

Next Meeting

Saturday,
April 1, 2006

10:00 a.m. Board Meeting
12:45 p.m. Registration
1:00 p.m. Meeting

Featured Speaker:

Dr. Lorraine McConaghy
*Historian, Museum of
History & Industry*

Family History Speaker:

To Be Announced

Pioneer Hall
1642 43rd Ave East
Seattle (Madison Park)

Coming:
Annual Meeting
Saturday, June 24, 2006

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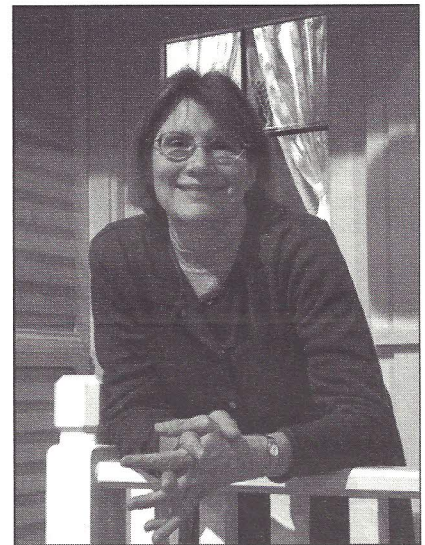
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One vessel's vital role in local history...

The Sloop-of-War Decatur in the Pacific Squadron

Join historian Lorraine McConaghy for an illustrated presentation of her research on the warship DECATUR, and its 1854-1859 cruise in the Pacific Squadron.

Supported by a Hooper Fellowship, McConaghy spent last summer working in the Old Navy records at the National Archives in Washington, DC, and researched logbooks, correspondence, court martial records, and medical journals for the ship. Other archival research has yielded a rich story, beginning in the 1830s and ending during the Civil War.



Lorraine McConaghy

The DECATUR was on station in Puget Sound for nine months, 1885-

1856, during the Treaty War, and was in Elliott Bay much of that time, either anchored or on shore under repair. The ship defended Seattle against Indian siege through the winter and early spring of 1855-1856, and on the day of the Battle of Seattle, January 26, 1856. Research into the personal papers of some of the ship's officers has yielded a rich treasure trove of material, including the first known drawings of Seattle, sketched by Navy surgeon John Y. Taylor.

Lorraine McConaghy holds a Ph.D. in U.S. urban history from the University of Washington, and she has published and taught Pacific Northwest history since 1993. She has taught history at Pacific Lutheran University and the University of Washington, and began working as the staff historian at the Museum of History and Industry in Seattle in 1997.

Aside from being an award-winning author - having written or co-written several articles and books on Pacific Northwest history - Dr. McConaghy is a much sought after speaker - mark your calendars and plan to join your fellow Pioneers for what will surely be a fascinating afternoon.



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 Carol Hawkins
- 1st vice president Jeff Christensen
- 2nd vice president Marilyn McLaughlan
- 3rd vice president Vacant
- Secretary Peggy Parietti
- Acting Treasurer Gary Zimmerman
- Historian Gary Zimmerman

Trustees

- Carl Nordstrom, Kirk Gerrard,
Betty Kinsman, Chris Raaum
(term to June 2006)
- David Brazier, Bette Palo,
Catherine Spedden, Claire Raaum
(term to June 2007)
- Helen Langer Smith, Junius Rochester,
Lawrence Puffert
(term to June 2008)

Pioneer Presences

Jeff Christensen, Editor
Barbara Krohn, Editor Emeritus

Contributors this issue:
Jeff Christensen, Junius Rochester
Gary Zimmerman

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President's comments

It doesn't seem possible that we are finishing the first quarter of 2006! I hope this new year finds you healthy and as busy as you like with people and activities you enjoy. We had a fine program in October - it began with our traditional short update on business, followed by a family history by Jeff Christensen, whose ancestors came from Ireland (via New Brunswick, Canada) to settle in the San Juan Islands, Washington Territory. Doug Jackson, president of Friends of Olmsted Parks, was the featured speaker of the day and gave a wonderful presentation on the history of Olmsted Brothers parks in Seattle. Music, refreshments and visiting completed the afternoon.

