

Next Meeting

PIONEER ASSOCIATION
OF THE STATE OF
WASHINGTON

**Saturday,
October 18, 2003**

Pioneer Hall
1642 43rd Ave East, Seattle

12:30 pm General Meeting

Family History:
Jacqueline Lawson

Featured Presenters:
Phil and Vivian Williams
"Fiddling Down the
Oregon Trail"

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October 18 General Meeting of the Membership **"Fiddling Down the Oregon Trail"**

Plan to join your fellow Pioneers on Saturday, October 18, as we go "Fiddling Down the Oregon Trail". At our Fall Meeting on that day, historians and musical researchers Phil and Vivian Williams will present a history of music and dance in the Pacific Northwest during the frontier period.

Among the details of day-to-day life provided by the journals kept by Oregon Trail emigrants, are descriptions of singing and dancing, and the playing of fiddles, banjos, guitars, harmonicas and other musical instruments. Music was played on the trail for relaxation and as a way of bringing fellow travelers together after a hard day on the trail.

Phil and Vivian Williams learned as children the music and dances of the pioneers, and continue to play and perform the hoedowns, waltzes and reels that were an important social outlet to pioneers in those early days.

Vivian Williams' academic training is in history and anthropology, and she was a field researcher for the Washington Traditional Fiddler's Project. She has also won many state, regional, national and international fiddle awards for her playing.

Phil Williams has done extensive documentation of fiddling in the Pacific Northwest, and has been a consultant to the Smithsonian Institution on the region's traditional music. He performs on guitar, mandolin and banjo.

The family history portion of our meeting will feature a presentation by Jacqueline Lawson, who is a descendant of pioneer Charles Harvey. Charles Harvey was born in Indiana and arrived in Seattle in 1886. He married Evalina Ellis in 1887, and the couple was living in a house on Second and University streets during the Great Seattle Fire. Jacqueline's grandmother joined the Pioneer Association in 1967, Jacqueline joined the organization in 1998 and her daughter, Gwendolyn Townsend, joined in 2002.

This should prove to be an interesting, informative and fun event, so mark you calendar today for Saturday, October 18. The business portion of our meeting begins at Pioneer Hall at 12:30 p.m., with presentations and performances to follow. We look forward to seeing you there.





1642 43rd Avenue East
Seattle, WA 98112

206-325-0888 Telephone
www.wapioneers.org

Pioneer Hall Hours

Open Houses are held on the second Sunday of each month. Please call for times.

Board of Officers

President	Marilyn McLauchlan
1st vice president	Carol Hawkins
2nd vice president	Claire Raaum
3rd vice president	Junius Rochester
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(term to June 2004)

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Betsy Losh, Shirley Wright
(term to June 2005)

Jackie Cedarholm, Margaret Parietti,
Betty Kinsman, Chris Raaum
(term to June 2006)

Pioneer Presences

Barbara Krohn, Editor
Jeff Christensen, Associate Editor
Contributors this issue:
Carol Hawkins, Marilyn
McLauchlan, Peggy Parietti, Claire
Raaum and Gary Zimmerman.

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President's comments

After a historically dry and continuing Indian Summer, I am happy to be somewhat relieved of my watering duties. I was beginning to feel like an extension of my hose! But wasn't it wonderful?

As the new President of the Pioneer Association, and as a new member, I will look to the Board and to the invaluable Gary Zimmerman of the Fiske Library, for some "on the job training". Though a full-time business owner, I am taking on this new responsibility because of my love of history and my respect for the early settlers of Washington Territory. I also love Pioneer Hall itself. There's something magical about being in Pioneer Hall, surrounded by photographs and portraits of those early pioneers; it seems haunted by their spirits, and full of their stories.

As descendants of these people, our bond, although based on the past, is a strong one. I love listening to your stories and learning more about Washington history. I urge you to be sure that your own family (or county, or town) is represented here in the Hall. There is no better place to tell your ancestor's story and assure its preservation.

On June 10, 1902, John J. and Elizabeth McGilvra deeded the property Pioneer Hall now sits on to the Pioneer Association of the State of Washington. It is our duty to keep the Hall in good repair, and to keep the organization vital and interesting. We also need to draw in new members. The coming year will progress with a fund-raising campaign meant to allow us to fulfill our responsibility. Please come to the Hall, attend a meeting or enjoy one of our special events...and enjoy!



