# WCHS Board Members for 2023: Focus:

Jon Anderson, Port Townsend **Treasurer**

Janet Barstow, Palouse **Secretary**; Roy Chatters Newspaper & Print Museum Krista Jones Boyd, Colfax Perkins House; Jones Schoolhouse; Annual Meeting Pat Flansburg, Palouse Holy Trinity Chapel

Linda Hackbarth, Pullman Pullman Depot Heritage Center (PDHC)

Carol Larsen, Almota Membership; Perkins House; WCHS Archives

Denise Mahnkey, Pullman Oral History; Jones Schoolhouse

Kathy Meyer, Pullman PDHC; Jones Schoolhouse; Newsletter

Greg Partch, Garfield **Past President**; Cashup Davis Exhibit; Wilson Siding

Jeff Pietela, LaCrosse **Vice President**; Grants; Wilson Siding

Donna Potts, Pullman PDHC; Membership

**WCHS Projects**

The **Blacksmith Shop**, which is located on the Palouse Empire Fairgrounds needs one or two volunteers to plan and direct demonstrations or exhibits during the Fair in September. Past demonstrations have included blacksmithing, butter-making, old-fashioned laundering, block printing, and spontaneous combustion in grain elevators. If you are interested in volunteering for this interesting and rewarding task—which requires a relatively small commitment of time each year—contact the WCHS director **Val Gregory**. Wchsdirector1@gmail.com

A subscription to the ***Bunchgrass Historian*** comes with membership in WCHS. Editor **Ed Garretson**, Uniontown, recently mailed the last issue of 2023. Members can expect three more issues in 2024, and non-members can find a copy at one of the Whitman County libraries or purchase one from the WCHS Archives (see below). If you have written an article for submission for publication, contact Ed at 509-336-3901 or epgjr@wsu.edu. *Bunchgrass* articles should focus on topics of interest related to the history of the Palouse region.

The **Cashup Davis Exhibit** can be seen at Center at the Whitman County Library in Colfax. On display is the telescope from the hotel that once sat atop Steptoe Butte, as well as Cashup’s top hat and sword. Pictures of the hotel and Cashup Davis can be viewed electronically. A huge thank you to the Davis Family, Washington State University, past WCHS president **Greg Partch**, and the library for helping make the exhibit a reality. Check out the library website (whitcolib.org) for operating hours and stop in to see the exhibit. The exhibit is supported by the **Fix-a-Clock Fundraiser**. Clockmaker **Jim Martin**, Spokane, (jamesmart55@hotmail.com) who has more than 50 years of experience, restores vintage clocks and photos in return for a donation to the Cashup Davis Fund (Jim is the great-great grandson of Cashup Davis). Two of Jim’s rescue clocks are on display at the Perkins House, and more can be seen on YouTube.

**Holy Trinity Chapel** is available to rent for a small wedding, funeral, recital, tours, or a similar event. Please contact **Pat Flansburg** (509-878-1826 or pflans@gmail.com) if you are interested. The chapel, a former Episcopal church, was built in 1896. Both its original interior and exterior have been carefully maintained, with no changes over the years. Additionally, it features one of only seven lich gates (shown at right) in the United States. It is located at 105 E. Alder Street in Palouse.

The **Jones Schoolhouse**, which was originally built at Dusty, was relocated to the Palouse Empire Fairgrounds thirteen years ago by the Fair Board. WCHS offers tours and mini-lessons there during the Fair, as well as full-day fieldtrips that recreate a day in the life of a one-room school circa 1895, the year it opened its doors. Fieldtrips can be tailored to fit your group’s needs and are available in April, May, early June, late September, and October. There is a limit of 25 “students” for each. To arrange a fieldtrip for your class or group, or to volunteer at the

schoolhouse during the Fair or fieldtrips, contact **Kathy Meyer** (509-432-1336 or klemeyer@gmail.com), **Krista Jones Boyd** (509-553-9525 or kristaaboyd@yahoo.com), or **Val Gregory** (509-553-9729 or wchsdirector1@gmail.com).

If you have an old apple tree whose variety is unknown and that you think might qualify for the **Lost Apple Project**, contact apple detective and Pullman native **David Benscoter**, Chattaroy, at 509-238-5150 or dbens23@gmail.com. The project seeks to identify and preserve apple varieties in Eastern Washington, Northern Idaho, and Oregon that were once thought to be extinct. Benscoter and his volunteers have found 29 such apple varieties since he discovered the “Nero” growing on Steptoe Butte in 2015. He estimates that over 17,000 named varieties of apples once grew in North America, of which approximately 4,500 survive today. Newly grafted apple trees (both heritage varieties and re-discovered varieties), as well as grafting wood, are for sale and can be pre-ordered now for availability later this year. See the Lost Apple Project Facebook page for details. The cost is $30 per tree for WCHS members and $35 for nonmembers.