Also during the Fall Meeting, Historian Gary Zimmerman cited the passing of several longtime members, as well as announced the names of new members who had joined since the Annual Meeting last June. As of now, we are missing two very active former members: Board Member John Gayton, who passed away November 7, 2005, as well as Past President Shirley Wright.

John Gayton served on the Pioneer Board for several terms until ill health required his resignation last year. If you did not see the notice in the newspaper, remembrances in John's name may be made to: The John Cyrus Gayton Fund, c/o Meredith Matthews YMCA of Seattle, 1700 23rd Ave, Seattle, Washington, 98122. More about the life of John Gayton appears on the following page.

More recently, we were saddened to hear of the unexpected February 25 passing of Shirley Wright. Shirley was a current Board Member at the time of her death, as well as a Past President of the Association. She was still very active with both that group, as well as the Daughters of the Pioneers. Remembrances may be made to the Pioneer Association. We'll do more to recognize Shirley's life and accomplishments in the next issue of *Pioneer Presences*.

On November 12, we held a potluck luncheon to welcome new members. About thirty five total members attended, sharing their own stories of pioneer ancestors and traditions.

Other happenings at the Hall include changes that will make materials there more accessible to members and the public. We are about to start putting book plates into books from the Pioneer Library Collection to identify them from those belonging to the Daughters collection on the first floor. The design was created by Shirley Wright's daughter, Kathleen Schumer.

Our Nominating Committee could use "a few good men" and women to serve as Officers and Board Members. We have four Board terms that are ending and several vacancies to fill. If you would like



Carol Hawkins

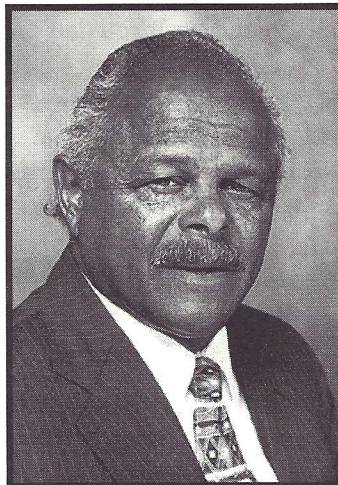
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Pioneer John Gayton (1931-2005)

John Cyrus Gayton (1931-2005) an active member of the Pioneer Association and a pioneering community leader in his own right, died this past November after a struggle with cancer and complications from diabetes.

John Gayton was the grandson of early Seattle pioneer John T. Gayton (1866-1954), who came to Seattle in 1899 from Mississippi as a coachman and established himself as the head of one of Seattle's leading African-American families. The younger John Gayton continued that legacy through his own pioneering accomplishments in business and through his dedication to community service.

John was born in 1931 to John Jacob and Virginia Clark Gayton. He attended Seattle University, where he received an appointment to attend West Point Military Academy (although he ultimately did not attend West Point). During the Korean War he enlisted in the Air Force, where he was awarded several medals, including the National Defense Service Medal.



John Cyrus Gayton

John went back to school after the war and received a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the University of Washington: the only African-American in his class. He later went back to the UW to receive a Master's degree in the same program.

John was recruited as the first African American Company Representative for the Olympia Brewing Company, where he led the company's first targeted outreach into the African-American market. John spent time in California before returning to the Pacific Northwest to work as one of the first African-Americans in management at United Air Lines.

John opened his own consulting firm in the early 1970's, working with major local and national corporations, much of his work heavily emphasizing Affirmative Action.

Over the years, John gave his time and energies to numerous local agencies and organizations, including chairing the Central Area Citizens Committee and the Central Area Motivation Project (CAMP). He served for over 30 years on the board of the East Madison YMCA, and was repeatedly recognized for his work with that organization. He was an active member of the University of Washington Alumni Association, as well as a life member of the NAACP, Urban League, and the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity. He was also an active member of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Of course, John was also a longtime and beloved member of the Pioneers of the State of Washington, and served on its board in several capacities over the years. His graceful presence and sage counsel will be missed.

