

Next Meeting

**Annual Meeting &
Salmon Bake**
Saturday, June 20
10:00 -1:30 PM

Business Meeting
10:00 a.m. Registration
10:15 a.m. Business Meeting
Special vote of the membership

Family History speaker:
10:45 a.m.
Kenny Alhadeff

Featured speaker:
11:15 a.m.
Michael J. Herschensohn Ph.D.
"The AYP Exposition"

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

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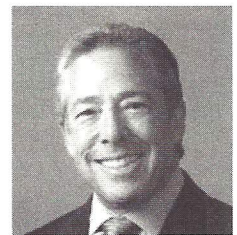
Feature presentations at our June 20 meeting:

AYP Exposition: Putting Seattle on the map

The featured speaker at the June 20 Annual Meeting of the Pioneer Association be Michael J. Herschensohn, Ph.D. Mr. Herschensohn, who will speak about how the 1909 AYP Exposition helped create a sense of place and excitement about Seattle for all its citizens, has nearly 30 years experience managing not-for-profit cultural organizations. He served for eight years as Director of Seattle's Children's Museum, where he successfully spearheaded a \$4.5 million capital campaign and expansion. He was also instrumental in placing arts education at the core of museum programs. Since 2008, he has coordinated the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition centennial celebration in the city of Seattle's Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs. Herschensohn's Ph.D. is in Romance Languages; he also has a graduate degree in American Architectural History and Preservation Planning.

Kenny Alhadeff to give family history at June 20 meeting of pioneers

Kenny Alhadeff is part of a historic six generation Seattle family that owned and operated Longacres Race Course. He is chairman of Elttaes Enterprises, producer of Junkyard Dog Productions and owner of the Majestic Bay Theatres. He and his wife, Marleen, established the Kenneth and Marleen Alhadeff Charitable Foundation in 1997. Over the last 30 years, Kenny has been a public speaker for hundreds of civic and non-profit organizations and has served on many of their boards. He has also lectured about his 24 year journey with sobriety. Kenny graduated from Franklin High and Washington State University. He serves as board president of Northwest School for the Hearing-Impaired Children, and board member of The 5th Avenue Theatre (chairman 2005-2007) and past member of the board of regents of Washington State University (chairman 6/06-5/07 & 6/00-5/01). His passions for the Arts, for the value of teachers, for the importance of philanthropy, for the promotion of social justice and prevention of alcoholism and substance abuse have brought him national acclaim as a public speaker. Kenny has three children, a daughter-in-law and two grandchildren.





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 McLaughlan
- 3rd vice president Helen Langer Smith
- Secretary Betsy Losh
- Treasurer Gary Zimmerman
- Historian Gary Zimmerman

Trustees

- Louise Jones-Brown, Leonard Gayton,
Carla Cumins Hendrickson, Loren Rankin
(term to June 2009)
- David Brazier, Mary Louise Hammond,
Steven Rochester
(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:

Pioneer Presences (USPS 533-750) is published four times a year as part of yearly membership dues (allocated at) \$5 per person, per year, by the Pioneer Association of the State of Washington, 1642 42nd Ave E., Seattle, WA 98112. Postage paid at Seattle, WA.

Postmaster: send address changes to *Pioneer Presences*, 1642 42nd Avenue East, Seattle, WA 98112.

"Four more...months?"

President's Message

After two years as President of the Pioneer Association, I admit to being ready – as I'm sure the organization itself is – for me to step down and hand the reins over to a new leader. Imagine my surprise, therefore, when at what was scheduled to be the last Board Meeting of my tenure, I found myself putting forth a motion to extend my term and the term of all current officers and trustees by another three or four months.

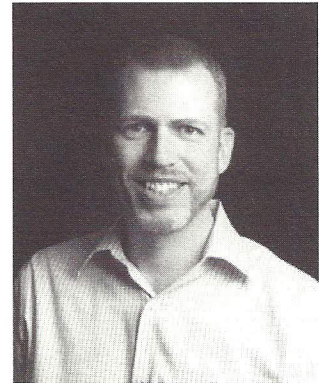
In truth, the idea behind this motion wasn't exactly mine, but rather a proposal from the board itself (although I amended it enough that I ended up making the motion). This extension was suggested not because some of the board just couldn't let go (smile), but in order to allow time to propose to the membership a larger restructuring which the board feels is in the best long-term interest of our organization.

