

Pioneers

Ben McMurty

Ex Marshal **Ben McMurty** of North Yakima died at Prosser this morning, after a long illness.

He had been in St Elizabeth's hospital, this city, for some time and only returned to his home last week. The deceased has been a resident of Yakima valley for the past fifteen years and will be buried from Lombard & Horsley's undertaking parlors on Sunday by the Masons of which order he was a prominent member-- Yakima Herald, June 14, 1894.

Pioneers

J.W. Gibbs, aged 80 years, late resident of Roza Station, sixteen miles west of this city, died on the 17th.

He was buried at the Natcheez cemetery on Tuesday.

The Deceased was a member of a pioneers i this state anda citizen of substantial worth whom all who knew him respected r profoundly.

A large family mourns his demise--Yakima Herald, September 21, 1893.

Pioneers

Nelson-Tenbrook

On Monday night at 12 o'clock Mrs. Nancy Tenbrook of the Natcheez, aged 74, passed away after a brief illness with la grippe; and on Tuesday afternoon at 3 o'clock Judge J.B. Nelson, aged 77, of who Mrs. Tenbrook was a sister, also passed to that bourne whence no traveler returns.

Each had been ill but a few days but infirm, with age and enfeebled, with the cares of long and useful life, neither offered much resistance to sudden summons.

Judge Nelson was one of the first settlers of this county and has been prominent in business and political life for many years. Early in the 80s he was probate judge of Yakima county in which official capacity he served the public faithfully and well.

On the 26th day of last July, Mrs. Nelson died in her 76th year, since which time Judge Nelson appears to have been waiting patiently for the summons that should call him to rest..

Judge Nelson and family crossed the plains in 1845, locating in Oregon. In 1859 they removed to Klickitat county, this state, from which place after a two-years residence they located in this county where they have since resided.

Judge Nelson was the father of eleven children, ten of whom are residents of Yakima county. Nine of these ten are married.

During his long residence here the judge, by careful and constant application, accumulated considerable property.

Funeral of both decedents occurred today at 10 o'clock in the family burying ground on the Natcheez, Rev. S.H. Chandle officiating -Yakima Herald, December 21, 1893.

Pioneers

At mid-day on Wednesday, July 26th Mrs. Clara Nelson, wife of Judge J.B. Nelson peacefully passed from this life into the next.

She had been failing for some weeks and the approach of the end of a long and useful life was not unexpected.

She was 75 years of age and had she lived until October another birthday would have been celebrated in her honor.

The deceased was born in Kentucky where she was married to Judge Nelson in 1838. They crossed the plains and settled in Oregon in 1845, moving to Yakima in 1865. Mrs. Nelson was the mother of eleven children, ten of whom survive her and were at her bedside during the closing hours.

They are Mrs. Margaret Frush, Jasper Nelson, Mrs. Elizabeth Vansyckle, Thomas Benton Nelson, John Nelson, Daniel Nelson, George Nelson, Mrs. Alice Sinclair, Miss Beile Nelson, ~~ModdAddded~~ and Mrs. ~~B~~ ~~01dd01adn,00~~ Louis Dix. The funeral services were held from the family residence on the Natcheez, Thursday afternoon, Rev. Robert Warner officiating--Yakima Herald, July 27, 1893.

Pioneers

Representative John Davis who died at Ellensburg on the 17th inst. was one of the volunteers who came to the Yakima valley in 1855 to subdue hostile Indians.

In 1866 he moved with his family and settled near this city and helped organize Yakima county of which he was the first probate judge elected. He was 57 years old at the time of his death--Yakima Herald, January 29, 1891

Pioneers

Mrs. Adelaide Vaughn died Thursday morning, February 5, aged 83 years. The cause of her death was pneumonia.

Mrs. Vaughn, with her husband, Martin Vaughn, crossed the plains and settled in Oregon in 1846. In 1870 they came to Yakima county where Mr. Vaughn died about eight years ago.

Mrs. Vaughn took pleasure riding in a hand car in 1886 and suffered an accident which necessitated the amputation of one of her legs. Since then her intercourse with her friends was mainly carried on in her own home

She leaves three granddaughters, Mrs. John Reed, Mrs. Charles Gordon and Mrs. F.M. Williams. The funeral services will be held from the M.E. church Friday February 6 at 2 o'clock. The remains will be buried in Simmons cemetery where loved ones who preceded her now rest--
Yakima Herald, February 5, 1891

Pioneers

James W. Allen

James W. Allen, one of the pioneers of Yakima county, died at his residence in the Ahtanum valley Monday, November 10, aged 78.

