

CLARK COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

2024 February/March Newsletter

Bea Ritter, Membership
gensoc at ccgs-wa.org

Eric Jordahl, President
President at ccgs-wa.org

Marcia Lawson Grubb, Editor
Marcia at ccgs-wa.org

CCGS Library
3205 NE 52nd St.
Vancouver, WA
360-750-5688

gensoc at ccgs-wa.org

Hours of operation

Closed Sunday & Monday

*Check the on-line **Event Calendar** for unexpected closures*

<http://www.ccgs-wa.org>

Tuesday – Friday

10 am to 3 pm

Saturday

2nd Saturday only

10 am to 3 pm

How to get to library:

From NB I-5 take SR 500 east to St. Johns Road exit. Turn left onto St. Johns, continue north to 52nd St., turn left, CCGS is across street from Hi-School Marketplace.

President's Message - Eric Jordahl

President@ccgs-wa.org

After an eventful but very interesting winter season, we welcome the promise of Spring. The snow & ice storm closed the library and rescheduled the General Meeting, but we learned that members appreciate access to virtual as well as in-library presentations and so future programs will be designated accordingly. Access to the link for virtual meetings will be sent via Email as well as listed on our *Event Calendar* viewable on our website.

The CCGS *Event Calendar* is full of new events, with busy Focus Groups, monthly First Tuesday Classes, Legacy Webinars and guest speakers scheduled for our General Meetings through June.

After years of cemetery research, Richard Engstrom and Kathy Geyer are collaborating with Tech Team to publish their work in a spreadsheet format on the CCGS website beginning with a revision of Vancouver Old City Cemetery.

The next Librarian training session is scheduled for April 29 in the library. If you are interested in joining our great Librarian team, contact Lois.



Summers Stories with My Father

Seeking your Camping, Road-trip or Backyard summer stories with Dad. Submit your story by May 15th for publication in July & August issues of **CCGS** special **Summer News**.

Send your story & photo to marcia@ccgs-wa.org

General Meeting Program - *Elsie Deatherage*

April 23rd General Meeting at 7 pm
presented Virtually or In-library

Pam Vestal presenting *Tracking Down Your Eastern European Ancestors*.

In spite of the many wars, boundary changes, and political and natural catastrophes, an astonishing number of records exist for our Eastern European ancestors, both here and abroad. Pam will explore strategies for finding their places of origin, uncovering their original names, finding and requesting records, extracting and understanding their information, and dealing with foreign languages. The program will be presented virtually and can be viewed from home or with others at the library.



Membership Report - *Bea Ritter*

We are delighted to welcome six new members, two of whom are LIFE members, and four reinstated members. We hope they will join our classes and workshops this spring. Please let us know if there are any changes in your information, especially with your phone, email or address with return of the Renewal letter or membership form with your yearly dues. Whether you are experienced or new to genealogy we welcome you and an especial thank you to everyone who paid on time.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Mary Yonek
Margaret Rodriguez
Michael Lynch LIFE
Monica Lynch LIFE
Lucky Steve Wright
Patsy Maxwell

WELCOME BACK REINSTATED MEMBERS

Denise and Robert Hebert
Kathy and Rodney Schadewitz

CCGS Membership Dues

Individual Membership -- \$40 per year
Joint Membership -- \$50 per year
Individual Lifetime Membership -- \$750
Joint Lifetime Membership -- \$900

HISTORIAN REPORT - *Bea Ritter*

We are continuing to publish our Gallery of Grandmothers in here in this Newsletter issue and later in the Trail Breakers. Grandmother stories are still being accepted. You may send stories in a Word document to gensoc@ccgs-wa.org. Please also include a jpg picture. I am having such fun reading the stories and hope you are too.

Anna Felding Kuftic

1895-1920

Great-Grandmother of Maria Vann Adler

Josef and Anna Felding lived in 1916 (*Youngstown Ohio city directory*) at 363 E. Boardman #2 Ward in Youngstown, Ohio, with their two children, Mary and Catherine. Josef arrived in the United States through Ellis Island in February 1913 and Anna arrived in November of 1913, with daughter Mary, all coming from Croatia, (*ship manifests*). Josef died of pulmonary tuberculosis on November 24, 1916. Mary was 4 years old and Catherine (*my grandmother*) was 2 years old. Anna remarried to Jozef Kuftic about 1917. Anna died of pneumonia on January 28, 1920, at only 25 years, leaving orphans of Mary, 8 years old, and Catherine, 6 years old. Their step father was not interested in raising them, I assume.



Mary and Catherine lived with relatives for a short time but then were sent to St Joseph Orphanage in 1921. They were released to their aunt in 1927, when Mary was 15 and Catherine was 13. I have received some correspondence from the orphanage providing some of these details.

Picture: Anna Felding with daughters Mary and Catherine after Josef's death.

Through talks with Aunt Mary about her childhood in the orphanage, she does not have a good word to say. The nuns who were in charge of the orphanage were very strict and mean.