Marilyn McLauchlan

Marilyn McLauchlan
President

Mark your calendars! Dates of future Pioneer Association events announced

A partial list of future Pioneer Association events has been released by the Board of Officers. Please take a moment to mark the dates of these events on your calendar, so that you may plan on attending.

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|------------|
| • Fall General Meeting | October 18, 2003 | 12:30 p.m. |
| • Fall Ingathering (see insert) | November 15, 2003 | 12:00 p.m. |
| • Spring General Meeting | March 13, 2004 | 12:30 p.m. |
| • Annual Meeting & Picnic | June 26, 2004 | 10:00 p.m. |

Pioneers enjoy an afternoon of camaraderie and history at 132nd Annual Meeting and Picnic

On a sunny day this past June, Pioneer members gathered in Madison Park as the Pioneer Association held its 132nd Annual Meeting and Picnic. The meeting began with a reading of a brief re-cap of the many accomplishments of the previous year. Treasurer Gary Zimmerman provided a general summary of the organization's financial state of affairs and (in his role as Historian) also read the names and brief biographies of the Pioneers who have died over the past year. An election of new officers followed, and Marilyn McLauchlan was named as President of the Pioneer Association of the State of Washington. Outgoing President Bob Teague, who served multiple terms in office, was presented by Gary Zimmerman with a plaque recognizing his many years of dedication and service to the organization.

The meeting then moved into its history portion, with a presentation by newly-elected President Marilyn McLauchlan. Marilyn presented a brief history of her ancestors in the Bell family, focusing particularly on the emotional and moving letters of pioneer wife Sarah Ann Bell (see page five).

Following Marilyn's reading, Gary Zimmerman began a presentation about the history of Pioneer Hall: its relationship to Madison Park, and the Pioneer Association as a whole. Gary traced for his audience the original development of Madison Park - including little known gems such as the fact Madison Park once housed a racing track and the Western Washington Fairgrounds - as well as the eventual deeding of land to the Pioneer Association by John McGilvra in 1902.

This interesting discussion was cut short by the need to proceed on to the picnic portion of the afternoon: the traditional baked salmon luncheon served in Madison Park. By popular demand, Gary's presentation was resumed following lunch, with nearly every attendee back in his or her seat to enjoy this fascinating exploration of our Hall's history.

More photographs from this fun-filled event can be found on page six of this issue of *Pioneer Presences*.



Photo by Helen Smith

Longtime Pioneer Catherine Spedden (left) and newly-elected President Marilyn McLauchlan enjoy the picnic lunch

"Open House" dates announced, volunteers sought

Each month, Pioneer Hall opens its doors to the public as part of the Pioneer Association's "Open House" program.

From 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. on the second Sunday of each month, members of the public are able to tour displays, view photographs and experience firsthand the pioneer experience.

In order to make Pioneer Hall and its collection more accessible to the public, the Pioneer Board recently voted to increase the number of Open Houses during the "busy season" between the months of April and September.

In order to continue this practice, however, your help (and time) is needed. Volunteers are currently being sought to help staff the coming year's schedule of Open Houses, which are currently planned for:

- Sunday, October 12, 2003
- Sunday, November 9, 2003
- Sunday, December 14, 2003
- Sunday, January 11, 2004
- Sunday, February 15, 2004
- Sunday, March 14, 2004
- Sunday, April 11, 2004 *
- Sunday, May 16, 2004 *
- Sunday, June 13, 2004 *

* Second date TBA

Where Seattle's Belltown neighborhood got its name...

Pioneer William N. Bell and his wife, Sarah, left their mark on Seattle

William Nathaniel Bell and his wife Sarah Ann Bell were members of the Denny party that arrived on Alki (present-day West Seattle) on the schooner *Exact* in 1851. The Bells helped to establish the settlement that became Seattle, settling north of the future downtown in "Belltown." After Indians attacked Seattle on January 26, 1856, William Bell and his ailing wife left Seattle for California. Sarah Ann died that year, but Bell did not return until 1870. He sold some of his lots, which had become valuable, built the Hotel Bellevue, and engaged in other businesses.

William Bell, born on March 6, 1817, in Illinois, moved his family to Portland to seek a new life in the West. In Portland, he met members of the Denny party, also Midwesterners, and joined them aboard the schooner *Exact* en route to a gold strike in the Queen Charlotte Islands, with a stop at Alki, Elliott Bay. He helped the Dennys establish a colony of 12 adults and 12 children on the rain-soaked, windy beach at Alki. William, 36, and Sarah Ann, 34, were the oldest members of the party. The founding of Alki occurred on November 13, 1851.

