



## ***Next Meeting***

PIONEER ASSOCIATION  
OF THE STATE OF  
WASHINGTON

**Saturday,  
March 13, 2004**

10:30 am Board meeting  
1:00 pm General Meeting

Pioneer Hall

### **Featured Presentation:**

"The Long Trail" a video presentation of the Longmire-Byles-Kincaid wagon train journey across Naches Pass

### **Plus:**

Filmmaker Chris Raaum on how to put your family history on film and video

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## ***The March 14 General Meeting***

### **Follow "The Long Trail" over Naches Pass, and learn how to preserve history on film**

In 1853, the Longmire-Byles-Kincaid wagon train became the first to cross over Naches Pass into Puget Sound. The story of this historic journey is the subject of a new video by local filmmaker Chris Raaum entitled "The Long Trail". Chris Raaum will present the video as part of the Saturday, March 13, general meeting of the membership of the Pioneer Association of the State of Washington.

"The Long Trail", written by Terry Murphy and produced by Murphy and Chris Raaum, focuses on three of the families who made the arduous trek across Naches Pass: the Kincaid, Biles and Himes families. Over the course of one year, the filmmakers shot 8 hours of video in order to produce the 14-minute "Trail", which re-traces the wagon train's route from Idaho into Oregon and up into Washington. Along the way, they photographed the rivers and rugged terrain first experienced during this historic journey, as well as other images such as wagon wheel ruts that were made at the time and which are still visible today.

Several members of the Pioneer Association appear in the video, including: Claire Thompson Raaum, speaking about her connection with the Kincaid family; Carolyn Blount, who discusses the Byles family members on the journey; Bill Dowdy, who represents the Himes family contributions and local historian and librarian with the Fiske Genealogical Library, Gary Zimmerman.

It is expected that the video will become a permanent part of the displays of the Pioneer Association of the State of Washington's museum at Pioneer Hall.

Following the presentation of "The Long Trail", its producer, filmmaker Chris Raaum, will speak to the membership about the various processes and techniques used in putting the film together, as well as about how you might go about putting your own family history on film or video: a unique way of preserving and presenting not only family stories, but photographs and other artifacts, as well.

The March membership meeting begins at 1:00 p.m. at Pioneer Hall, located at 1642 43rd Ave. E. (Seattle), and will also include a short "business" segment to address the current projects and plans underway at Pioneer Hall. Admission is free, and all members - especially those who may have missed recent meetings - are encouraged to attend.



1642 43rd Avenue East  
Seattle, WA 98112

206-325-0888 Telephone  
[www.wapioneers.org](http://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
Secretary	Jeff Christensen
Treasurer/Historian	Gary Zimmerman

### ***Trustees***

Kathy Dettmar, Catherine Spedden,  
Muriel Winterscheid  
(term to June 2004)

Mark Chamberlain, John C. Gayton III,  
Betsy Losh, Shirley Wright  
(term to June 2005)

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

### ***Pioneer Presences***

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

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## **President's comments: Spring has come to Pioneer Hall**

Spring has come to Pioneer hall. Or rather, spring cleaning has begun at Pioneer Hall. Thank you Bob, Gary, Jeff, Betsy, Andrea, Casey and Jon for working together to clean up the "mysterious" boathouse that everyone has always wondered about. This crew also cleaned out the long-neglected storage room (both of which are located in the basement of the Hall). Other than the chairs and dishes, it seemed like 100 years of dust and debris had accumulated there. The Board will be making a determination on what will become of the dishes and chairs. For the meantime, they are safely stashed in the storage room.



*Marilyn McLauchlan*

The most important aspect of all this effort is that all the photographs that had been lying around downstairs have now been put away neatly upstairs, and are ready for cataloging via new software acquired, in part, for this purpose.

Jeff Christensen has developed a preliminary plan for making the Hall more appealing, and functional, while retaining its unique personality. The restoration includes updating the bathrooms, improving the kitchen, new window treatments and more. You'll be able to preview the plan at the March meeting. Once it is perfected, bids for work will be obtained. In the meantime, the roof repair and seepage along the west wall will be repaired (weather-permitting) and power will be brought to the south wall on the main floor of the Hall - the result of one member's generous donation (thank you Helen Smith!).

I've read, and highly recommend, two books recently published about Seattle. The first is "Eccentric Seattle", by J. Kingston Pierce. The other book is titled "Seattle: The Demons of Ambition", and was written by Fred Moody. I hope you pick up one or both of these books, and enjoy them as much as I did.

I think the March general meeting will be an inspirational one. Sure to be a highlight is the family history video scheduled to be shown, and the follow-up discussion about how to do your own. It's a unique way of preserving archival photographs and documents, and hopefully seeing this completed film will encourage you to consider a similar project!

