

**NOTICE OF MEETING
TUESDAY September 23, 2025**

**Alaska Mining Hall of Fame Museum
406 Cushman St, Fairbanks**

Parking available in Sadler's parking lot
Meeting in person and also on Zoom

The program will be "FamilySearch AI".

We will show how to do a deep search to find what you are looking for when the usual search methods aren't complete or easy to locate. We will show examples as well as do a live search with your questions.
Please bring your laptop and specific research questions.

**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/
or pay in person at the meetings.

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



**Published by Daily News-Miner
on Aug. 1, 2025.**

MaryBeth Groves passed away on July 11, 2025. She was a member of the FGS. She served as Vice President in the past, gave a few talks, volunteered at our Genealogy Fairs, and spoke about the DAR for which she was also a volunteer. Her enthusiasm for preserving history and the joy of learning and discovery were unmatched. She was a friend, kind to all, and her smile made everyone feel welcome. She truly will be missed by all of us here at the FGS.

MaryBeth E. Groves, 73, of Fairbanks, Alaska, formerly of Colorado, passed away July 11, 2025, at her home peacefully, losing the battle to cancer.

Born on Nov. 5, 1951, in Greeley, Colorado, to Beverly (Skov) and Jack B. Groves, she graduated from Eaton High School in Colorado. She lived in Colorado for many years and enjoyed traveling up to Alaska before making it her home state for the last 22 years. During her residence in Alaska she worked at and retired from Pogo Mine.

She found joy in her service as a member of Alaska Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution and as an honorary state regent, as well as taking part in the many events and programs DAR helped support.

She is survived by her daughters, Andrea Jarboe, of Eaton, Colorado, and Ashley Leffler, of Fairbanks, Alaska; her grandchildren; and three sisters, Gretchen (Fred) Webb, Jane (Mark) Groves and Julianne (Steve) Fritz. She was preceded in death by her parents, Beverly and Jack; son, Owen Leffler; and granddaughter, Omari Murrill.

A funeral service will occur at 10 a.m. Friday, Aug. 8, 2025, at Blanchard Family Funeral Home, 611 Noble St., Fairbanks, AK 99701, with interment and reception following. For more information check www.blanchardfh.com.



Cemetery Corner by: Janet Richardson
Katherine "Kate" Adcock

Kate was born in 1849 in Staffordshire, England to parents James and Maria Burrows. She married Edwin Adcock (1845-1915) on May 16, 1866 in Bloxwich, Staffordshire, England. Kate was 17 years old and Edwin was 21. Edwin, Kate and 2 sons, Frank and Charles immigrated to the US in 1877.

In 1880, the family is living in San Francisco on 10 Kearny Street. Edwin is 34 years old, born in England, and is a keeper of a milliner store. Kate is 31 years old, born in England and is a Milliner. Their children are Charles E., 12 years old, born in England; Frank, 10 years old born in England and Walter, 4 years old and born in California.



Kearny and Market Street, San Francisco 1886 in the center of San Francisco



San Francisco Chronicle, March 30, 1886

On April 17, 1879 in San Francisco, Edwin becomes a Naturalized Citizen which brings in his wife and children as citizens as well.

In July 1879, Edwin and Kate have a daughter named May in San Francisco. May passed away on January 24, 1880 and was buried, according to funeral home ledgers, in grave 21, tier 3 Child's 3. The ledger does not state which cemetery, however, the grave should have been removed to one of the 17 cemeteries in Colma when San Francisco became cemetery free!

In April of 1886, Adcock's Millinery had a Spring Opening at No. 10 Kearny Street and 748 Market Street in San Francisco featuring the latest imports of Millinery from Europe and the East.

In October 1893, Kate petitioned to become a sole trader in the millinery business in San Francisco. She desired to invest \$4000 of her separate property in the business. She set forth that her husband is an invalid and unable to support his family or himself.

On July 29, 1896, Kate's store caught fire due to her son, Frank who accidentally turned on a fuel jet instead of turning off the gas.

In August of 1897, according to the San Francisco Call Bulletin, The Adcock's sailed on the "Noyo" bound for the Klondike. The family spent some time in Dawson City, Yukon Territory according to an obituary for Frank Adcock. Edwin held a placer miner claim in Dawson in 1897 and 1898.

