# PIONEER



# PRESENCES

Newsletter of the Pioneer Association of the State of Washington

June 2008 Volume XXXI, No. 4

## Next Meeting

137th Annual Meeting & Salmon Bake!

> Saturday, June 21, 2008

> > Registration: 9:45 a.m.

Business Meeting: 10:00 a.m.

Speakers & Presentations: 11:00 a.m.

Salmon Lunch: 12:00 Noon

Featured Speaker: Dr. Fillmore Buckner "Thomas T. Minor"

## Table of Contents

Annual Meeting & Salmon Bake1
President's Message2
Pioneer Museum3
Elections to be held3
Pioneer Reading Room dedicated3
Mum Spotlight: Chelan County
Historical Museum6
Board Meeting minutes: March 287
Review of March meeting7
Help Wanted: Treasurer!7
Improvements around Pioneer Hall8

## *Feature presentation at our June 21 Annual Meeting:* **T.T. Minor: doctor, mayor, citizen of Seattle**

On Saturday, June 21, the Pioneer Association of the State of Washington will hold its 137th Annual Meeting and picnic salmon bake. This eagerly awaited annual event gives our members an opportunity to gather and mingle, as well as enjoy prsentations of historical interest. This year our speaker will be Dr. Fillmore Buckner, who will be giving a presentation pioneer doctor and politician Thomas T. Minor.

Born into an old New England family, T.T. Minor saw action during the Civil War as Assistant Surgeon in Florida at Port Royal, Fort Pulaski and at the Saint John River Batteries. After the war he resigned his commission and entered Yale Medical School. While serving as Surgeon to the Winnebago Indians in today's Nebraska, he pursued an interest in collecting natural history specimens. His next assignment - a mixture of medicine and natural history in Alaska - allowed him to stop off at Port Townsend, Washington. He liked the looks of this town and during a return visit agreed to join another doctor to help run a 100-bed hospital in that charming town.

In 1881, he was elected mayor of Port Townsend, the same year that the Northern Pacific RR decided not to extend its line to the Olympic Peninsula. That calamity convinced Minor that the action was now centered in Seattle.

In 1883, Thomas T. Minor moved to Seattle where he continued his activities in medicine and politics. He also began to invest in Seattle real estate. His large family home on First Hill included a stable and garden. In 1887, he was elected mayor of Seattle (the only Washingtonian to hold the mayor's office of two major nearby cities).

Our speaker, Dr. Buckner, was born in Tacoma, Washington, and received a BS from the University of Washington, as well as his MD from the UW's School of Medicine. He later was a awarded his JD from the University of Puget Sound Law School. He is a Past President of the American College of Legal Medicine, as well as a recipient of that organization's Gold Medal for contirbutions to Legal Medicine.

The Annual Meeting will also include the traditional Salmon Bake full details can be found on the colored insert within this issue of Pioneer Presences.

Please plan to join us for what will surely be an interesting presentation, as well as an entertaining opportunity to mingle with your fellow pioneers

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

### **Board of Officers**

President Jeff Christensen 1st vice president 2nd vice president 3rd vice president Secretary Treasurer

Historian

Junius Rochester Marilyn McLauchlan Helen Langer Smith Betsy Losh Gary Zimmerman 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: Marilyn McLauchlan, Catherine Spedden

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## "Time to pay our dues" **President's Message**

It's the time of year again when membership renewal notices go out in the mail to all our current members. We also take the opportunity to reach out to those "inactive" members who haven't renewed their membership with our organization in recent years.

It's hard when sending all of those "where did you go?" letters, not to stop and wonder: where did all those norenewing individuals "go"? The reality is that there could be a dozen reasons these individuals chose to let their membership



lapse. Many of those reasons could have little to do with the organization As I mentioned in an article last December, we are painfully itself. aware that, with all the demands of work and family, it's hard to devote time and energy to a membership association like ours — we know it and it makes us work extra hard to continue building value within the organization.

