



PIONEER PRESENCES

Newsletter of the Pioneer Association of the State of Washington

January Volume XXXIX No. 2

**Next Meeting:
January 17, 2015**

**Board Only 10 a.m.
Pioneer Hall**

Table of Contents

Washington Statehood	1
President's Message	2
Smith Family History	2
Board Meeting Minutes	3
Association Schedule	4
Raaum Scholarship	4
Gayton—Yandell Reunion	4
Thanks to Retiring Officers	5
New Members	5
In Memoriam	5

Contributors for this issue:

Siri Childs, Gayle Johnson, Alan Murray, Sally Kinsman, Junius Rochester, Gary Zimmerman

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125 Years of Statehood: November 11, 2014

As the end of the year 2014 drew to a close, celebrations were held statewide to commemorate admission of Washington state to the Union. At Pioneer Hall, Seattle Chapter #1 Daughters of the Pioneers of Washington honored the event at their November meeting with poetry readings and a beautiful cake created by Valerie Bruns. The cake featured a scene of a pioneer wagon and even included a female pioneer among the courageous travelers.



Valerie Bruns made a beautiful 125th Anniversary of Statehood cake.

— Photo by Sally Kinsman, DPW

Pioneer Association Represented at 1889 Statehood Event

Association Vice President Alan Murray did some searching and discovered that our own officers and other members actually attended the statehood event in Olympia on November 11, 1889. Below are the Board minutes of June 5, 1889, resolving to attend the events in Olympia:

“Resolved, That the Executive Committee be and the same is hereby instructed to call a public meeting of this Association at the time of the assumption of statehood by our Territory, and that suitable arrangements be made for the recognition of our Association upon the occasion.

Resolved, That the Secretary be and he is hereby instructed to furnish all of the members attending the ratification of the State government with suitable badges of the order.”

From the Association Board minutes from November 11, 1889

“The hour for inauguration of State officers having been fixed for 12 o'clock noon, the Association formed in procession and marched to the head of the column (that position having been assigned to the Pioneers) to the capitol grounds, where they were in attendance upon the inauguration ceremonies. No other business was transacted on this occasion.”

— researched by Alan Murray

Editor's note: Pioneer Association's own **Ralph Munro** was Master of Ceremonies at a festival celebrating Washington's 125th Birthday at the State Capitol on November 11, 2014.

President's Message – "This Wonderful Country"

The above title was borrowed from the sub-heading in a 1969 book called *This Land Around Us*, edited by Ellis Lucia. I offer it here because each story in this section describes why we are blessed to live in the Pacific Northwest. Our pioneer forefathers and mothers struggled to tame and understand a rugged, wide-open land, while most of us reap the results of their dreams and diligence.

Let's take a look at several contributors to this volume. Editor Lucia opens this section with these words: "The outdoors of the Pacific Northwest is truly its greatest asset. It dazzled the fur trappers and the pioneers; it dazzles people today."



Junius Rochester

Samples: English writer RUDYARD KIPLING visited the Clackamas River in 1888. When he caught a twelve pound salmon he wrote: "That hour I sat among princes and crowned heads – greater than them all." Our own WILLIAM O. DOUGLAS in 1960 remembered what he called "the wildest, the most remote and, I think, the most picturesque beach area of our whole coast line": Pacific Beach near Cape Alava. Bellevue's LUCILE McDONALD, who set a standard for lively Pacific Northwest history, reminisced in 1966 about the giant hemlocks standing in Pacific County, rivaled only by the same species found in the Olympic Peninsula.

Did you know that the PERCY C. PANGBORN family once saw 2,000 hummingbirds in their backyard near Lake Wenatchee beneath a peak called Dirtyface Mountain? ROBERT P. HAMMOND, a writer for National Wildlife Magazine in 1966 claims it happened. Vashon Island's BETTY MacDONALD, in her 1954 book *Onions in the Stew*, gives us her recipe for Clam Chowder: "four cups of butter clams; 1 green pepper; 1 bunch green onions; 6 slices of bacon; 2 large peeled potatoes; 1 bunch parsley." Put it all in a large kettle, she wrote, with a cube of butter, and cook slowly.

Others who boasted about our renewable, mostly green land, include Stewart H. Holbrook, Lewis and Clark, Nard Jones, Washington Irving, Bill Gulick, Gordon Newell, Murray Morgan, A. B. Guthrie and hundreds of our ancestors. Will you add your words to this exciting, endless story?

— Junius Rochester

Siri Childs Presents Family History

We enjoyed Washington native Siri Childs's presentation at the October general membership meeting on her grandfather's history in Upper Wenatchee Valley:



Archibald Frederick "Archie Smith," my grandfather, was one of the early apple growers in Dryden, Washington. Born in England, he came to Washington state in the late 1800s by way of Canada. In the 1900 federal census, Smith was shown as a "single farmhand." In 1905 he married Louise Hamilton who was born in Minnesota. After homesteading in Dryden and planting several apple orchards in the area, including Leavenworth and Peshastin, he became active in politics and was an early Commissioner for Chelan County.

