

PIONEER PRESENCES

Newsletter of the Pioneer Association of the State of Washington

January 2012 Volume XXXIII No. 2

Next Meeting
Saturday, March 24, 2012

Board of Trustees'
Business Meeting
10:00 a.m.

Followed by General Meeting
including family history talk
by Carver Gayton,
and featured speaker

Roy Wilson
1:00 p.m.
Pioneer Hall

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Contributors for this issue:

Gayle Johnson, Peggy Parietti,
Junius Rochester, Sandra Selle,
Teresa Summers

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Happy New Year!!



Pioneer dolls grace the cobblestone fireplace

Visitors to Pioneer Hall were welcomed by a festive Christmas tree and garlanded fireplace mantel in December. The Daughters of the Pioneers of Washington deserve thanks and credit for this delightful contribution. The Daughters enjoyed a special holiday luncheon, enhanced by the traditional decorations, at their winter monthly meeting. Hostesses (and decorators) were Sally Kinsman and Kate Wohl.

—Provided by Peggy Parietti, who also served on the lunch committee

Fascinating Presenters Scheduled for Spring Meeting

No doubt you will want to plan on attending the General Meeting for Saturday, March 24, when two exciting speakers are scheduled to tell us about their pioneer heritage. We'll provide more detail about these noted individuals in our Spring Newsletter.

Carver Gayton talks about his pioneer grandfather John T. Gayton

Carver Clark Gayton is the sixth child of John Jacob Gayton (1899-1969) and Virginia Clark Gayton (1902-1993). His father was the first child of Seattle pioneers John T. Gayton (1866-1954) and Magnolia S. Gayton (d. 1954). John T. Gayton came to Seattle from Yazoo County, Mississippi, in 1888. He became an involved and respected member of the Seattle community and retired as U.S. District Court Librarian in 1953 after a stellar 20-year career.

—Gayle Johnson, *Trustee*

Turtle Island Storyteller and Teacher Roy Wilson

Wilson is an enrolled member of the Cowlitz Indian Tribe and lives in Chimacum, Washington. He presents to all age groups and includes issues involving the environment, health and healing, tribal government and tribal politics. Currently he presents seminars on The Medicine Wheel and Native American Spirituality.

— <http://www.turtleislandstorytellers.net>



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Pioneer Hall Hours

In November, December, January and February, open houses are set for the second Sundays only.

Time: 1:00 pm to 4: pm.

Volunteers are needed to staff open Houses. On-the-job training provided.

Board of Officers

President	Junius Rochester
1st Vice President	Robert Selene
2nd Vice President.	Steven Rochester
Secretary	Kathy Durgan
Treasurer	Sandra Selle
Historian	Gary Zimmerman
Past President:	Jeff Christensen

Trustees

Dave Brazier, Louise Jones-Brown,
Gayle Johnson
(Term to June 2012)

Mary Louise Hammond, Peggy Parietti,
Joe Wert
(Term to June 2013)

Carol Hawkins, Larry Puffert,
Teresa Summers
(Term to June 2014)

Pioneer Presences

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President's Message — Two Western Trips

The First

The American economy was experiencing a Depression in 1842. Some Americans were restless and looking west. Earlier, the Columbia River country had been explored by missionaries such as Jason Lee; fur companies named Hudson's Bay and the Northwest Company; and naturalists like David Douglas. The U.S. Congress was discussing a bill – later passed as the Oregon Land Grant law – which would allot 640 acres to settlers. The first brave travelers rode horses; the next wave favored mules; later groups, after the “discovery” of South Pass, hitched wagons to oxen.



Courthouse Square in Independence, Missouri, was the favorite jumping off point. The westward route was shaped from crude maps, missionary letters, Indian sign language and the occasional adventurer who had “been there.” Explorer John Charles Fremont, encouraged by his father-in-law, U.S. Senator Thomas Hart Benton of Missouri, began to probe western lands in the 1840's.

The entire trip west took four to six months. Excess baggage, including family heirlooms and “luxury” items, were jettisoned along the way. The men looked after livestock, hunted and fished; the women cooked, cleaned, watched the children and kept diaries.

