



WHITMAN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 50, No. 2 – April 2023

Vintage Quilt Show Returns to the Depot!

April 21, 5:00 to 8:00 PM

April 22, April 29, and May 6, 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM



Returning after a three-year pandemic hiatus, the Pullman Depot's Vintage Quilt Show will once again exhibit quilted treasures of the past, on loan from area residents. Visitors to the Freight Room and Passenger Car can look forward to seeing handmade quilts and comforters that are normally unavailable for public viewing. Information on each quilt pattern and its creator(s) will be featured. A number of other handwork items—such as crocheted doilies, handmade lace, and embroidered pillowcases—will also be on display. The cost is \$5 per person for the general public and \$3 each for WCHS members.

Join us on Thursday night, April 20, at 7:00 PM, to hear historian **Kathy Meyer**, a fourth-generation quilter, speak

about the history of quilting. Another special treat will be demonstrations of bobbin lace making on Saturday, May 6, by the Appaloosa Lace Guild from Moscow.

If you have a vintage quilt or handwork item that you would like to loan to the Depot for the quilt show, contact Freight Room director **Jamie Whitman** at jwhitman97@yahoo.com or 509-332-1005. Quilts and handwork should be at least 50 years old.

Please Renew Your Membership

If you haven't done so already, please take a minute to respond to the membership renewal request you might have recently received in the mail (batches are sent to different members every month). Memberships also make great gifts! The form can be found on the next page of this newsletter, or you can download it from the WCHS website (whitmancountyhistoricalsociety.org). Membership fees are particularly crucial for the publication of the *Bunchgrass Historian*. Thank you!



Greetings from WCHS Director Valoree Gregory

We are getting ready for a great Spring and Summer here on the Palouse. WCHS offers lots of opportunities to explore our region's history. With support from our wonderful volunteers, all our locations are open to the public and free of charge. (Donations are greatly appreciated at each location, of course.) If you are visiting the area or have family and friends in town, bring them to one—or more! The Pullman Depot Heritage Center is open on Saturdays from 1pm to 4pm. The Perkins House in Colfax is open on Saturdays and Sundays from 10am to 2pm. And the Chatters Print Museum in Palouse is open on Saturdays from 10am to 2pm. Each offers a variety of historical artifacts from Whitman County. The Pullman Depot displays a variety of historical exhibits throughout the year and unveils at least one new display every few months. The Print Museum has demonstrations on vintage printing presses that are still in working order. The Trinity Chapel in Palouse can be seen by appointment. All our properties can be rented out for private events or meetings.

We also have two projects that we assist with. The Lost Apple Project finds “lost” apple varieties (thought to be extinct) all over the Inland Pacific Northwest. Our newest collaboration is with St. Ignatius Hospital (built in 1893 in Colfax). The building, which is being saved and preserved, offers day tours and night tours. Go to www.colfax.hauntedhospital.com. We always need help at all of our locations, so visit our website at www.whitmancountyhistoricalsociety.org to learn about volunteer opportunities.

Lenten Meditation Cancelled at Trinity Chapel

The Palouse Federated Church, which rented Holy Trinity Chapel last year for Advent and Lent, has had to cancel its Thursday Lenten Meditation Series due to furnace problems in the building. According to Trinity's director, **Pat Flansburg**, consideration is being given to not replacing the extremely old furnace and renting the chapel out only during more seasonable weather.

Lost Apple Project Update

Dave Benschoter and his volunteers have sold and delivered over 400 grafting scions since January! They have also pre-sold 100 trees that they will soon be grafting. On Saturday, April 1, they will be offering a grafting class in Spangle. If interested, contact Dave (right away!) at 509-238-5150 or dbens23@gmail.com.

May Palouse People Program at the Depot: “Photographing the Palouse”

On Thursday, May 11, Pullman photographer **Ken Carper** will speak at the Pullman Depot about the many wonderful opportunities for photographing the Palouse. His talk will take place in the Freight Room at 7:00 PM. Ken is a retired professor of architecture and construction management. His interest in photography began during his career at WSU when he was inspired by beautiful photographs of the area that were taken by others. When he retired in 2010, he had much more time to devote to this pursuit. He hopes his photographs will enhance people's appreciation for the uniquely beautiful environment of the Palouse.