Currently, the Pioneer Board is made up of 6 officers and 12 trustees (along with a couple of recognized titles like Past-president and Historian). Those numbers made sense when our organization was made up of 5,000 or 2,000 or even 1,000 members. With only 850 active members, however, the capabilities and needs of our group are changing. Aside from the fact that fewer members probably do require fewer leaders, it's also, quite frankly, harder to find those willing to serve among the shrinking numbers. Not to mention that our Board still requires a certain majority to pass motions – which can be difficult when you are trying to gather 18 individuals for a Saturday morning board meeting.

With that in mind, we've decided to take action. A sub-committee within the Board is currently studying our by-laws and preparing a recommendation to be presented to, and voted on by, the general membership. While that process continues, we are obligated at our June annual business meeting to either elect new officers or put forth a motion to the membership that they vote to keep the current officers and trustees in place until a future date, when the recommendation of the sub-committee can be voted on — we're planning on the latter.

I hope you plan to attend the Annual Meeting on June 20. If you do, **please come prepared to vote on a motion to extend the current slate of officers through no later than October 31, 2009.**

We truly believe that the changes that will be proposed – fewer officers, with more specific roles and responsibilities – will best serve the current needs of our organization. That said, we aren't throwing in any towels when it comes to our membership or simply proposing a board-to-membership ratio that will change as our numbers do. Instead, we are trying to thoughtfully and deliberately make plans based upon today, that will carry us into many more tomorrows.



Jeff Christensen
President, 2007-09

No new slate of officers to be presented at June Annual Meeting

In a significant departure from previous years, rather than the usual slate of new officers typically presented to the Pioneer Association membership for election, the membership will be asked this year, instead, to give its assent to a plan that will extend the terms of the current Board of Officers and Trustees into the fall, when a special election will likely include a change to Association by-laws related to the overall make-up of the Board.

The proposed changes, which was still being formulated at the time this issue of *Pioneer Presences* went to press, has been determined by the board to be the best way to help assure smooth operation of the organization into the future and will be fully explained as part of the Business Meeting on June 20.

All Pioneer members in good standing who hold official voting rights are encouraged to participate in the discussion and decision making around this special motion.

Editor's Note: A bit more about the rationale behind the proposed changes can be found in this month's "President's Message" on Page 2 of this issue of Pioneer Presences.

March 14 Board Meeting minutes

(cont'd from page 7)

Christensen discussed the Annual Meeting of the membership scheduled for June 20. Helen Smith had previously volunteered to find a speaker for this meeting and Christensen agreed to follow-up with her on the subject. Some suggestions from the Board for this and future meetings included: a) more AYP; b) salmon restoration efforts; c) a panel discussions with directors from local and statewide historical associations/museums.

Some minor new business topics were covered including possible pruning of the dogwood in front of the building (it is the wrong time of year for such work, as it turns out), installation of the "Shirley Wright Reading Room" sign (President Christensen will reach out to Facilities Chair Rochester to arrange this) and the timing of the next Membership Drive (early June).

There was a reminder that the next Board meeting and General Meeting will be Saturday, May 16, 2009.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:38 am.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jeff Christensen
Acting Secretary

Open Houses in need of volunteers

Thanks to the change to good weather, it's the time of year when foot traffic increases at our semi-monthly Open Houses at Pioneer Hall.

Held on the second and fourth Sunday of each month, from 1:00-4:00 p.m., the Open Houses provide 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.

Have a change of address?

If you've moved, gone on sabbatical or have any other change in your contact information, please let us know! We like to keep in touch with our members and don't want you to miss a newsletter or other notice, simply because of a new address!

Garfield County — A Thumbnail History of the early years

Editor's note: Each month we 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.

Garfield County, located in southeastern Washington, had a population in 2000 of 2,397, making it the least populated of Washington's 39 counties. Its largest town (and county seat), Pomeroy, recorded a population of 1,517 in the 2000 Census. Agriculture has long dominated Garfield County's economy with farms occupying two-thirds of the land in the county. Wheat has long been the dominant crop, though other grains such as barley also are grown. At 710.5 square miles, Garfield County is the seventh-smallest county in the state. It is bordered by Columbia County to the west, Asotin County to the east, and the Snake River to the north, with the Snake River Canyon in places descending well over 1,000 feet to the river. The Oregon state line marks Garfield County's southern border. The northern part of the county is a fertile plain; farther south elevations rise to the Blue Mountains near the Oregon state line.

