

10-29-2024

Lecture: Impactful Women and Their Contributions in Ellensburg History

Julia Stringfellow

Central Washington University, julia.stringfellow@cwu.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.cwu.edu/libraryfac>

Recommended Citation

Stringfellow, Julia, "Lecture: Impactful Women and Their Contributions in Ellensburg History" (2024).
Library Scholarship. 144.
<https://digitalcommons.cwu.edu/libraryfac/144>

This Conference Presentation is brought to you for free and open access by the James E. Brooks Library at ScholarWorks@CWU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Library Scholarship by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks@CWU. For more information, please contact scholarworks@cwu.edu.

“ Impactful Women and Their Contributions to Ellensburg History”

Julia Stringfellow

Professor and University Archivist,

Central Washington University

Kittitas County Historical Museum Lecture Series

October 29, 2024



Mary Ellen Stewart Shoudy

- Lived 1846-1921.
- Married to John Alden Shoudy and had seven children.
- Namesake of Ellensburg.
- “Mother of Ellensburg” on earlier tombstone.

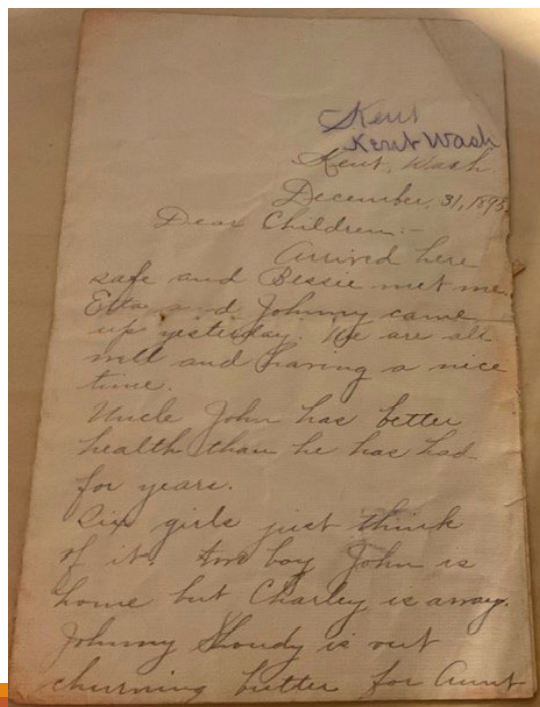


Shoudy Family in Ellensburg

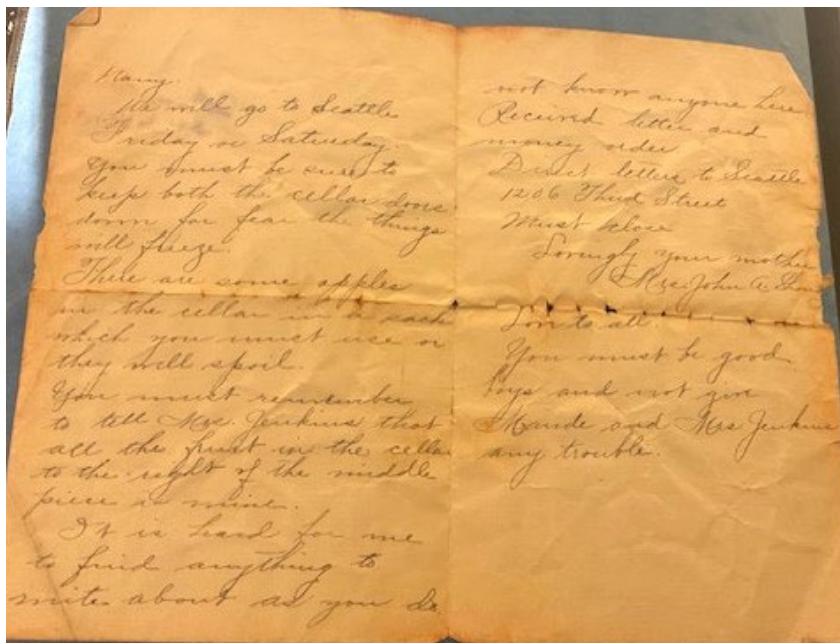


Mary Ellen Stewart Shoudy Letter, December 1895

- Letter to her children noting she arrived at Kent, WA to visit family.
- Signed "Lovingly your mother Mrs. John A. Shoudy."
- Source: Shoudy Family Papers, Kittitas County Historical Museum.