Keeping strong ties to the Pioneer Association, however, is more than just sustaining a membership: it's a very real way of helping keep our pioneer heritage alive. We share more than a state: we share a spirit forged by our ancestors, a sense of satisfaction in knowing that without our aunts, uncles, grandmothers and great-grandfathers, none of us where be who and where we are today.

So when your membership notices arrive, please continue your involvement and support — our annual dues of \$20 is a small price to pay to continue supporting our museum, library, special collections, quarterly meetings and presentations and conservation efforts. Please consider telling your friends whose ancestors also called the Washington Territory home about our organization and about the great opportunity they have to support our collective past by joining the Pioneers. Pass along your newsletter or bring someone, as a guest, to a meeting. Encourage someone (and volunteer yourself) to present a family history at one of those meetings: just because we see some pretty old lineages, that doesn't slow us down from welcoming new faces.

Speaking of new faces, we hope to see a few of those at the 137th Annual Meeting of the Pioneer Association on Saturday, June 21. Along with our usual business meeting and the election of new officers and trustees, we'll be treated to a presentation by Dr. Fillmore Buckner, who will be providing an illustrated history of Dr. Thomas T. Minor, pioneer doctor and one of the early mayors of Seattle. I hope you already have this date marked on your calendar and plan to attend. Full details of how to guarantee your spot can be found on the colored insert within this issue of *Presences*.

> Jeff Christensen President, 2007-08

## Pioneer Museum continue to bring visitors, new members

The museum at Pioneer Hall continues to bring in visitors, via our Sunday Open House events and special tours to groups like those comprised of local school children. The museum, which is open to the public at large on the second and fourth Sundays of each month between 1:00 pm and 4:00 pm, continues to evolve, as well as to bring in not only curious locals from the neighborhood, but pioneer descendents who come in to see a little slice of the pioneer story brought to life through displays and photographs, all under the helpful attention of our volunteer "staff" and museum docents.

Those docents tell stories of the showcase articles depicting our Northwest history. They also point visitors to the display boards and the wonderful dioramas of volunteer Catherine Spedden which depict general pioneer activities, as well as specific events.

Upstairs at the Hall are the displays of Daughters of the Pioneers, which include many wardrobe items, as well as household items of various vintage. Downstairs, and also open during our Open House events, is the Fiske Genealogical Library, which includes an impressive array of materials for our area, as well as for the rest of the United States and beyond.

The pioneers are particular happy about the many school groups that come to see the museum, many getting their first real introduction to Pacific Northwest history and the impressive achievements of the pioneers.

To volunteer for an Open House event, please contact Larry Puffert at (206) 937-2214. If you'd like to provide feedback or volunteer your time as a museum docent or would like to add your talents or an item of interest towards museum displays, please contact Catherine Spedden at (425) 869-0409.

## Association to dedicate library, honoring Past President Shirley Wright

At the Annual Meeting on June 21, the Pioneer Association will dedicate the library space on the main floor of Pioneer Hall as "The Shirley Wright Reading Room", in honor of Association Past President Shirley Wright. Aside from her work with the Pioneers, Shirley (who passed away in 2006) was also the State Librarian for the Daughters of the Pioneers and worked tirelessly in support of building the collections of both organizations.

The main floor reading room space contains a wide array of materials of historical importance related to the Pacific Northwest, including items from both the Daughters and Pioneer private collections. The space is open for reference work (not check-out) whenever the Hall is open to the public and by special appointment.

## Annual Meeting to include election of officers

A key element of the Business Meeting portion of the Annual Meeting on June 21 will be the election of officers. We are fortunate this year to have so many dedicated current officers and trustees willing to continue the good work they are doing. There remain a few unfilled spots at press time and nominations will also be taken the day of the Annual Meeting, as part of the vote.

Up for potential renewal are the following: Jeff Christensen (President); Junius Rochester (1st Vice-President); Marilyn McLauchlan (2nd Vice-President); Helen Langer Smith (3rd Vice-President); Betsy Losh (Secretary) and Gary Zimmerman (Historian).

Trustees with terms to 2009 and 2010 will continue to serve our their terms.

