

PIONEER ASSOCIATION  
OF THE STATE OF  
WASHINGTON

### *Next Meeting*

November 20, 2004

Featured Speakers:

Catherine Spedden

Gary Zimmerman

"Pioneer Hall:  
a 'multi-story' building"

Family History:

Bettie Kinsman

Meeting begins

at 1:00 p.m.

Pioneer Hall

1642 43rd Ave E

Seattle, WA

### *Table of Contents*

General Meeting information .....	1
President's comments .....	2
Membership roster in circulation .....	2
Pioneer sights and sounds .....	3
Louis N. Rice family history .....	4
Longmire and "The Long Trial" .....	5
October's New Member event .....	6
Open House schedule .....	6
Projects work at Pioneer Hall .....	7
Membership Drive a success .....	8

*November 20 General Meeting presentation:*

## "Pioneer Hall : A 'multi-story' building"

In the past eighteen months, the museum at Pioneer Hall has undergone a major transformation. It now has many new stories to tell about Northwest history and pioneer life in Washington Territory, before statehood. The Fall membership meeting will focus on some of these stories and on the new ways to learn about the lives of our pioneer ancestors.

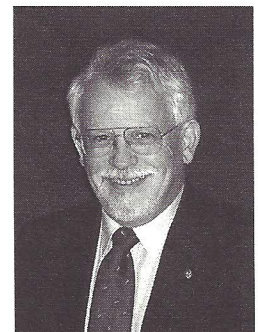


*Catherine Spedden with one of her displays*

Catherine Spedden, primary designer and curator of new exhibits in Pioneer Hall, and Gary Zimmerman, Association historian, will present selections from the new exhibits.

Catherine joined the Association in 1988 and has brought her professional skills as a teacher and artist to the task of creating vivid three-dimensional exhibits which bring to life pioneer stories for museum visitors.

Gary has been a member of the Pioneer Association since 1972, and is a lecturer on history and genealogy at the Fiske Library (also located at the Hall). His current focus is on creating new ways to use - and make more accessible to both members and the general public - the varied collection of archival materials currently housed in Pioneer Hall. This includes photographs, books, deeds and other documents of record, as well as loaned and donated pioneer items from daily life.



*Gary Zimmerman*

The Family History presentation for the meeting will be about the pioneer ancestors of Bettie Kinsman. Bettie, a member of the Pioneer Board of Officers and an active member of the Daughters of the Pioneers, is a descendant of the Jacob Maple family, who settled at Duwamish the summer before the Denny party landed at Alki.



## 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 October through March  
Open Houses are held  
on the second 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 McLaughlan
3rd vice president	Junius Rochester
Secretary	Jeff Christensen
Treasurer/Historian	Gary Zimmerman

### Trustees

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

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

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

### Pioneer Presences

Jeff Christensen, Editor  
Barbara Krohn, Editor Emeritus

Contributors this issue:  
Jack G. Rice

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## President's comments

With the cold winds and rain of fall upon us, there's comfort in gathering around the great hearth in Pioneer Hall. We've already had a few opportunities to do just that with events like our recent 'new member' reception, and we'll have another one on November 20 when we welcome you, the membership, at our fall General Meeting. This will be my first real opportunity to meet some of you since I became your president in June, and I look forward to it. We'll have some great speakers at that meeting and I hope many of you plan to come.



Even with the wet weather, there is lots of activity around the Hall - committees are meeting, workman are making their repairs, many visitors are still making their way to our Open House Sundays and various other groups are finding their way in to see the museum. We welcome them all, and they bring more life to the Association.

I want to thank all the volunteers who keep things running around here. There are many, but special thanks to Carol Hawkins for her work on the new member reception, Catherine Spedden for her attentiveness to those coming to our Open Houses, and the Pioneer Board and Steering Committee for their combined efforts at keeping Pioneer Hall safe and sound.

The membership roster that came in the last issue of our newsletter is the first one in several years, and I hope you are all getting good use out of it. I'm certainly keeping mine handy.