Coming in to our Pacific Northwest, travelers usually left their land route at The Dalles, Oregon, or at Waialatu, near the mouth of the Walla Walla River. Log rafts then transported people through rapids and rocks to Fort Vancouver, and later to the Willamette Valley.

The Second

American writer Thomas Wolfe died in Baltimore, Maryland, on September 15, 1938, after completing his last work, *A Western Journal*. Wolfe had jumped into a car in Portland, Oregon with relative strangers to undertake his own “Oregon Trail” adventure during June and July 1938, visiting national parks in eight western states.

His notes, similar to the diaries of Oregon Trail travelers, noted the variety of scenery in the Pacific Northwest. He described “. . . the great basin of the Dry Falls and then down to the Coulees end and into the dry sagebrush desert . . . and up and up the canyon of a constantly rising plateau.” While crossing the Cascades he wrote of “. . . clouds overhead and mists deepening and thickening and blowing ice sheets of spume through the Chinook Pass.”

Driving through Olympia, Wolfe referred to the famous Oyster House when he enjoyed “a shrimp cocktail of the tiny Puget shrimps, and then a delicious pan roast of the small but succulent Puget Sound oysters, the whole cooked in with crab meat in a delicious pungent sauce and spread on toast . . .”

Reaching Seattle, he saw “. . . great train yards, flying field (Boeing), viaducts – the settlements upon the hills, the Railway stations and . . . the slope of Second Avenue.” He concluded his Seattle visit with “. . . a bottle of Scotch liquor, a midnight meal at Rippes – and, the trip over now, to bed!”

In 1938, Wolfe was sprawled in a car's back seat. In the 1840's, Oregon Trail travelers walked beside a bouncing wagon. Both generations saw the natural, undulating surprises of our Far Corner. Fortunately, many of those broad scenes have remained the same.

— Junius Rochester, *President*

Minutes — Board Meetings, August 20 and October 22, 2011

Summaries of August 20 and October 22 Board Minutes by Junius Rochester. Original minutes taken by Kathy Durgan, Secretary

President Junius Rochester extended a special welcome to new Board Members Bob Selene (1st VP) and Gayle Johnson (member). He also thanked outgoing members Carla Hendrickson, Leonard Gayton and Marilyn McLaughlan for their long service.

Treasurer Sandra Selle discussed Association investments and budget. It was suggested that an ad hoc committee, chaired by Gayle Johnson, look into the matter of return on investments.

Past president Jeff Christensen will undertake the mailing of annual membership letters.

Carol Hawkins asked for Open House volunteers.

Mary Louise Hammond offered to donate an easel board for the Hall.

Editor Teresa Summers reported that the Association's mailing service has been effective. December 1, 2011, is the deadline for article submission for the next newsletter.

Junius asked Mary Louise Hammond and Kathy Durgan to serve on the Nominating Committee. Joe Wert was elected to the Nominating Committee at the General Membership Meeting.

It was suggested that more Board Members help Peggy Parietti provide refreshments at Board and General Membership Meetings.

First VP Bob Selene described the next program: Washington State Supreme Court Justice Gerry L. Alexander speaking on "Abraham Lincoln and the Washington Territory." Bob also noted that a future meeting will feature a member of the Cowlitz Indian Nation.

In Gary Zimmerman's absence, Dave Brazier reported on Hall rentals: e.g. Artisan Tile Show with 600 in attendance; the old time radio group; condo board meetings.

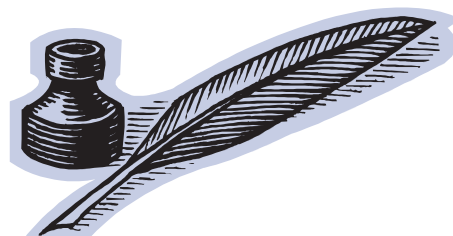
Gayle Johnson suggested we consider seeking preservation funds for the Hall.

