

# Palmer Historical Society

Promote Preserve Protect

November 2016 Newsletter  
Volume XXXII No. 08

## HISTORY NIGHT

November 16, 7:00pm @ Palmer Moose Lodge

Don't miss out on our last History Night of 2016!

What do George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Harry Truman, John Wayne and Buzz Aldrin have in common?

Roger Hansen will share the results of over two years of researching and documenting the history of the Masonic Clubs in Alaska.

Roger will explain the difference between Masonic Clubs and Lodges.

You will hear about the first Masonic Club in Alaska dating back to 1899.

Did you know that in the 1930's there were two Masonic clubs in Palmer?



*Pictured above is Matanuska Lodge No. 7 in Palmer.*

Join us for a great time of fun sharing Palmer history!



Palmer history is shared and preserved due to the generosity of our Members. As a non-profit we are funded by donations and membership. If you would like to support the preservation of Palmer History, please contact a Board member or fill out the form on the back of the newsletter.

Thank you in advance for preserving Palmer history for future generations!



## Colony House Museum

Located at  
316 E. Elmwood Ave.

In the Historic District  
Tours by

Appointment during the winter  
907-745-1935

From Thanksgiving through the end  
of 2016 the Colony House Museum  
will be closed for tours.



**Palmer Historical Society  
&**

**Colony House Museum**

PO Box 1935  
Palmer, AK 99645

History Nights are  
3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the Month  
7:00p.m. @ Palmer Moose Lodge  
November is the last History Night  
of 2016 – See you in 2017 @ the  
Moose Lodge!

**Mark your calendars for Colony Christmas!  
Colony House Museum's Annual Christmas Open House**

Saturday December 10 from 10:00-6:00

Stay to watch the 6:00 fireworks from the front lawn of the museum – best spot in town! ☺

We deck the halls in typical Colony Christmas fashion – stop in for our Bake Sale, sweets & treats, carols around the colony piano, and memory making with friends- just like the 'old' days.



As 2016 ends you might be wondering what 2017 will bring.

Maybe it's the year you choose to serve on our Board of Directors or join us for other Palmer preserving activities.

Our Annual meeting is coming up in January 2017. We will be electing the Board of Directors then at that time – If this is the year you want to join in – let a current Board member know ☺

It's a fun and historic adventure!

**Colony Cold.....**

The Museum furnace decided to hibernate during our cold snap.

Unfortunately, the parts needed for repairs were delayed so our little house was cold for a few days.

Like tough colonists we carried on with our scheduled school tours. Children and docents alike experienced the 'hard times' of the colonists during those cold winter days of the 30's.

Are you polishing up your baking skills for the Holidays? We are accepting donations of your delicious baked goods for our Colony House Museum Open House & Bake Sale during Colony Christmas.

Please drop off your culinary delights on Friday December 9 between 10-5.

*Thank you for supporting Palmer Historical Society and Colony House Museum!*



**Board of Directors**

Joan Campbell Gerry Keeling Sheri Hamming Carol Lombardo Carol Strouse John Stuart Barb Thomas

**Support Team**

Sharon Benson Clyde & June Oberg Joann Utt



## Historical Food Stains

By Maraley McMichael

While growing up in Glennallen, I was involved in 4-H and took several classes including basic sewing. The year I turned eleven (1966), I decided to make cloth placemats and napkins for our family of six to use for Christmas. Mom paid for the fabric I picked out at our local grocery/department store, owned by the Martin family.

I cut out the placemats and napkins according to the 4-H pattern, which called for all four edges of the napkins to be fringed as well as two edges of the placemats. I wanted enough for company, so I made twelve. That's hours and hours of fringing, using a sewing pin to loosen each thread. Of course, we had no TV or the other time consumers that are available nowadays, so it didn't really matter.

Compared to the usual plastic tablecloth backed with flocking that we used for all special holiday meals, I thought the Christmas dinner table looked extremely attractive set with my poinsettia patterned placemats and matching solid green napkins.

After dinner, there was a problem. Noticing food on some of the napkins, I said I'd put them in the dirty clothes hamper so they would go with us the next time we went to the laundromat. Mom said no. She insisted that I run a seam of stitches around all the fringed edges, or at least on the fringed edges of the placemats, so they wouldn't further fray in the washing machine. I was very troubled by this. I didn't think it would look very nice for one thing, the pattern didn't call for it, and I'd already been taught to only sew clean cloth in the sewing machine.

I folded up my creations and put them in a box and as far as I know, they were never used again. I finished school, got married, and embarked of a life of my own. I'd forgotten about them, until my sisters and I were going through old family belongings in Glennallen in 2000. As one box was opened and I saw the contents, I immediately knew what they were and the memories came flooding back. I claimed them and took them home to my house in Slana, throwing them in a box with my other old stuff.

Life goes on and my husband and I eventually moved back to Palmer in 2011. The placemats and napkins resurfaced last November when I was looking for something else. Again, I had forgotten about them. But, this time I shook out a napkin wondering if I might be able to currently use it, or if not, it was time to get rid of them.

I was horrified to find dried food on the napkin! I'd forgotten that detail and decided to check the others. Nine out of the twelve napkins had grease spots or dried food on them. We must have had company for dinner in 1966. I wondered about my sanity as I pretreated almost 50-year-old food stains before throwing everything in the washing machine. But, they turned out fine - no further fraying as Mom had worried. In fact, they are right in style as I recall seeing similarly fringed napkins purposefully placed in the water goblets at the fancy restaurant my husband took me to on my 60<sup>th</sup> birthday.

My newly resurrected linens were quite the conversation piece last November at a small family Thanksgiving gathering in Anchorage and this year will be tucked in a suitcase bound for Christmas celebrations in Colorado.

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PO Box 1935  
Palmer, AK  
99645

**Yes! I want to Preserve, Promote, and Protect the History of Palmer Alaska!**

Please sign me up! I will circle the level I would like to commit to for 2017

Individual One Vote	\$25.00 per year
Household Two Votes/One household	\$40.00 per year
Patron/Business/Organization One Vote	\$100.00 per year
Lifetime One Vote/One person/No transfer	\$500.00

Name:

Mailing Address:

Phone Number:

Email Address:

*Cut out form - Please mail to Palmer Historical Society, PO Box 1935, Palmer, AK 99645 or bring to History Night!*

**THANK YOU for your generous contribution – Palmer History will be preserved because of you!**