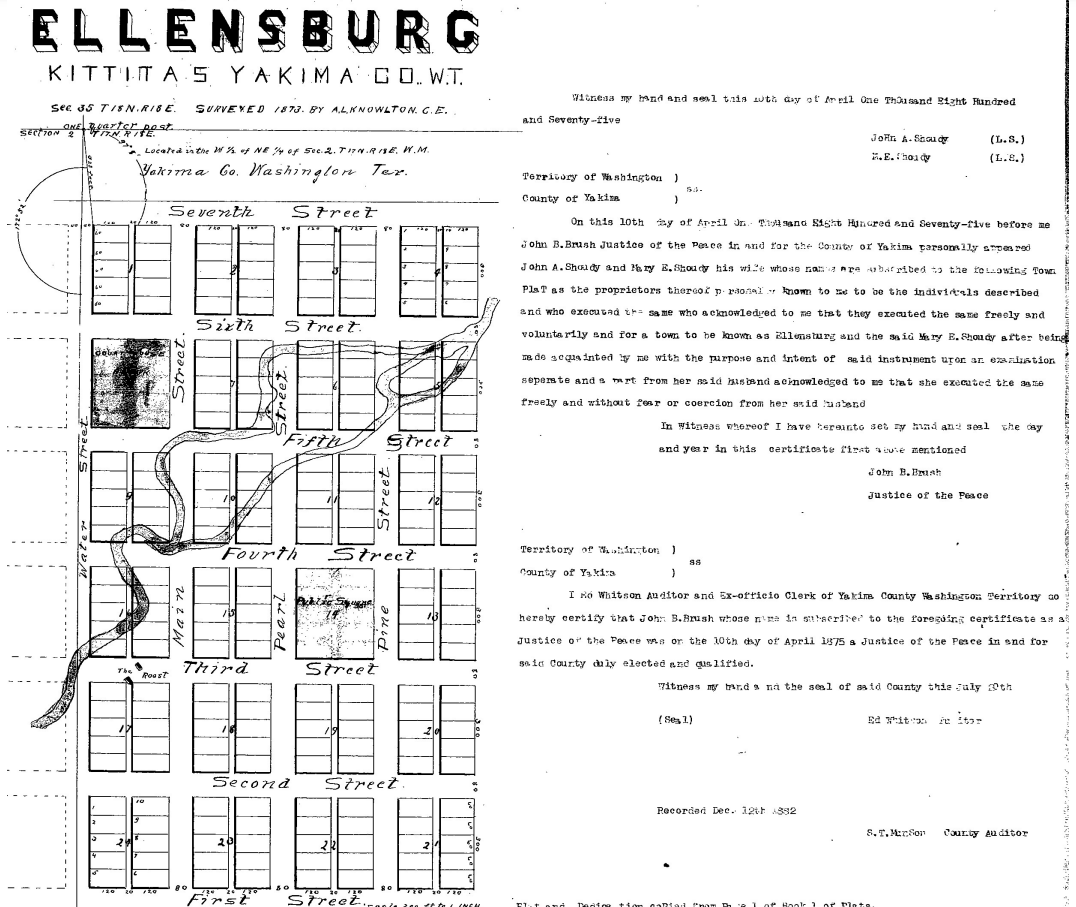
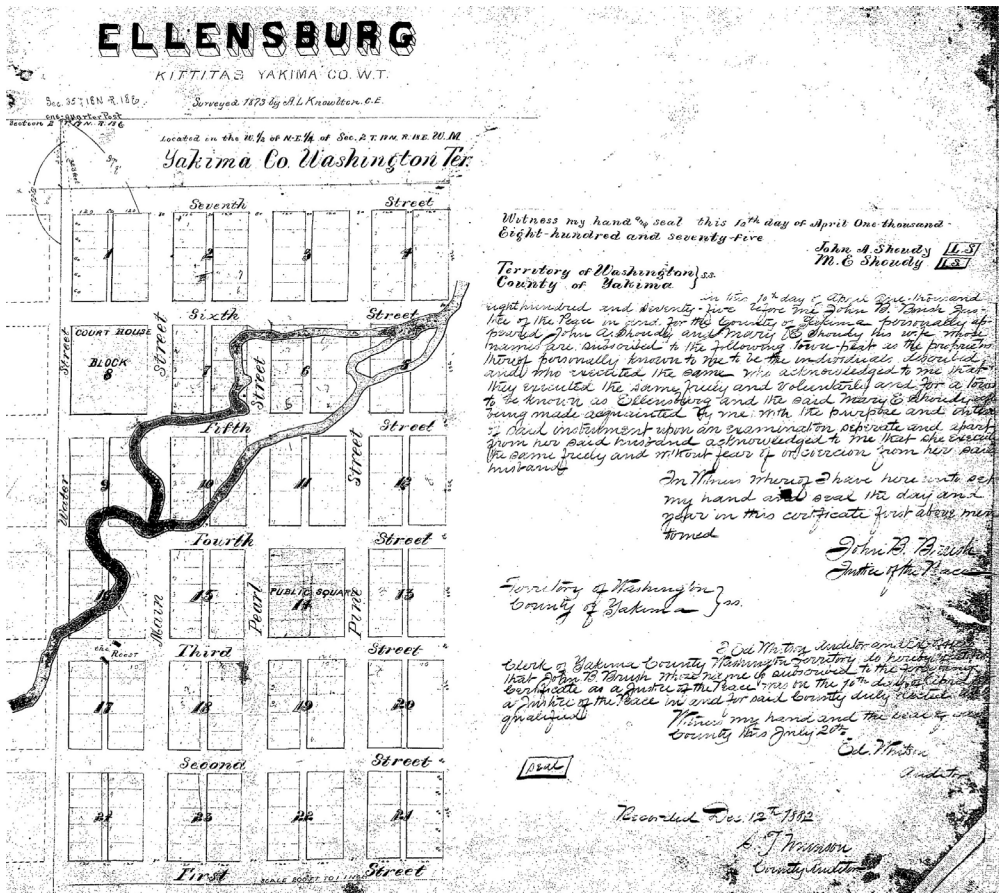
Kent
Kent Wash
Kent, Wash
December 31, 1895
Dear Children:-
Arrived here
safe and Bessie met me.
Ella and Johnny came
up yesterday. We are all
well and having a nice
time.
Uncle John has better
health than he has had
for years.
Lip girls just think
of it. ~~two~~ boy John is
home but Charley is away.
Johnny Shoudy is out
churning butter for Aunt