## **Annual Meeting and Picnic set for June 26**

It's not too early to mark you calendars for Saturday, June 26. That is the scheduled date for the 133rd Annual Meeting and Picnic of the Pioneer Association of the State of Washington. More details can be found in future editions of *Pioneer Presences*, but save the date...today!

## Pioneer Association plans outreach program for liaison with affiliated agencies

By definition, Pioneer members have deep roots. But by association, they also have wide branches.

The membership of the Pioneer Association is made up of people from across our state and beyond. Many of those members belong not only to our organization, but to affiliated groups throughout Washington. Each also has a unique connection to cities, counties and even neighborhoods from which their family sprung to where they chose to settle.

In an effort to increase liaison with those organizations, and take advantage of connections already in place, Pioneers President Marilyn McLauchlan is spearheading a new program aimed at strengthening our bonds with other historical agencies, museums and associations in Washington State.

The plan, details of which are still in the development stage, is for current Pioneer members to personally help spread word of our organization: encouraging interaction with other agencies and associations and directly networking with groups or individuals with which a member may feel a personal connection.

For example, this could involve a member arranging for a speaker from another organization he or she belongs to, to come make a presentation to our own Pioneers. It might also mean one of our members attend a meeting or gathering of another, affiliated group, providing a Pioneer presence and helping to promote our events and activities, where possible.

Look for more information about this program to be presented at future meetings and in coming issues of this newsletter. Or, for more immediate information, please contact Marilyn McLauchlan at 206-842-0339.



## Nordic pioneers in Washington Territory

The Nordic Heritage Museum, an entity dedicated to honoring the legacy of immigrants from the five Nordic countries through collecting, preserving and educating, currently has on display an exhibit about Nordic language churches in the Washington Territory from 1853-1889.

The exhibit, created by NHM members Olaf Kvamme and Daniel Kaylor, provides a window into the early settlement of Washington Territory by Nordic pioneers. It includes examples of Scandinavian churches, many of which were built in downtown Seattle. The display also provides representations of what daily life was like for the first Scandinavians in what is now Washington State.

The Nordic Heritage Museum is located at 3014 NW 67th (Ballard). For more information about the museum and its displays, you may also contact them via telephone at: 206-789-5707.

## "Open House" volunteers still being sought

Volunteers are still being sought to help staff our monthly (and, in the spring and summer, bi-monthly) open houses.

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. This year, a second Open House will be added each month during the "peak" period of April through 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.

Members are given an introduction to the Hall and its collection, and a set of instructions for welcoming and helping guide visitors through the Hall. At least two Pioneer "staff" members are scheduled for each Open House.

For more information about volunteering, please contact Shirley Wright at: 425-742-5832.

Next Open House  
scheduled for:

**Sunday, March 14**  
1:00-4:00 p.m.

## Napoleon and the Fiske

Gary Zimmerman, Fiske Genealogical Foundation

Genealogy brings many surprises into our lives. We need to be open to those little moments of “aha!” when we become aware of a new connection or a new relationship that is totally unexpected.

Take the Emperor Napoleon I, for instance. In the Fiske collection, I came across a very clear picture of the house of his exile on the small island of Saint Helena in the south Atlantic. It was accompanied by the story of his final days, in poor health, far removed from his beloved France, where he hoped that his ashes would be laid to rest on the banks of the Seine. But that was not to be. He died on 5 May 1821. He was dressed in his favorite uniform and covered with the cloak he wore at the battle of Marengo. He was buried “in a lonely spot near a spring shaded by two weeping willows.”

And there is the “aha.” There is a weeping willow here on the property where the Fiske Library is located. That tree has an interesting “genealogy.”

In 1835, a French naval officer took cuttings from the grave of Napoleon and they were presented as a gift of the French nation to the United States. The cuttings were planted at Mount Vernon next to the grave of George Washington, where they thrived.

Following the end of the Civil War, an officer who was preparing to move west, brought similar clippings from the now flourishing willows at Mount Vernon, to Washington Territory. They were planted at the officer’s new home on the hill above downtown Seattle. They thrived in this climate as well.

In 1962, the State of Washington decided Interstate 5 should be built across the property of the now deceased Civil War veteran. His son, James Vernon Metcalfe, had grown up with the story of the willow tree in the yard and he felt it was worth saving from the bulldozers of the freeway project. He convinced the City of Seattle to take cuttings and plant them in appropriate locations to maintain the lineage of the St. Helena willow.

Metcalfe also happened to be the historian of the Pioneer Association of Washington and he arranged for the City arborist to place some cuttings of the willow on the property at Pioneer Hall. Once again, a few feet from the shore of Lake Washington, the tree thrived. For the past 40 years it has graced the building that the Fiske Library now calls home.