Junius distributed the schedule of coming meetings:

- October 22, 2011 – Board and General Meeting
- January 21, 2012 – Board
- March 24, 2012 – Board and General Meeting
- May 5, 2012 – General Meeting and Salmon Bake

Board Meetings will begin at 10:00 a.m.; General Meetings at 1:00 p.m.

Maintenance Notes: Special thanks was extended to donors of tools; the old cast iron wood-burning stove should be removed from the basement; monitoring of foundation cracks will continue; usable old wooden chairs will be distributed; one burner on the Hall kitchen stove is not working.



Membership Renewals:

Thank you to all those who sent in membership renewal checks, and to past President Jeff Christensen and Treasurer Sandra Selle for coordinating the mailings and documenting payments. We appreciate your generous efforts in support of our Association.

More Abe Lincoln

On Saturday, October 22, 2011, the Pioneers enjoyed an interesting presentation from Washington State Supreme Court Justice Gerry L. Alexander entitled “Abe Lincoln and the Pacific Northwest.” No matter what Justice Alexander – or anyone – says about Abe there are always a few more shards of Lincoln lore lying about.

For example, the valuable Madison Park property our treasured Hall occupies was gifted to the Association by John J. McGilvra (1827-1903), who was Abe Lincoln’s friend in Springfield, Illinois. Allegedly, McGilvra and Lincoln practiced law in adjoining offices. After winning the U.S. presidency, Lincoln asked McGilvra to take the job as U.S. Attorney for Washington Territory. Upon his arrival in our Far Corner, McGilvra undertook several projects: rail service to Seattle; efforts to bring Cedar River water to the City; the development of several hundred acres on the shores of Lake Washington, later known as Madison Park.

News of Lincoln’s first presidential victory on November, 6, 1860, was immediately sent throughout the land. Telegraph messages via Morse code were sent to most of the states on November 7th to St. Louis. The message was then passed on to Fort Kearny, Nebraska. No telegraph wires then existed west of that point. On November 8th, the famed Pony Express galloped westward. On November 15th, election news reached Sacramento. From there a telegraph was sent north from Yreka, California. Historians believe that riders also took election results north to Portland, Oregon. On November 22nd, Olympia, Washington, residents learned the results. Sixteen days of telegraph wires, horse-back riders and steamer trips brought the news of Abe Lincoln’s victory to our Pacific Northwest.

Politically, the Pacific Northwest had been in the hands of former Southerners for several generations. Boisterous celebrations erupted when Lincoln was elected. Tumwater, Washington, gave Abe a 100-gun salute. At Steilacoom, a cannon shot was launched for each of the free slave states. In Port Townsend and elsewhere fistfights broke out. Olympia rang bells and blew horns.

The beginning of Lincoln Republicanism had begun. The new party was not related to the “Republicans” of Jefferson and Madison’s era. The new national organization had begun with the nomination of “Pathfinder” John Charles Fremont in 1856. Fremont played an important role in exploring the Great West, including routes of the future Oregon Trail and the U.S. conquest of California, but story-teller and “country lawyer” Abraham Lincoln took advantage of a burgeoning political movement and had the charisma and connections to win the presidency.

--Junius Rochester
November 2011

HISTORIC OREGON NEWSPAPERS

During continuing genealogical research, I recently discovered a source of information for those of us with ancestors from Oregon Territory. After searching for a dozen years for any documentation about my great-grandparents’ marriage, I was thrilled to find the following announcement in an article from a University of Oregon Website: “Douglas Holt and Miss Mary La Chapelle, of the Chemawa Indian Training School, procured a marriage license from County Clerk Hall Tuesday afternoon.” (*Daily Capital Journal*, Salem, Or., July 13, 1898.)

At this U of O site is a page entitled *Historic Oregon Newspapers* and not only did I find the marriage announcement, but I also found an obituary for my great-great-great grandfather André La Chapelle, that I had never seen before. Turns out he lived to be “. . . 99 years, 9 months and 7 days.” At the time of his death in Portland an article in the *Oregon Sentinel*, June 25, 1881, described him as “Oregon’s oldest Pioneer.”

