

Next Meeting

Next scheduled
general meeting,
Saturday, March 14
12:30 - 2:00 PM

Featured speaker:
Patricia Baillargeon
"The Legacy of Eleanor
Roosevelt"

Pat will also serve as our
Local/Family History
speaker at this meeting

Board of Officers
will meet 10:30 am

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

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Feature presentation at our March 14 meeting:

The Legacy of Eleanor Roosevelt

The featured presenter for our March 14 general meeting of the Pioneer Association of the State of Washington will be Patricia Baillargeon. A Seattle native, Pat is a member of a local prominent family long involved (since the 1850s) in merchandising, banking and cultural affairs.

She attended local schools and graduated from Sacred Heart Convent in Menlo, California. She attended Pine Manor College, Massachusetts, and received her B.A. in History and Government from Mills College, California. She took post-graduate studies in Philosophy at Fordham University, New York City.

In 1953, Pat became Assistant to Eleanor Roosevelt at the United Nations and served in that position for over seven years. That experience provided her the opportunity to speak about Mrs. Roosevelt to numerous groups, including references to John Boettiger, who was married to Anna, Eleanor's daughter, and was Publisher of the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* in the 1940s and 1950s.



Eleanor Roosevelt

Later, in Seattle, she coordinated the Protocol Office and foreign officials visiting Century 21, the Seattle World's Fair. Other positions included Assistant to the Consul General of Japan, Assistant Director of the Washington State International Trade Fair, and Director of the World Trade Center Department at the Port of Seattle. These positions involved numerous overseas assignments in Asia and Europe.

Pat was a founder of the Washington Council on International Trade, and a founder of the Washington State China Relations Council.

Pat is an active conservationist. For example, she instigated saving the Point of Arches area on the Washington Coast, preventing logging there.

As a volunteer in the 1960s, she served on the Rockefeller Panel for the Performing Arts, which published an important report that contributed to establishing the National Endowment for the Arts. Pat also served on the founding board of the Pilchuck Glass School for 29 years, and is currently on the school's Advisory Council. She is a current Board Member of the Burke Museum of Natural History and also serves on the Committee for the Seattle Asian Art Museum.

Photo courtesy of LIFE Magazine



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

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

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

Kathy Durgan Dettmar, Peggy Parietti,
Lawrence Puffert, Joe Wert
(term to June 2011)

Pioneer Presences

Jeff Christensen, Editor

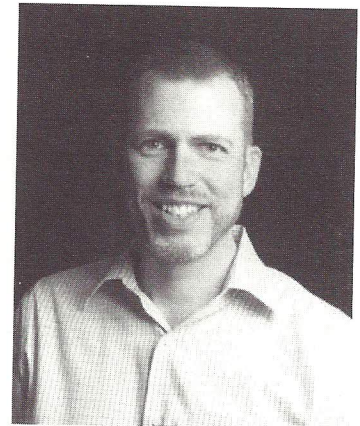
Contributors this issue:

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"Pioneer Hall turns 100"
President's Message

I've been feeling my age lately. Normally, that feeling comes and goes pretty quickly, but lately it seems to have stuck a little. I've caught myself on the bus or at work, staring at those 20 years younger than me and realizing that they aren't anywhere near the point where they begin to worry about recurring pains or whether they've planned enough for their future. I've also found myself wondering: if this is how I feel at 40, how must Pioneer Hall be feeling, now that it's nearing 100?



In June 2010, Pioneer Hall will be 100 years old. In a city like Seattle, which tends to re-invent rather than restore itself, that's no small thing. With all the exhibits and artifacts found at the Hall, it's easy to imagine our grand home much as it might have been around the time that it was built a century ago with the \$20,000 donated by pioneer Sarah Loretta Denny. To those who've been closely involved with the Association, however, or who recall the renovations of the late 1960's, it's clear that our building is showing, and continues to show, it's age.

Faithful members have long worked to preserve this great building, which was placed on the National Register of Historical Places in 1970. Each year we remind our members about, and offer an opportunity to donate to, our Building Fund, which allows us to tackle the daily and short-term maintenance of the Hall. Long-term efforts towards improvement and preservation, however, are sometimes outside the reach of our organization, due to lack of funds or because the plans recommended to us are simply outside the overall means of the Association.