First Peoples and First Contact

Native Americans followed the Nez Perce Trail through Garfield County for many years prior to Lewis and Clark's first arrival in 1806. The trail extended east from Wallula (Walla Walla County) and entered Garfield County about seven miles west of where Pomeroy is today (2006). The trail tracked east to near the site of Pomeroy, then roughly paralleled today's U.S. Highway 12 east to the Asotin County line. From there the trail continued east across the Rockies to the Great Plains.

On October 12, 1805, Lewis and Clark canoed on the Snake River along the boundary separating Garfield and Whitman counties on the outbound leg of their expedition to the Pacific Ocean. They did not stop, however, and passed through the area during the course of one day. On their return trip to St. Louis on May 3, 1806, Lewis and Clark did stop in Garfield County, and spent the night on Pataha Creek east of the future site of Pataha City.

Captain B. L. E. Bonneville passed through Garfield County in 1834, surveying the region on behalf of the United States government (which declined to pay him for his efforts). Bonneville entered the eastern part of the county along Alpowa Creek, followed Pataha Creek to near the future site of Pomeroy, then took the Nez Perce Trail west out of the county.

Early Settlement

One of the earliest permanent white settlers in what would become Garfield County was Parson Quinn (1820-1900). In 1860 Quinn settled on Pataha Creek, about 11 miles west of the present (2006) site of Pomeroy, and lived there for 40 years. Garfield County historian Elgin Kuykendall (1870-1958) knew Quinn and described him as a "genial Irishman with a keen sense of humor."

Joseph Pomeroy (1830-?), eponym of Garfield's county seat, was another of Garfield County's earliest settlers. On December 8, 1864, he purchased a ranch on Pataha Creek on the present (2006) site of downtown Pomeroy. He established a stage station and "eating house" (Shaver) on the stage road between Walla Walla and Lewiston, Idaho. Known by many as "Pum's," this "eating house" was said to have served excellent food in an attractive setting to weary stage travelers for 12 years during the 1860s and 1870s. Pomeroy also ran a small farm and raised livestock on his ranch.

By the early 1870s settlers into the area began to establish farms and raise grain. More settlers came and by 1875 there were an estimated 200 farms in what would soon become Garfield County. From there the pace of settlement quickened, and, recognizing the growing need for a local commercial center, Pomeroy decided to convert his property into a town in 1877.

Cont'd next page

The Towns of Garfield County

The townsite plat of Pomeroy was filed on May 28, 1878, by Joseph Pomeroy, Martha Pomeroy, Benjamin Day, and Minnie Day. The town grew rapidly, and by May 1879 at least six businesses (including a brewery) had been established there. The first telegraph line also reached Pomeroy in 1879.

Pomeroy was not the first town established in Garfield County; that honor goes to Columbia Center, about eight miles south of Pomeroy. The town was platted in December 1877 and a post office briefly established, but by the mid-1880s Columbia Center was a failing community. Soon after it became "a veritable deserted village" (Shaver).

A more successful town in Garfield County's first years was the town of Pataha City, about three miles east of Pomeroy. James Bowers first settled on the site in 1861, and development began in Pataha City in 1878. In August 1882 the town was platted by one Angevine June Titus and Company Favor. (Favor had the misfortune of being named after a circus that his parents had attended the day before his birth; they were so impressed with the circus, they named their son after it. His contemporaries called him Vine Favor.) Through the mid-1880s Pataha City challenged Pomeroy as the economic center of the county, and was even briefly the county seat of Garfield County when Garfield County was created in 1881.

A County and its Seat(s)

On November 29, 1881, Garfield County — named after President James A. Garfield (1831-1881) — was formed from the eastern portion of Columbia County by an act of the Washington Territorial Legislature. The original Garfield County created in 1881 stretched east to the Idaho state line; in November 1883, Asotin County would be carved out of the eastern portion of Garfield County by another act of the Territorial Legislature.

The Territorial Legislature named Pataha City as the interim county seat of the new Garfield County, but only for six weeks. A special election was scheduled for January 9, 1882, to establish a permanent county seat. There was a fierce competition between Pataha City, Pomeroy, Asotin City (later Asotin), and Mentor, a small town north of Pataha City that existed during the 1880s only briefly.

Pomeroy won the election, but this hardly settled the issue. Citizens of Pataha City filed suit against the county commissioners to restrain them from meeting at Pomeroy and to show cause why Pataha City should cease to be the county seat. In February 1882, Territorial Judge S. C. Wingard shocked many by ruling the election void. Wingard held that although the act creating the county authorized the temporary commissioners named to call a special election and select a county seat, the act failed to give anyone the authority to count the returns in the election and declare the result.