Future Pioneer Events

Please take a moment to make the appropriate notes on your calendar for the following:

General Meetings of the Membership

(1:00 p.m.)

April 1

June 25*

Meetings of the Board of Officers

(10:00 a.m.)

April 1

*** PLEASE NOTE:
THE DATE OF THE ANNUAL
MEETING HAS BEEN
CORRECTED FROM
PREVIOUS PUBLICATION**

*The Annual Meeting also
begins at 10:00 a.m.*

* * *

Share your family history

The Pioneer Association of Washington is always seeking the written family histories of its members. Recording the pioneer stories and recollections of your ancestors is a wonderful way to not only share them, but to record them for the shared enjoyment and education of future generations.

President's message *(continued from page two)*

to be involved with planning the growth and changes in our Association, please see the article on the back page of this newsletter for more details.

We also still could use volunteers on the Photo Project as well as help with a Sunshine Committee. This could be done from home and by some of our out-of-town members. Volunteers for the Open Houses on Sunday afternoons are always appreciated. You would be signing up to assist on specific dates on either the 1st or 4th Sunday of the month. It is fun to see the changes at the Hall, visit with other members and meet new people who "always wanted to know what was in that building." You don't have to feel you are an "expert" since there are materials and others to help you. We have had as many as 14 people stop in to see the history of Washington as shown in photos, the display cases, shadow boxes and tri-fold stand-up boards.

Speaking of those displays, most of the new exhibits have been created by Catherine Spedden. She has many more ideas and 17 more shadow boxes in progress right now! If you have a "story" to tell about your ancestors or would be willing to help, she would like to hear from you. (For example, Karl Palo is looking into model ships to build.)

As you can see, things are happening at the Hall. We would love to have you become an active participant either on a short-term project, or ongoing improvements. There are even activities that can be done from home such as research and writing short "stories" to go with the shadow boxes, or short biographies of early pioneers whose photos are on display in the Hall. It would give you and us a chance to get to know each other better.

We'd love to hear from you by e-mail via our website: <http://www.wapioneers.org/> or by telephone at (206) 325-0888. You may also drop a note to The Pioneer Association of the State of Washington, 1642 43rd Ave. East, Seattle, Washington, 98112-3222. I look forward to seeing or hearing from you by our next meeting on April 1. Please see the article on the cover for details about the coming meeting — it sounds like a good one!

Carol Hawkins
President

We spotlight area museums...

Museum of History & Industry (MOHAI)

Each issue, we plan to highlight one of the many fine historical museums in our state.

2700 24th Avenue E
Seattle, WA 98112

The mission of the Museum of History & Industry is to collect, preserve, interpret, and share the history of the people of Seattle, King County, and the Pacific Northwest.

Phone: 206-324-1126

Hours: daily 10:00 - 5:00 Admission: \$7 adults, \$5 seniors and ages 6-12, \$1.00 ages 2-5, free for members and children under 2.

Permanent displays: Denny Party Landing 1851, Seattle 1880s, Great Seattle Fire, Salmon Stakes, Boeing's first commercial plane, Bobo the Gorilla.

Collections, archives, and research material: 80,000 three-dimensional artifacts, 1,200,000 historic images, and 200,000 manuscripts and other archival texts. The Sophie Frye Bass Research Library is open by appointment. MOHAI has been collecting artifacts, images, and written material since 1911.

Programs: Mohai has special events and programs year-round. Activities range from Nearby History, a program that teaches and empowers amateur historians, to walking tours of historic neighborhoods and sites, plus lots of other activities for children, parents, and grandparents.

An open letter to Life Members of the Pioneer Association

"Dear Life Members of The Pioneer Association of the State of Washington:

Thank you so much for demonstrating your commitment to preserving the rich history and heritage of our pioneer ancestors, by having chosen to join The Pioneer Association as a Life Member. By doing so, you've made it clear that you believe in the mission of our organization: to share the stories of our pioneer ancestors, to create a space where members of the public can come and learn about the heritage of our region and to build a home for the books, photographs and other objects that illustrate the sacrifices and celebrate the accomplishments of our forebearers. With your Life Member payment, you told us that pursuit of that mission was important and that we had your help.

