

Next Meeting

Saturday,
September 22, 2007

12:30 - 2:00 PM

Agenda

Association Business

Family History:
Carla Hendrickson

Featured Speaker:
Dan Peterson
"Marcus & Narcissa
Whitman"

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

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The missionaries behind the massacre: **Marcus and Narcissa Whitman**

In 1836, Marcus and Narcissa Whitman and a group of other missionaries, including Henry H. Spalding, joined a caravan of fur traders and traveled west, establishing several missions as well as their own settlement, Waiilatpu. The settlement was in the territory of both the Cayuse and the Nez Perce tribes of Native Americans. Marcus farmed and provided medical care, while Narcissa set up a school for the Native American children. In 1843, Whitman travelled east and, on his return, he helped lead the first large group of wagon trains west from Fort Hall, in eastern Idaho. Known as the "Great Emigration", it established the viability of the Oregon Trail for the homesteaders that followed.

The influx of white settlers in the territory brought new diseases to the Indian tribes, including a severe epidemic of measles in 1847. The limited health practices of the Native Americans and their lack of immunity to new diseases led to a high mortality rate. The zealous conversion attempts by the Whitmans as well as the recovery of many white patients fostered the belief among the Native Americans that Whitman was causing the death of his Indian patients. The Indian tradition of holding medicine men personally responsible for the patient's recovery eventually resulted in violence. In what became known as the Whitman Massacre, Cayuse tribal members murdered the Whitmans in their home on November 29, 1847. Twelve other white settlers in the community were also killed.

Most of us are already familiar with the story of the massacre, but the life and death of the Whitmans is a complicated and broad-ranging story, full of rich local history.

On Saturday, September 22, the Pioneer Association will hold the next general meeting of its membership, featuring a presentation on Marcus and Narcissa Whitman. Our speaker for this presentation will be Dan Peterson, retired Emeritus professor of history at Seattle Community College. A published author and editor, Peterson has both his B.A. and M.A. in history from the University Washington. He is a longtime member of several regional historical societies, including serving as president of the Washington State Association of Historians and being one of the founding members of the Pacific Northwest Historians Guild.

The meeting begins at 12:30 with a short report on Association business, followed by a ten-minute family history and the presentation by Peterson.



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 and fourth
Sunday of each month.
between 1:00 and 4:00 p.m.

Board of Officers

- President Jeff Christensen
- 1st vice president Junius Rochester
- 2nd vice president Marilyn McLauchlan
- 3rd vice president Helen Langer Smith
- Secretary Betsy Losh
- Treasurer Gary Zimmerman
- Historian Gary Zimmerman

Trustees

Kathy Dettmar, Kirk Gerrard, Peggy
Parietti, Lawrence Puffert
(term to June 2008)

Louise Jones-Brown, Leonard Gayton,
Carla Cumins Hendrickson, Loren Rankin
(term to June 2009)

David Brazier, Steven Rochester,
Catherine Spedden
(term to June 2010)

Pioneer Presences

Jeff Christensen, Editor

Contributors this issue:
Gary Zimmerman

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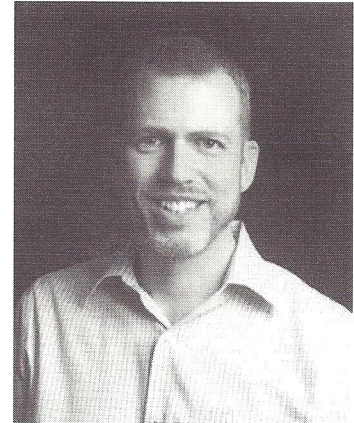
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"What is a president?"

President's Message

I did sit down to consider what being president of anything means, prior to accepting my nomination as President of the Pioneer Association of the State of Washington. At the most base level, I knew that it meant more meetings, more emails and less time for other things. Now, a month into the job, with a Board meeting under my belt and a general meeting of the membership looming next month, I find myself back where I started: asking what it means to be president.

I took the job, I'll admit, because I thought I could make a difference. That might be about ego more than anything else, since I can't claim to have any more brains, energy or dedication than any of the other active members of our group. What I know that I do have, however, is the passionate desire to see our organization not only hold its ground – especially in a day and age when membership organizations like ours are fighting to retain their members - but actually flourish. Like a true pioneer, I not only want us to survive, but thrive.



Jeff Christensen

The question then becomes how can I best help us do that? Any smart manager of a good team knows that a big part of the process is staying out of the way when talented people are doing their thing. There's nothing like sitting at one of our board meetings in order to be instantly reminded that one of the true blessings of a membership organization like ours is that it brings people with such differing backgrounds, viewpoints and talents together.