I look forward to many more good things to come this year, and I hope to see you at the meeting of members on November 20.

Shirley Wright  
President

## New membership roster in circulation

The August issue of *Pioneer Presences* included the first published roster of all current Association members since 1996. The roster was created and distributed for the convenience and use of our members only, and should not be shared with anyone outside the Association.

As stated at the heading of that roster, any corrections or updates to information listed in the roster should be reported to Gary Zimmerman, our current historian. Ironically, the telephone number for reporting those corrections - or at least the area code published with the number - was...incorrect. Gary's telephone number is: 425-803-0938.



## Images of a celebration: photographs from the Annual Meeting

This past June, Pioneer Association members from across the state gathered to hold the organization's 133rd Annual Meeting and Salmon Bake. The all-afternoon event, which featured speakers and a musical performance, brought together Pioneers young and old to meet, mingle and celebrate our shared pioneer ancestry. Some images from the event appear below.



*Hilton Lysons, family history speaker*



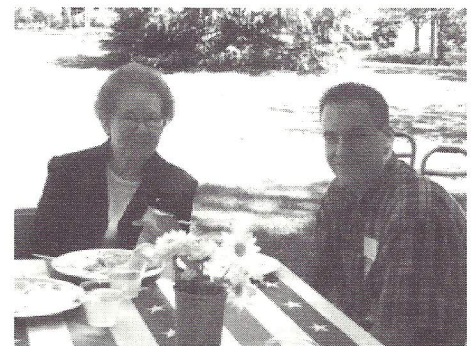
*President Marilyn McLaughlan accepts a Yesler family photo donated by Kathie Zetterberg*



*Jene Anne O'Day*



*Attendees listen intently to speaker Kathy Gohlker-Kerr*



*Shirley Wright and grandson*



*Musicians entertain Pioneer members in Madison Park*



*Alice Holcomb, oldest Pioneer in attendance*



## Told by the Pioneers: Louis N. Rice

*The following account, written by pioneer Louis N. Rice, was submitted by his grandson, Jack G. Rice, who currently lives in Yelm, Washington.*

"I was born in Lawrenceburg, Kentucky, in 1849. My father was James Rowleth Rice and my mother's maiden name was Saunders. On April 30, 1872, I helped drive cattle from St. Joseph, Missouri, to Denver. It was a large herd of cattle and a bunch of us drove them through in about two months. I lived in Denver until the middle of July and helped build snow fences along the railroad. It was too cold doing that kind of work, so six of us men rented a house and I followed the trade business in Denver.

On March 19, 1873, an Englishman named Robert Pierce and a Scotchman, Dewar, and I decided to go to Oregon. We came West on the Central Pacific from Denver to San Francisco. We then took the steamer *Ajax* to Portland. I remained in Portland one night and stayed in the Thompson House. Everybody in this country at that time knew the Thompson House because of the large sign out front which read: "Hyas Muck-a-Muck, and No Airs. Call in and see Old Thompson and get the Wrinkles Taken Out of Your Belly." They served all kinds of foods - several kinds of meat, cake and other fare in large portion.

I took a steamer to Kalama, where I was able to catch the Northern Pacific Train to Tenino, and then took a stage to Olympia, arriving here in April 3, 1873. I had left my trunks in Portland, and during my stay here the Thompson Hotel burned, likewise my trunks. I went to Whidbey Island, where I took a job logging and worked nine days at \$2 per day and board. The mill closed down and we received only \$1 per day pay. I stayed at the hotel Friday and Saturday, waiting for the next steamer, which was due the following Wednesday, and on Monday some of us took grub and went out in the woods and camped until the steamer arrived. We camped near a dairy. The old man who owned the dairy asked what three men were doing and we told him we were stranded. "Come on up and I will give you a bucket of milk," he said. "If it rains, come and sleep in the barn."