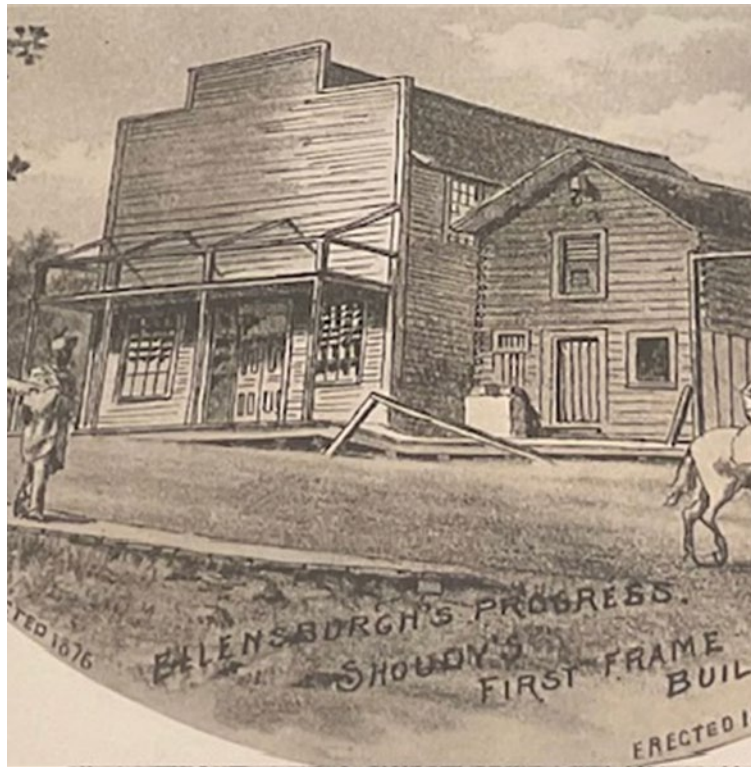
Harry
He will go to Seattle
Friday or Saturday.
You must be careful to
keep both the cellar doors
down for fear the things
will freeze.
There are some apples
in the cellar in a sack
which you must use or
they will spoil.
You must remember
to tell Mrs. Perkins that
all the fruit in the cellar
is the right of the middle
piece of mine.
It is hard for me
to find anything to
write about as you do
not know anyone here
Received letter and
money order
Dad's letter to Seattle
1206 Third Street
Must love
Lovingly your mother
Mrs. John A. Shoudy
Don't all
You must be good
boys and not give
Maude and Mrs. Perkins
any trouble.

