



**NOTICE OF MEETING  
CHANGE OF LOCATION & DATE  
NO ZOOM THIS MONTH  
TUESDAY, MAY 27, 2025**

**6 PM**

**MEET AT MAIN GATE CLAY STREET CEMETERY**

**"Good Guys & Bad Guys Amongst the Headstones", a walk through Clay St Cemetery. Please join us for a fun walk and talk about our historic cemetery. Our Annual meeting will follow by the CSC shed. This event is free and all are welcome. Some of the walk is along the pathway with benches for resting**

**The FGS is looking for a Secretary. Our Secretary takes the minutes at our meetings and serves on the board. If you are interested, please attend the May meeting to be nominated.**

**"Sinking of the Princess Sofia"** exhibit will finally be available for viewing by Monday, May 19, 2025, at the Morris Thompson Visitor and Cultural Center, 101 Dunkel Street, Fairbanks, Alaska



**THE ALASKA DAILY EMPIRE**

"ALL THE NEWS ALL THE TIME"

VOL. XII, NO. 1350.

JUNEAU, ALASKA, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1918.

MEMBER OF ASSOCIATED PRESS

PRICE TEN CENTS

**PRINCESS SOPHIA SINKS AND  
350 SOULS PROBABLY PERISH**

Main headline from October 26th, 1918 stating aftermath of the sinking of the Princess Sophia.

"Princess Sophia Sinks and 350 Souls Probably Perish," *The Alaska Daily Empire*, October 26, 1918, *Chronicling America Online Archive*.

**REMINDER: FGS MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR THE 2025-2026 YEAR ARE DUE STARTING JUNE 1, 2025.**

SINGLE \$25

FAMILY \$30

CORPORATE - \$25

Mail checks (FGS or Fairbanks Genealogical Society) to P.O. Box 60534, Fairbanks, AK 99706 or use PayPal at the Fairbanks Genealogical Society's website

[www.fairbanksgenealogicalsociety.com/membership/](http://www.fairbanksgenealogicalsociety.com/membership/)

THE TAPROOT IS NOT SENT OUT IF DUES HAVE NOT BEEN PAID BY JANUARY OF EACH YEAR.

#### AGENDA 27 May 2025 FGS

This meeting is a talk/tour, so we will hold the official meeting at the end.

Officer's reports:

President Amy Stratman:

Vice President Janet Richardson:

Secretary: volunteer needed.

Treasurer Aldean Kilbourn:

Unfinished Business: Princess Sophia display update

New Business:

Announcements: See you 23

September 2025!

#### Minutes for FGS Meeting April 22

We met at Fairbanks Distilling at 5 PM to order beverages. In attendance were Amy Stratman, Tanya O'Brien, Aldean Kilbourn, Elizabeth Cook, Cheryl Berrong, Kris and Leonard Thiltgen, Janet Richardson, and guests George Dalton, Betsy Smith and Karen Fox.

At 6 PM, owner Patrick Levy gave us an introduction to the "still or brewing" room, and an informational forty minute talk on the background of distillation including the equipment and how he makes his various products. He also talked about the construction of the building, which at one time housed the Fairbanks fire house, the city council chambers and mayor's office, and the telephone switchboard. In his remodeling of the front facade, he kept the outlines of the firehouse doors. He also kept the large side door on 4th street for pickups and deliveries.

## Dave Speilberg by Amy Stratman

sources: Newsminer articles and obituaries using Newspapers.com, Newspaperarchives.com, Polk Directories, FamilySearch/org, Ancestry.com, and an [article by Morten Bakkeli of Norway](#).

Dagfinn Speilberg (born 20 April 1929) was the son of physician Thorleif Tybring Speilberg (1894–1968) and Hedvig Lorentze née Fabricius (1899–1991). His father was born in Tvedestrand, and his mother was born in Namsos. His childhood home was Bøkkerbakken 6, which he later bought from his mother in 1971.

Dagfinn, like his father, was working as a whaler after he graduated from college. He married his college sweetheart Anne-Marie "Tulla" Christensen (born 11 Jan 1931) from Sverdstad in Sandar at the Larvik Church on 7 July 1952.

Dagfinn went to Alaska in 1952 to meet up with a Norwegian friend, Pete Nelson who worked at the Healy River Coal Corporation in Suntrana. He stayed and started working as a mechanic. A year later, his wife joined him.

