New Annexation Exhibit Shows Forgotten Side of West Seattle History
by Sarah E. Miller, Operations Coordinator

On August 18th, the Log House Museum will showcase why elections matter in our newest exhibit Between the Lines, a compelling story of the city of West Seattle’s annexation to the city of Seattle. Researcher Phil Hoffman and King County archivist Greg Lange have teamed up with curator Tasia Williams to illustrate that only a century ago, West Seattle wanted to achieve the dream of joining a “Greater Seattle.” Hoffman wrote a paper entitled, “If At First You Don’t Succeed…” which contains new research on the West Seattle annexation, continued on page 4.
Lafayette Elementary Celebrates it’s 100th Name Anniversary

What’s in a name? From ‘Brick School’, ‘West Seattle Central’, to ‘West Seattle Grammar School’, Lafayette Elementary School celebrates its 100th anniversary of having the Lafayette name on June 20th, 2019. Although school was in session decades before, this name change occurred in 1918 when students wrote essays to advocate for a new name. Esther Oliver’s essay about the French general Marquis de Lafayette won.

Sad, the original castle-like building was grounded after a 1949 earthquake, and was replaced in the 1950s. Want to learn the full story? We have it in West Side Story, a collection of news articles and images from the West Seattle Herald and White Center News. West Side Story is exclusive to our museum. Contact Sarah at museum@loghousemuseum.org for details. Happy Anniversary, Lafayette Elementary!

“We are so grateful to the community who unfailingly supports our mission.”
By Kathy Blackwell, President of Board of Trustees

By Sarah E. Miller, Operations Coordinator
The castle-like building was used for decades before the earthquake in 1949. Image of building is from 1901.

Our 2019 Champagne Gala Brunch will be held on November 2, 2019. Please add the date to your calendar and look for an email introducing the theme and program for this year’s event. You won’t want to miss a very special Seattle celebration! Most importantly, we are so grateful to the SWSHS community who unfailingly supports our mission through volunteer hours, financial contributions, event participation and enthusiasm. We couldn’t do it without you.

Beginning in July of 2019, “Words, Writers and West Seattle” is combining with “Southwest Stories.” This is in an attempt to maintain the recognition, audiences, and intent of both earlier programs. The free presentations will be held on the Second Thursdays of each month from 6:30 to 7:30 PM at the SW Library Branch, 9010 35th Ave SW, in West Seattle, although some might be moved to another branch on a weekend.

Speakers confirmed for the next few months include: Roberta and John Newland, on The Clemm Fife theme; Mayumi Tsutakawa, speaking on Washington’s Undiscovered Females; Feliks Banel (through Humanities WA) presenting “Storm Warning: Historic Weather in the Evergreen State”; and Elise Hooper, with her book, Learning to See: A Novel of Dorothea Lange, photog- rapher and photojournalist. (TBA); Jeff Smoot on Schurman Rock: A History & Guide, (date TBA); Mike Purdy, Presidential Historian on 101 Presidents via Humanities WA on Aug. 8th; Feliks Banel (through Humanities WA) presenting “Storm Warning: Historic Weather in the Evergreen State”; and Elise Hooper, with her book, Learning to See: A Novel of Dorothea Lange, photographer and photojournalist. For almost six years, WW&WS has been hosting presentations by West Seattle authors who were either from West Seattle, live here currently, or have a presence in West Seattle. Several years ago another SWHS series started entitled, “Southwest Stories” and featured speakers of various backgrounds sharing historical stories of interests, chaired by several different volunteers. Wanting to present more history of the larger Puget Sound area, the historical society decided to combine the two series under one name.

The longest-lasting outreach program of the Southwest Seattle Historical Society, “Words, Writers & West Seattle” is expanding and changing its name! In an effort to focus on the society’s mission, “to promote local heritage through education, preservation, and advocacy,” the new series will be presenting authors, books, and stories of the Puget Sound and Duwamish Peninsula and will continue to enjoy the partnership of the Seattle Public Library.

For almost six years, WW&WS has been hosting presentations by West Seattle authors who were either from West Seattle, live here currently, or have a presence in West Seattle. Several years ago another SWHS series started entitled, “Southwest Stories” and featured speakers of various backgrounds sharing historical stories of interests, chaired by several different volunteers. Wanting to present more history of the larger Puget Sound area, the historical society decided to combine the two series under one name.

