaska.
- 1794 First Russian Orthodox missionaries arrive at Kodiak from Russia to provide religious instruction to Native people.
- 1795 The monk Makarius baptizes many residents of Unalaska Island. [Unalaska Arts and Historical Society: 1976]
- 1796 Orthodox Hieromonk Makarii leaves Unalaska with six Unangan/Aleuts for St. Petersburg to protest Russian treatment of Native people. The tsar met with the two Natives who reach St. Petersburg and Makarii, but nothing comes of the meeting. The three men die returning to Alaska.
- 1796-1799 The Russian-American Company is established. Unalaska [Iluulaġ [Bergsland: 1994: 603]] becomes a major station. [Partnow]
- 1799 Alexander Baranov, General Manager of the Shelikhov-Golikov Company, establishes a trading post at Sitka. The site is a strategic and important trading location in Southeast Alaska and has a large Tlingit settlement.
- 1799 Tsar Paul I grants the Russian-American Company, formed by Shelikhov's heirs and other Siberian entrepreneurs, sole trading rights in North America for 20 years. Baranov remains General Manager. The third and last charter, issued in 1844, classifies Native people as dependent (Unangan/Aleuts, Koniag), semi-dependent (Chugach), and independent (Tlingit).
- 1802 Tlingit attack and destroy the Russian post at Sitka.
- 1804 Led by Baranov, Russians and Unangan/Aleuts return to reoccupy Sitka. They are aided by a Russian navy ship Neva. After two weeks of fighting what some call the Battle of Sitka, the Tlingit leave the area. Tlingit oral accounts describe

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- their survival march across Baranof Island. Tlingit return to live at Sitka in 1819 at the invitation of the Russians after Baranov's departure.
- 1804-1864 Iakov Netsvetov, Unangas Creole, the first Western Russian Orthodox priest, translates parts of the Bible and keeps daily journals from 1829-1844. He writes down an alphabet for the Yupik language.
- 1805 Tlingit attack and destroy the Russian post at New Russia (Yakutat) that had been established in 1796. The Russians do not reestablish a post at the site.
- 1805- The first Sitka spruce are planted on Amaknak Island and Unalaska.
- 1805- For schooling, Russians & Creoles at the Russian company school in St. Paul on Kodiak Island individuals had to work 10-15 years to pay the company back. [Partnow]
- 1808 [-07?] An octagonal Russian Orthodox chapel is built in Iliuliuk [Iluulaġ Bergsland: 1994: 603]].
- 1812 The Russian-American Company establishes Fort Ross, north of today's San Francisco. Russians, Unangan/Aleut, and Alutiiq taken there to hunt sea otters, grow food for Alaska settlements, and establish Russian sovereignty. The company sells the post in 1841.
- 1818 The Russian-American Company introduces new rules, among them to employ Natives only on the basis of voluntary contracts. The class of Creoles, persons of mixed ancestry, is created. Creoles are entitled to education and other privileges in exchange for a commitment to work for the company for a minimum of ten years.
- 1824 Ivan Veniaminov, Russian Orthodox missionary, arrives in the Aleutian Islands. Assisted by Ivan Pan'kov, a Tigalda Island leader, Veniaminov learns the Unangan/Eastern Aleut language, develops an alphabet, and records information about the people and their customs. The two write a Unangan/Aleut catechism, the first book written in an Alaska Native language. Veniaminov moves to Sitka in 1834 and does similar work with the Tlingit. There he starts an all-colonial school to educate Natives and Creoles and obtains Russian-American Company support for it. Veniaminov leaves Alaska in 1845. As head of the church in Moscow, he continues support of the Alaska mission after Russia sells Alaska to the U.S.
- 1824- July: Unangan, Innokenty Shaisnikoff is born. He serves as priest at Unalaska for 35 years until his death in 1883; he travels extensively, records scientific observations, and translates material into Unangaġ (Aleut). [Unalaska Arts and Historical Society: 1976]

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- 1824-1834 Veniaminov lives at Unalaska. On March 25, 1824, he opens school.
- 1825-1826 During this time, Veniaminov builds and consecrates the Church of the Holy Ascension.
- 1828 Iakov Netsvetov, a Creole and graduate of Irkutsk Theological Seminary, arrives at Atka where he serves until 1844. He is the first Alaska Native Orthodox priest in Alaska. He moves to Ikogmiut on the Yukon River in 1844 and serves there until 1863. He develops an alphabet and translates church materials into Yup'ik.
- 1830-1840 In the autumn of this year Veniaminov with the help of Ivan Pankov, Chief of Tigalda, develops an alphabet for Unangaġ (Aleut). They translate material together and publish the first books in Unangaġ (Aleut).
- 1832- Russian Orthodox church was built at Little Afognak by the Seleznev brothers.
- 1835 Smallpox epidemic starts at Sitka and over the next five years spreads throughout Alaska and kills many Native people. As a result, many Native people accept vaccination.
- 1836-1839 Smallpox, measles, chicken pox, and whooping-cough epidemics reduce the Unangan population.
- 1838 The British Hudson's Bay Company leases the Southeast Alaska mainland from the Russians. This reduces competition and lowers the prices paid to Native people for furs.
- 1839 Russian Petr Malakhov establishes a trading post at Nulato along the Yukon River. It is the Russians' farthest upriver trading post. Parties travel from Nulato to trading fairs on the middle Yukon.
- 1840- Lavrentii Salmatov from Attu, moves to Atka.
- 1841- All Unangan (Aleuts) in the Fox district (Veniaminov's) have some ability to write.
- 1845-50 Measles epidemic
- 1842 Russian Lavrentiy Zagoskin starts a two-year expedition to explore the Yukon and Kuskokwim rivers. He trades with the people he meets and keeps a detailed diary with much ethnographic and scientific information. Along with the explorations led by Ivan Vasilev, Semen Lukin, Fedor Kolmakov, and Andrei Glazunov, the Russians start trading for furs in Southwest Alaska and the lower Yukon and Kuskokwim rivers.