This year, the Pioneer Board has established a Centennial Committee, whose aim is to help plan a celebration and re-dedication of Pioneer Hall in June 2010. That group, under the support and leadership of Historian Gary Zimmerman, will be working closely with several committees of the Association — but perhaps none more closely than the Facilities Committee, all in an effort to assure that our beloved Pioneer Hall is at its best by the time of the 2010 celebrations. You'll be hearing more about both the Centennial Committee's efforts and the planned improvements to Pioneer Hall during the coming months. Over time, we'll share some long-term plans and, more than likely, seek your support as we work to secure the stability and enhancement of this historic figure of Washington State history. I hope when we do, you'll consider what you may be able to give of your time, expertise or financial support, to the goal of helping make sure that another Association president is writing another column like this one, just before the 200th anniversary of Pioneer Hall.

Jeff Christensen
President, 2008-09

Washington Trust for Historic Preservation encourages you to "Re-visit Washington"

Washington, A Guide to the Evergreen State was first published in 1941 as our state's contribution to the massive American Guide Series. The entire series included volumes on every one of the then 48 states as well as several cities and distinct locales. Conceived as a Federal New Deal project during the Great Depression of the 1930's, the guides were part history, part cultural record and part travel maps. Over a period of almost a decade, thousands of writers, artists, photographers, mapmakers and professional wanderers traveled the country's roadways in a remarkable effort to "record the landscape of the American mind."

Revisiting Washington: A Guide to the Evergreen State is a revisitation of the original Washington guidebook, complete with the historic content but updated with current field notations and digital navigational tools. Published on CD and via the web by the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation, working in conjunction with Washington State Historical Society, Washington State Archives, Washington State Parks and others, *Revisiting Washington* also includes a rich collection of images and graphics, historic audio and video selections, and a colorful scrapbook of roadside Washington.

Founded in 1976, the Washington Trust is a non-profit historic preservation organization which works with grassroots groups and property owners alike to save important community landmarks. Their mission is to help make local preservation work and to build an ethic that preserves Washington's historic places through advocacy, education, collaboration and stewardship.

For more information about *Revisiting Washington* or to download the guide program, go to <http://www.revisitingwashington.org/index.html>.

Sandra Selle officially named Treasurer by Association Board of Officers

After having served for several months as interim Treasurer of the Pioneer Association, Sandra Selle has been officially named by the board to assume that position on a permanent basis. Stepping into the shoes of our long-time former treasurer, Gary Zimmerman, Sandra will maintain all financial records on behalf of the Association, as well as be responsible for taxes, bills and other items commonly associated with a role of this nature. Sandra will also be responsible for making regular reports on income, expenditures and other items of a financial nature to the membership, as well. "We're thrilled to have Sandra take on this critical role for us," says Pioneer President Jeff Christensen, "and look forward to working with her into the future."

Open Houses in need of volunteers

Twice a month, we continue to hold Open Houses at Pioneer Hall. Held on the second and fourth Sunday of each month, from 1-4:00 pm, Open Houses allow individuals and groups the opportunity to tour our museum collection, speak with volunteer docents and learn more about the activities and special events hosted by the Pioneers. Volunteers need not be longtime members or completely versed in the museum or its collections. If you would like to volunteer your time, please reach out to Larry Puffert at (206) 937-2214.

Upcoming meetings of the Pioneer Association

Saturday, March 14
10:30 am Board Meeting
12:30 pm Membership Presentation: "*Eleanor Roosevelt's Legacy*"

Saturday, May 16
10:30 am Board (only)

Saturday, June 20
10:30 am Annual Meeting & Salmon Bake
Presentation: TBA

Whitman County — A Thumbnail History of the early years

Editor's note: We continue to spotlight the history of various counties across our great state, thanks to these "thumbnail histories" reproduced courtesy of historylink.org. We encourage Pioneer members to submit to the editor of this newsletter their own "thumbnail histories" outlining the familial and geographic histories of their own ancestors.

Whitman County, located in southeastern Washington, has a population of 40,740 (2000 Census) and a land area of 2,159 square miles. The county was formed on November 29, 1871, and is named after Marcus Whitman, the missionary killed (along with his wife and other followers) by Cayuse in 1847.

At the dawn of the nineteenth century, the lower Snake River, which forms the southern boundary of Whitman County, was home to bands of Palouse and other Sahaptin-speaking people, including the Nez Perce tribe. Bands of Indians from the Coeur d'Alene and Spokane tribes made their home in the northern reaches of the county. These peoples found plenty of food and game to sustain them: root, berries and nuts abounded in the forests and wetlands, and deer and elk roamed the hills and grasslands. Fish were plentiful in numerous rivers and streams. The Nez Perce Trail, long used by Native Americans on their treks to the Great Plains to hunt buffalo, also ran through a small part of southeastern Whitman County, entering the county from the south at the Red Wolf Crossing below Silcott (Asotin County), about seven miles west of present-day (2006) Clarkston, Washington, and then continuing eastward into Idaho.