Mr. Allen crossed the plains and settled in Yakima in 1864 and helped to organize this county, being one of the first county commissioners--
Yakima Herald, November 20, 1890.

Pioneers

Elisha McDaniel

On Monday Elisha McDaniel, one of the pioneers of the northwest and man who has contributed much to the upbuilding of this country, died. Mr. McDaniel was born in Kentucky on the 8th day of January, 1823. He removed from Kentucky to Missouri and from there, in 1844, crossed the plains and settled in the Willamette valley, Ogn. near the town of Independence where he amassed a large fortune.

In 1857 he came to Yakima with the Oregon volunteers to assist in quieting the Indians who were then getting troublesome. In the succeeding few years after his return to Oregon his home suffered severe losses, he having through his kindness of heart gone security for a number of supposed friends. They in most every instance left Mr. McDaniel to pay the fidler. In this way he lost \$50,000 in one year, which was the commencement of the end of his splendid prosperity he having been considered at one time the wealthiest man in Oregon.

When his financial troubles were upon him the remembrance of the beautiful valley of the Yakima was constantly before him and gathering up the remnants of his fortune he journeyed to this place in 1861 and settled on the Cock ranch, just this side of Jack Morgan's, where he engaged in raising cattle. At that time there were not more than a dozen families of white on this side of the Columbia, and the whites were frequently in trouble from the raids of Indians.

For the past four years the deceased had been living on a claim on where the south fork of the Cowychee, where he looked after a few head of stock.

He leaves a wife and seven boys and one girl, all of whom were born in Oregon. The remains of this old pioneer were laid away in their final resting place Tuesday evening. May peace be with him and may he be judged by his many good actions for he was a kind-hearted generous man. Yakima Herald, May 1, 1890.

Pioneers

Nelson

Mrs. Emma Nelson, wife of Thomas B. Nelson, died at the residence of her brother-in-law, Dan Simmons, near North Yakima Feb. 21 after an illness of several weeks.

She leaves a husband and two daughters, the eldest of the children being seven years and the youngest three months.

Mrs. Nelson was the sister of Mrs. Dan Simmons and Miss Clara, James and Henry Mabry. She was in her 37th birth year and was admired and loved by her relatives and friends for her many good qualities--Yakima Herald, Feb. 26, 1890.

Pioneers

A.F.Hedges

Captain A.F. Hedges died at the residence of his son-in-law Dr. J.B. Chapman at 5 o'clock this morning, aged 72 years.

Captain Hedges was born in McConnelville, Ohio, October 13, 1817. He emigrated to Iowa in 1843 and crossed the plains in 1844, arriving at Oregon City, Ogn. in December of that year. In 1849 he returned via the Ishtmus of Panama, stopping at New Orleans where he purchased machinery for a line of steamboats to ply on the upper Willamette river. In 1853 he was appointed superintendent of Indian affairs for Oregon. Since then he has held positions at the Malhauer and Yakima agencies.

He was a member of the Oregon constitutional convention, was a member of the legislature of that state for three terms and was twice elected sheriff of Clackamas county. He was a life long-democrat and a firm believer of state's rights--Yakima Herald, March 6, 1890.

Wilbur Masters

The news of the death of J. Wilbur Masters carried sadness to the people of Yakima. Masters was born in Fairfield, Franklin county, Indiana, on the fifty day of March, 1850, and was consequently in his fortieth year. He was married at Yakima on the sixth of April 1877, to Miss Mary Leonard who with five young children, four boys and one girl survive him and mourn his untimely demise. The deceased was auditor of this county for four years from 1877 to 1881, and he filled the office with credit to himself. Yakima Herald, ~~London~~ ^{London} and January 25, 1890.

Pioneers--David W Stair

The many acquaintances of Mr. David W. Stair were shocked to hear the sudden and unexpected news of his death of heart disease at his Antanum ranch

Judge Stair was one of the most widely known men in Yakima county. He came to this valley 18 years ago and had been a continuous resident since. He was probate judge for this district under territorial regime, his term being ended just after Washington became a state.

Early in 1893 he was appointed county treasurer by commissioners Hubbard, Kandle and Kelso to fill the vacancy in that office caused by the death of G.O. Nevin. He was a candidate before the republican county convention to succeed himself in the fall of 94 but was defeated by J.J. Carpenter.

Judge Stair was a man of 50 years of age. He leaves a wife and a daughter of Frank T. Parker and three children, the eldest 15 years old and the youngest 10.--Yakima Herald, May 2, 1895.