Beginning in July of 2019, “Words, Writers and West Seattle” is combining with “Southwest Stories,” and will be known as “Words, Writers & Southwest Stories.” This is in an attempt to maintain the recognition, audiences, and intent of both earlier programs. The free presentations will be held on the Second Thursdays of each month from June 27th, our annual “If These Walls Could Talk” event will take place at the Colman Estate, one of many unique and beautiful homes designed by Arthur Loveless. How did Mr. Colman and Mr. Loveless get acquainted? What’s the story behind these two prominent Seattleites? We will tell the story.

The longest-lasting outreach program of the Southwest Seattle Historical Society, “Words, Writers & West Seattle” is expanding and changing its name! In an effort to focus on the society’s mission, “to promote local heritage through education, preservation, and advocacy,” the new series will be presenting authors, books, and stories of the Puget Sound and Duwamish Peninsula and will continue to enjoy the partnership of the Seattle Public Library.

For almost six years, WW&WS has been hosting presentations by West Seattle authors who were either from West Seattle, live here currently, or have a presence in West Seattle. Several years ago another SWHS series started entitled, “Southwest Stories” and featured speakers of various backgrounds sharing historical stories of interests, chaired by several different volunteers. Wanting to present more history of the larger Puget Sound area, the historical society decided to combine the two series under one name.

Beginning in July of 2019, “Words, Writers and West Seattle” is combining with “Southwest Stories,” and will be known as “Words, Writers & Southwest Stories.” This is in an attempt to maintain the recognition, audiences, and intent of both earlier programs. The free presentations will be held on the Second Thursdays of each month from June 27th, our annual “If These Walls Could Talk” event will take place at the Colman Estate, one of many unique and beautiful homes designed by Arthur Loveless. How did Mr. Colman and Mr. Loveless get acquainted? What’s the story behind these two prominent Seattleites? We will tell the story.

The longest-lasting outreach program of the Southwest Seattle Historical Society, “Words, Writers & West Seattle” is expanding and changing its name! In an effort to focus on the society’s mission, “to promote local heritage through education, preservation, and advocacy,” the new series will be presenting authors, books, and stories of the Puget Sound and Duwamish Peninsula and will continue to enjoy the partnership of the Seattle Public Library.

For almost six years, WW&WS has been hosting presentations by West Seattle authors who were either from West Seattle, live here currently, or have a presence in West Seattle. Several years ago another SWHS series started entitled, “Southwest Stories” and featured speakers of various backgrounds sharing historical stories of interests, chaired by several different volunteers. Wanting to present more history of the larger Puget Sound area, the historical society decided to combine the two series under one name.

Beginning in July of 2019, “Words, Writers and West Seattle” is combining with “Southwest Stories,” and will be known as “Words, Writers & Southwest Stories.” This is in an attempt to maintain the recognition, audiences, and intent of both earlier programs. The free presentations will be held on the Second Thursdays of each month from June 27th, our annual “If These Walls Could Talk” event will take place at the Colman Estate, one of many unique and beautiful homes designed by Arthur Loveless. How did Mr. Colman and Mr. Loveless get acquainted? What’s the story behind these two prominent Seattleites? We will tell the story.

By Sarah E. Miller, Operations Coordinator
The castle-like building was used for decades before the earthquake in 1949. Image of building is from 1901.

Our 2019 Champagne Gala Brunch will be held on November 2, 2019. Please add the date to your calendar and look for an email introducing the theme and program for this year’s event. You won’t want to miss a very special Seattle celebration! Most importantly, we are so grateful to the SWSHS community who unfailingly supports our mission through volunteer hours, financial contributions, event participation and enthusiasm. We couldn’t do it without you.

Beginning in July of 2019, “Words, Writers and West Seattle” is combining with “Southwest Stories,” and will be known as “Words, Writers & Southwest Stories.” This is in an attempt to maintain the recognition, audiences, and intent of both earlier programs. The free presentations will be held on the Second Thursdays of each month from June 27th, our annual “If These Walls Could Talk” event will take place at the Colman Estate, one of many unique and beautiful homes designed by Arthur Loveless. How did Mr. Colman and Mr. Loveless get acquainted? What’s the story behind these two prominent Seattleites? We will tell the story.

The longest-lasting outreach program of the Southwest Seattle Historical Society, “Words, Writers & West Seattle” is expanding and changing its name! In an effort to focus on the society’s mission, “to promote local heritage through education, preservation, and advocacy,” the new series will be presenting authors, books, and stories of the Puget Sound and Duwamish Peninsula and will continue to enjoy the partnership of the Seattle Public Library.

For almost six years, WW&WS has been hosting presentations by West Seattle authors who were either from West Seattle, live here currently, or have a presence in West Seattle. Several years ago another SWHS series started entitled, “Southwest Stories” and featured speakers of various backgrounds sharing historical stories of interests, chaired by several different volunteers. Wanting to present more history of the larger Puget Sound area, the historical society decided to combine the two series under one name.

