Acknowledgments

I am deeply indebted to the Alaska Humanities Forum and Laura Schue for the grant that made this project possible. A great debt is owed to linguist Rick Thoman, who worked on the project tirelessly from inception to completion with no more compensation than a single travel stipend and a phone card, and to Irene Arnold, who diligently strove to accurately translate the Healy Lake dialect, which is set apart from her own Tanacross Athabaskan language in many ways. Ginny Harris, treasurer of Friends of Alaska Wildlife Refuges, administered the grant while providing enthusiastic support. My gratitude belongs to the Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge manager, Tony Booth, and to other staff including Melinda Rallo, information technician, who made logic out of computer technology; Hank Timm, biologist; and Peter Butteri, who created a base map on which Rick Thoman placed traditional Athabaskan place names. Debbie Corbett, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service archaeologist, supported this project and all other culturally related projects on the Refuge. I also wish to thank the following: Joanne Polston, chief of Healy Lake; David Joe, elder and storyteller; Daisy Northway; Lee Taylor, John Cook, Tanya Lee, and Hank Timm, who provided the outstanding photos that became the artwork of the book; also Donald Callaway, friend and consultant; Gary Holton and Paul Milanowski, linguists who edited the Athabaskan book sections; Laura Whitehouse, USFWS editor; and the Alaska Native Knowledge Network’s Ray Barnhardt and Sean Topkok. A very special thanks belongs to the Alaska Native Language Center and to Leon Unruh, editor for the ANLC, who magically strung together numerous disparate parts and pieces and made the story whole.
The Adventures of Yaabaa Teeshaay

Map of Healy Lake Area

Map Location

Legend

- Villages and camps
- Roads
- Rivers

Upper Tanana Place Name Map

Delta Junction
Goodpaster Village
Jitz Cheeg
Mendez Cheeg
Healy Lake Village
Ch'inchel
Kelt'aaddh Menn
Dot Lake
Tanana River
Tth'retu'
Mansfield
Dihthaad
Taats'altey
Tok
Teedlay
Tetlin
Nahk'adn
East Tetlin
K'ehththig
Northway Village
Vanacross
Tahlaad
Mentasia
K'ekhunstuk
Chicken
Saages Cheeg
Tehlung Nindeex Ndiig
Joseph Creek and Joseph Village
Mosquito Fork Fortymile River
Canoe Bottom
Healy River
Ts'eyh Keel'agh Ndiig
Middle Fork Fortymile
Ts'eyh Keel'agh Ndiig
Ttheet'oodley
Eagle Village
Ddheet' Chdheetuuy
Moose Creek Bluff
Sah Cheeg
Saleka Village

1:1,462,118
1 in = 22 miles

0 20 40 60 80
Miles

xvii
The Adventures of Yaabaa Teeshaay

Ellen Demit Abbreviated Kinship Chart

- Old Paul = Julia
- Old Blind Jimmy = Selene
- Frank Felix = Ellen = Herbert Demit

- Infant Mary Agnes Alfred Ina Daisy Talbert Infant

- Male
- Female
- Shaded = Living
- Clear = Deceased
- # = Divorced
The Adventures of Yaabaa Teeshaay

Abbreviated Kinship Chart
of Healy Lake Chiefs’ Descendants

Old Chief Healy

Geti Theeg = ?

Woish = Old Chief Healy

Maggie = John Healy = Jeanie Sam

? = Stella = Lee Saylor

Male          Female

Shaded = Living
Clear = Deceased
≠ = Divorced

Jo Ann ≠ Clifford Polston

Patrick ≠ Paula

Karen = Benjamin

Jeanie Corey

Swan