



# WHITMAN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 52, No. 3 – May/June 2025

## Vintage Quilt and Handcraft Show



It's not too late to catch the last two Saturdays of the Vintage Quilt Show at the Depot in Pullman on May 3 and 10, from 1:00 to 4:00 PM. The Appaloosa Lace Makers Guild will be there, demonstrating bobbin lace making. Raffle tickets for a children's gardening basket can be obtained at the door.

## A New Palouse Habitat Tradition

from the PDHC Newsletter

Visitors and volunteers at the Pullman Depot Heritage Center decorated and donated a 2- x 4-inch stud to go into the next Habitat for Humanity home. The stud was auctioned at Habitat's "Beans and Jeans" fundraiser. Proceeds will support the Pullman home build! Thank you, **Jenny Carlson** and **Kelly McGee** (both Pullman), for taking on this project! Other local businesses also contributed studs to Habitat for Humanity



The stud was decorated inside the historic caboose at the PDHC. Staff and passersby added to the it during public exhibit hours, contributing designs that link the past to the present. As an organization dedicated to preserving the 1916 Northern Pacific Depot, the PDHC's contribution reminds us of how place, memory, and home shape our communities across generations. This was a 100 percent donation, with all proceeds going to support the Pullman home build—no goods or services were received for this donation.



See: [#PalouseHabitat](#) [#HabitatforHumanity](#) [#BeansnJeans2025](#) [#CostofHome](#) [#PullmanWA](#)

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## Funding Cut For Whitman Rural Heritage Project

According to an article in the *Whitman County Gazette* (April 19, 2025), by Teresa Simpson, the Whitman County Library has been forced to cancel the Whitman County Digital Project, part of the Washington Rural Heritage project. It has been funded by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Service, whose acting director, Keith Sonderling, ordered the cancellation of all 2024-2025 projects as of Tuesday, April 1. Local project manager Hollyanna Hahn reported that “IMLS has been completely stripped.”

The Whitman County Rural Heritage Collection contains approximately 5,300 historically significant items that were collected by the library and local volunteers. It contains photographs, artifacts, documents, and videos that pertain to the culture of Whitman County, particularly its early community life, agriculture, and business and industry—all available online. It also contains a great deal of genealogical information on early families. The county digital project was receiving \$17,000, but without funding for its website, it will be difficult to maintain it, preserve it, or move forward.

A lawsuit to reverse the cancellation has been filed by the Washington Attorney General, whose office has stated, “It is illegal to terminate a grant program already approved by Congress.”

Hahn said that the library’s goal is to prevent the project’s disappearance. The library is working with a technician to determine if there is any way it will be able to maintain the website without grant money. It is also considering approaching Washington State University and asking whether or not it might take over the project. We want to make sure, she said, that “it is preserved in the most accessible form” so that “our community still has access to these wonderful documents.”

For the time being, the Washington Rural Heritage site is still available at [washingtonruralheritage.org](http://washingtonruralheritage.org).

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## NEXT PALOUSE PEOPLE AT THE DEPOT: **“FALLEN COUGARS”**

**THURSDAY, MAY 22, 7:00 PM**

“Fallen Cougars” will be the subject of the Memorial Day program at the Pullman Depot Freight Room. Several history faculty and students, who work with the Washington State University World War II Commemoration Project, will speak on military personnel who lost their lives during the war—each had a connection to WSU as a student, faculty member, or alumnus.