Candidates for Trustees with a 3-year term to 2011 (with one slot still open): Kathy Dettmar; Peggy Parietti; Larry Puffert.

The position of Treasurer currently remains unfilled and there are currently no candidates to put before the membership. Please see the article on Page 7 for more regarding this critical role.

## Chelan County — A Thumbnail History of the early years

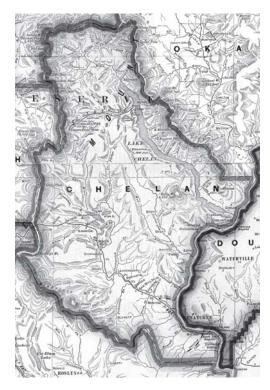
Chelan County embraces the drainages of the Wenatchee River, the Entiat River, and Lake Chelan, and the Chelan River for a total of 2,920 square miles. Irrigation has transformed the arid valleys into agricultural treasure

houses and the home to Washington apples and the ubiquitous Aplet and Cotlet confections. Hydroelectric development has lived up to the Wenatchee *Daily World's* claim as the "Power Belt of the State of Washington." Almost 90 percent of the county is owned by the state and federal governments.

#### **First Peoples**

The Wenatchee tribe (also spelled Wenatchi) lived along the Wenatchee River, which flowed from the Cascades into the Columbia. They spoke a version of the Salish language, also called Salishan and Interior Salish, which they shared with the peoples of Puget Sound and northern Washington, Idaho, and Montana. Wahnaachee is the name given the tribe by the Yakimas (later, Yakamas), who passed it to explorer Captain William Clark in 1804. Wenatchee is a Sahaptian word for "water coming out" (Ruby, 266). The people called themselves Pisquoses.

The Chelans got their name from the writings of fur trader Alexander Ross who described them as the "Tsill-anes" (Ruby, 17). They lived along the south end of Lake Chelan and the short river that drained the lake to the Columbia. Chelans would paddle canoes 50 miles to the head of the lake and trek over the mountains to trade with the tribes of Puget Sound.



The culture and economy of the tribes centered around fishing,

but the members also gathered roots and berries and hunted game. Early fur traders taught them to cultivate potatoes. Extended families generally spent winters in permanent settlements of mat-covered longhouses and then dispersed from spring to autumn to fish and hunt. The Wenatchee shared the Wenatshapam Fishery in the Wenatchee Valley with Yakimas. In the late 1700s, the tribes acquired horses for transportation and for food.

#### **Treaties and War**

On June 9, 1855, the Wenatchee chief Tecolekun (d. 1858), and 13 other Native American leaders signed the Yakima Treaty at the Walla Walla Council with Governor Isaac Stevens. This extinguished the indigenous people's title to 10.8 million acres of north central Washington in exchange for a much smaller reservation, cash, and other incentives. The treaty lumped together the Chelans and Wenatchees as part of the "Consolidated Tribes and Bands of the Yakima Nation" even though they spoke a language different from that spoken by the Yakimas.

Almost immediately after the 1855 treaties were signed, many tribes repudiated the agreements being imposed by Stevens and war broke out with the whites all over the territory. American soldiers massacred villagers on the White River, a tributary of Lake Wenatchee. In 1858, war broke out again and a punitive expedition led by U.S. Army Major R. S. Garnet that August marched up the Columbia. Garnet hanged four Wenatchee men suspected of killing white miners. Chief Tecolekun is believed to have been killed previous May in the battle with U.S. troops under Col. Edward Steptoe (1816-1865) near present-day Rosalia.

Moses, of the Columbia tribe east of the Columbia, became the accepted leader of the mid-Columbia bands. They received a reservation from the U.S. government on the west side of the Okanogan River from Lake Chelan to the Canadian border, but that was later withdrawn. Other claims to lands and to the Wenatshapam Fishery guaranteed to Native Americans were gradually abrogated. Only a few small allotments near Lake Chelan remained in Native American hands. Most Wenatchees and the Chelans eventually settled on the Colville Reservation.