Lewis and Clark canoed on the Snake River along the southern boundary of Whitman County from October 11-13, 1805. They spent the night of October 10 north of the junction of the Snake and Clearwater rivers, probably very close to the intersection of the southeastern corner of Whitman County and Nez Perce County, Idaho. Although they spent the night of October 11 south of the river (in the future Asotin County), on October 12 they spent the night at the mouth of Alkali Flat Creek, near the future site of the town of Riparia in Whitman County. On October 13 they continued their journey west and left what would be the southern boundary of Whitman County.

An 1858 encounter between United States Army troops and Native Americans near present-day Rosalia resulted in the defeat of American forces under the command of Colonel Edward J. Steptoe (1816-1865). Steptoe was under pressure to enforce treaties between the Americans and Indians in which the tribes relinquished their lands in exchange for reservations. The Palouse, Yakima, Spokane, and Coeur d'Alene tribes refused to sign the treaties, and Steptoe and a group of 158 soldiers set out from Fort Walla Walla in May 1858 to attempt to coerce them into cooperation.

Steptoe's troops were poorly armed, and after marching to the Spokane River decided to turn back. The next day, May 17, they were were attacked by hostile Nez Percés, Yakimas, Palouses, Columbias, Walla Wallas, and Umatillas in a canyon along Pine Creek. Various sources say either five or seven American soldiers died and 13 were wounded. The troops managed to escape during the night of May 17-18 south across the Snake River and to safety with the help of Chief Timothy, chief of a band of the Nez Perce located at the mouth of Alpowa Creek in Asotin County.

The first recorded Euro-American exploration along Union Flat Creek, the birthplace of settlement for Whitman County, was in June 1859. Lieutenant John Mullan of the United States Army was searching for a favorable military wagon road route between Fort Walla Walla and Fort Benton, Montana. Mullan commissioned several advance parties to scout the route, and Gustavus Sohon headed the first party, scouting Union Flat Creek along its length through central and southeastern Whitman County.

Scheuerman writes that the first settler in the Palouse Hills (in Whitman County), George Pangburn, first squatted in 1862 on land along Union Flat Creek and in 1863 farmed and raised hogs there. Many sources, though, say that the first settlement in Whitman County didn't occur until 1869. There is no dispute that beginning in the summer of 1869 settlers began to settle in increasing numbers along Union Flat Creek. The 1870 Census listed 116 settlers on Union Flat.

Cont'd next page

Whitman County was formed on November 29, 1871, as the result of being partitioned from what was then an enormous Stevens County (which included all of northern Idaho and part of western Montana). The Whitman County of 1871 included Franklin and Adams County, which did not separate from Whitman County until November 1883. After 1883 Whitman County was its present size of 2,159 square miles, but between 1889 and 1903 there were three more attempts in the state legislature to carve additional counties out of Whitman County. The Legislature rejected all of these attempts.

Many of the early settlers were stockmen who raised cattle, sheep, and hogs, but during the 1870s newer settlers began growing crops. In 1876 the first shipment of Whitman County wheat was shipped by steamer on the Snake River from Almota to Portland. Production increased and by the mid-1880s Whitman County's economy had transformed into a primarily agricultural one. Wheat was king, but oats, barley, rye, and flax were also mainstays. Around 1910 seed peas were first planted in the county, and by 1930 had grown to the point where "\$2.5 million worth of peas were being grown [that year]" (Erickson).

The population in Whitman County grew fairly slowly during the early years of the 1870s. As the decade ended the pace picked up and in 1880, 7,014 people lived in the county. The 1880s saw particularly rapid growth; by 1890, the United States Census reported a population of 19,109 — and this was after Franklin and Adams counties had been partitioned from Whitman County in 1883.

With the growth in population and with passage of time came technological change. In the nineteenth century, farm labor was done by hand and with horse-drawn plows and threshers (used to separate wheat from chaff). Steam-driven threshers appeared in the Palouse in the 1880s, but each machine still "required 18 horses and many men to operate" (Anne E. Black, et al.)

In 1893 the first mechanical device appeared in the county to cut, thresh, and sack grain in one operation. But such "combines" were expensive and it wasn't until the Idaho Harvester Company in Moscow began to manufacture a smaller machine that widespread combine harvesting became feasible. By 1930, according to historian K. R. Williams, 90 percent of Palouse wheat was harvested by combine.