Anna Felding Kuftic was buried in Calvary Cemetery in Youngstown, Ohio, and a picture of the cemetery

marker of Anna has been located. Jozef Felding has no grave maker.

Leona Maude Wilson Germann

Mother of Larry Germann



Born 4 Nov 1915, Ridgefield, Clark County, Washington

Died 2 Mar 2002, Vancouver, Clark County, Washington

Leona was a farmer's wife and grew a huge garden. She would can the produce and do all the things required of a farmer's wife, including feeding the harvesting crew when it was haying time. But she truly wanted to be a medical professional. She was keenly interested in health. She had a whole shelf devoted to health books and she had read them all.

She was a 4th generation Washingtonian. Her mother was Vera Lavina Bird, her grandmother was Anna Elsie Layton, This family came to Vancouver in 1914. Her father was Hubert Charles Wilson, the son of Sarah Jane Switzler, whose father was Joseph Switzler, son of John Switzler. They both settled on the south bank of the Columbia River in 1845. They ran the ferry that went between Fort Vancouver and Oregon. Leona's paternal grandfather was Thomas James Wilson, who married Ann Elizabeth Chope a native of England. They came to Clark County in 1864. Leona's children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, who were also born in Clark County, make 9 generations of Clark County people.

Ina Almeda McCoy Grabner

Grandmother of Lyman Ritter



Ina Almeda McCoy was born on August 14, 1886, in Leland, Graham County, Kansas, to Jehu McCoy and Elizabeth Wyatt. She was the youngest of a family of ten children. She grew up on a farm in the Leland area, near Penokee. Her father Jehu had grown up in Appanoose County, Iowa, where at 17 he had joined the Union Army in 1862 during the Civil War. When his regiment was ambushed by the Confederates in Arkansas, he watched his brother Matthias die, and was taken prisoner and spent the remainder of the war in Camp Ford for prisoners near Tyler, Texas. He returned home in Aug. 1865.

Her parents had married in 1866 in Appanoose County, Iowa, moved first in 1881 to Ottawa County, Kansas, and later in 1886 to Graham County. She was the only child born in Graham County. Ina grew up with six sisters and two brothers: Matthias, Mary Ann, John Alvin, Rosa Mae, Minnie, Nancy, Bertha Jane, and Maude. Her oldest brother Matthias was named after their uncle who was killed during the Civil War.

Unfortunately, her mother died in 1900, at age 54, when Ina was only 14. She continued to live with her father and attended school in Leland. She joined the Leland Baptist Church as a young person, and was ever a faithful member. When she was 20, she married Frederick Elroy Grabner on September 19, 1906, in Graham County and they lived on a farm in Bryant Township. His father was an immigrant from Germany and had previously been married and had four children. His first wife Hulda and sons George and Frank died in a diphtheria epidemic in Cloud County, Kansas. He still had children Charles and Lucy. He remarried to Elizabeth Moore Sheer and they had Fred and five more children in Cloud County.

Ina and Fred lived on a farm in Bryant Township, not far from her father's farm. They had sons Leonard in 1907, and Floyd in 1910. They moved to Happy Township in 1910. Ina gave birth to Ina Della Grabner on April 19, 1914, in Graham County. Tragically, she died a few days later on May 1, 1914, from complications of childbirth. Unable to take care of baby Ina, Fred had his brother Lewis and his wife Maude Grabner care for her for three years. Maude was Ina's older sister. In 1917, Fred remarried to Ada Brooks, and he took Ina back into his home. They had seven more children. Lyman learned Ina McCoy Grabner was his grandmother when he came home from the army. He has since researched the McCoy family, and visited her grave in Leland Cemetery.

Vera Lavina Bird Wilson Foster

Grandmother of Larry Germann

Born 13 Oct 1897, Oakland, Pottawattamie County, Iowa
Died 26 Nov 1993, Vancouver, Clark County, Washington

About 1910, Vera rode her horse all the way from Dubois, Fremont County, Wyoming, to Vancouver, Washington, when she was 14. The camp wagon they used is shown here with Vera and her mother Anna Elsie Layton Bird. The family did not come with a “wagon train,” but probably traveled with others as the journey was still arduous. After arriving in Vancouver, they tried canning fruit, but since it was on their campfire, about six jars broke out of every eight tried. The cool temperatures of the northwest were just too much to can outdoors. They became pioneers of Clark County in 1910.



Vera married Hubert Charles Wilson on July 6, 1914, in Clark County. They celebrated 25 years of marriage. When he died in 1950, they had been married for 36 years. Four years later, she married Albert Foster on October 16, 1954, and celebrated another 25th anniversary with Albert. Two years later Albert died. Vera died in 1993 at the age of 96.