#### **Trappers and Missionaries**

Trappers from the Pacific Fur Company, the North West Company, and the Hudson's Bay Company visited the Chelan and Wenatchee valleys from the 1810s through the 1840s in search of beaver pelts. In 1863, a Catholic priest, Father Respari, preached along the Wenatchee River at what would become Mission Valley. (Respari is not mentioned in the official history of the Catholic Church in the Northwest.) In the summer of 1872, Father Urban Grassi, S.J., built a small log church he called St. Francis Xavier. He resided with a local Wenatchee leader who converted to Catholicism and adopted the name Peter Benoit. When a town was established nearby it became New Mission (later Cashmere), and the church site became Old Mission. Father Grassi is credited with using irrigation to raise crops and he taught this to his Indian parishioners.

Father Alexander Diomedi, S.J., built a mission house at Chelan in the 1870s, but a local leader Nmosize (Innomoseecha Bill) burned it down when the priest was absent in 1880. Indian parishioners built a new church along the lake near what would become Manson (Ruby, 15).

The first non-Indians to live in the Chelan and Wenatchee valleys were Chinese prospectors looking for gold in the rivers and streams, starting in about 1863. The placer miners came from California and established a village on the Columbia opposite the mouth of the Chelan. The settlement featured a store, a large garden, and buildings made of split cedar planks.

In 1875, Indians from the Methow River attacked Chinese miners there and at the diggings near the village. An unknown number of Chinese were trapped against a cliff over the river and all were killed. This hastened the abandonment of the village, which was still visible in 1904.

#### Settlement

White settlers arrived in the Wenatchee Valley in the 1870s and 1880s. They tapped runoff from the mountains for irrigation of crops, but the water sources were not entirely reliable. Two traders, Ingraham and McBride, set up a commercial operation at Rock Island in about 1867, then in 1872 moved to the future site of Wenatchee. Their traffic in whiskey to the Indians ran contrary to federal law and they hastily sold their operation to Samuel Miller and the Freer Brothers. Don Carlos Corbett founded the town of Wenatchee in 1888. He named it after the tribe.

Lake Chelan's first white settlers were William Sanders and William Dumke. They arrived at the south end of the lake the hard way, from the north, in 1886. They crossed the mountains from the Methow Valley and found the steep shoreline impassable. After losing their horse to a fatal fall, they had to carve a cedar log into a crude canoe and made their way 50 miles to the south end of the lake. For a short time in 1880, the U.S. Army maintained Camp Chelan there to watch over the local Indians.

As with the rest of the state, the spur to growth and development came with the arrival of the railroad. Jim Hill's Great Northern Railway planned to follow the Wenatchee Valley up for a crossing of the Cascades over Stevens Pass. The Wenatchee Development Co., an outgrowth of the Seattle, Lake Shore & Eastern Railroad and headed by Judge Thomas Burke, surveyed and platted a town site, and sold lots to new arrivals beginning in May 1892. The company sold \$100,000 in property in five days. Residents of the existing town of Wenatchee, one mile to the north, traded their lots with Wenatchee Development and moved to the new community. Even the bank and the post office relocated. The first train from the East arrived on October 17, 1892. The residents of Wenatchee voted for incorporation on December 23, 1892.

The area north of the Chelan River as far as the Canadian border was the Columbia Indian Reservation before 1886 and was open only to homestead entry, not to the establishment of townsites. In 1886, President Grover Cleveland ordered that the reservation be abolished and that certain Indians could take land allotments. In July 1889, U.S. Surveyor Henry Carr and an Okanogan County Probate Judge C. H. Ballard laid out the town of

(cont'd Page 7)

Spotlight on Washington historical groups... Chelan County

## Historical Museum

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

**Phone:** (509) 782-3230

Hours: Daily March 1-Oct. 31, 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Friday-Sunday Nov. 1-Dec. 21, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

#### Museum exhibits: This

extensive museum complex consists of an exhibit building and a reconstructed pioneer village created by moving 20 original pioneer structures. Next to the village, you can climb aboard a 1908 Great Northern Railroad caboose.