Land Plat for Ellensburg, 1875

Original and version with typed text
Names of both John A. and Mary E. Shoudy



Robber's Roost, Shoudy store, and Shoudy home





Downtown Shoudy and Splawn Markers

Mary Lorretta Rowland McGraw Mires



Lived 1862-1940.

Married to Austin Mires from 1884 until his death in 1936. Austin was first mayor of Ellensburg.

Austin Mires Papers at WSU MASC in Pullman.

Lived at 407 N. Ruby Street.

Registered to vote on July 28, 1916 at 54 years old.

Ellensburg's first female photographer.



Family of Mary
Rowland Mires



Austin and Mary Mires

Source: Austin Mires Papers, Washington State University Libraries: Manuscripts, Archives, and Special Collections.





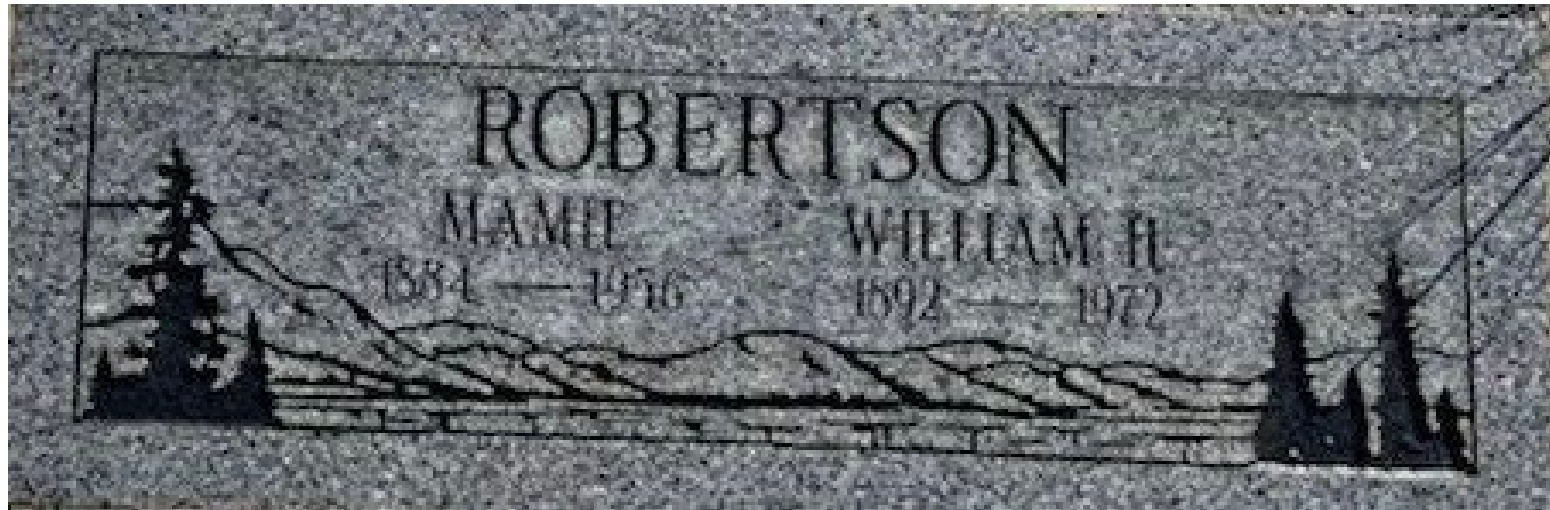
Photos taken by Mary Rowland Mires

Photos taken by Mary Rowland Mires



Mamie Evans Robertson

- Lived 1884-1956.
- Minister of the Ellensburg African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church.
- Church and rectory located at 402 and 404 N. Main Street.