Wednesday morning we boarded the steamer and went to Port Townsend and then back to Olympia. While on the steamer, we talked with an old gentleman, Mr. D.J. Chambers. He asked all about us, and we told him we were looking for a job. He said: "Get off at Olympia and come to my place," giving us directions. I worked

from May 3 until fall for him. In the winter, I herded sheep on Long Prairie and then rode up to Longmire's at Yelm, and looked over the Yelm Prairie.

I often visited Tyrus Himes and his son, George, at Olympia. Mr. Himes was a man who wrote for a newspaper, telling about the fine vegetables he raised. Henry Fouts did the writing for him, and every time Mr. Himes gave him a figure, Fouts doubled it, just for fun, so that the paper began to say that Himes was the biggest liar in the country.

I was married in 1874 to Melissa Longmire, daughter of James Longmire (see sidebar). She was born in the block house during the Indian War. After our marriage we moved to Olympia, where I remained in the meat business until 1878. In the spring of 1879 I went to Yakima with James Longmire, who was commissioner of Yakima County, and served until 1886. Lela, my daughter, was born in 1881.

We then moved to Seattle, driving over the mountains in a large spring wagon, with two big horses. There was no real road, just a trail. We camped four or five days on this trip. I went into partnership with J.D. Gardner, father of Mrs. Otto Case, in a wholesale and retail meat market. The market burned in the big fire in Seattle in 1889. The fire started in the afternoon and Lela and some of the boys well remember the fire.

My wife went to the market and urged us to bring the meat out to the house and we dumped it in the yard. The Gardner's furniture was all moved to our house, as our place was isolated from the other houses and not so likely to burn. The two women cooked meat all day long for the fire-fighters and the people who had lost everything in the disaster. All of the butchers and meat cutters came there to eat. This was at Fifth and Madison, where the Seattle General Hospital now stands.

Martial law was declared after the fire. Gardner's place was surrounded by an orchard and did not burn. Harriet, the eldest of the Gardner children, took all our children as well as the Gardner children down to their place to keep them out of the way of the men and the soldiers. George, my boy, found a dime on the stairs, but Lela had been so impressed with martial law she was afraid to let him pick it up. After that, she led him around by the hand for fear he would pick up something. After the fire, I took a contract with the Great Northern



*cont'd from page 4*

Railway to deliver meat to their camps. We got from 6 1/2 to 8 1/2 cents a pound in the winter months for beef, and in summer were paid 7 1/2 cents per pound. Not much profit and sometimes we took a loss. I lost \$80 a day for one month. I went on horseback to Grand Coulee, where I bought 175 big steers at \$30 a head. I delivered them on this side and they averaged \$80 a piece dressed. The slaughter houses were at Snohomish, Sultan City, Granite Point, Foss River and Martin Creek. We had a butcher and teamster at each place. There were two packers at Mountain Creek. They rode fifteen miles over a pack trail to get to a camp that was not more than three miles away.

We went to Portland in 1896 and then came back to Yelm, where we rented a homestead, which is now known as the "Bob Smith place". My daughter Gertrude died there in 1903. We moved to the old Longmire place, which belonged to my father-in-law. When the old house burned down, we built the new house in the present location. The house stands close to the site of the old Longmire home, where James Longmire sat in the springtime and watched the snow move off the foothills. He could tell by watching the receding snow when it was time for him to make his annual trip to the mountain to open up the hotel and other resorts."

## James Longmire and "The Long Trail"

In September or October 1853, the first wagon train succeeded in crossing rugged Naches Pass through the Cascade Mountains north of Mount Rainier, near where the borders of present-day Yakima, Kittitas, Pierce, and King Counties meet. The train of more than 30 wagons includes James and Virinda Longmire (in-laws of Louis Rice, see above) and their children, who traveled with several other families from their home in Indiana to settle in Western Washington.

The crossing has become famous not only for the importance of a newly created wagon route from the established Oregon Trail into Washington Territory, but for the exemplary display of the pioneer spirit demonstrated during the extreme points of the journey.

