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MURAL THANKS



HEINI GANZHORN HISTORY



OFFICE RESTORATION

HERITAGE HERALD

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SEPTEMBER 2020

ROOTS 2020 RECIPIENT NAMED

The Washington Historical Society is pleased to announce this year's Roots Award recipient: Dr. Pamela Kreeger.

Dr. Kreeger grew up in Washington, the daughter of Bill and Judy Kreeger, and attended Washington schools. She was valedictorian of the WCHS class of 1996. She is now an Associate Professor in the Department of Biomedical Engineering at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, with affiliations in the Department of Cell and Regenerative Biology and the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology in the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health. Dr. Kreeger earned a BS in Chemistry from Valparaiso University, a PhD in Chemical Engineering at Northwestern University, and was a post-doctoral fellow in Biological Engineering at MIT. Her lab utilizes tools from systems biology and tissue engineering to determine how the interactions between multiple components of the disease microenvironment influence cellular phenotypic decisions. She was the recipient of an NSF CAREER, American Cancer Society Research Scholar, and NIH New Innovator, and was inducted into the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering. Her lab website is www.kreegerlab.org.

In August, Dr. Kreeger was awarded a \$2.5 million grant from the National Cancer Institute for her work research-

ing the spread of ovarian cancer. Dr. Kreeger's lab at the University of Wisconsin-Madison will use the grant to study the process of metastasis in high-grade, serious ovarian cancer, the most aggressive and common form of the disease. Metastasis refers to the spread of cancer cells from the original tumor to secondary sites. Dr. Kreeger will work with UW-Madison collaborators to examine the differences between single-cell or aggregate-based metastasis, with the goal being to better understand ovarian cancer metastasis and uncover ways to slow the spread of the disease and improve patient outcomes.

Dr. Kreeger has been married for 13 years and is the mother of two boys, Nathan (9) and Micah (5).

Due to Covid-19 distancing restrictions, Dr. Kreeger will not give a presentation in Washington this fall as Roots award winners typically do. Instead, she will create a video presentation that talks about her work and her time in Washing-



ton. The WHS we will make the presentation available to our members and the public this fall via the Washington Historical Society website.

Previous Roots recipients include Dr. David Hunt of the Smithsonian, noted sportswriter David vanDyke, inventor Tejas Shastry, retired Director of the University of Oklahoma Marching Band Gene Thrailkill, Judge Kate Gorman, nationally known pediatrician Dr. Tom Gross, and former NBC broadcaster Phil Breman.

Nominees must have spent a portion of their youth in Washington and have excelled in any of these areas: government, fine arts, charitable work, sciences, medicine, business, or sports.

HEINI GANZHORN HISTORY

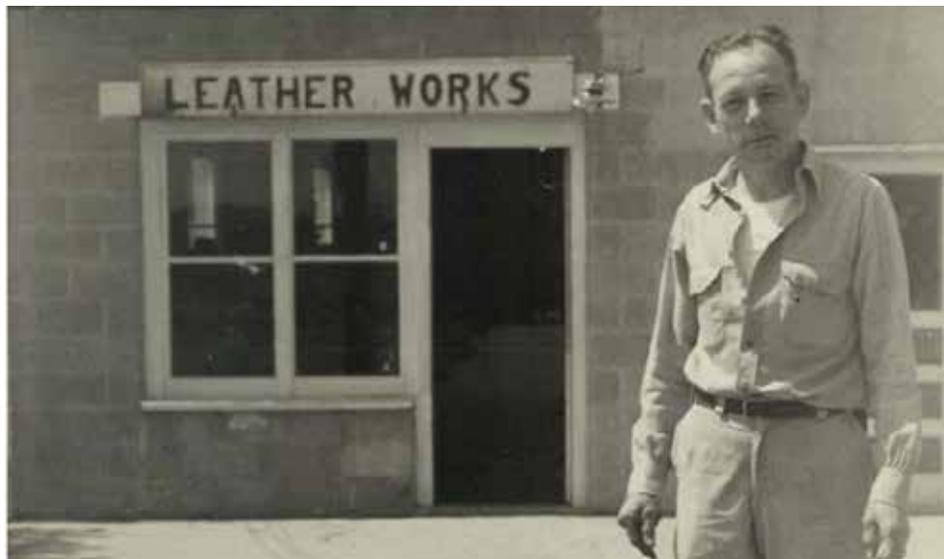
*researched and compiled by
Kit Zinser*

Citizens in the history book of Washington continue to captivate and enthrall, and Heini Ganzhorn is no exception. He is fodder for not just a good book, but most likely a great book.

But to know him, you must step back in time. In 1849, William Holland sold a plot of land to Albert Eldridge which was subdivided into Eldridge's Outlots. Friedrich Lohmeyer and his wife Carolina bought Lot 5 in 1896, and in 1900, purchased Lot 4 with a house only 12 years old. In 1901, the property was sold to daughter, Lydia. She and husband, Henry C. Ganzhorn, raised three children: Lena 1900-1987; Mary 1901-1969; and Henry F. ("Heini") 1903-1990. Today, under a stand of stately oak and black walnut trees, Nick and Pam Ripley and family live in what is fondly and appropriately known as Lohmeyer Grove which is a haven for wildlife, native grasses and wildflowers. How that must make Heini smile!

