

FRENCHTOWN NEWS

Washington State Historic Preservation Grant

Thanks to the efforts of board member Mary Anne O'Neil, Frenchtown Historical Foundation received a Washington State Historic Cemeteries Preservation Grant in the amount of \$3,000 to support the restoration of the Frenchtown Cemetery.



Following a design by Sarah Hurlburt, local contractor Israel Bocanegra installed a half-circle retaining wall and level gravel viewing area to the south of the obelisk in March of 2019.

A low bench provides a place for visitors to rest and reflect. A commemorative sign tells the history of the Saint Rose of Lima cemeteries and lists the names and dates for all the burials, based on work done by Jesse and Nicki Day-Lucore in 2016-17. We're making progress on getting flowers to grow in the cemetery, thanks in good part to the efforts of Whitman intern Ellie Reed.

Any time digging occurs on the site, Darby Stapp helps us out. He is owner and principal of Northwest Anthropology LLC, in Richland, WA and editor of *Journal of Northwest Anthropology*. For years, he has overseen digging on the site to ensure that we are in compliance with state regulations.

The total cost of the cemetery restoration project has been over \$7,000. Members and donors have contributed to make up the gap, but maintenance of the landscaping and establishment of native plants is an ongoing need. Our restoration project combines the memorial and educational functions of the cemetery and we hope you'll come visit!



Helpful Links

The [FHF Website](http://www.frenchtownwa.org) <http://www.frenchtownwa.org>

The [FHF Facebook Page](https://www.facebook.com/FrenchtownHistoricalFoundation/)
[https://www.facebook.com/
FrenchtownHistoricalFoundation/](https://www.facebook.com/FrenchtownHistoricalFoundation/)

[Frenchtown on TripAdvisor](#)

In this newsletter:

NOTE THAT THERE IS NO NEWSLETTERS FOR 2018, THE LAST EDITION, NO. 6, IS FROM 2017



HAPPENINGS IN THE CEMETERY
PRESERVATION GRANT + THE PEOPLE WORKING THERE



PLANTING SEEDS
LIVING HISTORY
EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH
NATIVE PLANTS



GATHERINGS AND GOODBYES
OBITUARIES

Obituaries

Denise Bergevin Ryan O'Bryan

3 MAY 1926 - 9 MARCH 2019

Born in Walla Walla, Denise Bergevin graduated from Walla Walla High School in 1944, followed by WSU in 1948. She lived, raised her family, and taught elementary school in Ellensburg, then Olympia, WA, finding her way back to Walla Walla 1972 to join her siblings and husband, Harry O'Bryan, in retired life.

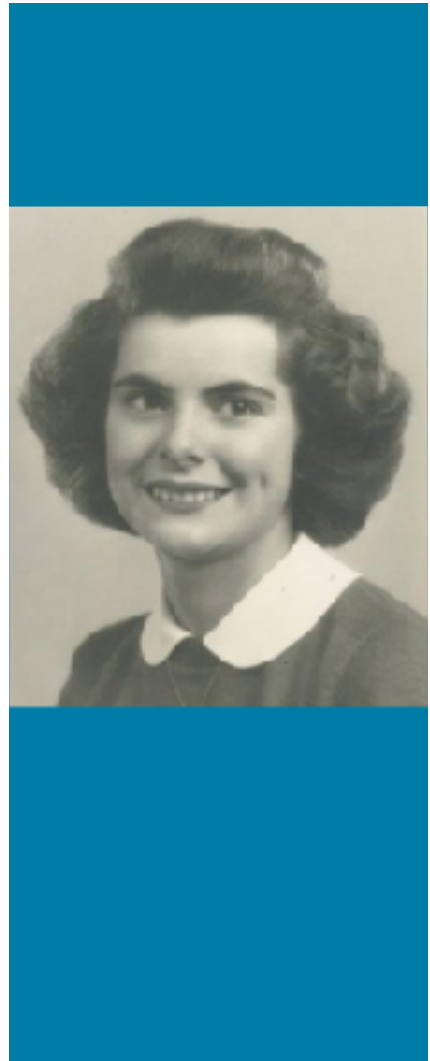
Denise was a prominent member of the community in many capacities. She was a member of the Lowden Study Club and Pioneer Daughters. Her contributions to Frenchtown include winning State Historic Designation for the protection of the Frenchtown Cemetery, "an honorary designation and raises the public awareness about historic and cultural values" (Dept. of Archaeological and Historic Preservation), with her cousin, Frank Munns, in 1980. This designation has helped support the acquisition of grants and funding for the site, including the building of the Frenchtown Monument.