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- 1843- Lavrentii Salmatov is ordained a priest and succeeds Father Iakov Netsvetov as parish priest in Atka. He translates the entire New Testament into the Atkan dialect and writes a beginning reader in Unangas.
- 1847 Hudson's Bay Company trader Alexander Hunter Murray, aware he is in Russian territory, establish Fort Yukon at the mouth of the Porcupine River. British and Russian traders compete to get furs from the Athabaskan people.
- 1847- Iakov Knagin (Jacob Johan Knagg) a Lutheran Finn and his family of four were sent to Alaska with Kvasnikov. They were joined by Yakut Petr Osipov and his family, Simbirsk peasant, Ivan Andreev with his family of four, and the Creole, Leontii Ostrogin with his family of five. These families formed the nucleus of the Russian American Company's first permanent settlement at Ninilchik.
- 1847- Establishment of retirement communities for Russian American Company employees at Afognak, Ouzinkie, and Ninilchik.
- 1848 U.S. hunters take the first bowhead whale near Big Diomedes Island in the Bering Strait. Commercial whaling continues along the arctic coasts for the next seventy years. Whalers conduct an active trade with coastal Native people, introduce alcohol and spread diseases, and decimate the whale and walrus populations. In the 1880s, traders establish shore-based stations and hire Native men to hunt whales, changing trading patterns, and introducing wage labor.
- 1850-1900 The Great Age of Unangan (Aleut) Literacy
1. most writing and almost all publication was in Unangaꜜ
2. some linguistic books were published in Unangaꜜ
3. journals were written in Unangaꜜ
- 1851 Nulato Massacre. [Miranda Wright; Simeone]
- 1865 Surveyors work in northwestern Alaska for the Western Union International Telegraph project to link the United States and Europe by a line across Siberia. The company sends scientists to collect information about Alaska's Native people, natural resources, history, and geography. Work stops in 1868 when a telegraph connection across the Atlantic Ocean is successful. Expedition members Frederick Whymper, William Healy Dall, and Henry Wood Elliott write books about Alaska and its people.
- 1866 Unangaꜜ (Aleut) population is ¼ of what it was before contact.
- 1867 September 6: U.S. Revenue Cutter *Lincoln* makes first official visit to Unalaska during which the first ascent of Makushin volcano is made.
- 1867 October 18: U.S. "purchases" Alaska from Russia without consulting Unangan

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(Aleuts). Russia signs a treaty with the United States selling Alaska. American administration begins October 18. The treaty refers to “inhabitants of the ceded territory” and “uncivilized tribes”. The “inhabitants” are to be citizens. The treaty states, “The uncivilized tribes will be subject to such laws and regulations as the United States may, from time to time, adopt in regard to aboriginal tribes in that country”. No Alaska Natives are granted citizenship. [Unalaska Arts and Historical Society: 1976]

1867 to 1896

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- 1868 January 4: Alaska Commercial Company establishes itself in Unalaska [Iluluaġ [Bergsland: 1994:603]]. [Unalaska Arts and Historical Society: 1976]
- 1869 Army troops aboard the U.S.S. Saginaw burn houses and canoes at several Kake Indian villages (not present-day Kake) on Kuiu Island in Southeast Alaska because Indians killed two white prospectors on Admiralty Island.
- 1870 The U.S. Government awards the Alaska Commercial Company a lease to exclusively harvest fur seals on the Pribilof Islands in the Bering Sea. The lease requires the company to hire local people and provide food, housing, and education for them.
- 1870- June: Unalaska has first deputy collector of customs. [Unalaska Arts and Historical Society: 1976]
- 1872 William Dall discovers evidence of earlier settlements in archaeological digs in Aleutians.
- 1872 Congress passes the Mining Act outlining provisions for staking claims. In several Alaska mining camps, the law is interpreted to exclude Native people.
- 1873 August: Small wharf is constructed at Unalaska.
- 1873 Louis Alphonse Pinart, a Frenchman, sails on a salmon schooner to Kodiak and collects Sugpiaq cultural items.
- 1873 Non-Natives Arthur Harper, Alfred Mayo and Leroy “Jack” McQuesten begin to

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prospect for gold and trade for furs with Native people on the upper Yukon River. For over twenty years, they assist prospectors in the area. Each marries a Native woman.

- 1876 The U.S. Signal Service stations weather observers around Alaska, including Barrow, Sitka, St. Michael, and Unalaska. Observers Lucien Turner, Edward W. Nelson, and other observers collect ethnographic materials for the Smithsonian Institution. Nelson compiles the information he collected between 1877 and 1881 about the people of the Yukon-Kuskokwim delta into the Eskimo About Bering Strait.
- 1877 Presbyterian missionary Amanda McFarland opens a school for Native girls at Fort Wrangell in Southeast Alaska.
- 1878 The first salmon canneries are established at Klawock and Sitka in Southeast Alaska. Within ten years there will be canneries operating throughout Southeast and Southcentral Alaska and several operating in Western Alaska. The canneries provide seasonal employment for Native people.
- 1878 Presbyterian missionaries start the Sitka Mission School (later called Sheldon Jackson Institute, Industrial Home for Boys, Sitka Industrial Training School, Sheldon Jackson School, and Sheldon Jackson College). Today it is a four-year college and most students are Alaska Natives.
- 1879 A U.S. Revenue Marine Service ship stops at St. Lawrence Island in Western Alaska and finds the majority of the people died during the winter. The report says the people did not gather enough food for the winter and blames this on drinking alcohol.
- 1880 Tlingit Chief Kowee takes Joe Juneau and Richard Harris to Silver Bow Basin where he knew there was gold. Learning of the gold, other prospectors rush to the area and establish a camp, now the city of Juneau. Naval officers encourage Auke Indians to move from the area to avoid conflict with the miners.
- 1880 Although dispatched periodically through the 1870s, the U.S. Revenue Marine Service begins annual arctic cruises. The captains serve as commissioners and introduce U.S. law to Native people, patrol for illegal sea mammal hunting, and transport government officials, teachers and doctors to Western Alaska communities.
- 1880 U.S. Navy officers force the Tlingit to allow non-Natives access to the Chilkoot Trail to get from Southeast Alaska to the upper Yukon River.