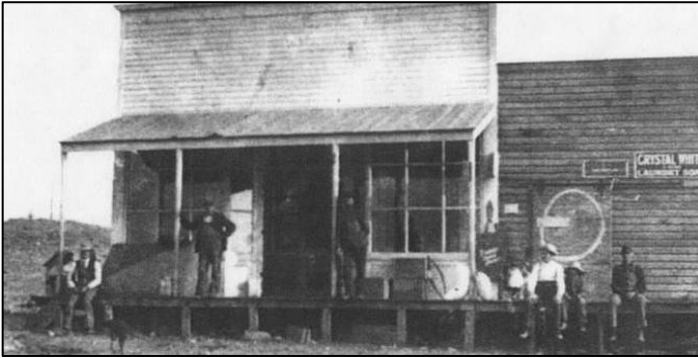
According to project director **Raymond Sun** (Albion), “By presenting the photos and life stories of the generation of Cougars who died in the fight against fascism and militarism, the project aims to restore the humanity and spirit of the approximately 250 WSC war dead, transforming them from names on a plaque to young men to whom contemporary Cougars and the public can readily relate. It is intended to serve both as a scholarly resource and a means to advance public understanding and appreciation for the service and legacy of these former Cougars in this defining moment of history.” For more information, see the WSU Fallen Cougars Project on You Tube and the 2020 winter edition of the *Washington State Magazine*.





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## FEATURED MUSEUM: THE HOOPER GENERAL STORE



The privately owned Hooper General Store—now 110 years old—is located in the town of Hooper, which straddles the line between Whitman and Adams Counties. The current brick building replaced the wooden original, which was built in 1901 by a McGregor relative, James S. Thomas. It was purchased only two years later by the McGregor brothers (Archie, Peter, John, and Alex), but the store burned to the ground in December of 1915, while “everybody in town” was ice

skating on Clear Lake, said **Alex McGregor** (Pullman). The fire was particularly bad luck for his father, 9-year-old Sherman McGregor, because he had discovered that his parents had bought him a BB gun for Christmas and had hidden it behind the counter.

Alex’s grandfather, Alex C. McGregor (1869-1952) operated the store for 35 years, followed by his son Sherman. It closed in 1977 but is still standing today, carefully restored by the McGregor family, who have added “some historic tidbits and interesting things to see to give a flavor of the rural and agricultural history of this region.” Today it serves as a community center and has hosted numerous concerts, weddings, meetings, retirement parties, and even celebrations of life.



The Hooper General Store is open by appointment only. If you are interested in the possibility of scheduling a tour for your group, please email Alex at [alex@mcgregor.com](mailto:alex@mcgregor.com).



**Pat Flansburg** (Palouse) has been a member of the WCHS Board of Directors for 22 years, ever since she approached it in 2003 to see if the Society would be interested in sponsoring the purchase and preservation of Holy Trinity Chapel in Palouse. A former Episcopal church, it had been put up for sale by the Diocese of

Spokane, and many worried that it would be torn down or repurposed into a house. Almost single-handedly, Pat raised the money to buy it—which was paid for in only five years. Today she oversees its upkeep and use.

Holy Trinity was built in 1896. Both its original interior and exterior have been carefully maintained, with no substantive changes over the last nearly 130 years, other than reroofing, re-siding, and repainting. Great care has been taken to retain its original appearance. The chapel is also noteworthy for its lych gate, one of only seven in the United States.

In addition to her work for WCHS, Pat volunteered extensively for the elementary school in Palouse when her two children were younger; in particular, she was a founding member of SACK (Support and



Caring for Kids). In addition to their grown son and daughter, Pat and her husband Doug have four grandchildren.

When asked why she donates her time to WCHS, Pat said, “I like being involved with the chapel, but unfortunately, it no longer has any other volunteers, so it’s left to me alone to take care of it. It’s an important part of the history of Palouse and its people, especially those who are now gone.”

Located at 105 E. Alder Street in Palouse, Holy Trinity Chapel is available to rent for small weddings, funerals, recitals, or similar events. Please contact Pat (509-878-1826 or [pflans@gmail.com](mailto:pflans@gmail.com)) if you are interested in volunteering, or renting the building for an event.

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### Thank You to Our 2024 Volunteers!