The controversy continued. The county commissioners ignored the judge's decision and established county headquarters in Pomeroy. Citizens of Pataha City filed another suit in territorial court to compel the county commissioners to establish county offices in Pataha City, but this suit failed.

For more than two years Garfield County was a county without a legal county seat, although Pomeroy was the de facto county seat. With little opposition, the citizens of Pomeroy next secured passage of a bill through both houses of the fall 1883 session of the Washington Territorial Legislature establishing the county seat at Pomeroy.

It did not end there. In March 1884 Territorial Governor William Newell (1817-1901) wrote to Dr. T. C. Frary of Pomeroy and said that through a clerk's error there was no enacting clause (to make Pomeroy the county seat) in the county-seat bill. Newell said he had approved the bill and did not believe it could be successfully attacked, but attacked it was. Garfield County's territorial representative appealed to the United States Congress.

On May 13, 1884, the United States House of Representatives passed a bill that cured the defects in the county-seat bill. The United States Senate approved the measure, making Pomeroy the legal county seat in Garfield County once and for all. Garfield County is the only county in Washington state to have had its county seat declared by an act of the United States Congress.

Cont'd page 7

*Spotlight on Washington
historical groups...*

Whitman County Historial Society

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

History: In May of 1945, \$5,000 was deposited in the treasury of the local pioneer association as a bequest in the will of Mary R. Liggett, a pioneer school teacher of Garfield County. The money was requested to be used to provide a fireproof room or building in which to store records, historical documents, relics, and other property of the Pioneer Association, and for building a museum.

Articles in the Museum are donated by people of Garfield County, and exhibits are changed regularly. One of the most popular displays is a license plate collection, provided by Tyler Watson. This collection is only missing one plate, a ceramic plate produced in 1920. Also very popular, the Museum's quilt collection which is changed periodically

Hours: During the summer months, the museum is open Monday through Saturday 1-5 and on Friday afternoons in the fall, winter, and spring. You may also visit the museum with an appointment by calling 509-843-3814, 509-843-1598 or 509-843-1926.

Meeting minutes highlights from March 14

Attendees: Jeff Christensen, Kathy Durgan, Carla Cumins Hendrickson, Leonard Gayton, Mary Louise Hammond, Louise Jones-Brown, Peggy Parietti, Loren Rankin, Junius Rochester, Saundra Selle, Joe Wert, Gary Zimmerman.

The meeting was called to order by President Jeff Christensen at 10:38 am. The minutes from the last board meeting were read aloud by Acting Secretary Jeff Christensen and approved.

President Jeff Christensen began the meeting with several announcements, including: a) Trustee Catherine Spedden was unable to attend due to a recent hospitalization (no details on her condition at the time of the meeting); and b) the estate of Past President Barbara Krohn contacted the Association to make it aware that Barbara had left a modest percentage of her estate to the organization – the dollar amount of the gift won't be known still for some time, while the estate is being settled.

Treasurer Saundra Selle made a Treasurer's Report of current books and all transactions since the last meeting of the board. The Association is running very close to the break-even point within its Operating Budget – Treasurer Selle planned to move some funds around in order to assure that we would have enough to cover current and imminent expenses.

In his capacity as Membership Chair, Jeff Christensen made a report, including the fact that the group has 799 Active and 370 Life members current as part of its roster. He also suggested to the board that – should the Daughters of the Pioneers choose to close their Seattle chapter – the Association consider creating a new category of membership for current Daughters members. A representative of the Daughters was in attendance and suggested the chapter may not close its doors this year – but that she would take back details of discussion to her own group.

He also gave a quick report related to Facilities, in the scheduled absence of Facilities Chair Stephen Rochester. There had been a few minor repairs since the last meeting, but the new thermostat had yet to be installed. President Christensen reported that he had been unable, yet, to connect with Fiske Board Member and local architect Lou Daly, regarding her suggestions related to repair/renovation of Pioneer Hall.

Christensen also took time to remind the Board that key positions with the organization were about to be vacated in June. He promised to reach out to the Nominating Committee again to check their progress, prior to the May 16 Board Meeting on the subject. He also encouraged ALL board members to take an active role in recruiting and/or nominating new officers.

As a follow-up to the discussion around the continued rental of Pioneer Hall for meetings and events and the need for a Pioneer "attendant" – Gary Zimmerman reported that there were several individuals identified for this role, at this time. The group also suggested that Marge Lutton, who works maintenance around the Hall, might be a natural "volunteer", as well, since one of her outside groups uses the Hall frequent and a "trade" might be possible.