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- 1880 As part of the International Polar Year, Patrick H. Ray establishes a government research station at Barrow. Scientists obtain important information about the arctic from local residents.
- 1880 U.S. Navy officials at Sitka designate Native men in several Southeast Alaska communities as police to help administer U.S. laws.
- 1882 After villagers take hostages and demand payment for the accidental death of a Tlingit leader employed by a whaling company, the U.S. Navy shells the Southeast Alaska village of Angoon (Kootznahoo), then burns the houses and canoes. The U.S. Government settles claims for the destruction 89 years later, in 1973, for \$90,000.
- 1883 Sheldon Jackson, a Presbyterian missionary, convenes a meeting of Protestant mission society representatives in Pennsylvania to encourage and coordinate the establishment of mission stations around Alaska. Moravian, Anglican, Society of Friends, Baptist, and Lutheran mission groups are some that respond to the appeal. Roman Catholic and Russian Orthodox missionaries also start missions in Alaska.
- 1883 Lieutenant Frederick A. Swatka is sent by the U.S. Army to the Yukon River to investigate reports of a drop in prices paid for furs and to count the Native people. Over the next fifteen years, other Army expeditions are sent for similar purposes and to explore unmapped parts of Alaska.
- 1884 Congress passes an Organic Act to provide civil government in Alaska. The act calls for establishment of schools for Native and non-Native children. The Secretary of the Interior appoints Sheldon Jackson as general agent for education in Alaska, a position Jackson holds until 1906. Congress reaffirms the nondiscriminatory education system in Alaska in legislation passed June 6, 1900.
- 1884 First shore-based whaling station opens at Barrow. Eventually, 15 stations are established along the Northwest Alaska coast. The traders hire local Native crews to hunt whales for them, change trading patterns, introduce wage labor, and pay the workers with non-traditional foodstuffs.
- 1885 Ahtna Chief Nicolai assists Lieutenant Henry T. Allen and his companions who are starving during their expedition to follow the Copper River to its headwaters and explore and map Interior Alaska.
- 1885 Government school operates for one year.
- 1886 Native languages are disallowed in public schools.
- 1886 April 19: Unangan (Aleut) hunters petition President Cleveland for

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- improvement in sea-otter hunting conditions.
- 1886 In re Sah Quah, the federal Alaska District Court rejects sovereign authority of a group of Tlingit people to maintain the practice of slavery.
- 1887 Father William Duncan, a non-Native, and Tsimshian followers move from British Columbia to Annette Island in Southeast Alaska. In 1891, President Grover Cleveland establishes the Metlakatla Indian Reservation for the Tsimshian.
- 1887 Vasili Shaishnikoff elected chief of Unalaska Village.
- 1887 Matriona Salmatov, daughter of Lavrentii and Alexandria Gavrilovna Pavlutskii Salmatov, becomes the first teacher of English at Belkofski. [Pierce: 1990: 438]
- 1888 The U.S. and Canada send crews to mark the eastern boundary of Alaska. The border had been determined in 1824 and 1825 by treaties signed by Russia and the U.S. and Russia and Great Britain, and reaffirmed in the Treaty of Cession in 1867. The marking of the boundary defines for some Natives a country.
- 1888 Roman Catholic missionaries start a mission and school at Holy Cross on the middle Yukon River. It becomes a boarding school in 1889 and operates until 1957.
- 1889 Congress passes a law outlawing barricades at the mouths of salmon streams in Alaska.
- 1889- June: J. A. Tuck arrives in Unalaska to open what in 1890 becomes the Jesse Lee Home.
- 1891 Sheldon Jackson, assisted by Michael A. Healy, captain of the Revenue Marine cutter Bear, brings reindeer from Siberia to Western Alaska. Jackson starts the program to provide food and revenue for the Native people. The U.S. Bureau of Education manages the program with assistance from missionaries until the Bureau of Indian Affairs takes over the programs in 1931.
- 1892 Tsimshian from Metlakatla build a sawmill at Gravina. It is reported as the first business built, managed, and operated by Alaska Native people. The sawmill operates until destroyed by fire in 1904.
- 1893 Pitka Pavalof and Sergei Gologoff Cherosky, Creoles of Russian-Native descent, find gold on Birch Creek in Interior Alaska. Learning of the discovery, prospectors jump their claims and argue the claims are invalid because the men are Natives. The discovery attracts more non-Natives to the Yukon River and

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the town of Circle is founded.

- 1896 George Carmack, Skookum Jim Mason, and Tagish Charley Mason find gold on Rabbit Creek (renamed Bonanza Creek) in Canada. When word of the discovery reaches San Francisco and Seattle in summer 1897, the Klondike gold rush starts. Subsequently, many gold discoveries are made around Alaska and a number of settlements in Interior Alaska are created among them Eagle, Fairbanks, Ruby, and Iditarod.
- 1896 The U.S. Bureau of Education ends its practice of contracting with missionary groups in Alaska to operate day schools and opens federal day schools. A number of new school buildings are constructed in Native villages.
- 1896 J.A. Tuck leaves Unalaska and the mission is directed by Agnes Sowle who marries Dr. Albert Newhall. Dr. Newhall directs the Home until its transfer to Seward.