Kate is enumerated in Dawson in 1897 and 1898. Charles is enumerated in Dawson in 1897 and 1900, while Walter is enumerated in Dawson in 1898 and 1900. (Source: Yukon Genealogy)

THE ADCOCKS WENT.

The Milliner and Her Family Sailed as the Adlers on the Noyo.

Among the passengers on the Noyo last Wednesday, bound for the Klondike, were Mrs. Kate Adcock, her husband, three sons and a niece, who were listed as E. Adler and five.

Mrs. Adcock has for some time been manager of a millinery-store on Kearny street, owned by her son, Charles E. Ad-

cock, and to all appearances the business was a profitable one. It seems, however, that there was an indebtedness of \$3000 on the stock, which the Adcocks could not manage to pay.

The son, in whose name the business had been conducted, a short time ago assigned the stock to Mrs. M. E. Desmond, one of the employees. Mr. Adcock sold the property in which the family resided at Berkeley for \$3000, and the family started for the north to join in the search for gold.

The creditors, of whom Butler & Schutze and Holm & Nathan are the principal ones, were not satisfied with the assignment to Mrs. Desmond, so held a meeting, and it was arranged that Mrs. Desmond should reassign the stock to them. The store is in their hands, and now they are carrying on the business.

San Francisco Call Bulletin, August 8, 1897

In 1900, Kate is enumerated in Nome, Alaska. She states she is 43 years old, born in England. Her home PO is San Francisco and her occupation there is a milliner. She is listed as a transient and her occupation while in Nome is a cook.

Published in the Polks Alaska-Yukon Gazetteer in 1909 and 1910, the Adcock's are listed at 238 Cushman Street in Fairbanks, Alaska, as Katherine, Milliner, Edwin A., Employee of Mrs. Katherine Mills (Milliner), Frank as a laborer and Walter as a clerk for Mrs. Katherine Mills.

DIRECT FROM EAST

And on inspection, the finest lot of
Furs and Fur Lined Coats ever
seen in the Tanana. Ladies invited
to examine. All kinds of Ladies'
Furnishings.

MRS. ADCOCK,
At the old stand on Second Ave.

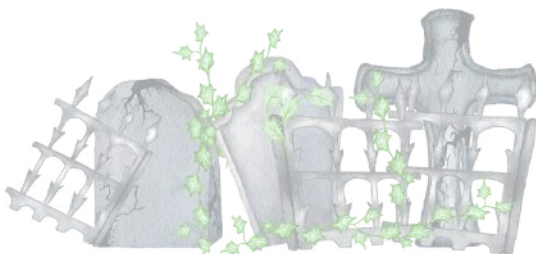
Fairbanks Daily Times, September 13, 1908

In 1910, the Adcock family is enumerated in Fairbanks at 149 Cushman Street. Kate and Edwin have been married for 43 years (married 1866) and had 7 children and that only 3 children are living. This census mistakenly gives all of their ages and birth years incorrectly for an unknown reason. Edwin, Kate and Frank were born in England and Walter in California.

The census taker lists the following birth information which is incorrect:

Edwin is 55 years old born in July 1854, Kate is 50 years old, born Jan 1859, Frank is 26 years old born December 1883 and Walter is 25 years old born June 1884 (only 6 months after Frank??). Frank and Walter are listed on the 1880 census as 10 and 4 years old and according to the 1910 census neither would have been born yet!

When research was made in 2012 for new headstones for Kate and Frank, the 1910 census was used as their birth information as probably the only available document at the time before all the online platforms.



On March 6, 1910, Kate passed away from apoplexy according to the Commissioner Death Records for Fairbanks. She was buried at Clay Street Cemetery in the General NE section.

Her son, Frank, passed away in 1914 after a long illness of tuberculosis and valvular heart trouble and was buried next to his mother, Kate. Frank and his father, Edwin, had worked at F.S. Gordon's Store, which was bought out by Katherine Mills, for several years before Edwin and Walter, returned to San Francisco.

Edwin died in San Francisco on December 15, 1915 in the Planters Hotel and was cremated and laid to rest in Cypress Lawn Memorial Park in Colma, San Mateo, California.



