

Out of the Archives

a newsletter from the Washington State Archives

December 2016



Employee Spotlight

Meet Jewell

This month's Employee Spotlight takes a look at Dr. Jewell Lorenz Dunn. You have probably read one of her articles as she is a frequent contributor to the Out of the Archives newsletter.

What is your role at the State Archives?

I am responsible for Mission Control and the person who first welcomes patrons into the Archives. I assist on-site researchers and help with research requests received via email. My duties also include making sure to protect the records we share here at the Archives. Occasionally I get to help with outreach by giving genealogical lectures.

Do you have any tips on how to efficiently search the Archives?

Check our online catalog for record subjects prior to your visit, email a list of records you wish to view, and bring a flash drive for copies.

If you could change anything about the Archives, what would it be?

I would have a new building constructed that include the state library so I could access more records like newspapers and books. That way I could help genealogy patrons more.

What 3 words would you use to describe the State Archives?

Making records available.

What legacy would you like to leave at the Archives?

Knowing that I have made a difference with patrons' lives by helping to find their ancestors. Especially helping adoptees find biological parents.



What is the strangest thing you have ever discovered in your research?

I have found many STRANGE things doing genealogical research. The most recent was a dying man's statement saying he knew his end was imminent and the bullet which was used in his death was included in the civil case file as evidence. He robbed a Chinese gentleman who was later convicted of his murder. Strange how the original perpetrator ended up the victim.

What has been your favorite project at the State Archives?

Working with the patrons and helping them solve research problems especially land research.

*If you could interview one Washingtonian, who would it be and why?

Isabella Bush, wife of George Bush the early Tumwater Pioneer. She seemed to be a really progressive woman for her time. I think her strength to be in an interracial marriage at an extremely tough time period speaks for itself. I would also like to know who her parents were!

Before working at the Archives, what was the most interesting job you've ever had?

Restoring antique cars and driving cars for the auction. I have driven some pretty awesome cars like Corvette, Jaguar, Royals Royce, Italian Siata, and Austin Healy to name a few.

What did you know about the Archives before working here?

They have some pretty wonderful historical records stored here.



If you could witness any historical event in Washington, what would you want to see and why?

The signing of the Treaty of Medicine Creek so I could see all the people who were there and interview them.

If you could go back in time to give advice to your 18-year-old self, what would it be?

Travel more to foreign countries.

Who is your personal hero?

That is a tough question. Besides my mother (who is the best pie maker), it would be my aunt, Jean Gowan Near, her older sister. Aunt Jean is the one who got me hooked on genealogy. She will be 102 the last day of 2016 and she is a breast cancer survivor. She raises sheep and still walks down to the barn to give them three squares a day.

What is the first thing you would buy if you won the lottery?

A year vacation to travel across Europe to visit everyplace my ancestors came from.

How would your friends describe you?

Intense, not easy to get to know at first, a very serious person, and one person who will be your friend for life.

What is your biggest pet peeve?

People who are cruel to animals, especially cats.

What are your favorite and least favorite foods?

My favorite food is fried potatoes with an egg over easy, least favorite is onions.