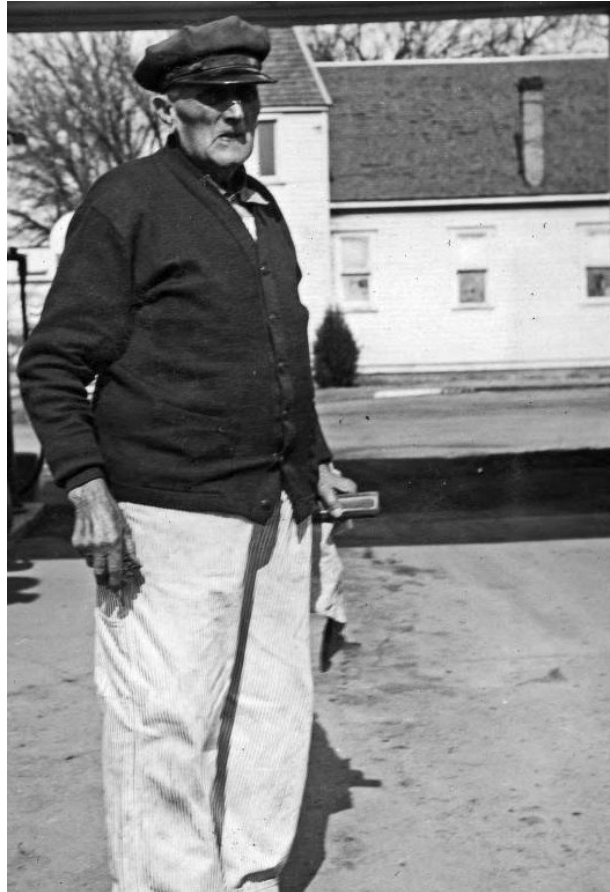


Mamie Evans Robertson's Daughter, Second Husband, and Stepson

- Edith Robertson attended Central from 1939-1942 and majored in English.
- Mamie married William Robertson in 1926. He died in 1972 and is buried next to her. William's jobs included gardener and caretaker of the post office.
- Mamie's stepson Edward Robertson graduated from Central in 1958 with a B.A. in Education degree. He served as secretary and president of the AME Church.



Mamie Robertson and the Ellensburg African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church



- Washington Rural Heritage, Community Digital Archives for Washington State, <https://www.washingtonruralheritage.org/>
- AME Church in background, 1942

Ellensburg African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church, 1921 and 1932 *Daily Record* Entries

Gains Chapel A. M. E. Church

406 S. Main street.

Rev. J. A. Duncan, pastor.

Sunday school 10 a. m. Preaching
11 a. m.

Christian Endeavor meeting 7 p.
m. Preaching 8 p. m.

Sunday is the beginning of a new conference year with this church. The A. M. E. church at Roslyn has been detached from the **Ellensburg** church, and - Rev. Duncan, who was returned to us will give his full time to the work and services here. We cordially welcome all who may attend our services.

A. M. E. Church.

402 South Main Street.

Rev. Webster B. Williams, Pastor.

10:00 a. m.—Sunday school.

Mrs. Mamie Robertson, Superintendent.

Miss Viola Smith, organist for the Sunday school.

11:00 a. m.—Sermon by the pastor.

7:00 p. m.—A. C. E. League.

Nathaniel Porter, President.

8:00 p. m.—Sermon by the pastor.

8:00 p. m.—Prayer meeting, Thursdays.

The public is invited to these services.

Amanda Hebel

- Lived 1890-1969
- Earned Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Michigan State Normal School and Teacher's College of Columbia University.
- Faculty member at Central 1924-1960.
- Director of teacher training program, later College Elementary School.
- Taught in the Education department.
- Oversaw planning of new CES/teacher training school.



Small Lady Leaves Big Imprint

Amanda Hebel is a woman small in physical stature, but one who has helped influence and shape the lives of countless students.

Although she retired in 1960, Miss Hebel still has an active interest in the college student, and keeps abreast of the new developments in education.

Miss Hebel came to Ellensburg in 1924 as supervisor of Edison Training School. In 1925 she began working with student teachers.

Because she felt that she was not fully qualified to teach at the Washington State Normal School, Miss Hebel left for two and a half years study at Columbia University. While there she earned her BA and MA degrees.

Upon her return to Washington, Miss Hebel acted as director of the Edison School.

Miss Hebel played an active part in the planning of the College Elementary School built in 1938.

"The College Elementary School was designed to be functional and flexible because it

was to be the center of many campus functions," Miss Hebel said.

Miss Hebel remained as director of the College Elementary



AMANDA HEBELER

School until 1956, when she became a full time instructor.