But we can still use your help and further support.

Each year we face the daunting task of maintaining a beloved, but aging, facility. We make the decision to continue bearing the expense of bringing you the *Pioneer Presences* newsletter, because we think it is an important vehicle for keeping you in the loop, and for sharing the stories that define who we are as Pioneers. We open up Pioneer Hall to the public twice each month and to our members even more frequently, because we truly value the ability to share our resources with those who appreciate them. Not surprising to anyone, these things all take money and, even with the wonderful work of numerous dedicated volunteers, they strain the resources of our organization.

We recognize that you have made a generous gift through your paid Life Membership. But was that support pledged five, ten, even twenty years ago?

Please consider making a gift in support of the Pioneer Association. Your additional support goes a long way towards assuring that there is a strong and vital Pioneer Association today, as well as tomorrow.

Thank you."

Jeff Christensen
Membership Committee

Volunteer of the Quarter

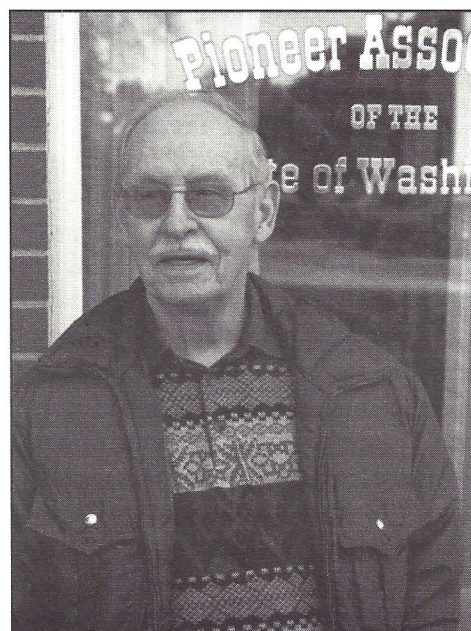
Kirk Gerrard

Membership organizations rely on the time, energy and overall support of their volunteer members. We're pleased to recognize one of the many men and women who make our organization better for us all.

Kirk Gerrard has only been a Pioneer Association member for a relatively short time, but has already proven himself to be an active and vital part of the organization.

Kirk is a descendant of John W. Sprague, and this year joined the Pioneer Board of Officers as a Trustee. He also began volunteering his time and expertise to the maintenance of Pioneer Hall, making long-needed improvements to several of the displays at the Hall.

The Pioneers would like to formally recognize Kirk's contributions and say "thank you" on behalf of our membership.



Kirk Gerrard

Pioneer Milestones: Recent deaths of pioneer members

Gary Zimmerman, Historian

Among the several deaths reported to the Association since the Fall issue of Pioneer Presences:

Mildred C Gookstetter, of Carnation, passed away on June 27, 2005, at the age of 91. A Life Member, she joined the Association in 1984. Her grandfather, George W Frost, purchased property in Davenport, Lincoln County, in the summer of 1889. He moved his family up from California to join him, with Mildred's mother arriving in Davenport at the age of six weeks. Her grandson, Duane S Gookstetter became a member in 1993.

C. Keith Birkenfeld of Bainbridge Island and Palm Springs, California, died on September 7, 2005, at the age of 66. His great-grandfather, Benjamin H Keith, came to Seattle in 1888. Keith's grandfather, H.H. Keith, created the bust of Chief Seattle that now stands in Pioneer Square in Seattle. Keith Birkenfeld had been a member since 1991; his grandfather had joined the Association in 1965.

John Cyrus Gayton of Seattle died on November 7, 2005, at the age of 74. He first joined the Association in 1981. He recently served two terms on the Board of Trustees of the Association. John's grandfather, John Thomas Gayton, a native of Mississippi, settled in Seattle in April, 1889.

Arthur William Hademan, Jr, died in Mount Vernon, Washington, on February 2, 2006. An associate member since 1959, Arthur's was married for 56 years to his late wife, Doreen (Kimsey) Hademan, who was descended from her pioneer grandparents, William Bartlett Kimsey and Catherine Elizabeth Kimsey, who settled in Sterling in 1888.