**Membership** in WCHS makes a wonderful gift! Print out the membership form—for yourself or for someone else—at the end of this newsletter, fill it out, and mail it; or renew your membership on-line at whitman-county-historical-society.square.site. Your name or that of the recipient of your gift will be added to our roster by membership chair **Sally Burkhart**, Garfield (959-635-1497 or sburkhar@lycos.com). Questions about membership can also be directed to **Donna Potts**, Pullman (785-317-2469 or donnal.potts@gmail.com) and Carol Larsen. Members receive subscriptions to the *Bunchgrass Historian* and to our bimonthly newsletter, and they are also eligible for reduced prices for select WCHS events and merchandise.

The **Objects and Artifacts Collection**, headed by **Lyndsay McCall** of Palouse (readmccall@yahoo.com), is looking for volunteers to help sort items after their recent move from the Gladish Building in Pullman to space above the Colfax Mercantile (214 N. Main) in Colfax. Thank you to **Austin** and **Laura Storm**, for letting us use the space at no cost.

The WCHS **Oral History Project** has been revived under the supervision of **Denise Mahnkey**, Pullman**.** If you have memories concerning the history of the Palouse to relate—or know someone who does—contact her at 208-892-4542 or dloceanlover@hotmail.com.

The **Perkins House and Cabin,** located at 623 N. Perkins Ave., Colfax, **Ronda Penwell** of Colfax (Ronda.penwell@csd300.org). It hosts the Annual Vintage Christmas Open House, which was held during the Colfax Winter Fest. The house was built in 1886 by Colfax founder James A. Perkins. Although the Perkins House is closed during January and February, it will be open the rest of the year on Saturdays and Sundays from 10 AM to 2 PM.

Built in 1916, Pullman’s Northern Pacific Depot (330 N. Grand Ave.), was purchased by WCHS in 2018 and renamed the **Pullman Depot Heritage Center**. Thanks to generous donors and dedicated volunteers, monies raised to fund this restoration have repaid the purchase price, repointed bricks, a new roof, programs and replaced foundation blocks. To volunteer for one of the many committees working on restoration and operation at the Depot, contact director **Linda Hackbarth** (208-627-3460 or lindahackbarth39 @gmail.com).

The Freight Room at the Depot is open every Saturday from 1:00 to 4:00 PM. There is at least one new exhibit there every three months. It is also available to rent for meetings and small gatherings. To volunteer on the Freight Room committee (also called Events and Education), contact **Jamie Whitman** at 509-332-1005 or jwhitman97@yahoo.com.

The **Roy Chatters Newspaper & Printing Museum** is located at 110 E. Main St., Palouse. The name doesn’t indicate that it is also a museum of Palouse history in general and houses an extensive collection of Whitman County newspapers that are available for researchers’ use. These two aspects provide volunteers with many on-going projects when not demonstrating centuries-old printing methods to visitors. Genealogical research can also be pursued there.

The Print Museum is open Saturdays from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM, except in October and January. Admission is free, but donations are happily accepted. As it is staffed entirely by volunteers, there are rare times when the museum might be closed. To arrange a visit on a day other than Saturday, or to make sure the museum will be staffed on the day you plan to visit, call director **Janet Barstow** at 509-330-0353.

**St. Ignatius Hospital** Owners **Austin** and **Laura Storm** are renovating the 1893 building to bring it back to life. A new roof, windows, electrical and wifi have been added to help preserve it.

Ghost tours of St. Ignatius are available year-round on the weekends and offered daily in the month of October. The cost varies from $35 to $125, depending on the length of tour. Private tours can also be arranged. Go to Colfaxhauntedhospital.com for reservations and payment. WCHS Director **Val Gregory**, Steptoe, is in charge, aided by 4 able volunteers. While not a direct project of WCHS, the Society acts as fiscal agent for St. Ignatius.

The **WCHS Archives**, directed by **Alex Otero**, Colfax (425-228-0125 or wchsarchives@gmail.com) are in the Gladish Building, 115 NW State Street, Pullman. Alex and other volunteers— particularly **Annette Pettinger** and **Lou Vyhnanek** (both of Pullman)—sort and organize donations to WCHS (especially photographs); they answer and research queries that come in several times a week and assist visitors; and they see that donations that do not pertain to Whitman County history are “re-homed” to appropriate locations. They are also busy digitizing materials in the Archive and placing them online for easier access by the public. The Archive is open every Wednesday from 9 AM until noon. You can also make an appointment by contacting Alex.