

Employee Spotlight – Emily Venemon

Contributed by Rosie Bigelow, Graduate Intern from University of British Columbia

Emily Venemon works for the Washington State Archives, Olympia Branch, in Research Services. Rosie Bigelow (also very new to the Archives) recently sent Emily a series of questions. It's a great way for us to get the new folks, learn about what brought them to this profession, and introduce them to you. Here are Emily's responses:



RB: Where did you go to college?

EV: Western Washington University.

RB: What degrees do you have?

EV: I have a BA in History and an MA in Archives and Records Management.

RB: What, if any, further degrees or certifications are you pursuing?

EV: I'm currently pursuing the Society of American Archivist's Digital Archives Specialist certification.

RB: Do you have any other special training? What is it? Where have you worked before?

EV: I did my main internship at the National Archives in Seattle. I also did internships at the Yellowstone National Park Archives and the US Fish and Wildlife Service's Pacific Reefs National Wildlife Refuge Complex in Honolulu. The latter was really special because I got to visit Midway Atoll and Palmyra, two remote island refuges (aka tropical paradises). For the past year I worked at the Tacoma Historical Society and the Steilacoom Historical Museum Association.

RB: If given a chance, who would you like to be for 24 hours?

EV: It would be interesting to be a professional athlete and see what it's like to have that kind of physical strength and coordination.

RB: Could you give us some personal background?

EV: I was born and raised in Washington. I spent a lot of my childhood visiting national and state parks and historic sites, which probably explains my continued fascination with nature and history. I love travelling, being outdoors, making music, and interacting with animals.

RB: Where did you grow up?

EV: I grew up in Buckley, Washington in the foothills of Mt. Rainier.

RB: What are three lessons you've learned since coming to the Archives?

EV: 1. How to use a microfilm reader without panicking
2. The difference between a sole proprietorship, corporation, limited partnership, etc.
3. How much cool stuff is in our collections!

RB: If there was a food you could binge on without gaining weight, what would you want it to be?

EV: Chocolate cake!

RB: List your favorites (book, movie or play, quote, poem, website, type of food or individual dish, music genre, song, band or individual musician, perfume, clothing style or designer, etc.)—pick one or two, or list them all.

EV: Favorite book and movie: *Cold Comfort Farm* by Stella Gibbons.
Favorite musician: Neko Case
Favorite food: Eggs Benedict (on a Belgian waffle!!) from Mt. Bakery in Bellingham

RB: If you had to go sing a song, right now, at a karaoke bar, what song would you pick?

EV: Johnny Cash, "Ring of Fire"

RB: Is there anything you hope will change for archiving as a discipline/job position?

EV: I hope that there will be an increase in public understanding about what services archives offer, and why they are so important.

RB: Growing up, did you have a character from a movie or book that you really related to?

EV: I love the heroine from my favorite book, *Cold Comfort Farm*, because she has a solution to every problem. I wish I had that skill!

RB: What would your super power be, or your spirit animal?

EV: My spirit animal would be a rabbit because they're quick and quiet. 😊