



Upcoming Meetings

PIONEER ASSOCIATION
OF THE STATE OF
WASHINGTON

General Meetings*

November 20, 2004
February 26, 2005
June 25, 2005

Meetings held
1:00 to 3:00 p.m.
at Pioneer Hall

1642 43rd Ave E
Seattle WA

* Dates subject to change
as necessary - look for
details with each issue of
Pioneer Presences

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Shettlers, early settlers in Washington Territory

Hilda (Hemmingson) Meryhew

(Ed. note: in our last issue, June 2004, we ran Part I of a family history of the Shettler family, pioneers who were early settlers of what is now Whatcom County. The conclusion of that essay appears below).

PIONEERS IN LUMBERING

Great Grandfather Hezekiah was an important and appreciated factor in the early development of the community. He was a hard and industrious worker, and was progressive in his methods. He and his sons were pioneers in the country's lumbering industry. Hezekiah went to Seattle to buy a saw mill and had it taken to Marrietta. Here the mill was put on a sled, then over the iced Nooksack River and over the skid road to Deer Creek, just south of the four corners to the Shettler homestead.

Hezekiah, Jacob and his brothers set up the first steam sawmill in the county and cut the first lumber and shingles by steam power. They cut the lumber for the construction of the first country school house; cut and donated the lumber used in the first church in Ferndale. The Shields house, built in 1885 (and now standing at Pioneer Park, in Ferndale), includes weather boarding from the Shettler mill on Deer Creek. Chris C. Siegel's father built a house that same year and the lumber was purchased from the mill. A few years later, Henry and John Kenoyer purchased the mill and moved it to Henry Kenoyer's homestead at Yeager, about five miles up from Ten Mile Creek.

Hezekiah, who suffered from asthma, died December 26, 1886, age 64, and is buried at Woodlawn Cemetery in Ferndale. In September 1887, Nancy Ann was away from her claim; she worked picking hops with her boys in Sumner for a short time, returning to Sumner again during January, February and March of 1888. When she was well enough, she worked for her boys doing general housework at Sumner. She never voted, because women were not allowed to vote (Hezekiah had voted in Ferndale Precinct, Whatcom County). She paid her taxes at the Whatcom County seat each year. She rented the farm in 1888 and they received one half of the 15 acres in crops for taking care of everything when she was away. Her children were living in Whatcom County, Pierce County and the sate of Kansas.

(cont'd on page 3)

Pioneer Association OF THE State of Washington

1642 43rd Avenue East
Seattle, WA 98112

206-325-0888 Telephone
www.wapioneers.org

Pioneer Hall Hours

From April through September,
Open Houses are held on the
second and last Sunday
of each month.
1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Board of Officers

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| President | Shirley Wright |
| 1st vice president | Carol Hawkins |
| 2nd vice president | Marilyn McLauchlan |
| 3rd vice president | Junius Rochester |
| Secretary | Jeff Christensen |
| Treasurer/Historian | Gary Zimmerman |

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

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

David Brazier, Bette Palo,
Catherine Spedden
(term to June 2007)

Pioneer Presences

Jeff Christensen, Editor
Barbara Krohn, Editor Emeritus

Contributors this issue:
Marilyn McLauchlan

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President's comments

At this time, it is my pleasure to thank the Pioneer Association for electing me to this high office. This is truly a hard act to follow: Past President Marilyn McLauchlan, her officers and the board members who served did a great job this last year. Also, what would we do without the Steering Committee: thank you, all. It's really wonderful of you to do the same thing again this year.

With all the things going on throughout our country today, it is very difficult to write about common things: they seem so unimportant right now. Thank heavens our country was founded on such great and wonderful principles which we, as Americans, live by. Our ancestors had the right idea when they came here to live in peace and harmony in freedom!

Pioneer Hall is now opened up for an extra day each month, and it has attracted more people in to see what we have displayed. It is our hope that some of our younger members might enjoy working at these "Open House" events. Open Houses take place on the second and fourth Sunday of each month between 1:00 and 4:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

Shirley Wright
President

Annual Meeting and Salmon Bake a success, new officers and bylaws update adopted

The 133rd consecutive Annual Meeting and Salmon Bake, held this past June by the Pioneer Association of the State of Washington, was a big success. Over 55 Pioneer members and their guests attended and were treated to an enlightening and interesting presentation on the history of Roslyn, Washington, as given by speaker Kathy Gohlker-Kerr.

That presentation was preceded by an official business meeting of the membership, where a summary of the year's activities was given and full-Pioneer members were given the opportunity to vote on new officers (see box to the left) and on a slate of proposed updates to the organization's bylaws. The proposed bylaw amendments - dealing mainly with issues regarding membership qualification and dues - were discussed and adopted.

With both business matters and featured presentation completed, attendees moved across the street from Pioneer Hall to Madison Park, where they were treated to the traditional Salmon meal and musical entertainment under the summer sun.

The annual meeting is a once-a-year opportunity for all members, Pioneer and Associate, young and old, to come together, share stories and family histories and celebrate their pioneer ancestry.