Sarah Jane Switzler Wilson

Great-Grandmother Larry Germann

Born 25 Apr 1850, across from Vancouver in Oregon
Died 31 Dec 1928, Vancouver, Clark, Washington
Pioneer of 1845 on south side of Columbia River



Her father Joseph Robinson Switzler traveled via wagon train in 1845 with the rest of the family to Oregon, and three years later in 1848, he married Mary L. Wolfe in Clackamas County. The Switzler family had donation land claims on nearly all the land between I-5 and the Glen Jackson Bridge on the Oregon side. The Switzlers also had the first ferry from Vancouver (the Fort) to the Oregon side of the Columbia, as well as ferries up the river at Umatilla and Plymouth. Her father is mentioned for giving Mary Hayden (of Hayden’s Island) a piece of flooring fabric for her babies to crawl upon (rather than a dirt floor). The Switzler family was famous for horses—first for riding, then, unfortunately, for consumption. An uncle, Bill Switzler, was famous in Pendleton and involved in the roundup as chairman and horse supplier for the rodeo.

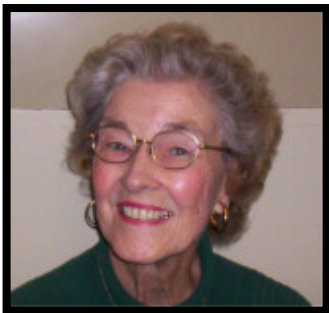
Tribute to Dr. Blayne Perleth

Dr. Blayne Darwin Perleth passed away on November 15, 2023, in Vancouver., at age 84. He had received his Bachelor's, Master's, and Doctorate in Education. His career included several teaching and administrative positions in Southern Washington. He married June Conway in 1997, and they traveled extensively in Europe, Asia, and the United States. They were active in many organizations. They joined CCGS in 2008. His wife June died in January 2021, but he remained a member until 2022. He lived a robust and joyous life and will be missed by his extended family and friends. Our Condolences to his family and friends.

Tribute to Marvin Ernest Wells

Marvin Ernest Wells died on December 4, 2023, at age 95, in Vancouver, Washington. He was born on September 7, 1928, in Chetopa, Labette County, Kansas. He married Lucille Schmidt in 1973 in Reno, Nevada. They lived in Salinas, California, where Marvin was an Electronic Technician for the Federal Aviation Administration. After retiring, they moved to Vancouver in 1985 to be near family. They joined CCGS in 2001 as joint members. His wife Lucille died in 2012. He was a joint member with Jacqueline Simon from 2014 until she died in November 2021. They regularly attended our monthly meetings. Our sympathies to his family.

Tribute to Virginia Holter



Virginia Ellen Cozen Holter, a longtime CCGS member, died on December 24, 2023, in Vancouver, at age 95. She was born in Missouri and educated as a teacher. She taught in Missouri and California, before moving to Vancouver with her husband Howard in 1972. She was involved in musical and opera performances, which were important to her and gave her pleasure throughout her life. She enjoyed researching her family history, served as a librarian for CCGS and was co-host and Emcee for the 25th Anniversary Celebration. She also enjoyed traveling and volunteering at Share House and at First Presbyterian Church. Her husband Howard died in 2014. She is survived by son Stephen Holter and daughter Kathy Shank, two grandchildren and two great-granddaughters. Her Memorial Service was held January 6, 2024, at First Presbyterian Church. *(Columbian, Dec 2023)*

Some Hometown History – What Year?



*A Canoe de Maître, or Montreal Canoe, shooting rapids. This oil painting by Mrs. E. M. H. ...
the Public Archives of Canada.*



2024 Legacy Family Tree Webinars

11 am Wednesday April 15- J. Mark Lowe; Comparing Plats of Land With Deeds and Grants

CCGS Members Only - "The Best of Elizabeth Shown Mills, CG, CGL"

Special in-library showings for CCGS members only.

11 am Friday April 26-Tax Rolls: Getting Our Money's Worth from the Taxes Our Ancestors Paid
PLUS in May

11 am Wednesday May 15 - Craig R. Scott, MA, CG, FUGA; **Forgotten Records: The Record and Pension Office**; Military research is not complete without consulting the records of the R&PO, yet few do. They can be a goldmine of information, or not.

The entire 2024 Schedule is available in the library.

Clark County Genealogical Society
3205 NE 52nd St
Vancouver, WA 98663
CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

President: Eric Jordahl
Vice President: Paula Schoenlein
Secretary: Richard Engstrom

Treasurer: Lowell Kenedy
Asst. Treasurer: Elaine Meis
Past President: Brian Runyan

<http://www.ccg-wa.org>
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Vancouver, WA 98663

CCGS Upcoming Calendar for April 2024

April 13 – Family Foto FG – 11 am
April 15 – Travel Research Preparation FG – 10 am
April 15 – Family Tree Maker FG – Noon
April 17 – Legacy Family Tree Webinar – 11 am
April 23 – General Meeting - 7 pm
April 26 – Legacy Family Tree Webinar- 11 am

General Meetings held on 4th Tuesday Monthly: Oct – Mar Mornings at 10 am. Apr – Sep Evenings at 7 pm.
No General Meetings in July, August or December

**Notify Barbara Baker, our Sunshine Lady, of anyone needing a card sent from CCGS
for a get well, thinking of you, sympathy etc. – send to barbarabkr@q.com**