Annual Meeting and Salmon Bake, June 26
'Twenty-six' cemeteries, one town: an unusual exploration of Roslyn, Washington

As you tour the cemetery in Roslyn, Washington, you find the graves of pioneers who worked together as neighbors to establish a life in the untamed wilderness of early Washington. The arrangement of the graves, however, tells a more complex story: those who worked shoulder-to-shoulder in life, were often buried with their proverbial backs to each other.

At the Annual Meeting of the Pioneer Association of the State of Washington on Saturday, June 26, speaker Kathy Gohlker-Kerr will present a fascinating and unique exploration of Roslyn, told largely through the history of the town's unusual cemetery. Within the confines of a single cemetery are about two dozen distinct and non-arbitrary "mini" cemeteries, where Roslyn's citizens are buried according to ethnic divisions, fraternal order associations, and memberships in various religious and secular groups.

Kathy Gohlker-Kerr is an Instructional Assistant at Two Rivers School in North Bend. She started researching the history of her own family in 1988, and began formal genealogy training in the mid-1990's. Each year she leads an on-site tour of the Roslyn cemetery for students, as well as presents the history of the colorful and unusual division of its inhabitants to interested groups.

To reserve your place at the 133rd Annual Meeting and Salmon Bake, and to assure a place for you at this unique presentation, complete the reservation form inserted within this issue of Pioneer Presences and return it no later than Wednesday, June 23, 2004.

Expenses for this event have continued to rise in recent years, in part due to new fees required by the City of Seattle related to our use of the park. The Association is underwriting part of the costs of this event.

Hilton Lysons to be family history speaker

Hilton Hayden Lysons will be the family history speaker at the Annual Meeting on June 26. Mr. Lysons' descendants include two true pioneers. Crumline LaDu, one of Mr. Lysons' great-grandfathers, was a Rhode Island native who arrived here by way of Cape Horn and San Francisco. He came north and settled a Donation Land Claim on the north bank of the Columbia River in 1850. Another great-grandfather, Jesse Fowler, brought his family west by prairie schooner, settling in Cowlitz County, also in 1850.
President's comments

After my term as your President is up in June, I plan to concentrate my energy on fundraising on behalf of our organization. Fundraising is critical to the survival of Pioneer Hall. Thanks to Jeff Christensen, our creative Secretary and editor of this newsletter, we now have a realistic and exciting renovation plan to work with. If you are interested in being on the Fundraising Committee, or simply have suggestions for ways in which we can raise capital and reach potential donors, please contact me by email: marilyn@realestate.com.

I urge all of you in the membership to carry forth, under our new leadership, the tremendous momentum we developed this year. The volunteer spirit has been high this past year, and it has resulted in many accomplishments. Meetings of the Steering Committee have basically turned into work parties - talk about slave labor! So far, expenses have been minor relative, due in large part to the volunteer efforts and the scope of work. As efforts to further improve the Hall continue, however, more volunteers (and, yes, money) will be necessary. Your help is definitely needed to see the job through.

Although not a done deal until voting at the Annual Meeting, Shirley Wright has generously accepted nomination as President of the Pioneer Association; it's a big responsibility and a lot of commitment (trust me, I know). She's a wonderful choice and will be a stellar representative.

Welcome back to our dear Catherine Spedden, who was sidelined briefly due to illness. It has been a hard go without her. All our valued volunteers will never really know how greatly we are dependent on them.

I do have some last requests.

First, please take a moment this month to review and return your membership forms and dues for the coming year. Your membership is important, and renewing only takes a few minutes. Also, consider giving your children or grandchildren a gift that will last a lifetime: Life Membership in the Pioneer Association of the State of Washington - a unique way of passing on to them your love of history. Finally, consider becoming a volunteer at the museum when it is open to the public twice a month at our Sunday open houses. Hours on these days are 1:00 p.m to 4:00 p.m. As well as a nice way to meet individuals who are interested in our efforts to present pioneer stories, it's also a wonderful opportunity to become better acquainted, yourself, with the artifacts and books within Pioneer Hall.