W.P. Crosno

W.P. Crosno, one of the very earliest pioneers of Yakima county , a well known and highly esteemed rancher of the Ahtanum valley died at his home in Thursday last of consumption brought on by la grippe which settled in his lungs.

Mr. Crosno was 58 years of age at the time of his death. Twenty six years ago he came to the Yakima, taking up a homestead under government land laws and he has lived for this long period upon his claim. His wife died nearly 20 years ago and he reared his five children himself. They are all living in this county.

One daughter married Mr. D.B. Greenwalt and the other four, H.E., May, Ollie and Eldredge reside upon the farm. The funeral ceremonies were performed in the Ahtanum church on Sunday, Rev. Wise officiating and many sympathizing friends being present-- Yakima Herald, May 9, 1895.

Mr. John Rodman was in from the Coal Creek country Wednesday and brought to the administrator of the Frank Terrell estate a small box containing all that was left of the effects found in his cabin at the time of his death.

A careful search of letters failed to disclose but little further identity of the man, his early home or relatives.

The first point of residence to which he can be traced is Boise City where he had friends and with whom he corresponded. They were named Mitchell, Hultz and Heidelseime.

He appears to have gone to California, then to Oregon where he lived at Umatilla and then The Dalles and then to have landed in Yakima city in 1883.

He had a California correspondent by the name of C. Witwood and an Oregon correspondent by the name of C.H. Hyde.

8 There was in the box a Bible, testament and book of common prayer, all of which bore marks of having been very much read; and a lot of receipted bills and accounts including tax receipts up to as late as 1895. The most considerable number of letters from any one person was from a school teacher in Boise, Idaho, who wrote quite frequently and fully up to about six years ago after which her letters ceased, and with them probably ended a sentimental life chapter of the late Frank Terrell--Yakima Herald, August 1, 1895.

Pioneers-Indians

Peter Leonard

Peter Leonard, one of the early settlers of Yakima county died at his home on the Hiram Carpenter ranch at 4 a.m. Dec. 3, aged 64 years. Mr. Leonard crossed the plains in 1851 and as one of those gallant men who participated in the Indian war in which the Yakimas took part.

He was in the battle at Union Gap and for a time was a scout with M.G. Wills. The latter always referred to him as a brave and daring man. The deceased was for several years street commissioner of North Yakima. He leaves a family of five daughters and three sons. The funeral will be held on Saturday afternoon-Dec. 3, 1896.

Pioneers

A.J. Chambers

Fifty years ago this coming Saturday A.J. Chambers and a blushing young woman, now Mrs. Chambers walked into the county auditor's office at Old Town to secure a marriage license from the newly installed auditor, Edward Whitson.

This week they will observe their golden wedding anniversary. Mr. Chambers after 5 years residence in Tacoma has returned to Yakima where he and Mrs. Chambers resided for 53 years, Mrs. Chambers is still in Tacoma but will come here shortly.

From the moment the two applied for the license to the present time many residents of more than usual interest have occurred to the couple. To begin with Mr. Whitson, later Judge Whitson, had been auditor nine days without doing a bit of business until Mr. Chambers came along for his marriage license.

"Whitson smiled broadly as he walked into the dingy office on the second floor of a frame store building. He declared he was more than glad to see us as he was getting lonesome and had yet to transact his first business," Chambers relates.

While there are a few pioneers who saw the Yakima valley before Mr. Chambers it is doubted if any can claim the record of being born in the state and of making their home in it continually after birth. Chambers was born in Tacoma. He was brought up at the home of his father, 5 miles from Tacoma on what is still known as Chambers Prairie. The prairie is named after his father and three brothers who in 1859 each settled on a section of land under patents from the land office signed by the president.

"Did you ever see a real old time patent?" Mr. Chambers asked as he discussed childhood days on Chambers Prairie.

"Well, here's the one my father received in 1859 for his 640 acres on the prairie," Mr. Chambers smiled as he drew out a worn

parchament from an inner pocket. A glimpse at the document shows it to be signed by Pres. James Buchanan. Chambers has other patents signed by Pres. Abraham Lincoln and U.S Grant. He reports his father, like others of the time, considered the land of little value and sold it for \$200 \$2,000. It is now worth \$50,000.

To Chambers goes the honor of being the valley's first meat market proprietor. Under the name of City Market he operated a meat shop at Old Town for two years. The Old Town market was sold to Volney Taft and was moved to where the present Volney Taft building now stands. The Old Town butcher shop was Yakima's first Taft building.

The Old Town market was located along side of the Centennial building now the Cigar Box across the alley from the First National bank.