— contributed by Siri Childs

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Pioneer Hall Hours

In September and October, open houses are scheduled for the second and fourth Sundays of each month. In November, December, January and February, open houses are set for second Sundays only.

Time: 1:00 pm to 4: pm. —

Board of Officers

President Junius Rochester
1st Vice President Robert Selene
2nd Vice President Alan Murray
Secretary Teresa Summers
Treasurer Sandra Selle
Historian Gary Zimmerman
Past President: Jeff Christensen

Trustees

Dave Brazier, Gayle Johnson,
Jeff Rodgers
(Term to June 2015)

Kathy Durgan, Randy Sleight,
Peggy Parietti
(Term to June 2016)

Louise Jones-Brown,
Carla Hendrickson, Janis Maloney
(Term to June 2017)

Pioneer Presences

Teresa Summers, Editor
newsletter@wapioneers.org

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Minutes — Board Meeting, October 18, 2014

— summarized by Teresa Summers, Secretary/Newsletter Editor

Present: Dave Brazier, Kathy Durgan, Carla Hendrickson, Gayle Johnson, Alan Murray, Junius Rochester, Bob Selene, Randy Sleight, Janis Maloney, Teresa Summers and Gary Zimmerman

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the August 2, 2014, Board meeting were unanimously approved as distributed.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Sandra Selle unable to attend; no report.

Finance Committee: Chairperson Gayle Johnson reminded the Board of the Strategic Plan Workshop set for next weekend, October 25. The goal is to start updating the *Strategic Plan* adopted in 2000.

Investment Account: Alan announced the Finance Committee has established an investment account with the D. A. Davidson Company as approved at the August Board meeting.

Hall Activities: Gary Zimmerman has been working with the local chapter of the National Society of Colonial Dames of America in setting up a postal mail address and mail pickup for them.

Answering Machine: The current machine is not working to receive messages. Gary will address this.

Pest Control: Gary reported problems with inspections and followup by our current pest control company.

Leaves: Our neighbor to the north is concerned that a large tree in the corner of our back yard drops leaves on their property. We want to maintain the good relationship we have with our adjoining property owners. The Board concurred that, if feasible, Alan Murray will attempt to cut down this rather large tree next weekend.

Roof: My-Lan Company repaired a tear in the roofing material, fixed other roof problems and removed moss. The roof flashing has been rusting for years. My-Lan estimated \$1,650 to install a rust converter on existing flashing and seal and paint it. Alan made a motion which the Board approved that the President be authorized to accept this proposal at the estimated price.

Roofing evaluation: Alan recommended we request a roof evaluation from My Lan and a proposal for a routine maintenance contract. The Board concurred and President Rochester said that once a bid comes in the Board can evaluate it and decide the next step. Dave Brazier pointed out that the Maintenance Chair is authorized by standing resolution to spend up to \$500/year on routine maintenance.

Occupancy: Gary Zimmerman reported the American Radio Theater continues to use the Hall for its annual and monthly sessions. Two condominium board meetings are set through November and December. December 5 and 6 is scheduled for a two-day tile show representing independent tile artists.

Presentations: Gary Zimmerman has been out representing the Pioneer Association at various locations including the Newcastle Historical Society, whom he invited to mount a display in Pioneer Hall. Gary has also been giving talks on territorial history for the Seattle Parks Department. He is scheduled on January 7 to talk at a local Protus Club about Asa Mercer. All these activities spread the word about the Pioneer Association.

Website: Gayle Johnson said that at the beginning of the year she will reconvene this group.

Vice President for Membership: Alan Murray expects that within the next couple weeks dues notices will be going out. We need participation and new membership

Seattle Historic Landmarks Submittal: Alan Murray has to meet with Dave Brazier and a representative from the City of Seattle to review the draft application Alan has prepared. We need to get the City rep's review comments and recommendations prior to finalizing the application. President Rochester thanked Alan for his continuing efforts in preparing the proposal.

Nominating Committee: A new Nominating Committee needs to be formed. Junius will appoint a chair and ask for a volunteer to serve on the Nominating Committee at this afternoon's membership meeting. Gary Zimmerman agreed to participate.

Open Houses: Alan Murray and Randy Sleight served as open house guides/greeters last weekend. Alan asked for volunteers for October 26, November 9 and December 14, and continuing into next year. If we do not have volunteers to staff open houses, we cannot open our doors for these events. Currently we do not have a volunteer coordinator or exhibit/curator. Dave said we need to consider what we wish to do to maintain our status as a viable museum.

Programs: Bob Selene is attempting to get speakers from other parts of the state. For example, today's family history speaker is from Wenatchee Valley.

Schedule: The Board approved a schedule through June 2015. [see next page for details]

Scholarship: Teresa Summers announced a Claire Raam Scholarship being offered by Chapter #1 of the Daughters of the Pioneers of Washington [see next page for details].