1896 to 1913

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- 1897 Although others might have found gold in the area earlier and local Native people might have shown the locations to others, the “Three Lucky Swedes” are credited with the discovery of gold in Anvil Creek that led to the rush to the Seward Peninsula. In 1898, “the golden sands of Nome” along the beach are discovered attracting more non-Native people to the area. The records show some claims staked in the names of Native people.
- 1899 The U.S. Army starts constructing a trail, called the Trans-Alaska Military Road, from a year-round open port in Southcentral Alaska (Valdez/Fort Liscum) to the Yukon River near the Alaska-Canada border (Eagle/Fort Egbert). Parts of the trail are Native travel routes. In 1905, the new Alaska Road Commission constructs a spur road from Gulkana to the new mining camp of Fairbanks. The Valdez-Fairbanks route (later named the Richardson Highway) is Alaska’s principal road until the 1940s.
- 1899 The U.S. Army and Geological Survey send a number of joint expeditions to

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- explore and map Interior Alaska. Lieutenant Joseph Herron's party exploring from Cook Inlet to the Yukon River gets lost in the upper Kuskokwim River area. Chief Sesui, a Telida Athabaskan, finds the party, provides food, and takes them to Fort Gibbon at the mouth of the Tanana River. Lieutenant Joseph Castner's party gets lost in the Goodpaster area. Native get them to safety.
- 1899 Congress amends the Customs Acts of 1868 and 1879 to allow trapping fur-bearing animals by non-Natives.
- 1900 "The Great Sickness", an influenza and measles epidemic, kills at least 2,000 Native people living around Norton Sound and in Southwestern Alaska.
- 1890-1920's Blue fox farming is undertaken by Unalaskans.
- 1899-1905 Nome gold rush brings many ships through Dutch Harbor where the North American Commercial Company has a coaling station.
- 1900 Epidemic causes the death of one-third of the population of Unalaska.
- 1902 Congress passes the Alaska Game Law, assigning protection of Alaska's mammals to the U.S. Bureau of Biological Survey (later merged with the U.S. Bureau of Fisheries to become the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service). An exemption allows Natives to kill game animals and birds for fur and clothing, but restricts them from shipping or selling them except for the hides. The game law passed by Congress in 1908 reaffirms the exemption.
- 1902 A gold strike leads to the founding of Fairbanks. It becomes the largest community in Interior Alaska. A number of Athabaskan people move to Fairbanks for jobs.
- 1903 Era of early Unangan publication ends. The last book published is the Unangaꝰ (Aleut) translation of the Gospel of St. Luke. Then there is nothing in the Unangaꝰ language published for over 50 years!
- 1904 Native people use fish wheels on the Tanana River to catch salmon.
- 1905 Congress passes the Nelson Act that among other things, funds roads, education, and care for the mentally ill in Alaska. The legislation states the funds for education are for schools for "white children and those of mixed blood who lead a civilized life". This results in a second school system; Alaska has U.S. Bureau of Education (later Bureau of Indian Affairs) schools created by the Organic Act of 1884 that become known as Native schools, and Territorial (later State) schools. This dual system operates into the 1980s.
- 1906 Congress passes a Native Allotment Act allowing qualified (acculturated) Alaska Natives to apply for 160-acres of non-mineral land as an "inalienable

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and nontaxable” homestead. Natives qualified if they were head of a household, 21 years old, and could establish a prescribed period of use and occupancy of the area. The allotments had restrictions regarding sale of the land. The act extended provisions of the General Allotment Act of 1887 (also known as the Dawes Act) to Alaska.

- 1907 Canneries start building fish traps along Southeast Alaska shores and near the mouths of many streams. The traps are an efficient way to catch salmon and increase the number of salmon caught.
- 1907 Congress creates the Tongass and Chugach national forests, incorporating into them earlier federal land reservations. The forests encompass most of Southeast and Southcentral Alaska.
- 1908 Three Native families in Sitka go to court seeking permission for their children to attend the territorial school in town. The judge determines in the case known as *Davis v. Sitka School Board* the families do not “lead a civilized life”, and hence, does not permit the children to enroll in the territorial school.
- 1911 The U.S., Russia, Great Britain, and Japan sign a treaty to protect the fur seals and sea otters in the North Pacific. The treaty provides for restricted Native subsistence hunting of the animals. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is charged with managing the Pribilof Island fur seal hunt and providing for the Native people on the islands. In 1951 the Pribilof people file claims over mistreatment as wards of the federal government. In 1966 the Fur Seal Act grants the Pribilof people equal rights as U.S. citizens. In 1978 a settlement awards them \$11,239,604.
- 1912 Congress passes the Second Organic Act providing for a legislature and designating Alaska a Territory. The legislature will pass laws addressing citizenship, voting, and education among other issues, that affect the Native people.
- 1912 Thirteen Southeast Alaska Natives create the Alaska Native Brotherhood to gain recognition of Native citizenship rights, education, and abolition of “aboriginal customs”.
The fraternal organization soon has camps in most Southeast communities.
- 1912 Novarupta Volcano near Mt. Katmai in Southcentral Alaska erupts, destroying several Native villages and forcing the people living at them to relocate.
- 1912 The first hospital for Native people opens in Juneau, but soon closes for lack of funds. In 1915 Congress appropriates funds for a 25 bed Native hospital in Juneau and assigns the U.S. Bureau of Education responsibility to oversee it.
- 1912 August 24: Sea-otter hunting is stopped by U.S. law.

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1913 Four men, including Walter Harper, an Athabaskan, make the first successful ascent of Mt. McKinley/Denali's south peak, the highest point on the North American continent. The other members are Hudson Stuck, Harry Karstens and Robert Tatum.