We don't see enough of our members during the year. I look forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting and Salmon Bake on Saturday, June 26. We have wonderful speakers in place for the meeting and we'll be holding a special Bake Sale of homemade baked goods to benefit the Building Restoration Fund. Don't forget to complete the reservation insert in this issue of the newsletter to secure your spot and assure we'll have a delicious salmon lunch for you!
First phase of renovations underway at Pioneer Hall, more improvements to come

Visitors to Pioneer Hall are finding that everything old looks a little new, somehow. That's because the first phase of renovations has begun at Pioneer Hall, with further improvements coming soon. The most visible change to those who tour the main floor of the Hall is the creation of a formal library area in the northeast corner. New eight-foot walls not only separate the collection of books shared by the Pioneers and Daughters from the rest of the Hall, but provide additional display space for exhibiting museum items used in telling pioneer stories.

The next phase of renovations will be the addition of electric service on the south side of the hall, on either side of the great hearth. No longer will electrical cords for audio-visual equipment need be strung across the width of the building in order to hold presentations, and the addition of outlets paves the way for more variation with meeting setups and flexibility for outside groups who occasionally rent our facilities.

More improvements, including upgrade of the restrooms and replacement of blinds throughout the Hall, are being planned. If you have ideas or suggestions for future renovations, feel free to contact members of the Pioneer Association's Steering Committee, currently comprised of: David Brazier, Jeff Christensen, Betsy Losh, Marilyn McLauchlan, Bob Teague, Shirley Wright and Gary Zimmerman. Your input and comments are important and always welcome.

Of course, making any improvements requires two things: time and money. If you'd like to lend us your time and expertise, volunteer for a work party, or donate items or services for the cause, please let us know. Also, please consider making a donation to the Building Restoration Fund. Annually-renewing members can add a donation to their membership dues payments this month and a "bake sale" benefiting the Fund will take place during the Annual Meeting and Salmon Bake on June 26 (see right).

The goal of the renovations is to create a more attractive, accessible and useful Pioneer Hall for members and visitors alike.

Come in and see what's new (not to mention what's old)!

Open House schedule expanded to twice a month

In order to provide greater access to Pioneer Hall and its resources, and to take advantage of good weather and increased foot traffic, the doors of the Hall will now be open to the public an additional day each month. Rather than a single "Open House" held on the second Sunday of each month, volunteers are now staffing a second "Open House" on the last Sunday of each month, as well.

If you'd like to volunteer to help staff one of these open house Sundays - a great opportunity to meet visitors who want to learn more about Washington pioneers - call Pioneer Hall at 206-325-0888.

Let them eat cake! Bake sale at Annual Meeting, June 26

A good old-fashioned "bake sale" will take place during the Annual Meeting and Salmon Bake at Pioneer Hall on June 26.

Proceeds from the sale of homemade cakes, pies, cookies, brownies and more will go to benefit the Pioneer Association's Building Restoration Fund, in support of the current and planned renovations to Pioneer Hall.

Volunteers will man the bake sale booth, which will be located just outside the front of the Hall, beginning at 9:30 a.m. Attendees will be able to purchase certain items by the slice or bar; other items - cakes and pies - will be sold whole, on a first-come, first-served basis.

If you'd like to bake and donate an item to the sale, please contact Bake Sale coordinator Jeff Christensen at 206-322-7955 as soon as possible.

Whether you bake an item for sale, or participate by purchasing one, your involvement will help assure a more appealing, accessible and useful Pioneer Hall - for everyone!
Shettlers, early settlers in Washington Territory

Hilda (Hemmingson) Meryhew

(Ed. note: the following essay tells the story of one pioneer family's move from the East to Washington Territory. The essay is being run in two parts: the first part, printed below, details the Shettler family's migration west and eventual settlement near Bellingham, in Whatcom County. The second part of the story, detailing the family's early life in our area will appear in the next issue of Pioneer Presences.

Shettlers were pioneers early in the settling of this country. Hezekiah Shettler was born on December 22, 1822, in Pennsylvania (probably Westmoreland County). He and his brother William were farmers who settled in Pleasant Township, Grant County, Indiana, around 1848.

Hezekiah met and married Nancy Ann Sutton on June 10, 1849 at Pleasant Township. She was the daughter of Jeremiah Sutton, from Butler County, Pennsylvania, and Mary Ann Franklin; a couple married at Randolph County, Indiana, in 1826. Hezekiah and Nancy Ann had five children born at Pleasant Township: George F., Aaron J., John Franklin, Phebe Julia Ann and Jacob Martin. Three other children were born at Marshall County, Kansas: William Henry, Marshall Mercer and Mary Ellen. A daughter, Etta Isabell, was born sometime after 1875 at Cedar Township, Wilson County, Kansas (giving the couple a total of nine children).