It may be far-fetched to trace the story of a tree for 180 years, in four widely separated physical locations, and call it a “genealogy” but the parallel is not too far removed from what we seek whenever we trace the peripatetic path of our predecessors.

*(Ed. note: This article was originally published in the December 2003 issue of the Fiske Genealogical Foundation Newsletter, published by the Fiske Genealogical Foundation, whose library is located in the lower level of Pioneer Hall. The article is reprinted here by permission of its author, Gary Zimmerman.)*



### Everyone loves a good story...

Know a good story or have an anecdote about the Pioneer Association, Pioneer Hall or some other part of our organization's history? We'd love to hear it, and may even find a way to share it with our membership in future issues of *Pioneer Presences*.

Send us a note or article (typed is best, if possible) to: Editor, *Pioneer Presences*, Pioneer Association of the State of Washington, 1642 43rd Ave E., Seattle, WA 98112.

## Open Houses at the Hall: pioneers put their knowledge and stories "on display"

*Catherine Spedden*

Have you seen the displays in our four large showcases and small wall dioramas at our growing Pioneer Association museum? Can you answer the following:

- What did Francis Drake have to do with the history of our Washington?
- Which of our mountains was, at first, named "Sierra de Santa Rosalia"?
- When did 10,000 people come to our state in a single year (and mostly in covered wagons)?
- Who was our first governor, and what did he have to do with the Indians, and railroads?

Did your pioneer ancestors come to our area in a wagon train? Around "the Horn" by ship? Down river by canoe or barge, or over the difficult "Barlow Pass"? Perhaps your ancestor was a so-called "Mountain Man", a wagon train guide, an explorer or a miner.

Every one of our ancestors had courage and strength, and each deserves great admiration and appreciation. Come share their stories with other pioneer descendants, and with the guests who attend our museum's open houses each month.

Open houses are held the second Sunday of each month between the hours of 1:00 p.m and 4:00 p.m. Have a cup of coffee while you visit with others in front of our Hall's great hearth and "see the exhibits". Upstairs, the Daughters of the Pioneers have created vivid displays, while downstairs the Fiske Foundation's library provides a wealth of genealogical information and research aides.

Open Houses at the Hall - if you've never been a part of these unique monthly events, mark your calendar today. See you at the Hall!

## Pioneer Sights and Sounds

*More images from our October general meeting of the membership*



*Winners of door prizes (l to r):  
Gail Frezise, Catherine Spedden,  
Alex Polson, Helen Smith and  
Claire Raaum*



*October family  
history speaker  
Jacqueline  
Lawson*



*Amaryllis Shanafelt Whitmarsh  
presents Pioneer President  
Marilyn McLaughlan  
with a donation*



## 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: Editor, *Pioneer Presences*, Pioneer Association of the State of Washington, 1642 43rd Avenue East, Seattle, Washington 98112.

In the interest of space, manuscripts should average between 1,000 and 1,500 words. Type-written documents are preferred.

Photographs, documents and illustrations - in original or electronic format - are welcome. Because of certain limitations or restrictions, 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 Presences* to begin publishing quarterly, additional August issue planned**

In an effort to better reach out to its membership, the Board of Directors of the Pioneer Association voted last fall to allocate funds for the publication of a fourth issue of its *Pioneer Presences* newsletter each year. Previously, *Presences* was published and distributed during February, June and October, in advance of general meetings of our membership. That schedule will be altered slightly, allowing for an additional "non-meeting" edition to come out each August.

With the newsletter coming more frequently, Pioneer members will be better informed of upcoming events, as well as be provided more opportunity to read about and experience the pioneer stories of fellow members. "There are so many wonderful stories and photographs to share" says *Pioneer Presences* editor Jeff Christensen, "and publishing only three issues a year wasn't enough to do that."

All Pioneers are encouraged to submit family histories, appropriate articles, letters to the editor and calendar information which might be of general interest to our membership, for consideration. Submissions may be mailed to: Attn: Editor, *Pioneer Presences*, Pioneer Association of the State of Washington, 1642 43rd Ave E, Seattle, WA 98112-3222.

*Pioneer Presences* is also available online via the Pioneer Association's web site: <http://www.wapioneers.org>.

## **Membership dues to increase as of May 2004, renew your dues today at current rate**

After many years, the Board of Officers of the Pioneer Association has voted to allow an increase in membership dues, effective May 1, 2004. The dues increase, the first in eight years, was deemed necessary as a way of meeting increasing expenses, and as a means for allowing our organization's leaders to better serve the membership.

As of May 1, 2004, dues for annual members (both "standard" and Associate) will be \$16.00. Life membership, which will be payable in up to two installments, will be \$200.00. The Board voted at the same time to change the qualifying age of "Junior" memberships, to allow college students to now qualify, by raising the age restriction of that category to 22 years old. All new Junior memberships will now be billed at \$5.00 per year, per member. Those members already enrolled as a Junior member, or making installment payments to become a Life member, will continue their membership at the rates under which they originally signed on.