For many years Indians had used the trail over Naches Pass in hunting and to cross the Cascades between Puget Sound and the Yakima Valley. Settlers had also crossed the pass, but only on foot or horseback. With no other option, the group of settlers traveling with the Longmires lowered the wagons down the incline one at a time by rope, with one end tied to the wagon axles and the other looped around a tree and held by several men who let it out gradually. Once the steepest descent was accomplished, the oxen drew the wagon with its wheels still locked another quarter mile downhill. Amazingly, all the wagons were lowered safely except for the one belonging to the Lane Family; the Lanes finished the journey on horseback.

A second emigrant wagon train crossed Naches Pass three weeks later, and a wagon road was soon established. The Longmires went on to settle on Yelm Prairie and to play a major role in the exploration and development of Mount Rainier.

The full story of the Longmire wagon train and its crossing of Naches Paths is recounted in "The Long Trail", a documentary written by Terry Murphy and produced by Murphy and Pioneer member Chris Raaum. The filmmakers gifted a copy of the film to the Pioneer Association, where it is shown on an ongoing basis to visitors of Pioneer Hall as one of the Pioneer Museum's permanent displays.



*James Longmire*

*Longmire image and background material courtesy of HistoryLink.Org*



## *Upcoming Meetings*

PIONEER ASSOCIATION  
OF THE STATE OF  
WASHINGTON

### **General Meetings\***

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

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

1642 43rd Ave E  
Seattle WA

### **Board Meetings\***

November 5, 2004  
January 7, 2005  
March 11, 2005  
May 6, 2005

Board Meetings held  
10:00 a.m. to Noon  
at Pioneer Hall

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

Meetings of Pioneer  
Association committees  
are scheduled on an  
individual basis. Contact  
committee heads or a  
member of the Board of  
Officers for more information.

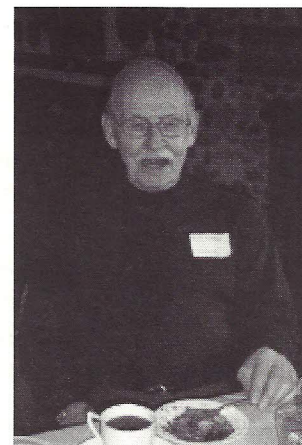
## *A new member reception held last month:* **"Celebrating Pioneer Milestones"**

On Sunday, October 24, 2004, the Pioneer Association of the State of Washington held a "welcome reception" for its new members. The event kicked off at 12:00 noon with a buffet lunch, followed by a hands-on program celebrating Pioneer "milestones".

All attendees were encouraged to bring and share photographs, documents and other items recording the following significant events as experienced by our Pioneer ancestors, including: Birth; Religious events; School Days; Marriage; Emigration/Naturalization; Homesteading/Settlement and Military Service.

Aside from the opportunity to meet other members of the Pioneer Association and its Board of Officers, the new members were given a tour of Pioneer Hall and its collections and an opportunity to learn, first-hand, even more about the organization as a whole.

A special "hats off" to Carol Hawkins, who coordinated this - as well as last year's - new member event.



*New member Kirk Gerrard*

## **"Off-season" Open House schedule returns**

After a successful expansion of hours during a test period this past spring and summer, the schedule for Open House events reverted back to the "off-season" one per month, effective in October.

Pioneer Hall experienced a heavy increase in walk-in traffic during the busy summer months, and the trial expansion of Open House days to twice a month appears to have been a big success. Coordinators Shirley Wright, Bette Palo and Catherine Spedden want to thank all the volunteers who made it possible for the museum to open its doors to the public an added day each month - without those volunteers, the trial period of expanded hours would not have been possible.

Volunteers are always needed. More than simply greeting the public, volunteers are given resources and the training necessary for helping guide visitors through the many displays illustrating the pioneer story in our state.

As of October, Open House events will return to a once-a-month schedule on the second Sunday of each month between 1:00 and 4:00 p.m.