In Wind and Rain

On Alki (present-day West Seattle), the little group struggled to establish a colony in the face of Puget Sound winds and rains that hit the exposed point of land without mercy. Bell, Arthur Denny (1822-1899), David Denny (1832-1903), and Carson Boren (1824?-1912) decided to explore their large bay in search of a deeper harbor, an abundance of trees, and a more sheltered location. In January 1852, the foursome paddled around Elliott Bay, beginning at Smith's Cove and moving south. Bell and Boren paddled while the Denny brothers used a clothesline and horseshoe to sound the bay's depths. Just off today's downtown Seattle they found what they were looking for: deep water, a meadow with a stream (the future site of Henry Yesler's sawmill), friendly Indians, and a seemingly endless forest of trees. They returned on February 15, 1852, and staked their claims. William Bell, along with Boren and Arthur Denny, became one of the three original founders of the future "Queen City of the Pacific."

Chief Seattle (178?-1866) and his family had become friendly with most of the early settlers. When the chief's wife died during the first Seattle winter, William Bell and Arthur Denny made her a coffin. At the time of interment, Bell and Denny were chagrined to see that her remains would not fit into their handiwork. Chief Seattle and his friends resolved the matter by removing several of the many blankets around her body.

During the summer of 1852, when tiny Seattle was under the jurisdiction of Thurston County (King County was established on December 22, 1852), William Bell, Luther Collins, and John Chapman were appointed "viewers" of the area's first wagon road between Seattle and Steilacoom. A "viewer" seems to have been a road inspector or an on-site engineer.

Battle of Seattle

The Battle of Seattle on January 26, 1856, was in part a culmination of hard feelings between Native Americans and non-natives following treaties signed under the guidance of Isaac I. Stevens (1818-1862), the Territory of Washington's first governor and Indian agent. The timing of the Seattle skirmish was particularly bad for William Bell. His wife was quite ill and was being cared for by Bell and his young daughters within the fort. The shooting and mayhem of that day, and the anxiety and clean-up during the following weeks, were especially hard on Sarah Ann Bell (see inset, page five). With that in mind, William Bell resolved to leave Seattle for sunny California as soon as it was safe.

Two days after the Battle of Seattle, William Bell wrote a remarkable letter to Arthur Denny, who had been out of town during the fracas, in which he described the high points of the event:

" . . . My house was burned on my claim (Belltown) during the action but the outhouses are still standing but your house in town was robbed of flour and perhaps other things on the night of the attack . . . The Indians we suppose are back near the lake (Washington)

where they must be from 500 to 1000 strong and say they will give us two or three months siege . . . Our company (volunteer militia) is disbanded and another has been formed from this morning for the protection of Seattle; and from the best information I can obtain the majority of Indians on the Sound will join them (the original Indian attackers)."

Bell's description has proved to be well-founded and there were, indeed, more skirmishes to come on the west side of the Cascades. Soon after he posted this letter, Bell took his wife and children to California. Sarah Ann Bell died the following June, but Bell did not return to Puget Sound until 1870.

A Faceless Pioneer

Roger Sale, in *Seattle: Past and Present*, observes that although William Bell was one of the first to stake a claim in Seattle, "he remains faceless." Like his compatriot Carson Boren, who became a recluse in 1856, Bell disappeared from the scene in 1856 when he left for California. Bell's role in developing early Seattle was, therefore, limited. When he returned in 1870 to find that his real estate had become valuable, he entered into several businesses and activities of consequence. Belltown, where his son Austin Bell lived for years, is only one of those contributions. Virginia and Olive streets are named for two of Bell's daughters, and Stewart Street honors Olive's husband, Joseph H. Stewart.

Bell's post-1870 business career included the sale of a number of his lots to newcomers. (He had surveyed Belltown separately from Arthur Denny's surveys of downtown Seattle). He helped organize an Odd Fellows lodge in Belltown, built the Bellevue Hotel at the corner of 1st Avenue and Battery Street, and gave two blocks of Belltown waterfront land to a barrel factory and wharf, a business that eventually failed.

William Bell died in Seattle on September 1, 1887.

