



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 2, 2014

STATE ARCHIVES TO RECEIVE TERRITORIAL RECORDS FROM THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

JUNEAU – The National Archives & Records Administration (NARA) will transfer over 1,800 cubic feet of Alaska Territorial Court System records and nearly 1,250 cubic feet of Alaska Railroad Corporation records to the Alaska State Archives. These records are currently stored in NARA's Anchorage facility, which is slated for closure on September 30, 2014.

Court records including case files, dockets, journals, exhibits and other materials documenting criminal and civil proceedings that occurred prior to 1960 will be transmitted to Juneau in July. This transfer represents over 92 percent of Alaskan pre-Statehood court records in NARA's custody.

Consolidating the court records in one location simplifies research activities for genealogists, state agency personnel, members of the legal community, and others. In addition to streamlined access, the records will be stored in the new unsurpassed, environmentally controlled Statewide Libraries Archives & Museums (SLAM) facility.

Key Alaska Railroad Corporation records that will be transferred are a century old and include general manager correspondence, engineering drawings, and survey books that document the creation of the railroad.

State Archivist Dean Dawson stated, "This is excellent news for Alaska's historical community and those that require efficient access to our past. Many of these records constitute Alaska's own local community history as nearly all of Alaska's pre-Statehood local government activities were managed in the District and US Commissioner's Courts—business licenses, probate of wills, civil/criminal actions, and city incorporations."

The Governor's Office, Alaska's Legislative Delegations, and the Alaska Court System assisted the State Archives' efforts to effectuate this arrangement.