



## PIONEER PRESENCES

Newsletter of the Pioneer Association of the State of Washington

March Volume XXXIX No. 3

**Next Meeting:**

**March 14, 2015**

**Board 10 A.M.**

**General Meeting 1:00 P.M.**

**@ Pioneer Hall**

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### First Military Road in Western Washington

South King County, Washington, has a Military Road. So do counties in Tennessee, Louisiana, Georgia and several other states.. In 1816, Congress appropriated federal funds for "road keeping and road repair." General Andrew Jackson, who was then commanding the Army district at Nashville, was charged with constructing the first such project, now known as Jackson's Military Road in Tennessee.

Secretary of War Jefferson Davis (under President Pierce) oversaw construction of a western military and wagon route between Fort Vancouver and Fort Bellingham in Washington Territory. The U.S. Congress authorized the road in 1853. Army troops and local pioneers surveyed the route and army troops built a "cord road" using timber felled along the way. The section between Fort Steilacoom and Seattle was completed in 1860.

As one of the oldest roads in the state of Washington, Military Road facilitated early settlement, opened important supply lines between strategically established military forts and became a productive thoroughfare. It remains a vital transportation corridor today.

Local author and historian **Karen Meador** will give a presentation at our March 14, 2015, General Membership meeting on how the local road came to be. "The continuity (of the road) is what fascinates me," Meador said. "It goes from a trail, to a native footpath to a wagon road ... to many cases, a super highway."

— from Kent Historical Museum Website, [kenthistoricalmuseum.org](http://kenthistoricalmuseum.org) and <http://sococulture.org/>.



**South King County  
Historian Karen  
Meador**

<http://sococulture.org>

**Karen Meador** recently created a brochure commemorating the Military Road Telegraph Sesquicentennial Project, funded by King County's 4Culture program. You may visit their Website at <http://www.4culture.org/>



**4 Culture**



1642 43rd Avenue East  
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www.wapioneers.org

#### 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

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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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## President's Message – Communicating Through Chinook Jargon

Pacific Northwest Pioneers were mainly an English speaking contingent. Although their family roots were often traced to England, Wales, Scotland, Ireland, Germany, France, Switzerland, Italy, Africa, Russia, Scandinavia, Poland, Serbia, Croatia and many other wonderful lands, good old American English prevailed once our forebearers found homes in North America. Our “far corner” had moments of bilingualism: mostly Norwegian and Swedish, some Italian and German. Eventually English appeared in the schools, churches, in government messages and in general correspondence. Later, the cinema helped English flourish as families sat in darkened theaters absorbing either silent film captions or echoing conversations from actors in the “talkies.” Before pioneer settlements, however, there was another unique language that emerged along our Pacific coast. It was a “business” language, shared by Euro-Americans and Natives for decades.



Junius Rochester

To survive and understand our “Great Land,” early explorers, fur traders and colonizers — with Native help — derived a new language called CHINOOK JARGON. This so-called “trade language” consisted of about 350 words: a mix of Native dialects, French and English. Traders such as John Meares and John R. Jewitt used what they claimed were useful new words beginning in the late 1780s. By the early 1800s, Chinook was recognized and spoken by aboriginal and Euro-American traders in the Pacific Northwest. One chronicler claimed that “one hundred thousand persons” may have spoken the jargon in the late 1800s. Because Indians held the key to obtaining furs — the “soft gold” of this era — it was imperative for intruders to learn these key words and phrases.

The famous German anthropologist Franz Boas visited and revisited the Pacific Northwest coast in the late 1880s and in the 1890s. He noted that Natives at the mouth of the Columbia River — Chinooks and Clatsops — had “lost” their ability to speak CHINOOK JARGON. Roaming Shoalwater Bay (now Willapa Bay) and other coastal areas, Boas attempted to record every Indian word he heard. Soon, everyone appeared to get in on the act. After Boas’s efforts, CHINOOK JARGON dictionaries and histories were compiled by scholars and historians such as Hubert H. Bancroft; Rt. Rev. F. N. Blanchet; Rt. Rev. Modeste Demers; Ross Cox; Rev. Cushing Eels; George Gibbs; James G. Swan and others.

Among Chinook words known today (and growing up in Seattle I heard my father use many of these words): ALKI (in the future); BOSTON (American, as contrasted with KING GEORGE, or Englishman); CHUCK (rushing water); ENATAI (across or opposite); HYAK (quick); ILLAHEE (country, land); KLOSHE (good, amiable); MEMALOOSE (dead, to decay, burial place); MUCK-A-MUCK (food, to eat); POTLATCH (to give, a celebration); SKOOKUM (strong, powerful); TILLAKUM (people, friends); TUM-TUM (heart, someone you can trust); TYEE (chief, a superior); WAPATO (potato, or plant).

To understand our corner of the world and the earliest verbal descriptions of the Pacific Northwest, it’s helpful to take a look at the one-of-a-kind CHINOOK JARGON.