Fresno Bee, Sept 17, 1915

PLANTERS' HOTEL, J. E. Hoyle, Mgr., cor. 2d and Folsom sts. — Garfield 2512. Rooms per day, 25, 35 and 50 cents; per week, \$1.50 to \$3.00.

Crocker-Langley San Francisco Directory, 1917 (hotel/classified listings).

The Planters Hotel, 606 Folsom St in San Francisco, was designed by Salfield and Kohlberg and constructed in 1906. The building is a rare example of commercial and hotel architecture in the South of Market district built immediately after the 1906 Earthquake and Fires. Its wood frame construction, and wood cladding, is also rare as such construction was disallowed in the aftermath of the fires. It is now a designated landmark. *Source: sfplanning.org*



Planters Hotel before restoration. Source:

[https://diva.sfsu.edu/collections/hrrme/search?facets\[tags\]\[0\]=planters+hotel](https://diva.sfsu.edu/collections/hrrme/search?facets[tags][0]=planters+hotel)

Jo-Ann in Fairbanks 1997 - 2025



Goodbye Jo-Ann sign



Jo-Ann Fabric and Crafts came to Fairbanks in November 1997. The manager from the Anchorage store came up to help open it. It was in the center portion of the Gavora Mall.

In the fall of 2005, Jo-Ann moved spots to the old Pay n Save / Super Valu / Market Basket grocery store which is at the other end of Gavora Mall. (Piggly Wiggly was at the other end of the mall)

Other stores filled in the small rental spaces in between over the years. A luggage store, a sewing shop, liquor store, furniture rental, and many more. Going way back, Sentry Hardware used to be Fairlanes Bowl. I love to look at the walls and shape of Sentry, imagining how much fun people had there bowling.

After the supermarket had moved out, the space was remodeled for Office Depot in 1999. Office Depot had a lease for the space, but never used it. Soon after, Office Max opened next to Safeway on College Rd, with Office Depot merging with the company a few years later.

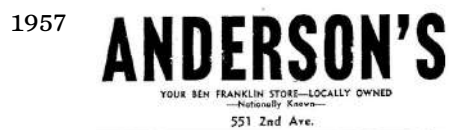
Let's not forget the store Ben Franklin, which was squeezed next door to Jo-Ann before moving to the North Pole Mall (also owned by the Gavora's) in 2007. Ben Franklin was in Fairbanks quite a few years longer than Jo-Ann, first downtown in the 1940's and 50's inside other stores, then inside the Foodland Shopping Circle in 1963.

Jo-Ann expanded their square footage, taking over what was Ben Franklin's spot. Those were a nice few years shopping at both stores each visit. How can you only go in one without the other, or was that just me? I never really had money to spend but looking was fun. I also enjoyed looking at the old entry doors and the rock façade.

Michael's took over Jo-Ann's fabric sales soon after Jo-Ann closed for good. Fairbanks Michael's opened in the spring of 1999. They moved into the old Payless / Pay n Save store, which closed in 1998. Michael's is still there in 2025.

It is interesting to see the stores come and go throughout our lives.
Can anything stay the same?

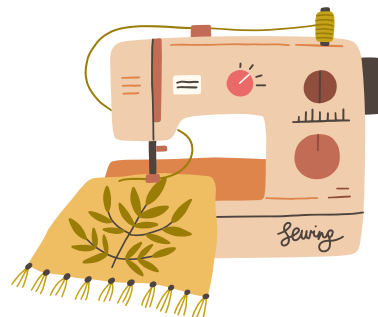
Jo-Ann was part of our town, and part of our lives. The store and their fabric will be missed. ~ by Amy Stratman



Ancestral Findings Podcast has short episodes about genealogy and history.
<https://ancestralfindings.com/podcast/>



I would like to personally thank FGS member Shirley Sterner and her quilting club for the beautiful quilts gifted to the Star of the North Secondary School 2025 graduates. An ornate green quilt was presented to my daughter Charlotte at graduation. All graduates of this school also got one in their favorite colors and style.
Thank You, Shirley! ~ Amy Stratman



This month in Fairbanks History

OPEN SEASON IS DECLARED ON RATS

How many people know the number of rats in Our Town? And how many knowing that know how much these rats cost every year? No guesses allowed, either! Give up? Well, it is estimated that there are some 3,000 rats right here in Fairbanks today and that they cost the residents approximately \$6000 per annum to support. Seems like one luxury we can do without, doesn't it? Well, we're going to do without it.