The couple had three daughters: Linda, Mette and Tina. In 1960, they became Naturalized American citizens. In 1963, the family moved to the city of Fairbanks, due to layoffs, and decided it was best as their girls were starting school. Dave was employed as a maintenance man at Golden Valley Electric Association, Fairbanks Municipal Utilities System, and then Fort Wainwright (civilian). Anne worked for the Cooperative Extension Service, Wien Airlines, then the Fairbanks North Star Borough. She eventually became the head of the Fairbanks Elections Office.

Their home address was 200 Kody Dr in Island Homes subdivision, pictured below (from google maps). The home was in the family for 36 years.



Dagfinn, 5, in Larvik, Norway.



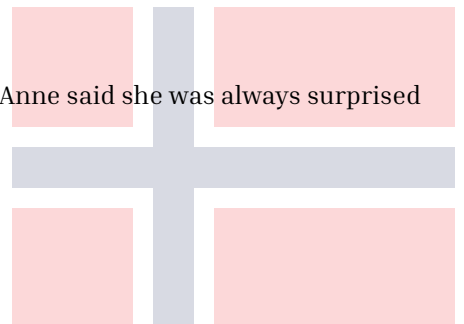
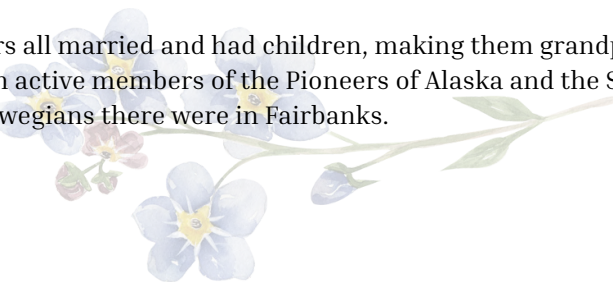
Dave's home in Norway

Foto: Espen Ljøkken



Their marriage was dissolved in 1976 and Dave returned to Norway. He married for the second time on 1 Sept 1977 to Borghild Andersen (1932–1986) from "Ekebakken", the Tenvik farm in Brunlanes. After her death, Dave returned to Fairbanks and reunited with Anne.

Their daughters all married and had children, making them grandparents. They were both active members of the Pioneers of Alaska and the Sons of Norway. Anne said she was always surprised how many Norwegians there were in Fairbanks.





Dave Spurling  
(Signature of Petitioner)

Aune Marie Spielberg  
(Full, true, and correct signature of petitioner (without abbreviation))

Anne's signature on her naturalization papers.

Aune Marie Spielberg  
(Full, true, and correct signature of petitioner (without abbreviation))

Documents like this Naturalization paper can easily be found on [FamilySearch.org/labs](https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSK3-3?i=100&cc=2020000), then select “Full Text” to search.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE

ORIGINAL  
(To be retained  
by Clerk of Court)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

PETITION FOR NATURALIZATION

Filed under \_\_\_\_\_

To the Honorable the Superior \_\_\_\_\_ Court of \_\_\_\_\_ 4th District \_\_\_\_\_ at Fairbanks, Alaska

This petition for naturalization, hereto made and filed, respectfully shows:

(1) My full, true, and correct name is Dagfinn Spellberg

(2) My present place of residence is Suntrana Mining Co., Suntrana, Alaska

(3) My occupation is Bunkerman

(4) I was born on 7/20/29 (City or town) Larvik, Norway

(5) My personal description is as follows: Sex Male, complexion Fair, color of eyes Blue, color of hair dk. blond, 6 feet 1 inches, weight 170 pounds, visible distinctive marks none, country of which I am a citizen, subject, or national Norway

(6) I am now married; the name of my wife or husband is Anne Marie Spellberg

we were married on 7/7/52 (City or town) Larvik, Norway, he or she was born at Sadeefjord, Norway on 1/11/31 (City or town) \_\_\_\_\_ and entered the United States at New York City, New York (State) NY on 7/12/53 (Month) (Day) (Year) for permanent residence in the United States and now resides at SMU, AS ABOVE (City or town) \_\_\_\_\_ and was naturalized on \_\_\_\_\_ (Month) (Day) (Year) at \_\_\_\_\_ (City or town) \_\_\_\_\_ (State) \_\_\_\_\_ certificate No. \_\_\_\_\_ or became a citizen by \_\_\_\_\_

(7a) (If petition is filed under section 319 (a), Immigration and Nationality Act.) I have resided in the United States in marital union with my United States citizen spouse for at least 3 immediately preceding the date of filing this petition for naturalization, and have been physically present in the United States at least half of that time.