1913 to 1939

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1915 The Territorial Legislature passes a law [Chapter 24, Session Laws of Alaska, 1915] recognizing Native people as Alaska citizens. The law requires a Native person to get endorsements from five white citizens and to have "severed all tribal relationships and adapted the habits of a civilized life".

1915 Tanana chiefs of Interior Alaska meet with Alaska's Delegate to Congress James Wickersham and government officials starting construction of the Alaska Railroad. The chiefs express concern about protecting their hunting and fishing rights, their interest in education and jobs, and their opposition to reservations.

1915 Native women in Southeast Alaska organize the Alaska Native Sisterhood.

1916 The U.S. and Great Britain sign a migratory bird treaty. The treaty establishes a closed season on hunting migratory birds between March 10 and September 1 and limits the open season to three and a half months. Native people in Alaska and Canada could take certain sea birds and eggs for food and clothing. The closed season was to apply, but the law is not enforced until World War II.

1918 The pandemic flu epidemic spreads to Alaska and rages through 1919. Many Native children, particularly on the Seward Peninsula and in Interior Alaska, are orphaned. In response, a number of new church-sponsored boarding homes open.

1919 June: Worldwide flu epidemic strikes Unalaska island.

1920 William L. Paul, a Tlingit, is the first Native admitted to practice law in Alaska.

1922 After Charlie Jones, a Tlingit, is arrested at Wrangell for voting, and Tillie Paul Tamaree is arrested for aiding and abetting him, a federal court gives Alaska Natives the right to vote in territorial elections, two years before all Native Americans get the right to vote in public elections. Jones is acquitted and the charges against Tamaree are dropped.

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- 1923 Carl Ben Eielson gets a U.S. mail contract for ten bimonthly round trips by air between Fairbanks and McGrath. Later, air mail delivery replaces many dog team mail carriers, impacts roadhouse operators, and reduces the number of road and trail maintenance workers, many of whom are Native people.
- 1923 William L. Paul starts the Alaska Fisherman, published by the Alaska Native Brotherhood. Published through 1932, it addresses Native issues such as fishing and voting rights and land claims.
- 1924 Congress passes the Citizenship Act (Chapter 233, 43 Stat. 253) recognizing Native Americans as U.S. citizens.
- 1924 William L. Paul is the first Native elected to the Alaska Territorial House of Representatives. He serves two terms.
- 1924 Congress passes the White Act. The act makes it illegal to put fish traps closer than 500 yards of the mouths of streams (1,000 yards of the mouth of the Copper River). The act prohibits traps in Bristol Bay and parts of Kodiak Island and Cook Inlet. The U.S. Bureau of Fisheries closes the Yukon and Kuskokwim rivers to commercial salmon fishing. The intent is to ensure there are salmon for residents. The act is amended in 1934 to permit commercial fishing for king salmon by Natives in the rivers under guidelines specified by the Secretary of Commerce.
- 1924- Citizenship Act—U.S. Congress
- 1925 Congress passes another game law for Alaska. It creates the Alaska Game Commission. The board establishes hunting seasons, registers guides, and sets limits on the number of animals that can be killed. Natives who have not adopted a “civilized mode of living” do not need a hunting license. They are allowed to take game during closed seasons when “in absolute need of food and other food is not available”.
- 1925 The Territorial Legislature passes a literacy act that requires a person to read and write English to vote in territorial elections. William L. Paul successfully gets the bill amended to permit those who voted in 1924 to vote in future elections.
- 1925 Dog teams and drivers, most of whom are Natives, relay diphtheria serum needed to prevent an epidemic from Nenana to Nome. The event gets national media attention.
- 1926 Congress passes the Alaska Native Townsite Act allowing Natives to get restricted deeds to village lots.

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- 1927 John Ben “Benny” Benson, a 13-year old Alaska Native from Chignik living at the Jesse Lee Home in Seward, wins contest sponsored by the American Legion to design a flag for the Territory of Alaska.
- 1929 Nettie Jones, represented by William L. Paul in Jones v. Ellis, successfully sues the federal government for forcing her daughter to attend the Bureau of Education school not the territorial school in Ketchikan.
- 1930 U.S. Census figures show Native people are no longer more than fifty percent of Alaska’s population.
- 1930 Klawock in Southeast Alaska is the first Native village to petition to become a first class city. The Territorial Legislature passed a law in 1928 repealing earlier legislation restricting Native villages to incorporate strictly as Indian organization municipal governments.
- 1930’s- Herring industry thrives.
- 1931 Administration of the schools and health service for Alaska Natives is transferred from the U.S. Bureau of Education to the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The BIA creates a special branch called the Alaska Native Service.
- 1932- Bureau of Indian Affaires hospital is built.
- 1932 The Bureau of Indian Affairs opens Wrangell Institute, a co-educational vocational boarding school, at Wrangell in Southeast Alaska. With the opening of Mt. Edgecumbe High School at Sitka in 1947, Wrangell Institute becomes an elementary school. The BIA closes the Wrangell school in 1975.
- 1932 The U.S. Government determines Eskimos and Aleuts [Unangan] are “wards of the Nation” and “the natives of Alaska, as referred to in the treaty of March 30, 1867, between the United States and Russia, are entitled to the benefits of and are subject to the general laws and regulations governing the Indians of the United States”.
- 1934 The U.S. Forest Service hires Alaska Natives with Civilian Conservation Corps funds for recreation and cultural heritage projects in the Chugach and Tongass national forests.
- 1935 Congress passes a jurisdictional act allowing Tlingit and Haida people to sue the federal government regarding lands they owned in 1867 when the U.S. purchased Alaska. The act was passed because the government only considered land claims against the U.S. from tribes. The U.S. Court of Claims can not grant land to Indians, but can make monetary awards and does so for the Tlingit and Haida 33 years later in 1968.