Ed. Note: It's never too early to "save the date" for an important event. A listing of planned general meetings of the Pioneer Association of the State of Washington, including next June's 134rd Annual Meeting and Salmon Bake, appears on the front cover of this issue of Pioneer Presences.

Shettler family (cont'd from Page 1)

PROOF OF CLAIM

On April 13, 1888, Nancy Ann went to the Land Office at Seattle, to give her intention to make final proof on her claim. She lists her friends and neighbors as witnesses: Charles W. Matthews, noted as living one and a half miles from her; John E. Kempster, who lived closer; J.D. Rogers and, his son, Howard, and M. Laler. She had to prove her continuous residence and describe the homestead and the improvements made, which included: 12" x 22" added to the kitchen, at a value of \$300; a 24" x 48" barn with sheds, value \$150; orchard of 66 trees, value \$200; chicken and smoke house, value \$20; about 15 acres of cleared and cultivated land, value \$450; about 250 rods (1 rod equals 5 1/2 yards, 16 1/2 feet) of fencing, value \$75; the total improvements equalling \$1,195. Furniture on the claim included: bedsteads, chairs, tables, benches, a cooking stove, heating stove, cooking utensils and dishes. Farm implements used on the claim included a plow, roller, harrow and other small tools.

In her claim, Nancy Ann noted that she had two cows, and had five seasons (going on six) of raising crops. They raised mostly peas, hay, oats and potatoes. They started one acre of crops the first year and increased 15 acres in 1888. She kept no record of how many bushels she raised in crops. As to the character of the land, she noted that it was timbered, farming land with clay loam, of fair quality and appropriate for general farming. The land was not timber land - it had been burned over and was not grazing land or enclosed.

By law, a notice of publication had to be published for at least 30 days before final proof was granted by the Land Office in Seattle. O.H. Davenport was the foreman of the *Whatcom County Democrat*, a weekly newspaper in Whatcom County which ran Nancy Ann's notice for six weeks. Nancy Ann gave a four page testimony of proof in June of 1888 to W.E. Ledgenwood, Clerk of the Court for the Third Judicial District of Washington Territory, Deputy Clerk for Whatcom County. Her witnesses also gave four pages of testimony for proof of her claim.

Nancy Ann received the Final Homestead Certificate on July 9, 1888 (and dropped a "t" from the name Shettler). The claim was approved on October 14, and she received patent on January 31, 1890, under President Benjamin Harrison.

My own grandfather, Jacob Shetler, was an engineer and lived at the homestead with his mother (Nancy Ann). He met Evline Lillian Layton, and they were married on September 12, 1897 at the Methodist Church that still stands at Pioneer Park in Ferndale. Jacob and Evline had two children born at the homestead: Minnie (1898) and Harry (1899). On January 16, 1900, at the age of 72, Nancy Ann passed away and was buried at Woodlawn Cemetery.

Today, I get very nostalgic about family and history. I know these events need to be recorded for today's generation, so they will know what their ancestors went through. They should be proud of their heritage.

Roster of members included with this issue of *Presences*

Every year, requests for a roster of members come into the Association. Membership rosters are a tricky business for several reasons. First, the membership of any organization is continually in flux: new members join, some members move or pass away, and addresses and contact information (although requested each year, as part of dues renewal) is often out of date. Second, there is expense associated with printing and distributing member information.

The last roster of members was mailed as part of the May 1996 issue of *Pioneer Presences*.

In an effort to keep members connected, identify ancestor links and provide members with information about who exactly their fellow Pioneers are today, an updated version of the membership roster appears in this issue of *Presences*.

The Membership Committee would like to make a few simple requests: 1) please report any updates or corrections as necessary; 2) please do not share any of the information provided outside of our membership; and 3) if you don't see your name on the roster, and think you should, contact us right away!

Improvements continue at Pioneer Hall, fundraising campaign in the works

The Steering Committee of the Pioneer Association continues making recommendations for improvements to Pioneer Hall. As the main floor library area finally nears completion, and electrical upgrades are made throughout the main floor of the Hall, more projects are being recommended to the Pioneer's board of officers.

The goal of the committee's recommendations is to make Pioneer Hall more accessible and attractive, while providing better services to members of the organization.

"The reality is, however," says Steering Committee member (and former association president Marilyn McLauchlan) "that making any significant improvements takes money." Many members of the Association reached deep and made donations to the Building Fund during the recent membership renewal drive, which helped assure that the recent projects were completed. In order to move forward, though, more sources of income must be identified.

To that end, an organized fundraising campaign is being formulated, with Past President McLauchlan spearheading the effort. Goals for the campaign are being identified now, and specifics will be forthcoming. In the meantime, consider contributing to the cause. Donations to the Pioneer Hall Building Fund may be sent "Attn: Treasurer, Building Fund, Pioneer Association of the State of Washington, 1642 43rd Ave E, Seattle, WA 98112."

Over the next month, the Membership Committee of the Pioneers will be mailing membership cards to Life Members and those annual members in good standing as of this September 1, 2004. Please take a moment to review your membership materials upon their arrival, and report any updates or corrections to the Pioneer Association via the address above.

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

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Next general meeting of the Pioneers: November 20, 2004 1:00 p.m.