The start of school holds expected rituals, today and back then. A new pencil and box of crayons and depending on how long you went barefoot during the summer, most likely a new pair of shoes. Roehm's Shoe Store was the best in town. A futuristic X-ray machine entertained many of us over the years. The delight: pressing the nickel size button on top of the machine and watching the bones in your feet light up a glow stick green.

Shoes were sturdier back then. Tossing a pair of shoes wasn't an option. Even if the shoe pinched, there was still life in them after a new heel or sole was replaced. Ask Heini, Washington's finest cobbler. His shop smelled of leather, shoe wax and tobacco. Huge sections of leather hung from the rafters, and the floor was dotted with fragments as Heini worked diligently and precisely on a pair of pumps, work boots or school shoes. He wore khaki shirt and pants matched. His



*Heini, pictured above in front of his cement block workshop on S. Elm Street.
Note the handmade sign and his strong hands...his life's blood.*

chin was covered with a little stubble of a beard, and his hair had that slick backed Clark Gable look. His brown eyes twinkled as he greeted adults with just "Mrs." or "Mr." Kids were dubbed Susie or Joe.

His sister, Mary, married John King and moved to a new home; Heini and Lena stayed in the homestead. Aunt Lena and Uncle Heini continued family traditions: holiday meals and celebrations for Mary's children, Don and Wally and later their families as well. A shiny silver dollar awaited each child each Christmas. Heini and Lena worked hard on the homestead, but as they aged, nature caught up with them. Fortuitously, Heini's philosophy on nature was: God put it there, let it stay.

As a youngster, Heini was no stranger to hard work. He delivered meat by horse and cart for Ortwein's Butcher shop where his father worked. He apprenticed at Roehm's Shoe Store and then had his own leather shop on the North side of the square, later moving his business to 504 South Elm Street in the little concrete building which since has been torn down. No one could craft a sole or heel or leather belt as well as Heini. The cool part of having Heini repair your shoes was that they looked new when he finished. No shoe left his shop without a shine and a

buff. That was the professional side of Heini.

The personal side of Heini was not as easily perceived. Wally King, his loving nephew, testifies clearly to the craggy, enigmatic character we all wish we had known more intimately. He was frugal to say the least ("It isn't good to let people know you have money.") However, when a customer was without funds, Heini found a way to take care of their needs and ensure he or she walked away satisfied.

His attitude seemed to be: "Make the world a better place, but don't be obvious about it." Additionally, it is no surprise he was bestowed the award of 32nd degree Mason, an honor for those who do selfless and unspoken deeds for others.

Heini collected guns and Indian artifacts. He was passionate about firearm intricacies and was a lifetime member of the National Rifle Association. He competed on a crack rifle team for years with the Sullivans: Spud, Rip, Walt, and Bill. Each weekend, they would travel the circuit bringing home many ribbons. Even though an avid hunter and sportsman, he appreciated each animal's place in nature. He was a student of the earth and could identify any species of plant, weed, flow-

er or tree. He kept horses and dogs on his property which attracted neighborhood children over the years. His beloved white dog, aptly named Blizzard, was a true and loyal companion.

He was an avid student of history and geography, reading voraciously. Asked one time: "Heini, what have you been up to?" In his gravelly voice, he replied, "Oh, Duke, (another moniker), been to South America." whereupon he recounted the travels so vividly that the guy was almost sure Heini had left town. But Heini was one of those people who lived what he read.

More importantly, he was a patriot. In his



waning years, as he walked about town, one could spot him standing smartly at attention saluting each flag he passed. When he was a resident of Washington Christian Village, the nurses always felt flattered as he passed the nursing station, pausing briefly and saluting. Later, they realized Heini was saluting the flag he dimly saw through the window behind the desk.

"To thine own self be true"...Heini embraced those words...and as he lived and worked in the heart of our community, Henry F. Ganzhorn crafted a legacy for his family, and we are all better people because of him.

OFFICE RESTORATION

Though the Historical Society moved out of the Dement-Zinser House this spring, the work of moving continues as we settle into 101 Zinser, the former Doctor's Office Museum. This 100+ year old building was in need of a little love. We are in the process of updating the building with new exterior paint, new windows, updated electrical, new wood on the front porch floor and steps, new front porch railing, and other miscellaneous improvements

Hopefully the investments we are making in the building will preserve it for another 100 years of life in Washington. The improvements are partially funded by a \$2,500 grant from Landmarks Illinois, and a 30% match from the City of Washington TIF fund.

Once the work is completed, the building will be used as our office, meeting space, and archiving center, and will be open to the public for research during established hours.



for your ongoing support of the Society which made possible the Walldogs mural this summer. We hope you agree that it is a beautiful addition to our community. Many of you have asked about purchasing merchandise with a picture of the mural on it. Please look for those items in downtown shops and at the Historical Society office later this fall.



The WHS board would like to once again thank our members

MURAL THANKS



Remember: an easy way to help support the mission of the Washington Historical Society is to designate us as your preferred beneficiary through Amazon Smile and Kroger Community Rewards. Both of those programs send money back to your designated charity based on your everyday purchases. To select the Washington Historical Society as your preferred beneficiary for Kroger, please go to: <https://www.kroger.com/community-rewards>; and for Amazon, please go to: smile.amazon.com. Every dollar helps!

HELP THE WASHINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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