Shirley Louise Wright, of Bothell, died at home on February 25, 2006. She was the immediate past president of the Pioneer Association. She died the day before her 83rd birthday. A member since 1984, Shirley was descended from pioneer Marietta Crow Settle. A more complete story will follow in the next issue.

Pioneer News and Notes

It's been a busy year already for members of the Pioneer Association. Vice President **Junius Rochester** was a featured presenter at Pacific Northwest Historians Guild Annual Conference on March 4, giving a presentation on "Sam Hill: Legend of the Columbia Gorge". Junius has also been busy acting as ship's historian aboard the *Queen of the West*, a paddlewheel riverboat which cruises the Columbia River between Washington and Oregon. In the words of one travel writer, Junius' "daily lectures, insightful musings and morning vignettes (make) the history of the region simply come alive."

Pioneer Association Historian **Gary Zimmerman** has been a busy presenter himself. Aside from all the work he does for the Fiske Genealogical Foundation, Gary will spend much of March and April making presentations at several historical and genealogical gatherings. Among his appearances will be a March 18 presentation on German research at the South King County Genealogical Society's "Gene-a-Rama '06" event. Then, on April 8, Gary will be speaking at the Washington State Genealogical Society's State Conference and Annual Meeting. His topic: "British & American Quaker Roots".

Last month, Pioneer Association member **Louise Jones-Brown** joined the Friends of Georgetown "Celebrate the History of Georgetown" by giving a presentation on "Jacob Maples - Duwamish Valley's First Pioneer". The presentation - similar to one she gave last year to our own group - included some of Louise's research on her family's contributions to the settlement of King County, as well as original family oil paintings featuring local historical figures, sites and events.

100 years ago Seattle landed on the map with a local exposition...

Planning begins for centennial anniversary of Seattle's A-Y-P

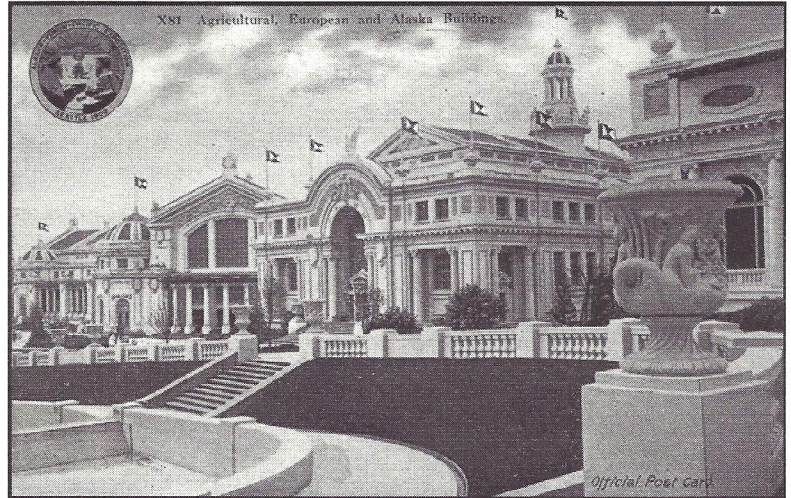
In 1909, the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition (A-Y-P) commemorated the first shipment of Klondike gold through Seattle in 1897. The A-Y-P, held on what are now the grounds of the University of Washington, consisted of exhibits, rides and food. It also attracted more than 3.5 million visitors from around the world, giving Seattle much-needed prominence and attention as a leader in Pacific trade.

As the 100 year anniversary of this important event approaches, Pioneer Association Vice President Junius Rochester reports that he is a member of a committee planning a salute to the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition (1909), around the time of its anniversary.

Junius' own father, former Seattle City Councilman Al Rochester, was

actually the spark behind the first (50th) anniversary celebration of the A-Y-P – a spark that turned into one of the great lasting legacies of Seattle: the 1962 World's Fair. Due to the grand scale of the event and the immense planning it required, the 1962 World's Fair actually occurred a few years later than what would have been the 50th anniversary of the A-Y-P – which was rather appropriate, since the A-Y-P itself had been delayed (for the very same reasons) for two years - the 10th anniversary of the gold rush it celebrated would have been in 1907.