Cont'd page 3

Garfield County thumbnail *(cont'd from page 5)*

The Promise of Pomeroy

In 1885 the Oregon Railroad and Navigation Company began to extend the railroad east from Starbuck (Columbia County) to Pomeroy, and the line reached Pomeroy in January 1886, assuring Pomeroy's future. But the line did not stretch farther east to Pataha City, and that town began to falter. A fire on April 7, 1893, wiped out Pataha City's business district and the town never recovered.

However, Pomeroy enjoyed steady growth through most of the 1880s and into the early 1890s. The nationwide financial downturn caused by the Panic of 1893 significantly slowed the town's pace for several years, but rapid growth returned in the late 1890s. In 1900, Pomeroy's population was 953.

Pomeroy was struck by fire in 1890 and 1898, but it was a fire on July 18, 1900, that caused the most damage in the town's early history. The fire started accidentally in a saloon and quickly spread, destroying nearly half of the town's business district. Damages exceeded \$135,000 (in 1900 dollars), with less than half of the damage covered by insurance.

Sources: *This snapshot history of Garfield 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, "Garfield County: Thumbnail History, Cyberpedia - HistoryLink Essay 7728".*

A word about Historylink.org

Each month for the past year or two, we've featured early histories of counties around Washington State. More often than not, we've done so by reproducing "thumbnail" histories originally published online by Historylink.org, self-billed as the first and largest encyclopedia of community history created expressly for the Internet.

HistoryLink.org's goal is to provide "a free, authoritative, and easily accessible history reference for the benefit of students, teachers, journalists, scholars, researchers, and the general public." Almost all the essays and features on its site are original works prepared exclusively for HistoryLink.org by staff, contract writers, volunteers, and consulting experts. The encyclopedia contains more than 5,000 essays as of September 2008. It is constantly expanding, with new essays added every week.

We appreciate the commitment to historical relevance and accuracy that Historylink.org strives for and hope you have found these "thumbnail" histories to be as informative and entertaining as we have. To read more information about each county and to see more of what Historylink.org has to offer, check them out on the web: <http://www.historylink.org>.

In Memoriam:

Pioneer museum champion Catherine Spedden 1913-2009

Longtime Pioneer activist and Trustee Catherine Spedden died March 27, 2009 in Redmond, Washington.

Catherine, a former school teacher, was born July 2, 1913 in Colville, Washington. A descendant of Henry Laffer Caples, she was a tireless champion of the museum at Pioneer Hall, spending many hours using her considerable art training and background in crafting dioramas, story boards and other displays with her own hands.

Even after suffering some health set backs in her later years, Catherine remained extremely active with the Association, giving tours of the museum to school groups and serving as a regular docent at our semi-monthly Open Houses to the public.

Catherine's family is planning a memorial service in her honor at Pioneer Hall on Saturday, June 27 beginning at 2:00 p.m. - members of the Pioneers and other guests are welcome to attend.

**Pioneer Association
of the State of Washington**
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Demonstrate your commitment to preserving our Pioneer heritage...

2009 Pioneer Membership Drive underway

It's that time again - the Pioneer Association of the State of Washington kicks off its annual membership drive in the month of June. Dues notices for annually-renewing Pioneer and Associate members will be mailed beginning in the second week in June. Membership dues will remain at \$20.00 for annual members and \$200 for new Life members.

Membership in the Pioneer Association not only supports activities like our quarterly meetings and this newsletter, but also helps support our various programs and provides for maintenance and upkeep of Pioneer Hall (which next year turns 100 years old). By renewing, you are helping to preserve the pioneer history of Washington State and making a commitment to helping tell the pioneer story (through many individual pioneer stories) for many years to come.

In light of Pioneer Hall's 100th anniversary, we also encourage all members to consider making a special contribution to our Building Fund, which exists solely to maintain the facilities and collections of Pioneer Hall.

When you renew, please take a moment to consider whether there is someone you know who may also want to pledge their support and become a member. Direct pioneer ancestry is not required to join the organization as an Associate member.

To request copies of our latest membership application, please write: Pioneer Association of the State of Washington, Attn: Membership Chair, 1642 43rd Ave E, Seattle, WA 98112.

Renew your commitment to the Pioneers - renew your membership today!

2009

Annual Meeting & Salmon Bake: Saturday, June 20, 10:00 a.m.