(7b) (If petition is filed under section 319 (b), Immigration and Nationality Act.) My husband or wife is a citizen of the United States, is in the employment of the Government of the United States, or of an American institution of research recognized as such by the Attorney General of the United States, or an American firm or corporation engaged in whole or in part in the development of foreign trade and commerce of the United States, or a subsidiary thereof, or of a public international organization in which the United States participates by treaty or statute, or is authorized to perform the ministerial or priestly functions of a religious denomination having a bona fide organization within the United States, or is engaged solely as a missionary by a religious denomination or by an interdenominational mission or organization having a bona fide organization within the United States, and such husband or wife is regularly stationed abroad in such employment. I intend in good faith to remain naturalization to live abroad with my spouse and to resume my residence within the United States immediately upon termination of such employment abroad.

(8) I have 3 children; and the name, sex, date and place of birth, and present place of residence of each of said children who is living, are as follows:  
Linda-Female-Fairbanks, Alaska-3/1/54-With me  
Mette-Female-Fairbanks, Alaska-5/19/55-With me  
Anne-Christine-Female-Fairbanks, Alaska-11/19/58-With me

(9) My lawful admission for permanent residence in the United States was at \_\_\_\_\_ New York City, New York  
under the name of Dagfinn Spellberg (City or town) \_\_\_\_\_ on 8/6/52 (Month) (Day) (Year)  
on the Scandinavian Airlines (Name of vessel or other means of conveyance)

Dave legally changed his name when he became naturalized in 1960.



Anne Speilberg, photo by Charles Mason, Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, 1986



Dave died of cancer on 21 June 1992 in Fairbanks. He was 63 years old. He was buried at Birch Hill Cemetery in General #3 Ext, Tier 13, Row 9. He was exhumed due to unknown reasons (possibly of poor conditions at Birch Hill), and placed in Northern Lights Cemetery with his ex wife, Anne, who also died of cancer, on 23 Sept 1997.

One daughter, Mette, died in 2016 (also of cancer), and is buried near them at Northern Lights Cemetery.





## Ulysses Grant Myers



Ulysses Grant Myers, known as U.G. Myers on documents, grew up in Pennsylvania, working on the family farm. He joined the Army Signal Corp and became a US Weather Bureau weather observer. He was transferred to Washington DC, Boston, New Haven CT, and Denver, before being assigned to Eagle, Alaska. In addition to recording the weather, he was a Notary Public, US Commissioner, and customs broker for incoming boats headed to Dawson City, Yukon during the summer. He also took up mining and had several successful claims.

He married Frances Nelly Ryder in July 1900 (also spelled Nellie on some documents) in Eagle. They enjoyed life in Alaska, with occasional trips Outside. They had no children.

Leaving Alaska in Oct of 1918, he bought a ticket to Seattle with intentions of continuing to New York to see his wife. She resided in Poughkeepsie during many winters, and was there this time due to the ill health of her mother (who ended up dying in Feb 1919).

UG was on the last boat out of Alaska, on the Princess Sophia.

He died on 25 Oct 1918, near Juneau, Alaska. His body was recovered days later.



Miss Nellie Ryder started last Thursday for the Klondike region where she will meet and marry Ulysses Grant Myers, who has been in the Klondike the past two years. Mrs Ryder accompanied her daughter to Chicago. Miss Ryder is accompanied by a young lady from Cincinnati who is also going to the Klondike regions to wed a young minister who is stationed there. Tuesday morning Mrs Ryder received a telegram from her daughter saying she had arrived at Seattle.

Connecticut Western News, 12 July 1900

### WILL BE BRIDE IN KLONDIKE.

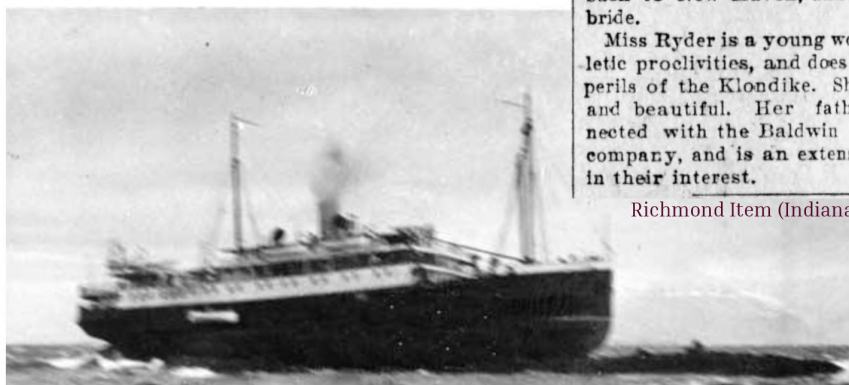
Miss Nellie Ryder Leaves Fall River, Mass., to Wed Weather Observer Myers at Dawson City.