Monument and Ceremony for Sheriff Pete Parnell

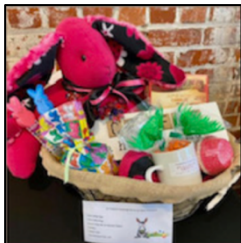
Sheriff **Levi Morton "Pete" Parnell** (1888-1949) will be honored at the Colfax City Cemetery on May 29 in a ceremony that will begin between 11:00 and 11:30 AM, immediately following regular Memorial Day Services at 10:00 AM. It will include a military salute and several speakers.

Sheriff Parnell was shot by a sniper, World War II veteran **George A. McIntyre** (1923-1949), during the "Easter Massacre" in Pullman on April 17, 1949. During a 40-minute gun battle, before McIntyre himself was slain, he killed two other law-enforcement officers and a cab driver, and wounded two additional officers and a bystander.

The project was initiated by Judge **Gary Libey** of Colfax, whose grandmother was married to Parnell's twin brother. Gary has been aided by WCHS president **Greg Partch**, Whitman County sheriff **Brett Myers**, Colfax mayor **Jim Retzer**, and **Blaire Daniels** of Colfax Monument—among others. Funding for the granite monument (which is approximately two by four feet in size) was provided by Gary and his wife **Trudy Libey**, and by **Pat and Norm LaPalme** of Jacksonville, Florida.

Roof Restoration Springs Forward at the Pullman Depot Heritage Center

WCHS is awaiting the delivery of the new roof tiles that will replace the multiple layers of roofing that are currently topping the Pullman Depot. The tiles, which will arrive in the next few weeks, were made by the Ludowici Company of New Lexington, Ohio. They are exact replicas of the originals, installed by Northern Pacific in 1917 and removed in the early 1950s. Subsequent roofing materials included both asphalt shingles and the current metal. Restorative preparation in the attic has been completed, and the building is now ready for the next step.



Silent Auction

There is still time to bid on the "Bunny Basket" at the Depot's current silent auction, which closes April 8. It features an original handmade stuffed bunny by **Helen Thompson**, a coffee sign, coffee mug, coffee pods, candies, a necklace, and a carrot cake mix and cupcake papers. Stop by the Depot to place a bid!

*Beginning with this issue, every WCHS newsletter will spotlight one or two of our volunteers. Names will be drawn randomly. The spotlight for April 2023 is on **John-Mark** and **Denise Mahnkey** of Pullman:*



John-Mark has been volunteering at the Pullman Depot since 2019. He serves on its Steering Committee, chairs the Rail Car Committee, and — with **Brandon Burch** — takes care of technology needs in the Freight Room, such as making videos of PDHC programs. You might recognize John-Mark as a past candidate for Whitman County Commissioner. He works for Pullman Radio, where he is production director for Mid-days on 104-7 FM. Although born in Tacoma, he has lived



When asked why they devote so much of their time to WCHS, Denise said, “My background is in History, and my passion is the West and the Westward Movement. Whitman County falls into that category.” John-Mark added, “I love trains and I love my community, and I love being part of both!”

Port of Whitman
Pullman Disposal
Shop at the Barn
Whitman County Treasurer

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 Tom and Molly Keogh
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 Richard & Barbara Petura
 Patricia Pfaff
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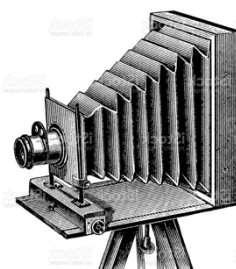
Amalie Preston
 Albert Prohaska
 William & Heather Rice
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 Nancy Rothwell & Jim Fitzgerald
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 Gary & Sue Schell
 Dorla Scholz
 Mark Schumaker
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 Debbie Snell
 Meade Snoddy & Nancy Gillard
 Eric Sorensen & Beth DeWeese
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 Eric Stoltz
 Ken Struckmeyer
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Chris Sutton
 Ellen Taylor
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 Al & Jane Von Frank
 Louis Vyhnaneck
 Lee & Donita Walker
 Libby Walker
 Norman Warnick
 Karen Weathermon
 Ken Weaver
 Hellen & Will Webster
 Mike & Vivian Werner
 Danny Wharton
 Frank White
 Don & Diane Whitman
 Marsha Williams & Russel Haydon
 Thane & Nicole Wyman
 Judith Zeider
 Brian Zupke



Do You Recognize Me?