Beginning in July of 2019, “Words, Writers and West Seattle” is combining with “Southwest Stories,” and will be known as “Words, Writers & Southwest Stories.” This is in an attempt to maintain the recognition, audiences, and intent of both earlier programs. The free presentations will be held on the Second Thursdays of each month from June 27th, our annual “If These Walls Could Talk” event will take place at the Colman Estate, one of many unique and beautiful homes designed by Arthur Loveless. How did Mr. Colman and Mr. Loveless get acquainted? What’s the story behind these two prominent Seattleites? We will tell the story.

The longest-lasting outreach program of the Southwest Seattle Historical Society, “Words, Writers & West Seattle” is expanding and changing its name! In an effort to focus on the society’s mission, “to promote local heritage through education, preservation, and advocacy,” the new series will be presenting authors, books, and stories of the Puget Sound and Duwamish Peninsula and will continue to enjoy the partnership of the Seattle Public Library.

For almost six years, WW&WS has been hosting presentations by West Seattle authors who were either from West Seattle, live here currently, or have a presence in West Seattle. Several years ago another SWHS series started entitled, “Southwest Stories” and featured speakers of various backgrounds sharing historical stories of interests, chaired by several different volunteers. Wanting to present more history of the larger Puget Sound area, the historical society decided to combine the two series under one name.

Beginning in July of 2019, “Words, Writers and West Seattle” is combining with “Southwest Stories,” and will be known as “Words, Writers & Southwest Stories.” This is in an attempt to maintain the recognition, audiences, and intent of both earlier programs. The free presentations will be held on the Second Thursdays of each month from June 27th, our annual “If These Walls Could Talk” event will take place at the Colman Estate, one of many unique and beautiful homes designed by Arthur Loveless. How did Mr. Colman and Mr. Loveless get acquainted? What’s the story behind these two prominent Seattleites? We will tell the story.
A Digital Collections Plan for SWSHS

By Rachel Reglein, Registrar

Hello from your museum Registrar! For the past two years, I have been completing my Master’s degree in Museum Studies from the University of Washington. For my thesis project, I have created a Digital Collections Plan for the Log House Museum. Digital collections are items that exist in a digital format, such as digital photos, videos, and computer documents. The Log House Museum has a collection of around 10,000 items that are located in our offsite-storage which includes photos, books, archives, small objects, and more. We can digitize these items by scanning, photographing, or migrating old media (such as VHS tapes) to a digital format.

Why is this important? We digitize our collection for two reasons:

1. To make the collections accessible. It is easier for visitors and researchers to come to the museum and browse digital images and files than it is for staff to go to storage and try to locate requested items.

2. To preserve collections. Some physical objects are too damaged to handle, such as old newspapers. Other objects, such as VHS tapes and CDs have to be digitized and migrated to a new format to preserve the content. We won't be able to play decaying VHS tapes forever, nor have access to VCRs to play them on! By digitizing fragile or old media, we can preserve the content for future generations.

Digitizing is only the first step. Just as we care for the physical objects by creating archival housing and pest control, digital collection requires special preservation actions as well. For example, information for the files have to be created and stored in a way that is both useful and consistent. It’s weird to think about, but digital collections live on physical objects, usually a computer hard drive. Hard drives can fail, as anyone who owns a computer can attest to. This means that not only the digital files but the physical storage that the files live on must be monitored and protected.

Sound complicated? It is! A small museum like us doesn’t necessarily have the resources to properly preserve their digital collection, much less keep up-to-date on constantly changing technology! That’s why I have created a plan for the Log House Museum that breaks down preservation actions into easy steps that will protect and preserve our digital collection with minimal time and money.

If it had not been for the overwhelming Spring Hill majority the annexation proposition would have failed with the annexation dissenters of Youngstown and Alki Point prevailing. Who gives credit to for the organizational genius and talent behind the Spring Hill voting result is unknown. I suspect Ferdinand Schmitz.

Lastly, the annexation is more than just the creation of a larger Seattle. Hoffman expresses, “The story of annexation and creation of municipal governance on the Duwamish Peninsula is as much of a story of creating new governments as it is the sanctity of the electoral process.”

To learn more about the West Seattle annexation and see the full exhibit in action, visit the Log House Museum starting August 18th.

Left to right) Rachel Reglein, Tasia Williams and Angie Ong, Rachel’s thesis defense chair. Photo taken at Rachel’s thesis defense at UW.)
FOOTPRINTS • SOUTHWEST SEATTLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
SPRING 2019

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE MUSEUM?