A wedding will be celebrated in Dawson City as soon as the bride, Miss Nellie Ryder, of Fall River, Mass., arrives. She has just left Fall River.

She will wed Ulysses Grant Myers, United States weather observer in Eagle City. He left New Haven 26 months ago, under orders from Washington to do pioneer work in the Klondike. Between his trips and his work as weatherman he has prospected, with rich results. He cannot afford to come back to New Haven, and sent for his bride.

Miss Ryder is a young woman of athletic proclivities, and does not fear the perils of the Klondike. She is only 20, and beautiful. Her father is connected with the Baldwin Locomotive company, and is an extensive traveler in their interest.

Richmond Item (Indiana), 25 July 1900



### RESOLUTION.

Ulysses G. Myers, a member of the Bar of the Fourth Judicial Division of Alaska, lost his life in the wreck of the steamer "Princess Sophia," on Vanderbilt Reef in Lynn Canal, Alaska, on the 26th day of October, 1918.

Mr. Myers came to Alaska from Portland, Oregon, and settled at Eagle, Alaska, of which place he was a resident for the last twelve years or more. He therein carried on the active practice of his profession, and for several years he was United States Commissioner for Eagle Precinct.

He enjoyed the esteem and confidence of his fellow-townsmen, not alone as a lawyer but as a citizen and friend. In his dealings with the other members of the Bar he was fair and considerate and had a scrupulous respect for the ethics of the profession.

By his untimely death the Bar has lost a just and upright practitioner, the people of Eagle a good friend and counselor, and the Territory of Alaska a loyal citizen.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Bar of the Fourth Division of Alaska, by this resolution, publicly express its sincere respect for Mr. Myers and its regret at his untimely death.

And be it further resolved that these resolutions be spread in full upon the record of this day's proceedings of this Court, and that a certified copy thereof be, by the Clerk of this Court, forwarded to the nearest relative of the deceased.

Dated this seventeenth day of January. A. D. one thousand nine hundred nineteen.

Morton E. Stevens

L. R. Gillette

John A. Clark

Committee.

probate files via FamilySearch.org



<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C91F-MSD4-D?view=fullText>

Young Ladies Guide-----	1.00
Sortaire-----	1.00
Brewster's Millions-----	1.00
TheSons of Porthos-----	1.00
The Fighting Chance-----	1.00
The Testing of Diana Mallory-----	1.00
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In The Bishops Carriage-----	1.00
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The Mystery-----	1.00
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A Dauntless Viking-----	1.00
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Gold smith of Nome-----	1.00
The Seven Seas-----	1.00
The Lady of The Lake-----	1.00
N.Y.&ve ning Telegram Cook Book-----	1.00
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Camille-----	.50
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Auction Declarations-----	.50
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The Hymnal-----	1.00
Reveries of a Bachelor-----	.50
Treasure Island-----	.50
Abbe ConstaYntine-----	.50
A Calander of Dinners-----	.50
The Common Prayer and Hymnal-----	2.00
Pressed Flowers ;;;-----	.50
SmalyBible-----	.50
Whittier-----	.50
Evangaline-----	.50
In Black and White-----	.50
The <del>XXXX</del> Rubiyat-----	.50
Paul and Virginia-----	.50
The Log of the Water Wagon-----	.50
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Tennyson'sPoetical Works-----	2.00
On Card Games-----	2.00
The Three Musketeers-----	1.50
Ange Pictou-----	.25
Webster's Dictionary-----	7.00
Sentimental Tommy-----	.50
Masterpieces in Color-----	.50
I am from Missouri-----	.25
The Garden Library-----	4.50
Domestic Medicine-----	2.00
Ant.Ford-----	\$56.00



A still life illustration featuring a glass vase with a dried rose, a pink paper flower, a string of beads, and a small circular mirror. The vase is on the left, containing a dried rose with brown leaves. Next to it is a pink paper flower. To the right is a string of brown beads and a small circular mirror with a blue sky and clouds. The background is white.





We made a Find a Grave list of the passengers who died on the Princess Sophia shipwreck from 25 Oct 1918 near Juneau, Alaska.