Sitting on the sidelines, however, isn't what the job is about either. Like it or not (and if you take this job, you'd better like it), being president often means that you are expected to establish some structure, provide some guidance and perhaps even play referee now and then: the inescapable flip side of that blessing about bringing people with such differing backgrounds, viewpoints and talents together.

The truth is that I won't really know what it means to be a president until after I've been one for a while. Whether I'll be a good one or not, will be determined by the test of time and how hard I work at it. I hope while I'm figuring the job out, that you'll be patient. I look forward to seeing you at meetings and working together to create an organization we can all continue to be proud of. In the meantime, feel free to let me know how I'm doing, either via email at jdcseattle@comcast.net or in a card or letter sent directly to Pioneer Hall.

Jeff Christensen
President, 2007-08

Board announces meeting schedule for coming year, including added gatherings

The Board of Officers for the Association met on Saturday, July 28, at Pioneer Hall and voted to accept a proposed meeting schedule for the coming business year. The schedule includes the addition of a fourth general meeting of the membership (December 8), as well two special events: a New Member Orientation & Potluck brunch (October 20) and a tentative dance/fundraiser in February 2008. The complete schedule, as adopted:

Saturday, September 22, 2007

Board Meeting	10:30 AM – 12:00 PM
General Meeting	12:30 PM – 2:00 PM

Saturday, October 20, 2007

New Member Orientation & Potluck Brunch	10:30 AM – 12:30 PM
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Saturday, December 8, 2007

Board Meeting	10:30 AM – 12:00 PM
General Meeting	12:30 PM – 2:00 PM

Friday, February 15, 2008 *(Tentative)*

Traditional Dance/Fundraiser	6:30 PM – 10:00 PM
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Saturday, March 15, 2008

Board Meeting	10:30 AM – 12:00 PM
General Meeting	12:30 PM – 2:00 PM

Saturday, June 21, 2008*

Annual Meeting & Salmon Bake	10:00 AM – 1:30 PM
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** Date tentative – dependent upon the date of any possibly conflicting Madison Park event(s)*

New Member Orientation & Potluck Brunch planned for Saturday, October 20

The Association will formally welcome new members who have joined our group in the past year, during an orientation and potluck brunch event on Saturday, October 20, at Pioneer Hall. Invitations to new members will be going out in early September, but all members are welcome and encouraged to attend. For more information, please contact Jeff Christensen at 206-390-6810.

Have you renewed your membership?

Annual dues notices were mailed last month to all non-Life Members of the Association. If you have not yet paid your dues for the coming year, please take a moment to review your membership information in the dues letter mailed you and return your payment to:

**Attn: Membership Drive
Pioneer Association of
the State of Washington
1642 43rd Ave East
Seattle, WA 98112**

If you are an annually-renewing member of the Association and you did not receive a dues notice or have questions about your membership, please call either Membership Chair Jeff Christensen at 206-390-6810 or Treasurer Gary Zimmerman at 425-803-0938.

Your participation and support keep our museum doors open, allow us to publish our quarterly newsletters, provide a means for us to bring in special speakers for presentations and more.

Please renew your membership with the Pioneers today!

Walla Walla County — A Thumbnail History of the early years

Walla Walla County covers 1,271 square miles in south central Washington, ranking 26th in size among Washington's 39 counties. It is bounded to the east by Columbia County, to the north by the Snake River and Franklin County, to the west by Benton and Franklin counties and the Columbia River, and to the south by the state of Oregon. The city of Walla Walla is the County Seat. The land that would become Walla Walla County was one of the earliest areas between the Rocky Mountains and the Cascade Mountains to be permanently settled by non-Indians, and for that reason it is sometimes referred to as the cradle of Pacific Northwest history. The 1847 Whitman Massacre and the 1855 Treaty Council in Walla Walla are among the most significant events to have occurred within what is now Walla Walla County. Agriculture is the most significant industry in the county, especially the cultivation of wheat, onions, and wine grapes. Walla Walla County has a population of 54,200 as reported in the 2000 Census.

Early Days

Walla Walla, written "Wolla Wollah" by Lewis and Clark, derives from a Nez Perce and Cayuse word "walatsa," meaning running, a probable reference to the running waters of the Walla Walla River. The area enjoys Chinook winds that usually yield relatively mild winters. Abundant grass and water for cattle were early inducements to white settlement.