Kansas was admitted to the union in January 1861, and the Homestead Act of 1862 helped place high value on the land. Taking advantage of that circumstance, Hezekiah and a brother, William, sold their land. They gathered their families and headed west for Kansas in a covered wagon. The homesteaders faced many hardships and life was not easy: neighbors were few and far apart and markets were distant. The wild turkey, deer and buffalo sustained most of the pioneers as they moved west.

In July 1860, among the families that settled at Blue Rapids Township, Marshall County, Kansas, were: Hezekiah; his brother's son, William, who joined up with the group from Ohio; Nancy Ann's half-sister, Mahala Mercer; her brother, David, and his wife, Achsa Sutton; another brother, William, and his wife, Martha (Leigh); Martha's sister, Elizabeth, and Elizabeth's husband, Samuel Hayden. In 1865, Nancy Ann's sister, Mary, and Mary's husband, Henry Kenoyer, came with their children and Henry Kenoyer's brother John and his wife, Ida (West).

Hezekiah and Nancy Ann's 160-acre farm at Blue Rapids Township produced 75 bushels of wheat, 200 bushels of corn, 15 bushels of potatoes and 10 tons of hay yearly. They had six horses, two milking cows, four heads of actual cattle and four sheep. In the year 1865 the family produced 150 pounds of butter.

The Shettlers sold that land in 1867 and bought 160 acres of land at Cedar Township, Wilson County, Kansas, receiving a land certificate under President Ulysses S. Grant. In 1871, in order to allow for a new schoolhouse at Altoona, Hezekiah deeded one acre of his land to the Board of Directors of School District No. 17 for $1. The 1875 Census showed the family had 159 acres of fenced farm. Their crops brought in $280 each, which were divided per: a quarter-acre of potatoes, two acres of sorghum, four acres of orchard, a quarter-acre of vineyard, nine acres of oats, eighty-nine acres of corn, sixty-seven acres of wheat. Their stock was six horses, four milking cows and eight other cattle.

Hezekiah and Nancy Ann had four children marry in Kansas: George F. married Martha Grubbs in 1869; Aaron J. married Levina Roley in 1881; John Franklin married Angelia Edith (Boyer) Bentley in 1882; Phebe Julia Ann married Joseph H. Argo and Jacob Martin (my grandfather) married Mary Renfro in 1882.
Hezekiah and Nancy Ann had two daughters who died and were buried in Kansas: Etta Isabella died sometime before 1880, and Mary Ellen died on January 18, 1880. Both were buried in the Buffville Cemetery in Wilson County, Kansas.

In those days, the early pioneers were vibrant with energy while constantly encountering obstacles, hardships, heartbreaks and disappointments.

FREE HOMESTEADS

Hezekiah Shettler must have heard how rich the land and how wonderful the country was in Washington Territory. Free homesteads were available to those coming west. Under the Homestead Act of 1862, any person that was head of a family or 21 years of age (who was a citizen or could become a citizen) could acquire 160 acres of land. A homesteader had to settle on the land and cultivate it, occupying it for no less than five years. He could not abandon the land for more than six months or his claim would be forfeited. A homesteader had to file proof of his actual settlement and land cultivation within two years after the initial five-year period or his entry would be cancelled. The fee was $5 for 80 acres and $10 for 80 acres to 160 acres. If he did not want to stay on the land for five years, a homesteader could pay for it with cash or land warrants - but only after he could prove he had lived and cultivated the land for at least six months.

Hezekiah sold his Kansas homestead of 159 acres to Harrison Orndoff for $3,000 on July 5, 1882.

A covered wagon was made by Hezekiah, his boys and his wagon-maker nephew, William Shettler. The completed wagon was named the "Shettler Wagon". One can visualize the family loading the wagon with their most precious possessions, limited as they were in what they could bring on the long journey. There must have been great excitement, as well as the sorrow of leaving loved ones behind.

The Shettler's first born, George F., was married and had six children. He was already settled at Wilson County and his family stayed behind. So, making the trip were the couple's other children: Aaron (who went along to help his parents get settled on the homestead at Washington Territory, then returned to his wife, Levina, in Kansas); William Henry; Marshall Mercer; Jacob Martin (my grandfather) and his wife, Mary Renfo (who died in Ferndale on July 22, 1883); John and Angelina (Boyer) Bentley Shettler, who travelled with Angelina's four children from a previous marriage - Charles, Nathan, Minnie and Thomas and Julia Phebe Ann and her husband, Joseph Argo, with their son, Elmer. Nancy Ann's niece and nephew-in-law, Laura (Kenoyer) and Rueben Boyer, joined many of their own family members in making the trip.