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- 1935 Renowned aviator Wiley Post and humorist Will Rogers die when their plane crashes shortly after leaving Barrow. The crash site is found by Ipalook, a Barrow Native, who runs the thirteen miles to Barrow with the news.
- 1936 Congress passes the Alaska Reorganization Act to amend and extend provisions of the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 to Alaska Natives. The laws represent a change in federal Indian policy and allows Alaska Natives to develop constitutions for self-government, and to create reservations. In Alaska, 69 villages and two regional Native entities organize. Between 1941 and 1946 seven reservations, at Venetie, Unalakleet, Akutan, Diomedea, Hydaburg (later invalidated on technical grounds), Karluk and Wales, are created.
- 1937 Congress passes the Alaska Reindeer Industry Act restricting ownership of reindeer to Alaska Natives. The act is passed to promote an economic development program and to provide a “means of subsistence for the Eskimos and other Natives of Alaska”.
- 1937- October 22: Death of Alexis M. Yatchemeff, chief of Unalaska for 41 years.
- Late 1930’s Makushin, Kashega, and Biorca villages begin to move to Unalaska.

1939 to 1959

- 1940- August: U.S. Navy appropriates Dutch Harbor.
- 1941- August 18: Unalaska petitions to incorporate as first-class city.
- 1941- WWII in Aleutians
- 1941 Governor Ernest Gruening signs a law establishing the Alaska Territorial Guard (also called the Alaska Scouts and Eskimo Scouts) separate from the Alaska National Guard. Governor Gruening sends Marvin “Muktuk” Marston to western Alaska villages to promote the program and enlist Native men. The organization is disbanded in 1947. The Alaska National Guard organized in 1949 is integrated former Alaska Territorial Guard members join.
- 1942 Japanese bomb Dutch Harbor Naval Air Station and Fort Mears in the eastern Aleutians and occupy Attu and Kiska islands in the western Aleutians. The 42 Aleuts on Attu are taken prisoners by the Japanese and interned in Japan until 1945. After the war, the 27 survivors are not allowed to return to the island.
- 1942 After the Japanese attack the Aleutian Islands, the U.S. Government moves 882 Unangan/Aleut people from their villages in the Aleutian and Pribilof islands to camps in Southeast Alaska. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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took Pribilof men from the internment camps to the Pribilof Islands in 1943 and 1944 to hunt fur seals. When the people return to their villages in late 1944 they find extensive vandalism. In 1982 the U.S. Government creates the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment, and in 1988 a settlement of the claims of Japanese and Aleuts interned during the war is reached. Survivors received payments of \$15,000 each in 1991. A fund to restore six Aleutian and Pribilof island Russian Orthodox churches is established as well.

- 1942 The Alaska Highway is constructed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as a wartime project. Construction leads to the relocation of many Natives in east central Alaska to communities such as Northway, Tok, and Dot Lake close to the road.
- 1942- June 3-4: Japanese forces bomb Dutch Harbor and Unalaska.
July: Unangan people of Unalaska are relocated to Southeast Alaska until their return in 1945 when only half returned to the Aleutians.
- 1944 Police arrest Alberta Schenck for sitting in the whites-only section of the Dream Theater in Nome. Earlier, Schenck quit her job at the theater because of the segregated seating policy. After her arrest, she writes to Governor Ernest Gruening and to the editor of the Nome newspaper protesting the discrimination against Native people.
- 1945 The Territorial Department of Health uses a ship, the M/S Hygiene, to provide medical services to isolated communities in Southeast Alaska.
- 1945 Tlingits Frank Peratrovich and Andrew Hope are elected to the Territorial House of Representatives, the first Natives elected since William L. Paul in the 1920s. The next year, Peratrovich is the first Native elected to the Territorial Senate and later becomes president of the Senate. Natives from other regions run for the legislature and more get elected.
- 1945 The Territorial Legislature passes an anti-discrimination law. Elizabeth Peratrovich, President of the Alaska Native Sisterhood, eloquently testifies in favor of the act. In 1984 Governor Cowper designates February 16 as Elizabeth Peratrovich/Alaska Civil Rights day in her honor.
- 1946- First Reeve Aleutian Airways flight to Dutch Harbor.
- 1947 The Bureau of Indian Affairs opens Mt. Edgecumbe boarding school for high school students from around the territory at Sitka. It operates until the early 1980s when the BIA stops operating schools.
- 1947 Congress passes the Tongass Timber Act allowing the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into timber sale contracts, with the receipts to be

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- deposited in a special fund until Native land claims in Southeast Alaska are resolved.
- 1947 Kake is the Territory of Alaska's first independently incorporated school district serving all Native children.
- 1950's King Crab industry begins.
- 1951 Congress extends the provisions of the Johnson-O'Malley Act passed in 1934 to Alaska. The act provides a means of transferring the education of Native children from the federal government to state and local school systems.
- 1952 The military starts construction of the Distant Early Warning System (DEW Line) across the Arctic. A number of Inuit get jobs in construction and maintenance of the stations. Other Cold War military construction projects through the 1950s and 1960s, among them the Aircraft Control and Warning System, White Alice, Nike Missile sites, and the Ballistic Missile Early Warning Station, also provide jobs for many Native Alaskans.
- 1953 The Alaska Native Service opens a 400-bed hospital with a dedicated tuberculosis wing in Anchorage.
- 1955 The Territorial Legislature passes a bill calling for a Constitutional Convention. Frank Peratrovich, a Tlingit, is elected one of the delegates. He is selected to be vice-chair of the convention. Article XII, Section 12 of the constitution acknowledges the State does not have a right to Native lands. Native people, particularly in Northwest Alaska, do not favor statehood because they did not see protection of their traditional ways and determination of their lands.
- 1955 The federal government transfers responsibility for Native health care in Alaska from the Bureau of Indian Affairs to the U.S. Public Health Service, Division of Indian Health, because of the overwhelming incidence of tuberculosis.
- 1958 The Atomic Energy Commission applies to the U.S. Bureau of Land Management for permits to study the Cape Thompson area in Northwest Alaska for an atomic energy blast to create a deep water harbor. Local Native people oppose the idea, known as Project Chariot, as do some scientists. The AEC abandons the project in 1969 stating it had become too expensive.

