



Linda Tai Chi Community Weekly Handout March 16, 2025

“The Four-Leaf Clover”

Spend a morning or afternoon strolling through Bayview Cemetery in Bellingham and you will be reminded of the rich and varied history of our community. Established in 1887, the early settlers, pioneers, farmers, loggers, sea farers, railroad workers, miners, women, children and the early people of wealth can be found amongst the headstones. I can find no reference to the indigenous peoples whose land this was interred here.

Keep walking to the far end near the office and close to the stream that trickles through, you will come across the resting place of a once famous Bellingham poet and author, Ella Higginson. (Section M)



Ella Higginson was born 1862 in Kansas, In 1888, she and her husband, a pharmacist moved to “New Whatcom” where they remained to their deaths. Russel died at age 57 after a short illness and Ella went on and become famous as an author and poet.



While this home no longer exists, it was once perched where the Viking Commons is now found on the WWU campus.

Ella Higginson helped to establish the first public reading room and library in Bellingham and was a Board member for a period of time . During WWI she ceased writing and volunteered full-time for the American Red Cross. She wrote more than 800 works- poems, works of fiction and essays and inspired interest in the Pacific Northwest. At age 78, after a year long illness, Ella Higginson died on December 27, 1940. Like many writers of the time, after the war she fell into obscurity. She was the recipient of several national awards for her short fiction. In 1931, Ella Higginson was named first Poet Laureate of Washington State.



The “Four Leaf Clover” is one of Ella Higginson’s most famous poems and she designed her head stone based on the poem.



Four-Leaf Clover

I know a place where the sun is like gold
And the cherry blooms burst with snow,
And down underneath is the loveliest nook,
Where the Four-Leaf clovers grow.

One leaf is for hope, and one for faith,
And one is for love, you know,
And God put another in for luck -
If you search, you will find where they grow.

But you must have hope, and you must have faith
You must love and be strong and so -
If you work, if you wait you will find the place
Where the Four-Leaf clovers grow.

Ella Higginson

May you find hope, peace, faith, inspiration and strength in Ella's story and poem. I did.

Peace

Linda



Ella Higginson