ARRIVED IN FERNDALE

After the deed of sale was signed, the family started the long journey westward from Kansas, a team of oxen pulling their covered wagon. They followed the railroad tracks as much as possible, through Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, Idaho and Oregon; they ferried over the Columbia River and landed in the Washington Territory. A trail led the travelers through Puyallup to the Nooksack River Valley.

The Shettler party arrived in Ferndale (Washington Territory) on October 7, 1882 - three months after beginning their journey. They had to have traveled over the old Telegraph road towards Sumas. What courage it took to make such a journey in those days. Indians in the area were settled on their reservation and gave little trouble to the whites. Whatcom County was a wilderness and the land, heavily timbered, was not easily cleared. Wagon roads were the greatest problem. The road to the new homestead was mostly trails that went around stumps, and when it rained they were very muddy.

All the men in the Shettler family took up homesteads in Ten Mile District of 160 acres each. Hezekiah had gotten a description of the land and, on May 18, 1883, he journeyed to office of the country clerk in LaConner, to file his homestead application: No. 5096. He was not able to appear at the district Land Office in Olympia due to the great distance (175 miles) and expense involved: it would have taken him a week to make the journey in those days. Instead, Hezekiah paid the $8 fee at LaConner and his new homestead was registered at the Land Office on May 21, 1883. His own description of the house was of a 16' x 22' structure, built of lumber with a shingle roof, two doors, six windows and height of a story-and-a-half. About five acres of the land claim has been cleared, 30 acres were fenced and total improvements to the property equalled about $400. Their post office address was "Ferndale, Whatcom County, Washington Territory".

Part II of the story, detailing the early life of the Shettler family in Whatcom County will appear in the August issue of Pioneer Presences.
Vote on proposed amendments to Association bylaws set for annual meeting, June 26

The Pioneer Association's Membership Committee has formally recommended to the Board of Trustees that six of the organization's bylaws be amended. The proposed changes would bring the bylaws more in line with current practices and would allow the Pioneer Association to operate at a more efficient and fiscally responsible level.

All members are asked to review the affected sections of the bylaws - reprinted below - as well as the proposed amendments. All voting members in good standing who are in attendance will be asked to vote on the proposed amendments at the Annual Meeting on June 26. A two-thirds majority vote in favor is required for the amendments to be adopted.

The bylaws of the Association were last amended in June 1998.

Members are encouraged to contact Secretary Jeff Christensen with comments or questions regarding the bylaws or the proposed amendments by e-mailing him at jdcseattle@aol.com.

AMENDMENT 1: Article III - Junior Members

“Persons who are children of members of the Association and under the age of 18 shall be eligible to become Junior Members, without voting privileges, by the payment of a one-time enrollment fee with their application and shall be eligible to become voting members at the age of 18 by the payment of annual dues.”

PROPOSED: “Persons under the age of 22 shall be eligible to become Junior Members, without voting privileges, by the payment of an annual fee established by a two-thirds majority vote of the Board of Trustees, and shall be eligible to become voting members at the age of 22 by the payment of full annual dues.”

(Purpose: to further encourage young members to remain members upon turning 18; to remove restriction that Junior members be the offspring of current members and to cover basic costs of maintaining Junior memberships.)

AMENDMENT 2: Article III - Dues payments

“Annual dues shall be established by a two-thirds majority vote of the Board of Trustees. The annual dues for Voting Members and for Associate Members shall be set at the same rate, payable on January 1 of each calendar year. (Associate Members who are in good standing on the effective date of this paragraph shall continue to be assessed annual dues at the rate of one-half of the dues of the Voting membership).

PROPOSED: “Annual dues shall be established by a two-thirds majority vote of the Board of Trustees. The annual dues for Voting Members and for Associate Members shall be set at the same rate, payable by July 1 of each calendar year.”

(Purpose: to change the date of dues payments from the published January 1 date to July 1, a date which more closely coincides with the end of our business year.)

(cont’d page 7)
AMENDMENT 3: Article III - Life Members
“The fee for a Life Membership shall be fifteen times the current annual dues for an adult member, payable as a single payment or in three equal annual installments.”

PROPOSED: “The fee for a Life Membership shall be established by a two-thirds majority vote of the Board of Trustees, payable as a single payment or in two equal installments. A greater number of installments may be arranged at the discretion of the Treasurer.”