1959 and later

- 1959 Alaska becomes the 49th state. The state starts selecting land as provided

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for under the act. Alaska Natives routinely object to the selections to call attention to their land claims.

- 1959 The Tlingit-Haida settlement determines the Native people are entitled to compensation for land in Southeast Alaska taken by the U.S. Government for Tongass National Forest and Glacier Bay National Park.
- 1960- Knut Bergsland published texts in Attuan and Atkan dialects of Unangañ (Aleut).
- 1961 Northwest Alaska Natives convene Inupiat Paitot, a meeting to address Native land and subsistence rights, particularly hunting, and their concern about Project Chariot.
- 1961 The State of Alaska appoints Natives Sadie Brower Neakok of Barrow and Nora Gwin of Bethel, among others, as magistrates for the state court system.
- 1961 Native men in Barrow hunt waterfowl out-of-season and turn themselves in to state court officials to protest the prohibition of duck hunting in the spring. This, and subsequent acts of protest and meetings around the state, help raise consciousness about Native rights and subsistence.
- 1962 Point Hope Eskimo Howard Rock and Fairbanks newspaperman Tom Snapp start the Tundra Times, a statewide Native newspaper.
- 1962 Athabaskans of Interior Alaska meet at Nenana and organize the Tanana Chiefs Conference (Dena' Nena' Henash) to address land rights and other issues. Since 1971 and passage of the land claims act, it has been a nonprofit organization.
- 1963 The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers proposes to dam the Yukon River near Rampart, flooding the huge Yukon Flats, displacing several villages, and destroying prime waterfowl nesting areas. Alaska Senator Ernest Gruening supports the project. The project is abandoned after protests by Natives and national wildlife groups.
- 1963 The State of Alaska proposes to create the Minto Lakes Recreation Area in Interior Alaska without consulting with area Native people.
- 1963 Members active in Inupiat Paitot organize Manilaq Association, originally as the Northwest Alaska Native Association. The name is changed in the early 1970s to avoid confusion with NANA Corporation set up under the land claims act.
- 1964 A major earthquake, 9.2 on the Richter scale, and tidal wave devastate Southcentral Alaska, destroying a number of communities, among them the Native villages of Chenega, Old Harbor and Kaguyak, forcing residents to

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relocate.

- 1965 The Atomic Energy Commission conducts a nuclear test on Amchitka Island. Other blasts would be in 1965 and 1971.
- 1966 A statewide conference of over 400 Native people held at Anchorage leads to establishment of the Alaska Federation of Natives (incorporated in 1970) to promote the cultural, economic and political voice of Alaska Natives.
- 1966 Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall imposes a freeze on all land actions in Alaska by the federal government until Native land claims are resolved.
- 1966 William Beltz boarding school for high school students opens at Nome.
- 1966 The Bristol Bay Native Association in Southwest Alaska organizes to work for settlement of land claims. It is now a nonprofit organization.
- 1968 The U.S. Court of Claims issues its determination that the Tlingit and Haida people owned 18 of 20 million acres in Southeast Alaska when the U.S. purchased the land from Russia. Known as the Tlingit-Haida Settlement, the Indians receive \$7.5 million for lands withdrawn to create Tongass National Forest and Glacier Bay National Monument.
- 1968 The State of Alaska starts the Community Health Aide Program to improve emergency medical care in rural Alaska.
- 1968 Atlantic Richfield Oil Company announces discovery of the huge Prudhoe Bay oil field on Alaska's North Slope. They, with other oil companies, form Alyeska Pipeline Service Company and determine that the best way to transport the oil to market is by a pipeline from the North Slope to a year-round port at Valdez in Southcentral Alaska, and from there moved by tanker. Native and State land claims need to be resolved so the company can get the necessary permits and leases to build the pipeline.
- 1969 Alaska Village Council Presidents organizes in western Alaska. It is the first regional organization of Native government entities.
- 1970 The village on the steep cliffs of King Island southeast of the Bering Strait is abandoned. Most of the people, famous for their ivory carving, resettle in Nome
- 1971 Congress passes the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA). The act awards money and land to Alaska Natives. It creates regional and village Native corporations to manage the money and land. The settlement includes lands to continue traditional lifestyles, lands for economic development, and money for management of lands and to pursue economic ventures. The Native

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corporations will receive title to 12 percent of Alaska's lands. Section 17(d)2 of the act directs the federal government to study the land in Alaska for additions to public reserves and preserves. This leads to the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act that Congress passes in 1980.

- 1971- January: Government sale of Dutch Harbor is stopped by civil lawsuit on behalf of Anfesia Shapsnikoff, Nick Peterson, and Henry Swanson.
- 1972 Inupiat organize the North Slope Borough. In 1963 the State of Alaska passes an act allowing for the organization of boroughs. The borough encompasses 88,817 square miles and is the largest in Alaska.
- 1972 The Alaska Native Language Center is created at the University of Alaska Fairbanks to record and preserve Native languages.
- 1972 The Bilingual-Bicultural Education Act (AS 14.30.400) says all Alaska school districts with at least eight pupils with limited English and whose primary language is other than English will provide a bilingual-bicultural education program.
- 1972 Congress passes the Marine Mammal Protection Act. The act recognizes the rights of Alaska Natives to hunt marine mammals.
- 1973 Morris Thompson, an Athabaskan from Fairbanks, is appointed Commissioner of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.
- 1973 Twenty-seven Inupiat families resettle the village of Nuiqsuit along the Colville delta. They moved to Barrow in the 1940s because there was no school in their community. Inupiat from another North Slope community, Atqasuk, resettle their village in 1977.
- 1973 Twenty brief, but significant Atkan (Unangas) publications are made available by Sally Snigaroff, Moses Dirks and Nadesta Golley. Twenty more are published in Atkan. Twenty were published in Eastern (Unangas), mainly by Olga Mensoff of Akutan.
- 1973 July 4: The Ounalashka Corporation is formed.
- 1976 The State of Alaska and Alaska Legal Services reach an out-of-court settlement of the Molly Hootch case. The case, filed in 1971, is named for a 15 year old who had to leave her village of Emmonak to attend high school. The State of Alaska agrees to build and operate high schools in all Alaska communities that have an elementary school and at least ten students.
- 1977 Inuit Circumpolar Conference, a nongovernmental organization of the United Nations, organizes to promote Inuit rights and interests internationally. Eileen