Currently, the 2004 Membership Campaign is set to begin in mid-May 2004. All annual members wishing to renew their 2004 membership now, in advance of the planned dues increase, may do so by mailing a \$12.00 payment to: Attn: 2004 Membership, Pioneer Association of the State of Washington, 1642 43rd Ave E, Seattle, WA 98112-3222.

## Members continue to demonstrate generosity by donating to Pioneer funds

Members of the Pioneer Association continue to demonstrate their generosity and commitment to maintaining Pioneer Hall and its important collections.

Since the start of the current fiscal year, which began in May 2003, more than \$7,500 in contributions have come in earmarked for the Pioneer Building Fund. The names of many of those making donations were listed in the last issue of the newsletter, but contributors since that issue include: Ayleen F. Erickson, Barbara L. Fowler, Walter L. Ipsen, Judith M. Keithley, Robert H. Kemp, Dorothy D. Miner, Roger Newman, R. Alex Polson, Jane Puccinelli, Helen Langer Smith, Cliff Winkler Jr. and Janet Lee Young.

In addition, these and other members have contributed to the Pioneer Photo Restoration Fund, which was established to preserve and protect pioneer photographs housed in Pioneer Hall as part of its collection. Contributors since the last issue of our newsletter include: Judith M. Keithley, Roger Newman, R. Alex Polson, Jane Puccinelli, Edward L. Sefors, Carolee Shubert and Janet Lee Young.

These contributions are vital in ensuring that important artifacts and records are not only preserved, but that they have a safe and accessible home in which to be protected and displayed. If you would like to make contributions to either fund, please send them to: "Attn: Treasurer", Pioneer Association of the State of Washington, 1642 43rd Avenue East, Seattle, WA 98112.

## New members welcomed at "Harvest Ingathering 2003" celebration

Last November, the Pioneer Association of the State of Washington welcomed new members to the organization with a special potluck luncheon. The "Harvest Ingathering: 2003" was a way to bring new members to the Hall, and to introduce them to the Board of Directors, other members of our organization and each other.

The day's events began with a "meet-and-mingle" social hour, allowing the more than 40 people in attendance to share introductions with one another. Attendees then sat down to enjoy a potluck luncheon of home-cooked casseroles, stews, salads and desserts.

The meal was followed by a historical "show-and-tell" period which followed the theme of this year's event: "Grandma's Attic" Each member in attendance was encouraged to bring an item of historical significance to his or her family to present and talk about with the group.

This event, held annually each fall, was coordinated by Carol Hawkins, and came together with the help of an enthusiastic team of volunteers. Even if you weren't able to attend this special meeting, please make it a point to meet (and make feel welcomed) our new members.



## New plans for renovating Pioneer Hall being developed

The Board of Directors for the Pioneer Association is currently deliberating over a new proposal for making renovations to Pioneer Hall.

Taking its cues from the comprehensive Strategic Plan developed in 2002 - with an eye on what can reasonably and affordably be attempted with our current resources - the Pioneer Association Steering Committee has been piecing together its plan.

"What we hope to do" says Pioneer President Marilyn McLauchlan, "is restore this grand old lady (the Hall) to her best, while making her more accessible and functional."

Details about the plan, which will include items such as replacing window shades and treatments and creating more accessible and functional bathroom spaces, will be presented at the next general meeting of the membership on March 13. All members are encouraged to come to the meeting and give their comments and suggestions!

**Pioneer Association  
of the State of Washington**  
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**Our next meeting: Saturday, March 13, 12:30 p.m. at Pioneer Hall**

## **Miss our last meeting? Then you missed plenty!**

Last October, the Pioneer Association of the State of Washington enjoyed the annual fall general meeting of its membership. It was an afternoon full of camaraderie and music. The presentation that day - "Fiddling Down the Oregon Trail" - featured award-winning musicians Phil and Vivian Williams. The duo, using banjos, guitars, harmonicas, fiddles and more, recreated the songs and dances of our pioneer ancestors as they crossed mountains and plains to journey to the Pacific Northwest.

The family history speaker that day was Jacqueline Lawson, whose ancestors arrived in Washington Territory in 1886. Those same ancestors also encountered, first-hand, the Great Seattle Fire.

As usual, the afternoon included time to mingle with fellow Pioneers, as well as a presentation of letters and other documents by Amaryllis Shanafelt Whitmarsh, a donation made on behalf of a recently deceased relative.

Missed our last meeting? Then you missed plenty!



*Photo by Peggy Parietti*

*Vivian (on the fiddle) and Phil (on guitar) Williams provide an entertaining glimpse at life on the Oregon Trail*