Reproduced from King County's HistoryLink.Org site

A pioneer wife's letters give moving account of early times

Marilyn McLaughlan

William N. Bell and his wife, Sarah Ann Bell, were my great, great, great-grandparents. While much has been written and recorded about the couple's landing (along with their four daughters) at Alki Point in 1851, the most interesting and moving accounts of their lives, for me, can be found in family letters written by Sarah Bell to her mother, Keziah Peter, which I rediscovered while researching my pioneer family roots.

Sarah's letters explain much about why the family moved from Illinois in 1851, what their early life in Seattle was like and why the family left their new Seattle home in 1856 for California. The letters take on new poignancy when one realizes that Sarah Bell was slowly dying of tuberculosis during this time.

Sometimes when I read these letters I can almost - for a fleeting moment - understand what it might have been like for a woman at this time:

"Dear Ma...my mind often runs back to the little heap that encloses little Martha's body and touches a very tender cord, to think many thousands of miles and deep waters lay between it and me. Now Ma, it is of no use for me to say how much I want to see you, for that you know, for I could not think perhaps the time is not long when we shall have a happy meeting to part no more. I am trying, Ma, to live so as to be ready when my lamp trimmed and burning to meet the bridegroom at his coming. The forcible passage often rushes in my mind since my poor state of health - and be you also ready. There is nothing that ties me to this world, but my dear little family. I often think of my little girls that have escaped the troubles of this world. Ma, you once told me I would see the day that I would not have them back, but would rejoice to think they had escaped the troubles and suffering of this world."

Pioneer Sights and Sounds

Below are more images from the 132nd Annual Meeting and Picnic, held this past June.



Trustee Junius Rochester and his wife, Joanne, enjoy the day



Talented musicians entertain the crowd



Shirley Wright and Carl Nordstrom



2nd vice-president Claire Raaum, with son (and Trustee) Christian



The meaning of history: three generations of Pioneers



The audience hears more about "Exact"

Photos by Helen Smith & Peggy Parretti

Pioneers demonstrate their generosity, contribute to funds

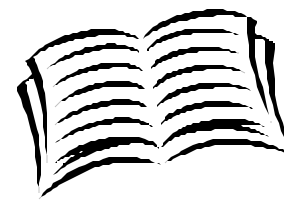
When membership materials were mailed this year, all members were encouraged to consider contributing to the various funds which help support the varied activities and special projects pursued by the Pioneer Association of the State of Washington each year. These include the Building Fund, which helps maintain Pioneer Hall, and the Photo Restoration Fund, a newly formed effort to preserve and restore the portraits and other photographic artifacts in the Pioneer Hall collection.

Many members stepped up to the plate and generously donated to one or both of these funds, and their support is greatly appreciated. The organization gives special thanks to our lifetime members who continue to show their dedication and support to the Pioneer Association, even after making the special commitment of "Life" membership. We thank them, and all members, who have contributed this year so far, including:

To the Building Fund: Jane Abel, Maxine Anderson, Jane Barfoot-Hodde, Bob Bower, Robert T. Bratton, Geraldine Brehmeyer, Jacqueline Cedarholm, Gordon W. Cochran, Beverly M. Cox, Thora Cozens, Lois M. Dodd, Sandra B. Dunn, Wesley N. Estes, Arthur W. Hademan (in memory of Doreen Joy Hademan), Margaret Hassel, Lorraine, M. Jackson, Beverly Jensen, Mildred Johnson, Hazel M. Jordan, Claude Kammerzell, Nelda Kleinschmidt, Suzanne M. Kropf, Jacqueline E. A. Lawson, Sheila Leewens, Marylou Leone, Doris J. Linkletter, Gwen C. Mangum, Juliane Potter Marx, Beatrice Matthewson, Lyle Case McKnight, Donald A. Murphie, Meriam A. Nelson, Robert Oldroyd, David F. O'Leary, Margaret Parietti, Marcella M. Patterson, Elizabeth Hecht Phillips, Lawrence M. Puffert, Christian Raam, Joseph Rausch, Barbara G. Reilly, Frances M. Ross, Sandra F. Selle, Irving D. Smith, Marian C. Spath, William J. Stroufe, Gertrude Stack, Robert H. Stack, Roberta Stiger, Janet L. Thingvold, Frederick Turner, Donald Van Blaricom, Janice Lee Van Blaricom, Jeanne C. Ward, Roy Wenstone, Colleen White, Lillian G. Williams, Eleanor R. Worsham.