The Columbia and Palouse Railroad came into Whitman County in 1883, and on November 10, 1883, the first train arrived in Colfax. Additional rail lines were built in the mid-1880s through the county, making transportation easier. The first rudimentary telephone system arrived in Colfax 1884. In that same year Charles Hopkins bought an old army telegraph line between Colfax and Almota and converted it into a long-distance telephone line — it was a rarity to have long distance telephone service in the rural West in 1884.

In the 1870s Pullman was known as "Three Forks," so named because three streams, Missouri Flat Creek, Dry Fork, and the South Palouse intersect there. The first recorded settler on the present town site of Pullman was Dan G. McKenzie in September 1877. Several other settlers arrived that fall and a town began to take shape.

Pullman was incorporated on April 11, 1888. The town was named in honor of George Pullman (1831-1897) of the Pullman Car Company, who is said to have given \$50 toward the town's first Fourth of July celebration in 1881. Although some historians claim the town's first post office was established as "Three Forks," Erickson writes that other historians dispute this and says there is no historical record of a post office by the name of Three Forks having ever been applied for. Erickson does note that postal archive records show a postal application in the name of Pullman on September 30, 1881. By 1930 Pullman was the largest town in Whitman County, even without counting the local college students, and has remained the largest town since. Much of Pullman's growth, though, has resulted from the establishment of a college in the town, today known as Washington State University.

Sources: *This snapshot history of Whitman 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, "Whitman County: Thumbnail History, Cyberpedia - HistoryLink Essay 7882".*



*Spotlight on Washington
historical groups...*

Whitman County Historical Society

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

History: Organized in 1972, the Whitman County Historical Society strives to preserve the history and cultural heritage of our region. To do this, the society has developed programs designed to meet a variety of interests in the area.

The society owns two museums, publishes a newsletter and a historical journal, and maintains a growing archival collection.

The Historical Society has a number of ongoing projects including the Perkins House in Colfax, Washington, the oldest house in the county; the WCHS Archive located in the Gladish Community Center in Pullman, Washington; and the Roy Chatters Newspaper and Printing Museum, located in Palouse, Washington.

The Society sponsors an annual Victorian Tea in the spring and an ice cream social in the summer.

For more information:
Visit the association's web site, which can be found at:
<http://www.wsu.edu/~sarek/wchs.html>.

Meeting minutes highlights from January 17

Attendees: David Brazier, Jeff Christensen, Kathy Durgan Dettmar, Mary Louise Hammond, Carla Cumins Hendrickson, Leonard Gayton, Louise Jones-Brown, Peggy Parietti, Loren Rankin, Junius Rochester, Sandra Selle, Helen Smith, Gary Zimmerman.

The meeting was called to order by President Jeff Christensen at 10:32 am. The minutes from the last board meeting were read aloud by Acting Secretary Jeff Christensen and approved.

A motion was made Jeff Christensen to name Acting Treasurer Sandra Selle as permanent Treasurer for the Association – the motion was seconded by Peggy Parietti and passed by a unanimous vote of the board. Selle made a Treasurer's Report of current books and all transactions since the last meeting of the board.

Correspondence Secretary Parietti reported that our longtime printer, Rippe Printers, appears to be out of business and she's been unable to find a camera-ready version of our logo artwork. Christensen reported that he believed he could access a version and would provide it to Parietti so that she can move forward on stationary.

The board formally requested Historian Gary Zimmerman take over chairmanship of the Centennial Committee, formed to help the group celebrate the centennial of Pioneer Hall in June of 2010 – he accepted.

There was a prolonged discussion around the continued rental of Pioneer Hall for meetings and events. At the end of the discussion, the board agreed that we wanted to continue our practice of renting the Hall on occasion, as long as there are volunteer "proctors" overseeing each rental and/or providing access to the building. Zimmerman and David Brazier agreed to set out to find 5-6 volunteers willing to assume this role.

Christensen provided a quick Facilities update in the absence of Facilities Chair Steven Rochester. Christensen has purchased an electronic thermostat for the Hall and asked Brazier to install it at his earliest convenient (Brazier agreed). Christensen also updated the board on his lack of progress getting architect/workman opinions about some larger repairs to the Hall (e.g. bathrooms). He will continue to try and arrange Fiske board member and architect Lou Daly to meet him at the Hall to do a walk through and discuss options that he would then provide the board at its next meeting.