Claro Bergevin

9 AUGUST 1923 - 1 APRIL 2019

Claro Bergevin lived his entire life in the Walla Walla area. He served in the military during WWII and fought in the battle of Iwo Jima. His many and varied accomplishments ranged from membership in Wa-Hi's Hall of Fame (class of 41) with records in track and field, to earning Washington State Asparagus Farmer of the Year in 1995, to receiving the Quilt of Valor pieced by Walla Walla Sweet Freedom Quilters in 2016 for his service and leadership. He and his wife Betty Jean raised their five children near the Frenchtown area, farmed, and were active members of the community.

Claro was also a local historian and founding Board Member of the Frenchtown Historical Foundation. He was instrumental along with his family members in keeping alive French heritage in the Walla Walla Valley. He participated in the formation of the Frenchtown Historic Site in 2010.



BRANCHING OUT

Education, Outreach, & Living History

Education and outreach are core values and activities of the Frenchtown Historical Foundation. Living history players regularly attend local and regional history gatherings to talk about the history of Frenchtown through characters such as William McBean, Suzanne Cayuse, and Father Brouillet.

Frenchtown Historical Foundation at Garrison Middle School
April 22-23, 2018

In 2018, the Frenchtown Historical Foundation led a two-day event with Garrison Middle School students. On the first day, 7th and 8th grade students came to the library to work with primary source documents (census records, letters, and historical maps) with Mary Anne O'Neil, and interact with living history players Richard Monacelli and Judy Fortney. On the second day, the same classes cycled through a slideshow history presentation by Sarah Hurlburt.



Keep your eyes peeled for more sessions with William McBean (Richard Monacelli, shown here on the right) at the Fort Walla Walla Museum this July!



Photo by Randy Kirkbride

In addition to the event at Garrison Middle School, the Frenchtown living history players have made appearances at Rowena Chess Elementary and Davis Schools' 4th grade classes, Girl Scout Troop 3517, Pendleton Museum, and Fort Walla Walla Museum.

Become a Member!

Your membership keeps the Frenchtown Historic Site alive.

The Frenchtown Historical Foundation is a locally-run 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Membership categories:

Individual: \$25

Couple: \$35

Family: \$45

Advocate: \$100

Sustainer: \$250

Patron: \$500

Sponsor: \$1000

Benefactor: \$5000

Join Today!

More Friendly Students!

Thanks to support from the Jim Soden Faculty-Student Research Fund, three new Whitman students will spend the summer of 2019 working on the history of Northwest Francophone migration and settlement. Their tasks are many and varied—from skinning poles for the Saint-Jean-Baptiste day tipi to media relations to work in the archives. In particular, they are working with Sarah Hurlburt to plan the **Northwest Francophone History Conference to come in June of 2020.**



Jonathan Falk

Jonathan is a rising senior from Eugene, Oregon double-majoring in French and History. He has been working with Sarah since January helping with grant acquisition, transcription of letters, and archival research.



Madeline Kemp

Madeline is a recovering French student and rising junior from Burien, Washington studying Anthropology. She has started her work this summer toward research on genealogies and coordination of the Conference.

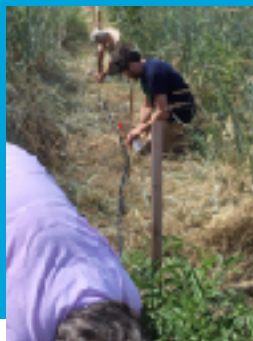


Ellie Reed

Ellie hails from Orinda, California, and is a rising senior majoring in Environmental Sociology. Her focus this summer is native plant restoration as well as a curriculum for students to learn about the ecology of the Frenchtown area.