The Cayuse, Walla Walla, and Umatilla peoples occupied the land at the eastern end of the Columbia River basin. The tribes lived in semi-permanent lodges up to 60 feet long. These lodges were shared by up to 10 related families. The three tribes spoke the Sahaptin language and also shared the neighboring territory with members of the Nez Perce tribe. The Cayuse and Nez Perce acquired horses in the early 1700s, breeding them for sale and trade with each other and, after white contact, with trappers and eventually early settlers.

The Lewis and Clark Expedition passed what would become the northern border of the county when as they canoed down the Snake River, which they called the Lewis River, in October 1805. On their return voyage the Expedition left the Columbia River near present-day Wallula to begin their eastern trek across the continent.

The Era of Fur Trading

The North West Fur Company (Canadian) and the Pacific Fur Company (initially owned by American John Jacob Astor, but later bought by the British) reached the area soon thereafter, later followed by the Hudson's Bay Company (British). Walla Walla was an important center for fur trading within the region. The Cayuse, eager to increase their opportunity to trade, encouraged these developments.

In 1818 the North West Fur Company built Fort Walla Walla (initially known as Fort Nez Perce) half a mile from the mouth of the Walla Walla River on the east bank of the Columbia River. The timber to build the fort was floated down the Walla Walla River from as much as 100 miles away. The resulting fortress was so formidable that the fort's first factor, fur trader Alexander Ross, called it the Gibraltar of the Columbia. In 1821 the Hudson's Bay Company merged with North West Fur, bringing this important early fort under Hudson's Bay control.

Between 1855 and autumn of 1858 during the Indian Wars settlers were banned from the region. In 1856 the United States Military established a new Fort Walla Walla as a military post. This post was also known as Steptoe Barracks, after commander Colonel Edward Steptoe (1816-1865), and was located where the Nez Perce Trail forded Mill Creek in what became the city of Walla Walla.

Missionaries and Missions

On September 12, 1836 Presbyterian missionaries Marcus (1802-1847) and Narcissa Prentiss Whitman (1808-1847) and Henry (1803-1874) and Eliza Hart Spalding (1807-1851) arrived at Fort Vancouver on the Columbia River. After exploring the nearby vicinity, the Spaldings founded a mission at Lapwai among the Nez Percés in present-day Idaho. The Whitmans founded the Waiilatpu mission on the Walla Walla River near Fort Walla Walla. For the next 11 years Marcus and Narcissa Whitman proselytized to the Cayuse, cultivated an apple orchard and extensive gardens, wrote missives home that ultimately resulted in increased immigration to the area,

and served as the important beacon and way station for the earliest pioneers beginning to carve their way West overland.

On November 29, 1847, distraught over a measles epidemic that was decimating their families and by recent killings of Cayuses by whites, an undetermined number of Cayuse killed the Whitmans and 12 other white settlers and took more than 50 others hostage. Catholic Bishop Augustin Magloire Blanchet (1797-1887) and Peter Skene Ogden of the Hudson's Bay Company helped negotiate the release of the hostages after a month of captivity. The killings and hostage-taking burned deeply into the white settlers' psyches, both confirming and inflaming their fears of Indian violence and giving the United States government license for long-lasting reprisals against the Cayuse and other tribes

Boundaries and Treaties

Washington Territory was established on March 3, 1853, and Isaac I. Stevens (1818-1862) appointed Territorial Governor. Skamania County, established by the first Territorial Legislature on March 8, 1854, encompassed the future Walla Walla County.

Only a few weeks later, on April 25, 1854, Walla Walla County was divided off from Skamania. This first version of Walla Walla County was enormous, encompassing half of what is now Washington, all of Idaho, and about a fourth of Montana. The county seat was placed at Waiilatpu on the claim of a settler named Lloyd Brook, but the Treaty Council at Walla Walla in May 1855 and the Indian Wars that followed prevented the county infrastructure from being organized in anything more than name.

On January 19, 1859, the Territorial Legislature passed an act creating a true infrastructure for Walla Walla County. In the November 17, 1859, election, Walla Walla was chosen the county seat. In 1865, 1870, 1872, and 1876 the Oregon state legislature made repeated but unsuccessful bids to have the United States Congress separate Walla Walla County from Washington and make it part of Oregon. Old Walla Walla County was by this time being regularly reduced in size as new counties and territories were carved out of its enormous land mass. On November 11, 1875, Columbia County was established and with it the final boundary change of Walla Walla County.

In 1859 gold was discovered on the Clearwater River in (present-day) Idaho. As the main supply point for hopeful miners, the city of Walla Walla quickly attracted miners, freight packers, bankers, and merchants of all kinds eager to supply the miners. One Walla Walla pack-animal supply firm even used a stable of six camels (originally imported by the United States Army for use in the Southwestern United States and later sold) to transport miners' supplies. Profits ran high, with staples like coffee and cured meat selling for as much as four times their price in Portland.