Christensen discussed the aborted General Meeting of the membership scheduled to follow this board meeting and requested the board to adopt a new meeting date of Saturday, March 14 – the date was accepted by the board and it was agreed that Junius Rochester would identify a speaker(s) for this meeting. Christensen also asked for suggestions/candidates to present the local/family history presentation.

Christensen asked for volunteers for the remaining openings on the Nominations Committee – Mary Louise Hammond agreed to participate (but not lead) this group. Christensen then stressed the importance of this year's nomination process as key roles such as President and Secretary

Meeting minutes (cont'd)

would be open, along with a couple of Trustee slots. He committed to reaching out to the committee to assure they would be ready to present a slate of candidates by the 5/16/09 board meeting.

Christensen then asked the board to consider setting aside funds for a new, locked mail sorting system to streamline distribution of mail while securing incoming payments. After much discussion by the board, it was decided that an intricate and expensive system, as proposed, was not necessary and that an alternative solution could be established in the upstairs office area. Christensen agreed to take the first steps to setting up such a system and its success could be monitored over the coming months.

The board was made aware of the hardships being suffered by the Daughters of the Pioneers, who have been having difficulty recruiting new leadership and has been discussing possible closure of the Seattle Chapter, as early as June. There were no immediate asks of the board, only that they be aware of the situation, in case future "asks" were forthcoming.

Louise Jones-Brown gave an overview of recent activities with the Duwamish and provided the board with pamphlets and information.

Finally, discussion of the Treasurer role was re-visited when former Treasurer Gary Zimmerman asked the board to consider who it would like to see as signatory on the various Association accounts. It was agreed upon that Gary would remain a signatory for one more year, as an insurance measure, and that President Christensen and Treasurer Selle would also remain on the account. It was agreed by all that the Secretary would no longer be a signer.

There was a reminder that the next Board meeting and General Meeting will be Saturday, March 14, 2009.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Jeff Christensen
Acting Secretary*

Have a pioneer story you'd like to share?

They say that every person has a story to tell and we'd like you to tell your story and the story of your pioneer ancestors. One critical way to keep the spirit of our pioneer mothers and fathers alive is to share them, especially with new generations of descendants. If you've been working on your family tree or are publishing a record of any kind, please consider sharing it or portions of it with our membership. Send your submissions to Pioneer Hall (1642 43rd Ave E, Seattle, WA 98112), marked "Attn: Editor, Pioneer Presences" and we'll try to include it in a future issue of *Presences*.

In Memoriam:

Pioneer past President Barbara Anne Krohn, 1925-2008

Past President of the Pioneer Association Barbara Krohn died on February 8, 2009 at her home in Seattle. She first joined the Pioneer Association in 1965 and served as its president for several terms. She took great pride in her Pioneer heritage. Barbara's great-grandfather, Frederick "Fritz" Krohn, established a 160-acre homestead claim in the Sunnyside area above Washougal, Washington, in what is now Clark County, in 1881. She herself was born in Vancouver, Washington, the only surviving child of Anne and Albert Krohn.

Barbara held a B.A. in Journalism and an M.A. in History from the University of Washington. She led or was active in many organizations, owned her own business until the day she died and for many years served as Advisor for Student Publications at the University of Washington.

Plans for a memorial service were still in the works at the time this issue of *Presences* went to press.

**Pioneer Association
of the State of Washington**
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Nominating Committee begins search for new officers

With a few months left in the business year, the Pioneer Association's Nominating Committee has begun its efforts to identify a slate of candidates for the 2009-2010 Board of Officers & Trustees. While certain officers, such as a number of our Trustees, will be continuing previously elected terms, there are a number of roles — including those of Secretary and President — which, it has already established, will be vacated in June.

A full listing of current officers, including those Trustees whose terms will be expiring in June 2009, can be found on Page 2 of this newsletter. If you would like to learn more about what it means to serve on the board, please reach out to one of the officers or trustees listed. Serving on the board is a wonderful way to help guide the overall direction of the Association, as well as to help oversee the maintenance of its membership and facilities. Board meetings are held at Pioneer Hall an average of four or five times a year, typically prior to a general meeting of the membership on Saturday mornings.

To volunteer your services or nominate another member of the Association for one of the available offices, please contact either Carol Hawkins (425-644-5058) or Marilyn McLauchlan (206-842-0339) of the Nominating Committee.

You may also make your nomination in writing by sending your correspondence care of Pioneer Hall (1642 43rd Ave E, Seattle, WA, 98112). Please be sure that your correspondence is clearly marked "Attn: Nominating Committee".

Next meeting of the Pioneers: Saturday, March 14, 2009, 12:30 p.m.