*For more information about volunteering at an Open House event, please contact Coordinator Bette Palo at 425-883-3006.*



*Inside and out, improvements continue:*  
**Projects move forward at Pioneer Hall**

Even with the onset of fall weather, project work around Pioneer Hall continues with some structural repairs, as well as the addition of electrical improvements in the Hall itself.

After a routine inspection this past summer, it was found that the structural support of the stairway at the back of Pioneer Hall had been severely compromised due to damage from moisture rot and the work of aggressive insects. A full review of the situation led to the determination that immediate action had to be taken to assure emergency access in and out of the building - required by current fire codes - was maintained.

After considering various options, and receiving bids from several licensed firms, a contractor was chosen and work to repair the rear stairs and its support system began. The work included plans to replace the huge wooden supports of the structure, as well as systems to slow or retard future weather-related damage to the stairway.

Electrical upgrades also continue at the Hall, with the addition of electrical service on the south side of the Hall's main floor. The added electrical service - made possible via a generous contribution by Pioneer Past President Helen L. Smith - will allow greater flexibility with presentations made in the space, and eliminate any threats created by tangles of extension cords.

One area now provided with power is the new library space added to the main floor of the Hall. The library contains books from the collection of the State Daughters of the Pioneers, as well as those from the Daughters' local chapter, as well as those from the Pioneer Association's own collection. The library, recently finished with the addition of trim and moulding, is now open for use.

As more improvements and necessary repairs to the Hall are contemplated and begun, the Building Fund and Operating Fund continue to be affected. If you would like to sponsor a current project or make a donation toward upkeep and upgrade of Pioneer Hall - the valuable home to several important pioneer and historical collections - please contact Treasurer Gary Zimmerman at 425-803-0938.



*The south side of Pioneer Hall with newly repaired and reconfigured stairway*

## ***Pioneer Activities***

Want to help the Association by giving of your time, energy and expertise but now sure how?

Below is contact information for some (but certainly not all) of the people who currently help coordinate volunteer efforts on behalf of the Association:

**President**  
 Shirley Wright  
 425-488-6811

**Newsletter  
 Editor**  
 Jeff Christensen  
 206-322-7955

**Open House  
 Chairperson**  
 Bette Palo  
 425-883-3006

**Museum Docents  
 Coordinator**  
 Catherine Spedden  
 425-488-3164

**Historian/Collections  
 Coordinator**  
 Gary Zimmerman  
 425-803-0938

**Family History Speaker  
 Coordinator**  
 Peggy Parietti  
 206-2332-8516



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

## **Pioneer membership: strength in numbers**

The 2004-2005 Membership Drive has finally wrapped, and we're pleased to report that good things are happening when it comes to our membership.

Aside from the usual (and most welcomed) numbers of those renewing their annual memberships, we were pleased to welcome some wayward members back to the Pioneer Association. For the past two years, our Membership Committee has been hard at work trying to win back "inactive" members - that is, those individuals still appearing on our rosters who had not renewed their membership in our organization in recent years. Those efforts have resulted in a spike in the numbers of members who have re-joined.

Why are these particular renewals significant? First, because it demonstrates a renewed commitment by these individuals to helping preserve our pioneer history. Second, because having more members invariably leads to having more active members, and it is the hard work and volunteer efforts of active members which allows us to host events, be more productive and assure that the general business of the Association is seen through.

Even with the official 2004-2005 Membership Drive now over, our efforts to recruit new members and retain our current ones are ongoing. Your help, as always, is critical. Remember, if you qualify as a Pioneer based upon your ancestry, others in your family most likely do, as well. Help keep our organization alive and strong - recruit a member (or get an inactive member to re-join) today!

*MEMBERSHIP NOTE: With a steady flow of new applications and membership renewals coming late into the Association, it was decided to defer the mailing of membership cards one month, to keep mailing and administrative costs down. All current members should be receiving their cards soon. Thank you for your patience and understanding - we value your membership!*