The gold rush also stimulated the local market for farm produce and beef cattle. By 1861 the city of Walla Walla had a population of 3,500, making it the largest community in Washington Territory at the time. By the late 1860s gold deposits were largely depleted, ending Walla Walla's boom days, although Seattle's population did not surpass Walla Walla's until the early 1880s.

Later Development

Later years would hold more major developments for the county, including The founding of Whitman Seminary (later Whitman College), named in memory of Marcus and Narcissa Whitman, and the establishment of Walla Walla State Penitentiary in the city of Walla Walla in 1887 as a territorial prison where inmates labored in the prison's brick yards, in a jute mill making grain bags and rugs, and in later years making license plates and highway signs.

Sources:

This snapshot history of Walla Walla County is a partial reprint of material produced and published by HistoryLink.org. To read the text in its entirety, reference the material's sources and to learn more about local history, we encourage you to visit www.historylink.org. HistoryLink.org Online Encyclopedia of Washington State History, "Walla Walla County: Thumbnail History, Cyberpedia - HistoryLink Essay 7679", <http://www.historylink.org/> (accessed August 4, 2007).

*Spotlight on Washington
historical groups...*

Fort Walla Walla Museum

*Each issue, we highlight one of
the many fine historical
museums or groups in our state.*

Location: 755 Myra Road,
Walla Walla, WA 98362

Phone: 509-525-7798

Hours: Open daily, April
through October 10:00 am -
5:00 pm

Current museum

exhibits: The Museum's
entire collection contains
about 40,000 cataloged
artifacts including historical
objects, textiles, photographs
& archives. The Museum
also has a small reference
library. Also featured:

Military Collection

Artifacts from Fort Walla Walla
- Guns, Swords and
Accoutrements.

Textile Collection

Registered quilts, adult,
children, and infant clothing.

Washington State

Penitentiary Collection

Products produced by
prisoners. Records and photos
of prisoners' records.
Authentic jail cell and cell block
locking mechanism

Museum Admission:

\$7.00/Adults; \$6.00/Students
and Seniors 62 & over;
\$3.00/Children ages 6-12
Members and Children
under 6 admitted free.

Board Meeting Minutes of July 28, 2007

*Attendance: Junius Rochester; Helen Smith, Gary Zimmerman, Loren Rankin,
David Brazier; Peggy Parietti, Louise Jones-Brown, Catherine Spedden, Kathy
Dettmar; Carla Hendrickson, Stephen Rochester; Carol Hawkins.*

The meeting was called to order by President, Jeff Christensen. All members of the Board introduced themselves. Jeff requested that we look at the Agenda and add anything we considered should be on it. David Brazier moved that the Agenda be adopted. Seconded by Carla Hendrickson. Motion Carried.

Gary presented the treasurer report. He asked that we accept the newly elected officers voted by the membership on June 23. Motion made, seconded and passed. Also needed was another signature approval to join Gary and Jeff on the account at Bank of America. Motion made and seconded that this person be the secretary. Passed.

Gary reported that the liquid assets of the Association amount to \$236,164.62 and he reviewed the seven separate funds in which these assets are allocated. In the first quarter of this 2007-2008 fiscal year, the Association received \$4,297.85 and spent \$4,175.84 for a net balance of \$122.01.

Gary reported that we currently have 971 names on our roster, with 158 listed as "inactive," for not having paid dues in the past three years. Our current mix is 376 Life members, 570 annual and associate members, 19 junior members, five emeritus members and one complementary subscription to the Seattle Public Library.

The carpenter ants seem to have been eradicated. There have been two recent incidents involving the fire-alarm / burglar alarm systems. The first trouble call was caused by a low battery in the main fire alarm panel. The second call involved a zone sensor on the second floor causing a malfunction in the circuit to the main box. That circuit was bypassed by some rewiring, but it is likely that the entire fire panel main control box should be replaced.

Jeff noted that the dues notices are in the mail. He presented us with possible dates for meetings for the coming year and asked us to review it. All Board Meetings are scheduled for 10:30 a.m. to noon., and the General Meetings from 12:30 to 2:00. There is an added General Meeting slated for December 8, which the Board considered a good move.. A motion was made by Helen that the September Board and General meetings date be changed to September 22, because of a University of Washington football game conflict.. Seconded by Peggy. Passed. Also, we are to make certain that our June meeting is not the same day as the annual foot race that begins in Madison Park. It may be necessary to have a May Board meeting to handle nominations. The entire schedule is at the end of the Minutes. Jeff will be e-mailing each meeting's Agenda a week previous so that those who cannot attend may express their thoughts and suggestions.