Museum exhibits tell the story of the Indians of the Columbia River plateau, with a focus on local tribes and events. The Wenatchee Tribe (also spelled Wenatchi) lived along the Wenatchee River, which flows from the Cascades into the Columbia River. They were known as one of the most peaceful and hospitable tribes of Eastern Washington and assisted settlers.

#### Museum Admission:

Adults \$4.50, seniors and students \$3.50, children 5-12 \$2.50, families \$10.

**Directions:** In Cashmere, just off Highway 97 at 600 Cotlets Way.

## Meeting minutes highlights from March 28

*The Meeting was called to order at 10:34 a.m.* In attendence: Leonard Gayton, Peggy Parietti, Helen Smith, Carla Cumins Hendrickson, Steven Rochester, Junius Rochester, Loren Rankin, Catherine Spedden, Marilyn McLauchlan, Leonard Gayton, Gary Zimmerman.

#### **Old Business**

Due to the absence of Secretary Betsy Losh, due to family matters, the reading of minutes from the last board meeting was deferred until the next meeting of the Board.

#### New Business;

Gary Zimmerman gave a Treasurer's report, inlcuding a full review of Association accounts and recent expenses. The Association current has \$243, 877.26 sitting in investment accounts and held against various operating funds. Association revenue between 1 May 2007 and 25 March 2008 equaled \$27, 269.14 and expenses equaled \$19, 602.09.

The nominating committee, consisting of Carol Hawkins, Junius Rochester and Marilyn Mclauchlan were requested to put a slate of candidates for officers and trustees to the Board. In lieu of a special meeting, a motion

was made that the slate be finalized by May 1 and that it be mailed to members of the Board for ratification. The motion was seconded by Lee Rankin and subsequently passed.

The Association is still looking for a new treasurer to replace Gary Zimmerman. The Board requested that Gary fully document the tasks association the position and present it to the Board at their next meeting, so that various options, such as hiring an outside individual/firm, to act in the capacity of Treasurer, be explored.

Membership Chair Jeff Christensen reminded the Board that the membership dues renewal process was about to launch and confirmed with the group that the amount for annual dues will remain at \$20.

Due in part to high fuel prices and the fact that heat in Pioneer Hall is frequently left on after meetings and events, Jeff Christensen madea motion that the Board authorize purchase and installed of an timed, electronic thermostate. A budget of \$200 was allocated and David Brazier volunteers to install the unit. The motion was seconded by Helen Langer Smith and passed by the Board.

There was a discussion about the number of false security alarms at Pioneer Hall in recent months. David Brazier gave an overview of the problem and enlisted opinions about ways to resolve the issue. A motion was made by Jeff Christensen that instructions on use of the alarm unit should be re-posted in an effort to prevent false alarms by association members. The motion was seconded by Steven Rochester and passed by the Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:06 pm.

## Chelan County (cont'd)

Chelan where the river left the lake. They filed the plat with the land office in Yakima, even though such a filing violated the terms establishing the Indian allotments. When the error was discovered, more than 300 buildings had been erected on lots and the town had a newspaper. This was resolved in 1892 when Congress passed a bill granting title to the settlers. All efforts by the Chelans to reverse this action in court failed.

#### **Growth and Development**

After 1888, the Chelan Valley was part of Okanogan County to the north, and the Wenatchee Valley was part of Kittitas County to the south. Anyone with official business had to travel upriver to Conconully or over Blewitt Pass to Ellensburg. Judge Thomas Burke offered clear title to five lots and a brick hotel as a courthouse if the county seat was placed in Wenatchee. Wenatchee was written into the bill as the county seat. In 1899, the State Legislature created Chelan County out of the two other counties with Wenatchee as the county seat.

**Sources:** This snapshot history of Cowlitz 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 <u>www.historylink.org</u>. HistoryLink.org Online Encyclopedia of Washington State History, "Cowlitz County: Thumbnail History, Cyberpedia - HistoryLink Essay 7482", http://www.historylink.org/ (accessed November 27, 2007).