To the Photo Restoration Fund: Michael Alhadeff, Webster Augustine, Jane Barfoot-Hodde, Barbara A. Benson, Robert T. Bratton, Tove I. Burhen, Gordon W. Cochran, Thora Cozens, Marion Dankel, Brewster C. Denny, Idalice Dickinson, Mary Edler, David Elison, Claude Kammerzell, Suzanne M. Kropf, Jacqueline E. A. Lawson, Catherine Leone-Woods, Lyle Case McKnight, Miriam A. Nelson, Robert Oldroyd, David F. O'Leary, Elizabeth Hecht Phillips, Joseph Rausch, Frances M. Ross, Sandra F. Selle, Cynthia L. Smith, Irving D. Smith, Marian C. Spath, William J. Stroufe, Gertrude W. Stack, Jeanne C. Ward, Emily M. Wilson, Eleanor R. Worsham.

Would you like to make a donation to a Pioneer Association fund? Send your contribution, marked "Attn: Treasurer" to Pioneer Hall: 1642 43rd Avenue East, Seattle, WA 98112.



Share your family history

The recounting of family histories is more than just a long-standing tradition with the Pioneer Association: it is an important way of keeping history alive, and providing us with a reminder of what life was like during the years our forbearers came to Washington Territory, and then made it a state.

If you have an abbreviated family history, or would like to recount a specific period of your ancestors' experiences, please feel free to submit a manuscript to *Pioneer Presences*, care of Pioneer Hall at: Editor, *Pioneer Presences*, Pioneer Hall, 1642 43rd Avenue East, Seattle, Washington 98112.

In the interest of space, manuscripts should average between 1,000 and 1,500 words. All photographs, documents and illustrations - in original or electronic format - are welcome. Not all manuscripts may be used, and occasionally editing for space or content may be necessary.

The Pioneer Association prides itself on telling pioneer stories...help us tell yours!

**Pioneer Association
of the State of Washington**
1642 43rd Avenue East
Seattle WA 98112
<http://www.wapioneers.org>

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Our next meeting: Saturday, October 18, 12:30 p.m. at Pioneer Hall

Are you a member in good standing?

This year, the Pioneer Association's Membership Committee has been attempting to better identify our membership, and assure that all members receiving this newsletter are current in their membership and in good standing.

In June, all members up for renewal were mailed invoices and asked to update their contact information when returning payment. In early August, all members whose payments had been received in time (as well as all Life Members) were mailed new membership cards. Some membership renewals were in process or may not have been received in time to include with that first mailing of membership cards. If you have returned payment but not received your card, please be patient - a second mailing of cards will be completed over the coming few weeks.

If you have not renewed your membership, there is **STILL TIME**. All members are encouraged to check their own records for the status of their membership and then contact the Association if there are still steps to be taken in assuring you are a current member of the Association in good standing.

Your membership is valued, and there are many exciting activities and events being planned by the Pioneers for the coming year. The Association doesn't want you to miss a thing, so please take a moment to review your membership today.

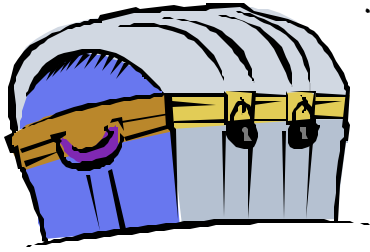


JOE PIONEER MEMBER

Membership Type: **Annual**

Membership Expires: 2004

Do you have one of these in your wallet?



...from Grandma's trunk

COME HELP US WELCOME NEW MEMBERS AT OUR

Fall Harvest Ingathering

All Members are invited to come to a potluck luncheon and "time of sharing" as we welcome those who have joined the Pioneer Association membership since last November.

DATE: Saturday, November 15, 2003

TIME: 12:00 p.m

LOCATION: Pioneer Hall (1642 43rd Ave E, Seattle)

Please plan to bring a food item (entree, side, salad). Also, please bring a physical item (or photograph, if an item is not convenient) from the attic, the basement, the barn, "Grandma's trunk" or "Grandpa's toolbox" to share and talk about with other members!



...from Grandpa's toolbox

Pioneer Association Fall Harvest Ingathering



Yes, I plan to be at this event

I will bring the following dish*: _____

** Note: new members are our guests and are not expected to bring anything.*

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City, ZIP: _____

Mail this form to:

Pioneer Association Harvest Ingathering, 1642 43rd Avenue East, Seattle WA, 98122

Please RSVP by November 8