*WCHS would like to take this opportunity to show its appreciation to the 64 volunteers, listed below, who generously donated their time to WCHS in 2024. These individuals are a crucial part of WCHS’s efforts to preserve the rich history of Whitman County and the Palouse region, as represented by our eight properties and numerous projects. Their support helps to bring our past into our future. Thank you!*



Jon Anderson	Ed Garretson	Donna Potts
Janet Barstow	Jill Gfeller	Jim Fitzgerald & Nancy Rothwell
Francis Benjamin	Val Gregory	Kathleen Ryan
Dave Benscoter	Phil Gruen	Bobby Ryder
Jordan Bergstrom	Linda Hackbarth	Richard Scheuerman
Wendy Blake	Bill Herrmann	Debbie Sherman
Trevor Bond	Krista Jones-Boyd	Austin & Laura Storm
Brandon Burch	Max Kirk	Lou Vyhnanek
Kyley Canion-Brewer	Carol Larsen	Steve Watson
Bryan & Jennie Carlson	Dan & Joyce Leonard	Katie Whelan
Ken Casavant	Kelly McGee	Frank White
Mark Clinton	Rebecca McGee	Bill & Jamie Whitman
Cassie Crisman	Kathy Meyer	Kara Whitman
Samantha Edgerton	Denise & John-Mark Mahnkey	Olivia Whitman
Mary Jane Engh	Greg Partch	
Maddie Farnsworth	Ronda Penwell	
Roger Ferrell	Annette Pettenger	
Pat Flansburg	Sid Pierson	
Frank Fleenor	Jeff Pietila	

\*If you are a WCHS volunteer and your name is not on this list, please let us know! (See our contact info. below.)

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**If you have information for the July/August newsletter**, please call either **Debbie Sherman** (509) 334-7389 or **Kathy Meyer** (509) 432-1336, or email them at [jdjsherman@msn.com](mailto:jdjsherman@msn.com) or [klemeyer@gmail.com](mailto:klemeyer@gmail.com). We can’t print your stories unless you contact us!

### 2025 Calendar

May 3 & 10	PDHC Vintage Quilt Show, Pullman Depot, 1:00 to 4:00
May 21	WCHS Executive/Depot Meeting, 6:00 PM, 7 PM Board Meeting
May 22	Palouse People, “Fallen Cougars,” 7:00 PM, PDHC Freight Room
June 6	Picnic at the Perkins House, 11:00 AM to 3PM

June 7	Rosalia Battle Days, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
June 18	WCHS Board Meeting, 7:00 PM, Pullman Archive
June 28	Summer Dayz Car Show, St. John
July 11-12	Old Mill Days, Oakesdale
July 16	WCHS Board Meeting, 7:00 PM, Perkins House, Colfax
Aug. 15	PDHC Depot Days, Pullman
Aug. 15-16	Pullman Lentil Festival
Aug. 20	WCHS Executive/Depot Meeting 6:00 PM, Pullman Depot
	WCHS Board Meeting, 7:00, Pullman Depot
Sept. 4-7	Palouse Empire Fair –Jones Schoolhouse and Blacksmith Shop
Sept. 18	WCHS Board Meeting, 7:00 PM, Print Museum, Palouse
Oct. TBA	WCHS Annual Meeting, time and place TBA
Nov. 20	WCHS Executive/Depot Meeting 6:00 PM, Pullman Depot
	WCHS Board Meeting, 7:00 PM, Pullman Depot
Dec. 6	Perkins House Christmas, Colfax
Dec. 6, 13, 20	Train Car Holiday Bazaar at the Pullman Depot
Dec. 18	WCHS Board Meeting, Zoom

*Please Renew Your Membership!* If you haven't done so already, please respond to the membership renewal request you may have recently received in the mail. Membership would be a thoughtful Mother's or Father's Day gift! The form can be found below, or you can renew your membership or buy one as a gift on the WCHS website ([whitmancountyhistoricalsociety.org](http://whitmancountyhistoricalsociety.org)).

**MEMBERSHIP:** Become a part of the exciting future of Whitman County Historical Society!

- |  |        |   |                 |
|--|--------|---|-----------------|
| <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: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of giver, if applicable: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Please direct my donation to:**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <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 Chairman PO Box 67 COLFAX WA 99111