Here is the site: <http://oregonnews.uoregon.edu>

Teresa Summers, Editor

Family History Presentation from October 2011--- N. H. Martin and family

I hesitated to do a Family History presentation, as my roots are more the working-class variety with a few secrets that my Grandmother preferred to keep private. Time passes, we all live through our own hardships, and who can help but feel respect for the resilience of past generations?

November 2, 1878, marks the date that N. H. Martin (formerly known as Nicholas Henry Martin Jr.) signed a Declaration of Intent to become a U.S. citizen, having immigrated to Washington Territory from Canada. He came here with his wife (Elizabeth Bown Martin) and children from Cape Breton, Nova Scotia.

As a child, his family felt the security of land ownership and education. His eldest sister married into an influential family while his brothers became professionals. Counter these successes against a family crisis that took place when N.H. was 15 years old. His unmarried sister had been assaulted, leading to his father's violent retaliation. Nicholas Martin Sr. shot the perpetrator, was acquitted of homicide by reason of insanity, and then continued to be confined while the Supreme Court contested the validity of the jury. He was eventually released after being deemed no danger to the community. In addition to his father's absence, N. H. also suffered the early loss of his mother. Bridget Kavanaugh Martin died Feb 24, 1857.

Years later, the 1871 Canadian census listed N. H. Martin as a father of five, employed as an overman in the Lingen Mine on Cape Breton Island. Jump to the 1880 U.S. census to find N. H. Martin, Coal Yard Foreman, living with his wife and children in the company town of Newcastle, King County, Washington Territory.

Not quite true. Superior Court Case #2383 dated January 1880 outlines a scandalous affair that took place during the summer of 1879 between Mrs. N. H. Martin and Mr. George Walker, a single man lodging in the Coal Creek Boarding House. Most of the testimony was provided by the house steward, who tried to forbid Mrs. Martin from Walker's second-floor room. She ignored his demands, as well as those of her husband. Regardless of the truth of the matter, this public humiliation must have marked everyone indelibly. My great-grandfather, Robert Charles Martin, was a schoolboy when his family broke apart. His mother and little sister Sadie moved to Seattle (without Walker), while he, his elder brothers and sister stayed with N.H.. Marie Martin was nineteen when her parents divorced; she spent the rest of her life overseeing her father's household. Alfred Martin also remained single, living with his sister and father. In 1884, their brother N. Harry Martin became a telegraph operator/Postmaster in Kent, Washington Territory (WT). He died three months before his son N. Harry Martin Jr. was born.

N. H. Martin finally found happiness, as evidenced by his smile caught in numerous photographs and a handful of folksy newspaper clippings. His primary career in the Northwest was as Land Agent for the Black Diamond Coal Company. Polk's Seattle Directory listed his office address as Commercial & Jackson Streets. For decades, he owned a home at 528-534 24th Ave S, Seattle, but he also occupied the home of his second wife, located in Renton. Lizzie P. Williams was the widow of an old friend, James Williams (the same J. Williams who is listed in the 1880 census as Superintendent of Mines in Newcastle, WT). By August 1907, when N.H. and Lizzie traveled to Victoria B.C. to be married, he had been divorced for 25 years. He died September 29, 1927. He lies in Lake View Cemetery, buried near his children.



**Pioneer Association
of the State of Washington**

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**Dogwood tree in fall foliage at Pioneer
Hall (taken in late October '11)**

**NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP
MEETING:**

SATURDAY MARCH 24, 2012

**Board of Trustees' Business Meeting
10 a.m.**

**General Membership Meeting
1:00 p.m.**

ALL ARE WELCOME

ONE OF THE ASSOCIATION'S PURPOSES IS PRESERVATION OF THE HISTORY OF TERRITORIAL DAYS THROUGH ITS COLLECTION OF BIOGRAPHICAL MATERIALS, PHOTOGRAPHS, BOOKS, RECORDINGS, REMINISCENCES AND OTHER MEMORABILIA OF PIONEER FAMILIES. COME VISIT US:
OPEN HOUSES 2ND SUNDAYS IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY, 1 - 4 P.M.