

## Native claims textbook serial

(Ed. Note: This is the second in a series of excerpts from the Alaska Native Land Claims book. It is the hope of the Tundra Times and Alaska Native Foundation that the publication of the series will further the understanding and implementation of all parties involved and affected by the claims Settlement Act. The book was released by the ANF in 1976 and was also made possible by a Ford Foundation grant. Robert D. Arnold edited the text. Authors include: Janet Archibald; Margie Bauman; Nancy Yaw Davis; Robert A. Frederick; Paul Gaskin; John Havelock; Gary Holthaus; Chris McNeil; Thomas Richards, Jr.; Howard Rock and Rosita Worl.)

### Preface

As its title implies, this book is broader than the topic of the Alaska Native land claims settlement itself. The 1971 act, however, is the event around which the book is organized. Achievement of the settlement act shaped the historical sketches which make up the first half of the book; the act's provisions — as implemented in 1975 — defined the topics for the second half.

In this book the subject of our focus is Alaska Natives and their destinies. As a result, our narratives are unlike those of writers who have the destinies of European colonists, frontiersmen, or goldrushers as their subjects. Their accounts and ours are both true, we trust, but not to the exclusion of the other.

The writing of this book has been a collaborative effort by Alaskans, both Native and non-Native. Some inspired its preparation, some helped write it, others reviewed it, and yet others gave it trial use in their classrooms.

Preparation of *Alaska Native Land Claims* was encouraged by the Statewide Parents' Indian Education Committee of the Alaska Unorganized Borough School District. We commend that committee, the District's Director of Indian Education Act Programs, Nettie Peratrovich, and its Director of Community Advocacy, Laura Bernhard, for their encouragement and support of the project.

We express our appreciation to members of the Textbook Review Committee appointed by the District. Its members — Harry Carter, Ralph Eluska, Oscar Kawagley, Jim LaBelle, Frank Smith, and Philip Smith — gave generously of their time in reading and commenting upon the chapters. We also thank those teachers and students in Anchorage, Kenai, Kivalina, and Nulato who gave us the benefit of their criticism, and presidents and staffs of regional corporations who provided information to us.

Chapters of the book are based upon articles especially commissioned for this purpose. The writers of these articles were Janet Archibald, Margie Bauman, Nancy Yaw Davis, Robert A. Frederick, Paul Gaskin, John Havelock, Gary Holthaus, Chris McNeil, Thomas Richards, Jr., Howard Rock, and Rosita Worl. The information, intelligence, and perspectives which they brought to the task contributed importantly to the strengths of the narratives.

As editor and project director, I am especially grateful to Lydia Hays, who wrote the teacher's manual and student's workbook to accompany this book. Her review of the narratives contributed immeasurably to whatever clarity the text has achieved and her examination of the galleys has certainly reduced the incidence of errors.

Finally, I thank the Alaska Native Foundation, and its president, Emil Notti, and the Ford Foundation, and its president, McGeorge Bundy, for making this book possible. Although funding for its preparation came principally from the Indian Education Act, supplementary funds provided by these two foundations helped assure that no sacrifice was required in the quality and format of the book itself.

Robert D. Arnold

November, 1975  
Anchorage, Alaska

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Alaska Native Foundation  
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Anchorage, Alaska

the alaska native foundation

"All this  
and it may cor  
is far and impe

The story of Alaska's distant past with migrants was an uninhabited land for these migrants and the others by more than 17,000 years. But discovery of America was to lead — beginning in Russia. Then, after a settlement, Russia was America to the United States.

### Alaska's First Settlers

It is not known for certain when the first migrants crossed the Bering land bridge from the western hemisphere to Alaska. Agreement, however, is that Alaska was first settled by migrants from Asia. This conclusion, and the fact that the land bridge was generally believed that it existed for 40,000 years ago.

What is today known as Alaska is thousands of years old. The first settlers, the Lawrenses, the Nunivaks, the Denikwians, the tops of mountains of the Alaska Peninsula when migrants crossed the Bering land bridge.

The Land Bridge was a period when the earth's climate cooled. The land bridge was up on land as ice, thousands of feet. One such period lasted for perhaps 15,000 years. The Land Bridge was for a period of time has been a sea for at least 10,000 years.

Although much of the land bridge there was an ice-free land bridge. Many of the migrants continued southward as they spread. Their descendants differences as they spread to South America. These were the ancestors of the first settlers to the world later as Alaska.

But not all of these migrants. The Old Crow Flats in the Yukon Territory, Alaska boundary in an area that man was present for 10,000 years or more.

The migrants who crossed the Bering land bridge and settled in Alaska were the first Alaskans — the Indians, and Aleuts.

Evidence of human habitation in Alaska as elsewhere on the American continent. Parts of the United States have been uncovered that are older than in Alaska the oldest evidence is 10,000 years ago.

More than 2,700 years old in Alaska. The age of the migrants and may not ever be known and analysis.

Portrayal of a few of the migrants and distribution of some of the migrants.

## AFN-TT banquet big success, Scholarship info

The auction at the 1976 AFN-TT annual banquet raised over \$3000. These proceeds will go to the Howard Rock Memorial Journalism Scholarships. For more information write to the Tundra Times, Box 1287, Fairbanks, 99701 or Prof. Jimmy Bedford, Journalism Department, Bunnell Building, Room 18, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, 99701.