Annual Pioneer Association Schedule Through June 2015

January 17, 2015	Board Meeting only 10:00 a.m.
March 14, 2015	Board Meeting 10:00 a.m., General Membership Meeting 1:00 p.m.
May 16, 2015	Board Meeting only 10:00 a.m.
June 27, 2015	Annual General Membership Meeting 10:00 a.m. and Salmon Bake at noon

Claire Rauum Scholarship

Chapter #1 Seattle Chapter Daughters of the Pioneers of Washington have announced a new scholarship fund established by her family in memory of Claire Rauum, a beloved member of both the Daughters of the Pioneers and the Pioneer Association of Washington. The first allocation, \$1,000, is set to be awarded by mid 2015. Eligible college and university students are Washington residents who can document they are descended from Northwest pioneers. For an application form and a list of eligibility criteria contact newsletter@wapioneers.org



Pioneer Families Reconnect

In 1889, John T. Gayton arrived in Seattle, Washington, as a coachman for the Mississippi family of Dr. Henry Yandell. Gayton and Dr. Yandell stayed friends over the years. Both men had families and by 2013 there were five generations of Gaytons and four generations of Yandells. Gayle Johnson, the great granddaughter of John T. Gayton, was curious about the whereabouts of the Yandell family. She did some research and after several inquiries over the years, Gayle was contacted by two great-grandsons of Dr. Henry Yandell - Richard Yandell Bailey of Blaine, Washington, and John Yandell of San Francisco, California. Gayle, Richard and John planned a family gathering and in August 2013, 125 years after Gayton and Yandell arrived in Seattle, the descendants of John T. Gayton and Dr. Henry Yandell gathered at the Roosevelt Hotel.

It was amazing that, 125 years later, the descendants of these two men were able to connect and meet one other. This is a rare blessing and we will always cherish it.

— Gayle Johnson, Board Trustee, Pioneer Association of the State of Washington



Gayton-Yandell Family Get-together

In Gratitude...

The Board is pleased to award a certificate to **Carol Hawkins** thanking her for her valuable contributions over the years including Association President, Vice President, Trustee, and Open House and Volunteer Coordinator. Carol's helpful comments and service have already proven difficult to replace. Her most recent position on the Board ended last June at the completion of the 2013-14 program year.

As this calendar year comes to an end the Board also wishes to express its thanks to former Trustee **Joe Wert**, who had to vacate his post earlier this year for family reasons. Joe was instrumental in spearheading and managing landscaping the property and shoreline in the back of Pioneer Hall. Thanks to Joe we were able to stave off weeds, erosion and excessive rainwater flow. We miss Joe's willingness to act as Hall "grounds manager" and wish we could find someone to take over his valuable contributions.



Welcome New Members

Colby Miles Auckland and Miles J. Auckland are descendants of Harry Auckland who arrived in Washington Territory in 1888. Their December 2014 memberships were holiday gifts from the family and we hope to learn more about Harry Auckland in future Newsletter articles.

Recently several descendants of one family were certified for membership including one life membership, five annual memberships and six junior memberships. . Life member is Maureen Elizabeth Murphy Anderson. Annual members include Bridget Murphy Neill, Anne Marie Griffin, George Patrick Murphy, John Yates Murphy and George McDevitt Anderson. All are descended from hard working pioneer women, mother Margaret Thurman Fahay Jones who came west in the early 1870s, and her daughter Mary Anne Fahay Busch who was born in 1873. We look forward to hearing more of their family history, perhaps in a future issue of *Pioneer Presences*.

— provided by Gary Zimmerman, Historian



We Remember...

Steve Estes died in early 2014 in Olympia two weeks before his 66th birthday. He was born in Olympia on February 14, 1948, and lived his entire life in that area. Steve joined the Pioneer Association in 1984, along with his dad, Wesley N. Estes. Steve and Wesley claimed descent from pioneer Maude I. Estes, who arrived in Washington in 1888 and settled in Newaukum, just south of Chehalis, in Lewis County.

Dorothy Elizabeth (Parsons) Johnson passed away this past Spring in Olympia. She was born in Seattle August 25, 1927. She was descended from pioneer Gust Eckloff, the contractor who built Pioneer Hall in 1910. Mr. Eckloff arrived in Seattle from Sweden in 1885. Many years after his construction job for the Association, he became a full member in 1938. He was Dorothy Johnson's grandfather. Dorothy's mother, Olga Eckloff Warner, joined the Association in 1951. Our attempts to contact Mrs. Johnson's descendants have thus far proved unsuccessful.

Leslie G. "Bud" Eaton was born in Niagara Falls, New York on July 31, 1941 and passed away on October 4, 2014, from complications of a long illness. He is survived by his wife Annette who is an active member of Chapter #1 of the Daughters of the Pioneers of Washington. The daughters send their heartfelt condolences to Annette and family.

— information provided by Gary Zimmerman, Historian; and Sally Kinsman, Daughters of the Pioneers of WA

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Washington State
Tree, what is it?

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Volunteers are needed to staff Pioneer Hall open houses. Requires only 3-4 hours once or twice a year, no experience necessary.