(cont'd Page 7)

(cont'd from Page 6)

Catherine noted we need more membership applications. Jeff has designed a new application, which should better appeal to those interested in joining.

We were given the list of suggested committees and the opportunity for suggestions. There were none, so we were asked to sign up to serve on one of the following committees: Correspondence, Membership, Museum, Nominating, Open House, Program, Publicity, Refreshments, Facility. We had a good start in filling these as noted here: Correspondence, Sylvia Gayton; Membership, Louise Jones-Brown; Museum, Carla Hendrickson; Program, Junius Rochester, Gary Zimmerman and Helen Smith; Publicity, Kathy Dettmar; Refreshments, Helen Smith and Peggy Parietti; Facilities, Steve Rochester and David Brazier.

A brainstorm was held when Jeff asked that we give him what we considered most important in our organization and to the Hall. He listed all as given to him. They are as follows: Increase membership by 10%; photo restoration; biographies to help in updating photo identifications; increase public visibility/publicity; increase active participation with the newsletter; develop plans for upgrading the facilities; bathroom upgrade/repair; "tap" life members, replace blinds/curtains in the Hall; roof flashing; elevator need; better understanding of our finances/budget; leverage tour groups; open more days/publicize it within the rentals and group tours; web site for publicity; need of more Board members volunteering at Open House; training and education of the museum; grants (research). We were then requested to take 3 stamps given us and mark on Jeff's chart the 3 areas we thought were most important. The "winners" are Increase in public visibility, Bathroom upgrade, Increase membership by 10%.

Jeff then brought forward his proposal for the Centennial Campaign, as June 10, 2010 will be the 100th birthday of Pioneer Hall. This would be a 3-year effort to raise public awareness and funds to allow for the execution of a reasonable and achievable plan for the necessary maintenance and overall improvement of Pioneer Hall. The first phase of the Campaign would be to establish a Facilities Committee composed of four Pioneer members, one member from the Daughters and one member from the Fiske Library. The purpose of this committee would be to: 1) Identify and prioritize structural, functional and aesthetic improvements to Pioneer Hall, and its grounds; 2) Research costs and obtain estimates related to those improvements; 3) Provide specific and actionable recommendations to the Pioneer Association Board (both short and long term). A proposed secondary, later, phase of the Campaign would involve the establishment of a Centennial Committee, whose purpose would be to raise money for, and help actively to promote, the re-dedication of Pioneer Hall in 2010.

Next Board meeting and General Meeting will be September 22.

Meeting Adjourned.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Peggy Parietti
Secretary, Pro-Tem*

Newly formed Committees begin work, seek volunteers

At its July 28 meeting, the Board of Officers outlined the major committees it felt were necessary to helping oversee the activities of our organization during the coming year. Most of the committees - such as Program and Membership - are standing committees, necessary to running the day-to-day operations of the Association. Others, however, like the newly formed Facilities Committee have been given a new set of responsibilities and are just in the planning and early formation phases.

**ALL of them, however,
need volunteers.**

A full list of the committees operating this year appears in the meeting minutes reprinted just to the left of this article - please take a moment to review the list to see if you might be interested and able to help with one of them. You need not be an expert at any one thing - just willing to give some time, energy and ideas to the cause.

If you'd like to volunteer or provided more information, please contact President Jeff Christensen at 206-390-6810.

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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

The Association hangs out a "help wanted" sign:

Volunteer for Association Treasurer role sought

For a while now, the Association has leaned heavily upon the dedication and skills of Gary Zimmerman as he has willingly worn several hats on behalf of the Association - most recently filling the roles of Historian and Treasurer for the organization. It's now time to give Gary back something in return: our thanks and some of the time he's freely given us over the years.

The Association is actively seeking an individual to take over as Association Treasurer next year. Gary has graciously agreed to continue in the role through the remainder of the 2007-08 business year, but we would like to bring someone in who can spend at least some portion of that time working with Gary as part of a formal transition.

The Association Treasurer is responsible for all finance related matters, including: general oversight and maintenance of our organization's books, collecting and paying out on monies owed, tracking and reporting on Association investments and providing the Board of Officers with timely and accurate reporting on the current state of our finances. While an Accounting or bookkeeping background would certainly be helpful, it is not required. An eye for detail and willingness to consider a minimum two year commitment are helpful.

If you have an interest in this position and would like to discuss the role in more detail - without up front commitment - please feel free to call Gary Zimmerman at 425-803-0938.

2007

Next meeting of the Pioneers: Saturday, September 22, 12:30 p.m.