The committee planning the centennial anniversary is chaired by Leonard Garfield, Director of the Museum of History and Industry. Junius believes that the Pioneer Association has souvenirs from the A-Y-P and might benefit from involvement with this planned activity. He will keep the Association informed. If you have questions about plans for the celebration, or have memorabilia related to the exposition, please call Junius at 206-860-2153.



1908 postcard featuring the Agricultural, European and Alaska Buildings on the grounds of the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition

Postcard courtesy of Jeff Christensen

Fall meetings bring out old members, welcome new

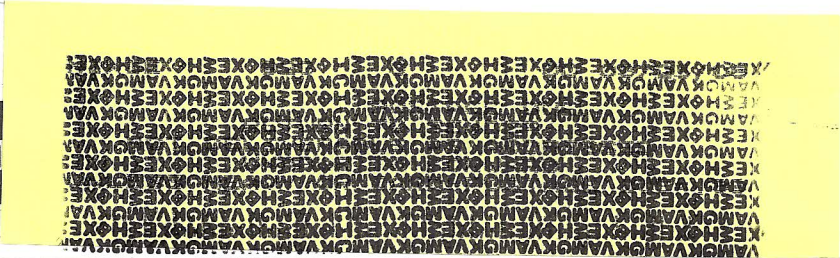
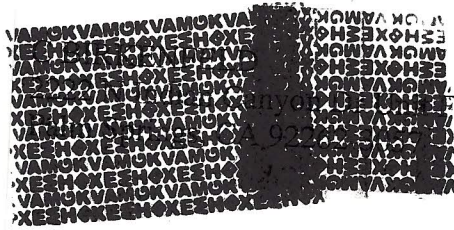
Fall 2005 was a busy one for members of the Pioneer Association. In October, the organization held its fall meeting of the membership, and members were treated to trip down memory "lanes" as Doug Jackson, president of Friends of Olmsted Parks, gave a presentation on the many Seattle parks and boulevards designed by famed landscape design and urban planning firm The Olmsted Brothers. The firm, which was responsible for famous environments such as New York's Central Park, designed and implemented a complex series of parks, green spaces, connected boulevards and playgrounds in Seattle. This detailed presentation was literally a guided tour of the completed works of that grand plan.

In November, the Pioneers welcomed new members by holding its third annual new member "Harvest Ingathering". New members to our organization were treated to a hearty welcome via a potluck buffet supplied by current members and members of our Board. Once bellies were filled, the afternoon was filled with the sharing of stories and photographs, as well as the opportunity to get to know one another better (and a fun time was definitely enjoyed by all).

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

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Next membership meeting of the

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Committee seeks nominations for board positions

The Nominating Committee of the Pioneer Association of the State of Washington is currently seeking candidates for board and trustee positions for the 2005-06 business year. The committee – comprised of Chair Helen Langer Smith, Past President Marilyn McLachlan and current board member Jeff Christensen – is seeking both new and veteran members willing to give their time and energy to helping guide and support the Pioneers.

Nominating Committee members stress that new Pioneer members are as encouraged as longtime members to consider serving. Most positions require only consistent attendance at board meetings which take place on average of four or five times a year, as well as a willingness to share ideas, give counsel and help steer the overall direction of the organization. "Having new members of the Pioneers on the board is actually critical, in my mind," says Jeff Christensen, "they bring new ideas, lots of energy and a fresh perspective to the group."

Various positions have yet to be filled. If you'd like to learn more about what it means to serve, or would like to nominate a fellow Pioneer, please call Jeff Christensen at 206-390-6810.

Membership notices

As you all know, last year's membership renewal notices went out many months later than was typical, due to administrative circumstances. All memberships were "carried" over that time, until actual notices went out in the early Fall. This year, the Membership Committee plans to get back on track by beginning the drive at its normal time, in mid-May. This may seem "early" to those who were slow to respond to the Fall drive, but it's important to get back on track with our membership efforts. Please help us to get back on schedule by renewing promptly, once you receive your notice!