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- MacLean of Barrow served as the first president.
- 1978 The Alaska Legislature passes a subsistence law (AS 16.05.940) granting rural residents preference in hunting and fishing over other uses. Urban hunters challenge the law. Ruling on *Madison v. Alaska Department of Fish and Game* (696 P. 2d 168) the Alaska Supreme Court determines the law unconstitutional in 1985.
- 1978 The Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission is created to ensure that northern Alaska Natives could continue to hunt bowhead whales for subsistence.
- 1980 Congress passes the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA). The legislation adds 104.3 million acres to conservation units in Alaska and designates 58 million acres of land in Alaska to be managed as wilderness. The law includes a provision that the State of Alaska must maintain a subsistence preference for rural residents.
- 1982 The first Yupiit Yuraryarait (Yup'ik Way of Dancing) festival takes place at St. Marys on the Yukon River. Soon after, the first Cama'i Dance Festival is held at Bethel. These festivals revive the dancing and festival traditions of the Yup'ik people.
- 1983 The Bureau of Indian Affairs closes Mt. Edgecumbe High School at Sitka and in 1986 ends its educational services in Alaska. The State of Alaska opens a boarding school at Mt. Edgecumbe in 1986.
- 1986 The Berger Commission holds hearings around the state and assesses the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. It prepares a report critical of the act and its implementation.
- 1986 The State of Alaska revises the state subsistence law (AS 16.05.940). The U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals rules in *Kenaitze v. State of Alaska* in 1989 that the state's definition of rural is inconsistent with the federal definition in Title VIII of ANILCA.
- 1988 Congress amends the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. A provision extends the prohibition of sales of shares in regional and village corporations established in the original legislation.
- 1989 The Alaska Supreme Court rules in *McDowell v. State of Alaska* that the state law basing subsistence rights on place of residence is unconstitutional. The court, however, upholds the state's right to grant subsistence users priority. It says criteria other than place of residence might be constitutional.
- 1989 The Exxon Valdez runs aground in Prince William Sound spilling over 10 million barrels of crude oil. The oil devastates Prince William Sound and Kodiak

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fisheries and kills thousands of waterfowl and sea mammals.

- 1990 The U.S. Government takes over management of hunting and some fishing on federal lands from the State of Alaska because the State does not comply with the ANILCA provision for rural preference.
- 1990 Katie John, Doris Charles and the Mentasta Village Council, represented by the Native American Rights Fund, file suit claiming the federal government unlawfully excluded navigable waters from the protections of ANILCA. In 1995 the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals reverses a lower court decision and determines ANILCA's subsistence priority extends to navigable waters within the boundaries of federal lands in Alaska. In 2000 the federal government takes over management of all fishing on navigable waterways adjacent to federal lands. In 2001 Governor Tony Knowles drops the State of Alaska's appeal of Katie John v. United States decision.
- 1990 Congress creates the Joint Federal-State Commission on Policies and Programs Affecting Alaska Natives. Called the Alaska Natives Commission it studies the social and economic status of Alaska Natives and the effectiveness of government policies an
- 1990- Unangam Ungiikangin Kayux Tunusangin/Unangam Uniikangis Ama *Tunuzangis/Aleut Tales and Narratives*, major publication event of the 20th Century, greatest ever in publication of Unanga language.
- 1991 The Red Dog Mine, north of Kotzebue in Northwest Alaska, starts operation. The zinc and lead deposits are among the largest found in the world and the mine is expected to operate 50 years. The mine pays rent and royalties to the Native-owned NANA Corporation and agrees to employ and train local Native people for sixty percent of the jobs at the mine.
- 1992 Georgianna Lincoln from Rampart is the first Native woman elected to the Alaska Senate. She is reelected two times, choosing to retire in 2004.
- 1992- Unanga (Aleut) Language class is taught at Alaska Pacific University, originally Alaska Methodist University, which was founded by Gordon P. Gould, an Unanga (Aleut).
- 1994- May: *Aleut Dictionary: Unangam Tunudgusii*, compiled by Knut Bergsland, is ready for distribution through the Alaska Native Language Center at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.
- 1996 The U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals concludes 1.8 million acres of Interior Alaska lands belonging to Venetie and Arctic Village tribes are Indian Country. The U.S. Supreme Court in 1998 reverses the decision, unanimously determining there is no Indian Country in Alaska.

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- 1997 A new Alaska Native Medical Center replaces the one built in the 1950s in Anchorage.
- 1999 The Alaska Native Heritage Center opens in Anchorage. It profiles Alaska Native people today and provides educational programs for people of all ages to better understand Alaska Native people.
- 2000 Congress appropriates \$7 million (\$67,000 each) to 102 Inupiat people given low level radioactive iodine as part of a medical experiment conducted by the U.S. Air Force between 1955 and 1957.
- 2001 Governor Knowles issues an executive order called the Millennium Agreement that the State of Alaska will consult with recognized tribal governments on issues in Alaska.