



Agafia Trefon (1908-1928) with a parasitic jaeger, Tanalian Point, near Port Alsworth, 1921. Photo by Robert Vreeland. Courtesy of Robert Vreeland Jr. and the National Park Service, NPS H216

A DENA'INA CHRONOLOGY

12,000 BP Glaciers begin to recede from upper Cook Inlet Basin, creating places for people to live

10,000 TO 7,500 BP Earliest Alaska Native habitation of Cook Inlet Basin

3,600 BP TO 1300 AD Kachemak traditions present within Cook Inlet Basin

500 TO 1000 Migrations of Dena'ina from areas west of Cook Inlet to Cook Inlet Basin

1000 Development of cold storage pits enables preservation of large supplies of salmon; supports semi-sedentary villages, elaboration of social and political organization

1741 Bering and Chirikov, sailing for Russia, explore portions of Alaska, but do not enter Cook Inlet

1763 The Russian Glotov, on Kodiak Island, learns of the "Tnaiana" from the Koniag (Alutiiq)

1778 James Cook, sailing for Great Britain, explores Cook Inlet; his men meet Dena'ina at West Foreland and Point Possession.

1784 Shelikov established a trading settlement at Three Saints Bay, Kodiak, predecessor to the Russian America Company and a base for Russian expansion into Dena'ina territory

1786 Dixon and Portlock, sailing for Great Britain, explore Cook Inlet

1787 Lebedev-Lastochkin Company founds post at Kasilof (Fort St. George)

1791 Lebedev-Lastochkin Company founds post at Kenai (Fort St. Nicholas)

1794 Vancouver, sailing for Great Britain, visits North Foreland (Tyonek) and describes Russian post

1797 Tyonek Dena'ina under Quq'ey destroy Russian post at North Foreland; Russian post at Iliamna also destroyed; Dena'ina attack Russian fort in the Battle of Kenai

1799 Formation of Russian-American Company

1837-1840 Smallpox epidemic kills at least half of the Dena'ina population

1845 Founding of Russian Orthodox mission at Kenai

1867 Sale of Alaska by Russia to the United States

1860s-1880s Alaska Commercial Company establishes trading stations along Cook Inlet, including Tyonek and Knik. Competitors also arrive.

1882 First commercial salmon cannery at Kasilof, Kenai Peninsula

1883 First commercial salmon cannery in Bristol Bay

1883 Jacobsen visits Kenai and Tyonek to collect ethnographic items for the Ethnological Museum of Berlin

1880s-1890s American gold seekers and explorers arrive

1888 Gold discovered, Resurrection Creek on Turnagain Arm

1890s AND EARLY 1900s Growth of town of Knik

1894 Bear and Palmer creeks (Kenai Peninsula) gold "stampedes"

1896 Drop in fur prices leads to collapse of fur trade around Cook Inlet

1897 Knik Arm Dena'ina move Russian Orthodox chapel from Knik to Eklutna

1898 Captain Edward Glenn's military exploration of upper Cook Inlet; followed by other military and government-sponsored exploration in the early 20th century

1908 School established at Susitna Station by US Bureau of Education

1914 Survey team at Ship Creek; founding of Anchorage; Alaska Railroad construction

1915 "Moquawkie" (Tyonek) Indian Reserve established

1918 Influenza epidemic

1930 Founding of modern Nondalton

1931 AND 1932 Osgood's fieldwork in Seldovia, Kenai, Eklutna, Susitna, Tyonek, and Iliamna

1934 Susitna Station abandoned; most inhabitants move to Tyonek

1930s Kustatan abandoned; inhabitants move to Tyonek or Kenai

1937 Publication of Osgood's *The Ethnography of the Tanaina*

1939 The last Dena'ina leave Das'q'e at the mouth of Deshka River, last Dena'ina village in the Susitna Basin

1939 Native Village of Tyonek ratifies Indian Reorganization Act Constitution and by-laws

1940s World War II. Significant military presence in Cook Inlet area. Construction and enhancement of highways and other infrastructure. Non-native population growth accelerates.

1950s Oil and gas development on Kenai Peninsula and Cook Inlet

1959 Alaska statehood

1961 The Native Village of Eklutna organizes in response to encroachment on traditional lands

1962 Organization of the Kenaitze Indian Tribe

1964 Tyonek wins lawsuit regarding oil and gas exploration on reserve lands

1964 Founding of Cook Inlet Native Association

EARLY 1960s Nikafor Alexan of Tyonek writes his stories while hospitalized

1971 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act adopted by Congress

1972 Alaska Native Language Center established by the Alaska Legislature; Dena'ina practical orthography developed

1970s First Dena'ina language workshops; early work by Dena'ina writers

1980 Tyonek wins subsistence lawsuit and the right to continue its traditional king salmon fishery

1980 Lake Clark National Park and Preserve established by Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA)

1980s Educational fisheries established by Alaska Department of Fish and Game for Kenaitze, Knik, Eklutna Dena'ina tribes of Cook Inlet

1987 Publication of first edition of *Shem Pete's Alaska*; second edition follows in 2003

1991 Publication of Peter Kalifornsky's "A Dena'ina Legacy: *K'tl'egh'l Sukdu*"; wins American Book Award in 1992

1993 Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) recognizes Alaska tribes, including seven tribes with primarily Dena'ina membership

2003 The First Dena'ina Language Institute held in Kenai; annual language learning workshops follow

2004 Groundbreaking for *Nat'uh* ("Our Special Place"), Cook Inlet Tribal Council building in Anchorage

2005 Genaga.org, the Dena'ina language website, launched

2008 Opening of the Dena'ina Civic and Convention Center, Anchorage

2013 Opening of *Dena'ina Huch'ulyeshi* exhibit, Anchorage Museum



Nondalton fish camp, July 2013. Photo by Chris Arend/Anchorage Museum