(Purpose: to allow Life Membership rates and standard annual renewal rates to be set independent of one another. Current Life Membership rates are already slightly less than the formula in the current bylaw would allow.)

AMENDMENT 4: Article III - Emeritus Members
“Members who have completed fifteen years of membership in good standing, and who have attained the age of 70 years may request Emeritus status. Emeritus members receive full membership benefits but pay no annual dues.”

PROPOSED: “Members who have completed fifteen years of membership in good standing, and who have attained the age of 85 years may request Emeritus status. Emeritus members receive full membership benefits but pay no annual dues.”

(Purpose: our organization’s membership, almost by its nature, skews older than the typical organization; raising the age requirement keeps Emeritus status of appropriate significance as well as maintains our financial stability.)

AMENDMENT 5: Article XI - Dues notices
“The Treasurer, working with the Membership Secretary, shall see that individual dues notices are distributed to each Voting and Associate Member during the month of November. Each dues response form shall offer separate lines on which to enter dues payments and donations to restricted funds of the Association. In March of each year, individualized delinquency notices shall be sent to all members in arrears. At least once each year, Life Members shall be given the opportunity to make a contribution to one or more restricted funds of the Association.”

PROPOSED: “The Treasurer, working with the Membership Secretary, shall see that individual dues notices are distributed to all Annual, Associate and Junior Members between May 15 and June 15 each year. Each dues response form shall offer separate lines on which to enter dues payments and donations to restricted funds of the Association. In July of each year, individualized delinquency notices shall be sent to all members in arrears. At least once each year, Life Members shall be given the opportunity to make a contribution to one or more restricted funds of the Association.”

(Purpose: to change the posting date of dues notices from the published November date to a date range which more closely coincides with the beginning and end of our business year.)

A reminder: voting is restricted to those members who qualify as "Pioneers" as defined by Association bylaws. Junior and Associate members, as well as members not currently in good standing, are not eligible to vote on the proposed amendments.
Annual Meeting & Salmon Bake:  Saturday, June 26, 10:00 a.m. at Pioneer Hall

Slate of new officers and trustees proposed, elected terms continue

The Nominating Committee of the Pioneer Association of the State of Washington has announced it proposed slate of officers and trustees for the 2004-2005 operating year. Voting will be held during the business portion of the Annual Meeting, held Saturday, June 26 at Pioneer Hall. Voting is open to all attendees who qualify as "Pioneers" under Association bylaws and who are in good standing at the time of the election. Nominations may also be made from the floor at the meeting.

The current proposed slate of officers includes: Shirley Wright (President); Carol Hawkins (1st Vice President); Marilyn McLauchlan (2nd Vice President, Past President); Junius Rochester (3rd Vice President); Jeff Christensen (Secretary); Gary Zimmerman (Treasurer).

The current proposed slate of trustees for a three-year term to 2007: David Brazier, Bette Palo, Catherine Spedden. Continuing their previously-elected terms as trustees: Mark Chamberlain, John C. Gayton, Betsy Losh (term to 2005); Jackie Cedarholm, Peggy Parietti, Betty Kinsman, Chris Raaum (term to 2006).

If presidential nominee Shirley Wright is elected by the membership, her trustee slot (term to 2005) will be filled by an individual selected by the Board of Officers.

Have you renewed? Membership drive underway, dues notices mailed

The Membership Committee of the Pioneer Association has mailed out dues notices to all annually-renewing members, as well as to those Life Members still owing on their membership. Dues payments are requested received no later than Monday, June 28, 2004. If you have not received your notice, or have questions regarding your membership, please contact Jeff Christensen at 206-322-7955.
133nd Annual Meeting & Salmon Bake

Saturday, June 26, 2004
Pioneer Hall, 1642 43rd Avenue E, Seattle

9:45 am REGISTRATION
10:00 am BUSINESS MEETING: Elections, proposed amendments to bylaws
10:40 am FAMILY HISTORY SPEAKER: Hilton Lysons
11:00 am SPEAKER: The "Cemeteries" of Roslyn, by Kathy Gohlker-Kerr
12:00 pm SALMON BAKE: in Madison Park

133nd Annual Meeting Pioneer Association of Washington

Please reserve ________ place(s) at $25.00 each = Total $ ___________

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

Name: ____________________________
Street Address: _______________________
City, ZIP: ___________________________

Mail this form to:
Pioneer Association Picnic, 1642 43rd Avenue East, Seattle WA, 98122

Reservations must be received by Wednesday, June 23, 2004