Why do we have a Collections Freezer?

Why do you wear gloves and masks?

Why is it so cold?

We wear gloves to protect the garments from the oils on our hands, which can attract bugs and cause the garment to break down more quickly. We are also wearing masks because we were not sure if there was mold present in the garments. Happily, there's no sign of mold!

Unlike traditional freezers, collections freezers serve specific purposes for the museum.

We need a freezer to help get rid of bugs that have made their way into our collection. Freezers are mostly to treat artifacts that have signs of bug infestation or to preventively freeze objects that we suspect might have infestation. Another category of artifacts that are susceptible to pest infestation is tissue samples from animals for DNA analysis. Some museums also keep film in refrigerators to preserve them or to keep nitrate film from catching fire.

What are issues beyond bugs that textiles and paper needs to watch out for?

Frost and moisture gathering on the materials could get on the artifact, which risks mold growth. That's why we wrapped garments in plastic bags and sealed them with tape. Changing the temperature in a material causes it to either expand or contract. So, we want to be careful to not put any brittle or very fragile objects in the freezer.

After you’re done with freezing process, you transfer them into acid free archival boxes. Is there any reason why you can’t use regular boxes? Why are these particular boxes special?

Most of the boxes we buy in the store were not meant to last beyond a couple of years. Most cardboard is made of acidic paper products. These acids leach out of the boxes and onto our artifacts, which accelerates the process of decay. It is so much easier and less expensive to prevent damage and decay than trying to fix problems after they’ve happened.

Standard freezers are 0° F (-18° C). but for many museums, freezers are -34° degrees Celsius! This extremely cold temperature is because many insects have survival mechanisms that let them survive periods of extreme cold.

Collections freezers are mostly to treat artifacts that have signs of insect infestation or to preventively freeze objects that we suspect might have infestation. Another category of artifacts that are susceptible to pest infestation is tissue samples from animals for DNA analysis. Some museums also keep film in refrigerators to preserve them or to keep nitrate film from catching fire.

We need a freezer to help get rid of bugs that have made their way into our collection. Freezers are mostly to treat artifacts that have signs of bug infestation or to preventively freeze objects that we suspect might have infestation. Another category of artifacts that are susceptible to pest infestation is tissue samples from animals for DNA analysis. Some museums also keep film in refrigerators to preserve them or to keep nitrate film from catching fire.

As a student of the Museology Graduate Program at the University of Washington, I wanted to do a graduate project that would impact one of the significant heritage museums in the area. My project was to create an interpretive plan for the Southwest Seattle Historical Society native plant garden at the Log House Museum.

This interpretive plan is the first step in the Log House Museum using its outdoor spaces to develop new ways of connecting to its community on the Duwamish Peninsula. My interpretive plan uses the native plants of the area to create opportunities to bond over. Common themes like moving to new places, health and home cooking, and environmental impact on life and history can lead to an increased sense of community, and are used through discussing the stories and properties behind these plants. Additionally, the Log House Museum can become an example of small museums maximizing their use of space by going outdoors to create more educational opportunities that fulfill their mission.

This interpretive plan will hopefully guide the Log House Museum to telling more stories in new and interesting ways using their outdoor spaces, and to connect to the community using native plants as a renewed focus.

Earlier this spring, the upper section of the ADA ramp and adjoining railings were replaced. This project and the basement slab work in the future couldn’t have been completed without the generous grant from 4Culture.

Museum's Native Garden will have an Interpretive Plan

Valerie Roberts, Seattle Every Kid in a Park Collaborative Project Coordinator for the Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park – Seattle Unit

As a student of the Museology Graduate Program at the University of Washington, I wanted to do a graduate project that would impact one of the significant heritage museums in the area. My project was to create an interpretive plan for the Southwest Seattle Historical Society native plant garden at the Log House Museum.

This interpretive plan is the first step in the Log House Museum using its outdoor spaces to develop new ways of connecting to its community on the Duwamish Peninsula. My interpretive plan uses the native plants of the area to create opportunities to bond over. Common themes like moving to new places, health and home cooking, and environmental impact on life and history can lead to an increased sense of community, and are used through discussing the stories and properties behind these plants. Additionally, the Log House Museum can become an example of small museums maximizing their use of space by going outdoors to create more educational opportunities that fulfill their mission.

This interpretive plan will hopefully guide the Log House Museum to telling more stories in new and interesting ways using their outdoor spaces, and to connect to the community using native plants as a renewed focus.

Earlier this spring, the upper section of the ADA ramp and adjoining railings were replaced. This project and the basement slab work in the future couldn’t have been completed without the generous grant from 4Culture.