When asked to compare today's college students with those of earlier years, Miss Hebel replied, that college students today are more aware of the importance of an education.

The notable distinction Miss Hebel made was that today's students are more willing to go on for more education. They are not content with four years of college.

Miss Hebel complimented today's coed when she said that today's girls are more sophisticated. She attributed this to the fact that it is no longer necessary for girls to finance their own college education.

Coeds are allowed many more freedoms today, according to Miss Hebel, and she finds many of these hard to accept.

Miss Hebel feels that some college people become remote from the community in which they teach. Miss Hebel said she tries to keep in close relationship with the community. She has been active in many civic affairs. At present she spends one afternoon each week as a volunteer at the hospital.

As a reminder of the contributions Amanda Hebel has made to the college and the community, the College Elementary School was renamed in her honor in 1963.

Amanda Hebel at Central

- College Elementary School named Hebel Hall in 1956.
- Retired in 1960.
- Traveled throughout her life.
- [Recollections of CWSC](#), 1966, Library Lecture.

Where Amanda Hebel Lived in Ellensburg

- 205 E. Eighth Avenue.
- 204 E. Ninth Avenue.
- “My Home” history of the house by Amanda Hebel.
- Interviews with Jane Orleman.



Amanda Hebel and Partner CWU Professor Sarah Spurgeon



- Amanda Hebel and Sarah Spurgeon at their 204 E. Ninth Avenue home, January 1963. Photo courtesy of Ellensburg Public Library.
- Edna May Sarah Spurgeon (1903-1985) was a professor of art (painting and drawing) and art education in the Department of Art + Design at CWU from 1939-1971
- The Sarah Spurgeon Gallery in CWU's Randall Hall dedicate in her honor in 1977.
- In he will, Amanda bequeathed her estate to Sarah and her nieces and nephews.
- Sarah's art studio was in the building where Happy Nails once occupied (across from Jerrol's on C Street.)



Edna May Sarah Spurgeon

- Lived 1903-1985.
Professor of Art and Design at Central, 1939-1971.
Advocate of arts in campus and local community.
Worked for Boeing during WW II.
Active member of Women Painters of Washington.
Her art is displayed throughout campus and town.





Dedication of Sarah Spurgeon Gallery, 1977

Violet Buchanan

Lived 1910-2011.

Grew up in Ellensburg at 809 N. Water Street.

First female mayor of Ellensburg, 1957.



Violet Buchanan

Images from Find a Grave record,

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/171117838/violet-louise-buchanan>.



Donna E. Jacobson Nylander

- Lived 1930-2019.
- Teacher and child advocate.
- Founded Ellensburg Children's Musical Theatre in 1976.
- Wrote over 20 plays from 1975-2015.
- Interview with Josephine Camarillo. Image courtesy of her.



Donna E. Jacobson Nylander

- Images courtesy of Josephine Camarillo.
- Donna's authored books included *Pebble Theatre for the Young Performer* and *The Teddy Bear's First Christmas*.



Special Thanks to...

- Talea Anderson
- Karen Blair
- Josephine Camarillo
- Mollie Edson
- Henry Johnston, Funeral Director.
- Ellensburg Johnston and Williams Funeral Home.
- Cyndi LaChappelle,
- Executive Assistant to Ellensburg City Manager
- Beth Leader, Ellensburg City Clerk





Special Thanks to...

- Mike McCloskey
- Fennelle Miller
- Jane Olerman
- Ty Phelan
- Roger Schaefer
- Mike Stewart
- Sadie Thayer

Sincere Thanks To...

Ellensburg Public Library and Archives

Family History Library, Salt Lake City

Kittitas County Historical Museum

University of Washington Libraries, Special Collections

Washington State Archives, Central Branch

Washington State University Libraries, Manuscripts, Archives and Special Collections

And Much Sincere and Heartfelt Thanks to the CWU Archives and Special Collections :

Marty Blackson, Carolin McCarthy, Carlos Pelley, Becka Ramey, Emily Dalvit, Lacey Colmore, and
Elizabeth Yanes

Thank You for Attending!

Questions and Comments



- Bibliography of Sources, <https://digitalcommons.cwu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1140&context=libraryfac>

- Contact information:

Email: julia.stringfellow@cwu.edu

Phone: 509-963-1717

Office: CWU Archives Room 201, Brooks Library