## Your help is needed! Association Treasurer for 2008-09 still sought

The Association is still now desperately seeking an individual to take over as its treasurer next year. 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 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 either Gary Zimmerman at 425-803-0938 or else Jeff Christensen at 206-390-6810.

## March meeting celebates the role of women in our pioneer heritage

At the March meeting of the membership, the Pioneers were treated to a look at how Washington Territory and, later Washington State, played an early part in the suffrage movement of our nation's history.

Our speaker at the meeting was Shanna Stevenson, Executive Director of the Washington Women's Consortium at the Washington State Historical Museum. Ms. Stevenson gave an interesting and very informative presentation on how Washington was on the leading edge when it came to women's rights - especially the right to vote. Held in conjunction with Women's History Month, this presentation demonstrated yet one more way that Washington proved itself to be ahead of the times.

The meeting was preceded and followed by a social, including refreshments: a special thank-you goes out to Peggy Parietti and Marge Lutton for their assistance and preparations.

Prize drawings were also held - we'll try to include names and photos of those winners in a future issue of *Pioneer Presences*. Pioneer Association of the State of Washington 1642 43rd Avenue East Seattle WA 98112 http://www.wapioneers.org NON-PROFIT ORG. U.S. POSTAGE **PAID** SEATTLE WA PERMIT NO. 1210

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## Facilities update: improvements to Pioneer Hall continues

Jeff Christensen, Editor

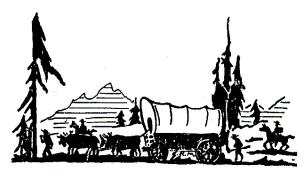
It seems as though in each new issue of the newsletter we have more updates and improvements to Pioneer Hall to write about. Everyone knows that an old home takes a little more work - and we have a very old home. The good news is that we also have a reinvigorated Facilities Committee to help with the upkeep of that home.

That committee — comprised of Steven Rochester, Kirk Gerard, David Brazier, Leonard Gayton and Bob Selene — have been slowly working through the long list of outstanding repairs and upgrades. The improvements start the moment you enter the Hall, as recent work on the building's entry and sills not only keep the wind and rain from finding its way in, but have stabilized the entry so that rattling doors and windows no longer trigger our security alarm (a recent finding which solves the mystery of more than one recent alarm). Dripping sinks and non-functioning urinals have been repaired and the Hall is about to see the installation of a new, timer-based electronic thermostat. Last year's "battle of the bugs" attack on the carpenter ants which had infested the building's sills and casements, appears to have been a war won, with no report of recent activity, knock on...wood.

There's still plenty more to be done and our fearless Facilities Committee has been asked by the Board of Officers to create a punch list of outstanding items, as well as help prioritize a list of potential improvements, as well. The Association has been fortunate in recent years to have several bequeaths made to our Building Fund — look for news of more improvements, soon!

## Next meeting of the Pioneers: Saturday, June 21, 2008, 10:30 p.m.

## 137th Annual Meeting & Salmon Bake



## Saturday, June 21, 2008 Pioneer Hall, 1642 43rd Avenue E, Seattle

9:45 am	REGISTRATION
10:00 am	BUSINESS MEETING: Including election of officers
10:40 am	FAMILY HISTORY SPEAKER: TBA
11:00 am	SPEAKER: Dr. Fillmore Buckner "Thomas T. Minor"
12:00 pm	SALMON BAKE: Served in Pioneer Hall

## 137th Annual Meeting, Pioneer Association of Washington All Members and Guests Welcomed

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ place(s) at \$23.00 each = Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Baked salmon w/mango or tarter sauce, fresh fruit, roasted red potatoes w/rosemary, rolls and butter, apple crisp, decaf coffee and tea

Name:

Street Address:

City, ZIP:

Mail this form with your payment to:

Pioneer Association Picnic, 1642 43rd Avenue East, Seattle WA, 98112

Please try and reserve by Wednesday, June 18