— Junius Rochester

## Minutes — Board Meeting, January 17, 2015 — summarized by Teresa Summers, Secretary/Newsletter Editor

Present: Dave Brazier, Carla Hendrickson, Alan Murray, Junius Rochester, Randy Sleight, Janis Maloney, Teresa Summers and Gary Zimmerman

President Junius Rochester called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

**Meeting attendance:** Because attendance was poor at the last general membership meeting in October, President Rochester encouraged Board Members to not only attend the Board meetings but also remain for the family-and featured-speaker's presentations.

**Donation:** Junius displayed a 42-star American flag recently donated by a Madison Park neighborhood resident. Junius hopes to hold a formal program showing the flag and describing its provenance.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the October 18, 2014, Board meeting were unanimously approved with one minor correction.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Sandra Selle's report is attached. The Board unanimously approved the following motion: Up to \$1,000 of the Photo Fund is authorized to be used, without requesting permission from the Board, on high priority items identified as needing preservation and/or conservation measures in the 2012 PastPerfect inventory.

**Dues Renewal Campaign:** Vice President for Membership Alan Murray reported dues renewals have been arriving by mail. Many are still outstanding. Thus far we have received over \$3900 in annual dues payments.

**Finance Committee:** Committee Chair Gayle Johnson was unable to attend the Board meeting. Junius will call her and ask if she is available to continue serving as Finance Committee chair and Strategic Plan update leader through the end of her term this June. If not, Sandra Selle volunteered to act as temporary Finance Chair.

**Hall Activities:** Gary Zimmerman reported the Newcastle Historical Society is preparing an exhibit for Pioneer Hall, using a display case and other space. Historic Seattle PDA will be back in May for their monthly meeting. Seattle Mountaineers' Retired Rovers recently toured the building and plan to return. Seattle City Librarian Marcellus Turner visited the Hall and indicated to Gary an interest in potential joint Library/Pioneer presentations on Northwest history.

**Terminix Contract:** Pest control continues to be a problem. Rodents are entering the basement through the concrete floor which was jackhammered for exploration for foundation repair. This must be fixed to prevent access for mice and rats.

**Seattle Historic Landmarks Submittal:** Alan Murray has completed the draft text. He has asked Teresa to read and review the draft. Then we will share the draft with the City Historic Preservation Office and start negotiating a Controls and Incentives Agreement.

**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:** No one has yet stepped forward to take over as Open House Coordinator. Alan asked volunteers to staff open houses at the Hall on February 8 and March 8. Dave Brazier is available to train new volunteers. The consensus was we should try to hold open houses twice a month in spring and summer. Randy agreed to arrange for volunteers through March.

**Programs:** Vice President for Membership Bob Selene is out of town and unable to attend today's Board meeting.

**Newsletter:** Editor Teresa Summers announced the deadline for submitting articles for the March 2015 Pioneer Presences is February 6, 2015.

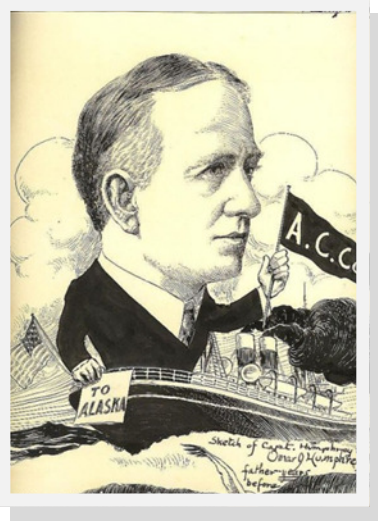
## \$1000 Scholarship Applications Available Now

Seattle Chapter No. 1 Daughters of the Pioneers of Washington announce the **Claire Raam** scholarship program. Applications and backup documentation available via email from [newsletter@wapioneers.org](mailto:newsletter@wapioneers.org) or can be requested by mail at: Daughters of the Pioneers of Washington Chapter 1, Pioneer Hall, 1642 43rd AVE E, Seattle WA 98112

**Deadline is May 15 2015**



## Captain O. J. Humphrey Sr. – the Seattle-Alaska Connection



Captain O. J. Humphrey,  
1856-1942

By 1895, Captain Omar James (O. J.) Humphrey had fully established himself as one of the most knowledgeable captains about the waterways up and down the west coast and in the inlets of Alaska. When wealthy railroad magnate Edward Harriman made his famous scientific expedition to Alaska in 1899 with Edward Curtis, Capt. Humphrey navigated the waters for the trip and he stayed lifelong friends with Harriman, later doing business with him. In 1895, Lewis and Dryden’s marine history of the northwest categorized Humphrey in this way: “Few mariners are better along the Pacific Coast from San Diego to Puget Sound through the Gulf of Georgia and the inland waters of Alaska to Sitka along the Aleutian Islands and through the Bering Sea to the Arctic than Captain Humphrey as he has visited nearly every port in the Northwest.” (Portland, Or., Lewis & Dryden Printing Co., 1895. E.W. Wright, editor.)