Creating Habitat

In April and June of 2018, FHF board members and volunteers planted 42 native trees and shrubs from CTUIR Tribal Native Plant Nursery on our eastern boundary. We planted serviceberry, hawthorn, chokecherry, and elderberry, all donated by Gary and Dixie Aichele, our neighbors to the east. These low-growing native trees will provide habitat for wildlife and a screen between the site and development to the east. A special shout out to Darby Stapp, for the archaeological monitoring, Stephanie Martin for planning and digging, Charles Saranto on irrigation, as well as Margie Benson, Ross Osborne, Judy Fortney, Richard Monacelli, and volunteer Lyman Persico.



Future shade?

On March 20, 2019, board members Ross Osborne and Sarah Hurlburt planted 7 new cottonwood trees near the shelter and cabin on the site. Cottonwood is native to the valley, and provided wood for many of the early cabins. It is softer and less durable than pine, but plentifully available. Cottonwoods love water—for now they are on a drip line until their roots can reach deep into the flood plain. We look forward to the much-needed shade they will provide.

Thanks our winery sponsors!

What could make more sense than Walla Walla wine in support of Walla Walla's Frenchtown? Every year our silent auction at Rendezvous shows the generous support of local wineries for Frenchtown. Stop by and say thanks, and then look for more at this year's Rendezvous !



THE BOARD

Happenings

Board members, friends, and volunteers gathered this past holiday season for the annual Christmas Potluck. This year's event was hosted at Sarah Hurlburt's home in Walla Walla. Being a member of the FHF board is not just a way to contribute to the community – it's also a space for supportive individuals to meet and collaborate around a shared passion for history.



Strategies for Fire Control

Thanks to a \$1,000 Rural Community Grant from Farm Credit Services, and an additional \$7,600 dollars from members and donors, we expanded the gravel perimeter around the Prince's Cabin and the Interpretive shelter to 15 feet in June of 2018. The fuel load of the native grasses at the site is very high, and the gravel extensions will keep the weeds and rye grass away from the structures and improve visitor access.



Before and after photos showing the expanded gravel perimeter and improved weed control around the shelter and cabin.



How does the Frenchtown Historic Site look this good?
Thanks to helping hands from all over the community.

All of the efforts to improve the site are successful as a result of lots of people coming out and working together. If you would like to contribute to gardening, landscaping, or any of our projects, ***keep up with the Facebook page for updates on group work days.*** Throughout the summer and into the fall, the Frenchtown Foundation will coordinate open work days, during which anyone willing to help is invited to join us!

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the site thus far, we hope to see new and familiar friendly faces at the site in the upcoming months!

RENDEZVOUS 2019

The annual fundraiser for the maintenance of the Frenchtown Historic Site

SATURDAY OCTOBER 12 • ASSUMPTION CHURCH PARISH HALL: 2098 E ALDER ST.

1 PM - FAMILY HISTORY & GENEALOGY WORKSHOP
2 PM - SILENT AUCTION, COOKIES, COFFEE, GAMES
4 PM - KEYNOTE SPEAKER: ROBERTA BROWN
5 PM - TRI-TIP DINNER

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Roberta Brown
 Professor Emerita
 Pacific Lutheran University

**“Frenchtown’s
 Cosmopolitan
 Cemetery”**



This talk will bring out the rich backgrounds of several ancestors buried in the cemetery and focus on Catholic priests Jean Baptiste Abraham Brouillet and Eugène Cassimir Chirouse. The long list of those buried at Frenchtown's St. Rose of Lima cemetery reveals the melding of both a long Native American and shorter Euro-American presence in the area, hailing from varied ethnic, cultural and linguistic regions that ranged across North America. Many studies of Walla Walla's Native American, Métis, and French Canadian populations have underscored this richness. No matter how rustic their lifestyles may appear to modern eyes, they could hardly be considered provincial, but rather, *cosmopolitan*.

Old family photographs are important resources that add to our knowledge and understanding for both personal family history and local history and culture. The workshop will cover ways to verify that identification with historical photographic information as well as family information and structure. Donna Cummins' family and that of her husband's family have been in Eastern Washington and the Walla Walla valley since the 1840s. With this strong relationship to the region and her in depth knowledge of photographic identification she has been researching towards making a book about early Walla Walla photographers.



WORKSHOP

**Identifying and
 Preserving
 Family
 Photographs**

Donna Cummins
 Associate to the Dean
 of Students
 Whitman College

RENDEZVOUS 1949