At the first of every year, the Washington Rural Heritage Project moves a new batch of historic photos into the public domain after their copyrights have elapsed. The photo at the left is one of them. It was taken by photographer Eleazer B. Harris (1875 to 1952), Washtucna, whose work focused on outdoor scenes in the Palouse and Snake River regions, as well as on portraits of area residents.



Harris took this studio portrait of “Wild Rose, the Washington Cow Girl,” at left, in 1911. Nothing else is known about this individual. If you can provide additional information, please contact the Whitman County Library in Colfax! This newsletter will publish the results, if discovered.

Did You Know?

- ❖ When Whitman County was created in 1871, it was considerably larger than it is today, as it included neighboring Adams, Franklin, and Lincoln Counties. As the population increased, effective county administration became more and more difficult, so it was reduced to its present size in 1883.
- ❖ Of some nineteen flour mills that once flourished in Whitman County, only the Barron Flour Mill in Oakesdale is still standing. It has not operated since 1960 and is currently for sale.

2023 Calendar

April 19	WCHS Board Meeting, Print Museum, Palouse
April 20	Palouse People: "A Brief History of Quilting," Kathy Meyer, Pullman Depot
April 21-22, 29, May 6	Vintage Quilt Show, Pullman Depot
May 11	Palouse People: "Photographing the Palouse," Ken Carper, Pullman Depot
May 17	WCHS Board Meeting, Pullman Depot Freight Room
May 20	Three Forks Arts Festival, Pullman (some of the exhibits at the Depot)
June 21	WCHS Board Meeting, WCHS Archive, Pullman
July 7-8	Old Mill Days, Oakesdale
July 19	WCHS Board Meeting, Perkins House, Colfax
August 16	WCHS Board Meeting, Pullman Depot Freight Room
August 17-19	Depot Days, Pullman Depot, concurrent with the Pullman Lentil Festival
September 7-10	Palouse Empire Fair (mini-lessons at the Jones Schoolhouse, and exhibits And/or demonstrations at the Blacksmith Shop)
September 16	Palouse Days
September 20	WCHS Board Meeting, Print Museum, Palouse
October 20, 21, 27, 28	Haunted Palouse (new horrors at the Print Museum)
November 15	WCHS Board Meeting, Pullman Depot Freight Room
December 2	Pullman Festival of Lights (Santa Comes to Pullman via the Depot)
December 2	Winter Fest, Colfax (Christmas Open House at the Perkins House)
December 2, 9, 16	Christmas Train Car Bazaar at the Pullman Depot
December 20	WCHS Board Meeting, Zoom

MEMBERSHIP: Become a part of the exciting future of Whitman County, or share its history with a friend or relative! Join, renew your membership, or give a gift membership.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Membership - \$30 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining Membership - \$ 75 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Membership - \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron Membership - \$100 or more |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business Membership - \$60 | <input type="checkbox"/> Life Membership - \$500 or more |

Name of continuing or new member, or gift

Recipient: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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I'd like to make an additional donation: ☐ \$25.00 ☐ \$50.00 ☐ \$100.00 ☐ other \$ _____

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- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greatest Need | <input type="checkbox"/> Roy Chatters Newspaper and Printing Museum |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Holy Trinity Chapel | <input type="checkbox"/> Pullman Depot Heritage Center |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Perkins House and Cabin | <input type="checkbox"/> WCHS Archive |

Note that WCHS is a 501c 3. Your gift is tax deductible. Total Amount Enclosed: _____

Send to: WCHS Membership Chair PO Box 67 COLFAX WA 99111