As Humphrey became more vested in the development of Alaska, he became involved with the Pacific Steam Whaling Company as both a steamship captain and as superintendent of their canneries in Alaska. He even served as postmaster of Orca, Alaska, in 1894. Ultimately he became a partner in and president of the Alaska Coast Company, backed by Harriman. To be closer to his business interests in Alaska, he moved to Seattle from San Francisco in 1905 with his new bride, Eugenie O’Connell Humphrey. (Eugenie, known to all as Pansy, was his third wife and 30 years his junior.) They built a house on Capitol Hill at 605 Boylston, now the site of apartments, and had two children, O. J., Jr. and Roberta.

The Alaska Coast Company aggressively pursued the building of a railroad in Alaska and the development of fisheries and canning, as well as steamship transportation. Coming close on the heels of the Alaska gold rush, an event which put Seattle on the map financially, Capt. Humphrey was eager to capitalize on the development of Alaska and to continue to profitably link Seattle with Alaska. In fact, Humphrey was so closely tied to Alaska that when three delegates were selected to represent Alaska in Congress in 1905, Humphrey was the third delegate, representing the Tanana district, even though he lived in Seattle. But Capt. Humphrey appeared in the news for other reasons as well. In 1912, he staged the first airplane flight in Alaska. He also hit the front page of the *Seattle Times* in 1912 for bringing a live bear cub back from a trip to Alaska. In the article, Capt. Humphrey is quoted as saying that he planned to send the bear to his friend, Teddy Roosevelt, whom he’d met in Washington, D.C., when he was the Alaskan delegate.

Capt. Humphrey also carried on the Humphrey family tradition of “taking your son to sea.” Humphrey joined the U.S. Navy during World War I and commanded large ships in Europe. He brought his son (my grandfather), O. J. Humphrey, Jr., (known as Bud) on some of his voyages. By the time Bud entered the University of Washington in 1925, he had already been around the world three times and was an expert radio operator.

Capt. Humphrey last served as a sea captain in 1928 at the age of 72. He and my great-grandmother divorced in 1929 and he retired to Cloverdale, California, and died in 1942. But my grandfather, O. J. Humphrey, Jr. married my grandmother, Mary Frances Ross (herself the daughter of Seattle pioneers) and stayed in Seattle. My grandfather put his knowledge of radio operation to good use in the intelligence wing of the Army during WWII and the Korean War. Though my brothers and I did learn to sail, it seems that the Seattle branch of the Humphrey family has moved on from the sea captain way of life.

— contributed by new Pioneer Association Life Member Jennifer DeVore



## 42-Star American Flag Welcome Ceremony on Saturday, March 14, 2015

Last October Joan Stocker of Kittery Point, Maine, donated her cherished 9 feet by 15 feet 42-Star flag to the Pioneer Association of the State of Washington. The gift was arranged through her niece, Seattleite Karen Archer Perry, and Jane Hadley of Seattle. The Association will officially accept the historical flag at its General Meeting at 1:00 PM, Saturday, 14 March, at Pioneer Hall in Madison Park, Seattle. The flag was issued to celebrate the arrival of several new states in the Union, including Washington. Please join us on this occasion of history, patriotism and gratitude.

— Junius Rochester, President

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### *We Remember*

**Gustav (Gus) Raaum:** Associate Member of the Pioneer Association and the widower of Pioneer member Claire Raaum, passed away December 28, 2014. Pioneer members and Pioneer Daughters who attended the service remarked that the King of Norway sent a laurel wreath in memory of Gus (who was born in Norway) and the stories about his life were very inspiring. Gus and Claire's son Chris is a member of the Pioneers and lives in the Seattle area. His sister Lou Ann recently worked with Seattle Chapter #1 of the Daughters of the Pioneers of Washington in establishing a scholarship in Claire Raaum's honor. Mr. and Mrs. Raaum were solid supporters of the Pioneers of Washington.

**Juanita Therrell:** Life Member of the Association, passed away on December 8, 2014, at the age of 88. Juanita had been a member of the Association since 1983. In collaboration with Catherine Spedden, Juanita loaned many items from her early life in eastern Washington for display in the museum at Pioneer Hall. Her exhibit on the early settlement of Asotin County was a featured presentation for several years and she donated a number of items reflecting pioneer life that are still in the low cases on the south wall.

Juanita and her daughter, Lisa Therrell (a member since 1991), are descended from Christian William Walter (1859-1916) and Florentina (Ross) Walter (1861-1936), who were married in Lewiston, Idaho Territory in 1884. Chris Walter and his wife were residents of Asotin County in the 1885 County census.

— contributed by Gary Zimmerman, Historian

**Pioneer Association  
of the State of Washington**

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**Pioneers of the State of Washington 2015 Schedule**

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