This list and biographical information will change as it is researched, corrected, and added to.

Princess Sophia Passenger list Virtual Cemetery on Find a Grave  
<https://www.findagrave.com/virtual-cemetery/1885594>

**MORE BODIES IDENTIFIED.**

JUNEAU, Oct., 30— More bodies have been identified they including the following:—

Harry Francis Lawless, Nenana.  
Howard Bennet, Wiseman.  
George Nils, Flat City.  
Thomas Tolbart, Tanana.  
William Alfred Smith, Fairbanks.  
James Alexander, Atlin.  
William Shaw, Fairbanks.  
Walter Harper, Eagle.  
William Scouse, Dawson.  
Samual Bourne, Iditarod.  
C. W. Porter, Fairbanks.  
E. M. Nelson, Fairbanks.  
August Stanley Winkler, Ruby.  
**U. G. Myers, Eagle.**  
A. D. Pratt, Fairbanks.  
Edward M. Bell, Hunker Creek.  
Mrs. John Beaton, Iditarod.  
W. L. O'Brien, wife and five children.

Seward Gateway 30 Oct 1918



UG is buried in Scenery Hill, PA, near where he grew up. Photo from FindaGrave.com

To begin research on a passenger on the Princess Sophia, you can start a number of ways.

- First check the passenger list. Be open minded on the spelling of the name.
- Search for the death certificate on FamilySearch.org. Some are very faint, and some do not exist. Check for the probate file by searching the Full Text AI search at FamilySearch.org/labs. Many probate files were in Alaska, some are in Canada.
- Check FindaGrave.com for the location of the grave and any added information such as birthday or family members names. Keep in mind it may not be accurate.
- Research the 1910 US Federal Census or the 1911 Census of Canada if you think they were in Alaska or Yukon at the time.
- Check YukonGenealogy.com if they were a participant in the Gold Rush.
- Newspaper websites are a wonderful source. Search for every possible spelling.
- Check out books from the library. Look on their website for rare books or books held elsewhere. Books may offer hints you may not have seen online.



The Clay St Cemetery was host to Ms Jenn Duncan and her 4<sup>th</sup> grade class from Anne Wien Elementary School. The class learned about what a cemetery is, the history of Clay St Cemetery, and who is buried there. The class had a great time. The walk was given by Janet and Amy of the FGS. Ms Duncan donated \$50 to the FGS, for which we say THANKS!







**How very sad it is to see this!**  
**Don't let your family photos end up for sale in an**  
**antique store! Write their names, place and year and**  
**any other information on the backs of photos**



Cemetery Corner  
By Janet Richardson

Alma and August Boström

August "Gust" was born in Balinge, Luleä, Sweden on December 28, 1871 to Lars Oloffson Boström and Anna Stina Elg Boström. He came to Dawson, YT in 1899 as a gold miner and prospector, an occupation he continued through out his life. Gust came to Fairbanks in 1904 and mined at Cleary Creek, Little El Dorado and Livengood. Up until about a year before his death, he mined at Rosy and Fish Creeks with Emil Wickstrom.



On November 20, 1915, August married Alma Langström in Seattle, Washington. Alma was born on April 23, 1890 in Rorudden, Bodens, Sweden to Carl Fredrik and Anna Maria Larsdatter Langström. In 1920, Alma and Gust were living at Brooks Camp just outside Livengood where Gust was a placer miner.

Alma had come to Fairbanks prior to the spring winter breakup in 1920 in the midst of the Spanish Flu Epidemic. Alma caught the flu and was hospitalized at St. Joseph's Hospital in Fairbanks. Gust was unable to come to Fairbanks due to the quarantine between Brooks and Fairbanks, but as the flu had not made it to Brooks, he was granted premission to come to Fairbanks. On May 6, the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner reported that Alma had greatly improved and that she was likely to survive, however, she passed away the next day on May 7, 1920. Alma was the sister of Elin (Ellen) T. Langström Wickstrom, wife of Emil Wickstrom. Alma's funeral was held on May 13 and was well attended as she was a much loved pioneer of the interior. She was laid to rest at Clay Street Cemetery in the Pioneer Section.

Gust was a member of the Fairbanks Elks Lodge and a life member of the Pioneers of Alaska, Igloo No. 4, Fairbanks. He passed away on September 19, 1951 at St. Joseph's in Fairbanks of heart disease and was buried at Birch Hill Cemetery in the Pioneer Section.