



### **A Creek, a Hill, & a Forty**

Author: Ray Bonnell  
ISBN: 978-1-7364236-6-0  
Category: Alaska History  
Publisher: Pingo Press  
Format: Trade Paperback  
Pages: 264  
Trim Size: 6" x 9"  
Price: \$19.95  
Publication date: August 16, 2024

### **Available through Ingram**

Standard Trade discount - Returnable

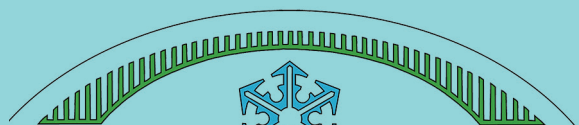
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### **About the Author**

**Ray Bonnell** graduated from Alaska Methodist University (now Alaska Pacific University) in 1974, and has worked as a free-lance artist and historian since the 1980s. For 12 years he produced a historical column entitled "Sketches of Alaska" for the *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner* newspaper. That column received the Contributions to Alaska History award from the Alaska Historical Society. Ray just completed a term on the Alaska State Historical Commission, and continues to ramble around Alaska, drawing historic sites and writing about Alaska history.

For samples of his art and writing check out [sketchesofalaska.com](http://sketchesofalaska.com).



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# *A Creek, The a Hill, early years of Alaska's & a Forty*

*Matanuska Colony, seen through a colonist's  
letters home—Margaret Miller's story*



## *Ray Bonnell*

*A Creek, a Hill & a Forty* is a firsthand narrative of the early years of Alaska's Matanuska Colony—with the story told through the personal letters of one colonist, Margaret Miller.

Margaret, along with her husband and three daughters, emigrated to Alaska as a colonist in May 1935. She was an erudite and talented writer, and after arriving in Alaska, Margaret wrote weekly multi-page letters to her mother back in Wisconsin—letters that her mother kept—letters that form the core of this book.

Uncolored by the passage of time, Margaret's letters reflect colony life as it happened. Her experiences may not be those of every colonist, but, through her eyes can be seen some of their fears and motivations, some of their struggles and accomplishments.

Including three maps and 60 photographs, *A Creek, a Hill & a Forty* is an enjoyable read that provides a glimpse into the lives of the colonists, as well as insights into the colony's development.