On Sunday's train there arrived in Fairbanks Miss Anna May Wright, who might be called the

During the past five years in which the young women have been interested in exterminating the destructive rat they have toured 33 states and two territories. Their campaign is conducted with the idea of teaching the people of every city how to do away with the pests which so often carry disease and destruction with them. With the cooperation of every person in a town it is possible to rid a whole community of rats, declares Miss Wright.

Mayor de la Vergne is going to set aside a day upon which all residents of Fairbanks are to assist Miss Wright in her work. The necessary ingredients for the campaign of extermination are due on the train this evening and will be placed in all the drug and general stores. The recipe for rat extermination is a simple one and is included here:



Helen A. Caldwell, Huntington, W. Va. Anna May Wright, Portsmouth, Va.

"Pied Piperette," and under her direction the work of exterminating the rodent population of Fairbanks is to proceed.

Miss Wright is working in connection with the Department of Agriculture and the United States Health Service and, in company with her chum, Miss Helen Caldwell, who returned to the States from Skagway, has been making a crusade against rats in the southern Alaska cities.

To one teaspoonful of barium carbonate, mix three or four teaspoonfuls of any food that a rat will eat, such as meat, cheese, cereals, fruits or vegetables. For absolute results mix three kinds of food bait separately and continue for several nights with which ever the rats seem to prefer.

The regular meeting of the City Council will probably be postponed until Wednesday evening.

Fairbanks Daily News-Miner Sept 19, 1925

and on Sept 26, 1918 we find this delightful quip:

Leroy Switzer, sourdough carpenter whom everybody knows, & who left the old camp after 20 years to seek the fabled ease & pleasure of the Outside, is coming back. He don't seem to hanker after the Outside so much as he did during the 20 years he was here. In fact, he thinks the Outside "bug" a snare & a delusion and he's sorry he went.

Fairbanks Genealogical Society minutes for May 27, 2025

President Amy Stratman started tour of Clay Street Cemetery at the gate with approximately 50 to 60 guests. She introduced Vice-President Janet Richardson and Treasurer Aldean Kilbourn.

Aldean led the group to the following grave sites and shared information about each person buried there:

Gen 206 NE Pekka Hukulin (Peter Hakilin) Tier 7

Gen 216 NE	Charles Vessey	Tier 7
Gen 260 NE	William Sandberg	Tier 9
Gen 295 NE	Samuel Johnson	Tier 10
Cath 1236 SE	John "Jack" Doyle	Tier 3
Cath 1245 SE	Fred Tessier	Tier 4
Cath 1256 SE	Louis Albertin	Tier 5
Cath 1250 SE	Hugh Knox	Tier 5

Janet then led the group to the following grave sites and shared information about each person buried there:

Am Legion 1726 SW	Milo Saulich
Cath Circle 1421.4 SE	Reverend Thomas Cunningham
Gen 58 NE	James Curfman
Mas 1613 SE	Alvin Miller
Gen 513.7 SW	Richard Geoghegan
Gen 70 NE	William Zacharias.

Amy then led the group to the following grave sites and shared information about each person buried there:

Mas 1602 SE	Alexander Barrack
Mas 1603 SE	Baby boy Barrack
Cath 1374.2 SE	Henry Rappolt
Elks 1942 SW	Harold Gillam,
Elks 1907 SW	Dwight Newton
Gen 576 SW	Alex Hodoff
Gen 578 SW	Peter Kokoff
Gen 577 SW	William Taroff

and spoke about Harlan Page, the bench and monument maker.

We wrapped up the tour at the tents with tables holding water and baked goodies. Few guests partook except a few took water bottles.

Guests: Archives representatives Fawn Carter and Monica Oatman. Several members of Pioneers of Alaska. Students, parents, friends, and neighbors. Members present: Amy Stratman, Janet Richardson, Aldean Kilbourn, Shirley Sterner, Rochelle Larson, Tanya O'Brien