"They had a stockade about the two and I can remember on many a night how the people got on the second floor of the Centennial building to protect themselves from the Indians," he explains.

In 1889 Chambers purchased a general store at Ahtanum. The following year he was appointed Ahtanum postmaster, a position he held for 10 years. One of his interesting experiences was driving cattle to market each year either to The Dalles or over the Chinook pass to the coast. Mr. Chambers well remembers of taking his wife and baby, only a year old, over the pass with him on one trip with cattle to the coast. He played a prominent part in the Indian wars and was in the party that captured Moses and his band of bad Indians.

Mrs. Chambers was born in New York City and (Copy) and his father in Nashville. Grandfather Chambers came to this country from Ireland at the request of Andrew Jackson who was a cousin of Grandmother Chambers.

The pioneer who has seen the valley grow from 30 dingy ill constructed shacks to some 70,000 population cannot help but be well pleased with 53 years spent here--Yakima Republic, Jan 8, 1925.

Pioneers-Immigrants

J.W Burch. (flint)

John Wesley Burch, one of the earliest pioneers of Washington and Oregon who came across the country in the 40s died Saturday evening at the home of Purdy J. Flint on North Second street.

Death was the result of a stroke of paralysis.

The pioneer was born in Kentucky on September 21, 1820 and with his family started across the continent in the forties, crossing the mountains and desert before reaching Walla Walla in 1847. He went from there to Oregon C^{ty}, later removed to Colfax. In 1892 he came to North Washington Yakima and since lived here with his daughter, Mrs. Flint.

He was a veteran of the Indian wars, having fought against the Cayuses, the Bannocks, the Snakes and Yakimas and was one of the sturdy builders of the Northwest.

Nine children survive him: Mrs. Purdy J. Flint and Mrs. Clara A. Metcalf of North Yakima; Walter Burch and O.E. Mrs. C.E. Leavens of Gresham, Ore; Benjamin Burch of Idaho Mrs. John Grant of Montana; Mrs. A.J. Walter of Vancouver, Wash; Mrs. E. Davidson of Portland, Ore. and George Burch of Alaska--The Yakima Herald, July 15, 1908.

John P. Bankard, 76, youngest Civil war veteran in Meade post, G.A.R. died suddenly of heart failure at his ranch home north of Selah at 7:39 o'clock this morning.

He enlisted in the war at 15 years. He was a past commander of Meade post as well as of the Lewisburg, O. post.

Only yesterday Mr. Bankard attended the funeral of a member of one of the organizations allied with the GAR. Last evening relatives called at his home to visit him. While he had not been feeling well death came unexpectedly.

The greater part of his life was spent in Ohio. He was born in Carroll county, Maryland, Jan. 30, 1849 and went to Ohio as a child. He served in company C of the 156th regiment Ohio volunteers in Company K of the 179th volunteer regiment Ohio infantry during the Civil war, enlisting in 1864.

During the 13 years Mr. Bankard had lived in the Selah district he took great interest in civic and business affairs of the community. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church of Selah. He was also a member of the Masonic lodge but retained his membership in Libanus lodge No. 80 of Lewisburg and had not affiliated locally.

Three months ago Mr. Bankard married Mrs. Sarah Seward who survives him. He also leaves a son, Dr. H.R. Bankard of Colville and a daughter, Mrs. George F. McAulay of Yakima. Shaw-Huston company has charge of funeral arrangements--
The Yakima Daily Republic, August 4, 1925.

Pioneers

Woodcock, Ernest

Ernest Woodcock, resident of the Yakima valley for 47 years, died suddenly this morning. He had not been feeling well for two weeks and was in St Elizabeth's hospital for a few days but was thought to be improving. He was up and about the house as usual last evening. While dressing this morning he was stricken and died before medical aid could arrive.

Mr. Woodcock was 53 years old and has been identified with the educational and business developments of the valley. His father founded Woodcock academy in the Ahtanum, one of the oldest schools in the valley., and the son was its principal for many years.

Born in Williamstown, Mass. in 1871 Mr. Woodcock came with his family to Oregon in 1876 and the family moved to Yakima and settled in the Ahtanum valley seven miles west of Yakima the following year.

Mr. Woodcock attended the public schools in the valley and later Whitman college from which he was graduated in 1895. He afterwards attended Columbia university in New York for a year. He conducted an academy at Colville for a year and then returned to his father's ranch for a time. For several years he taught in the Woodcock academy and was its principal seven years.

With Charles H. Hinman, Mr. Woodcock organized the Yakima Realty & Investment company and engaged in land development work.

The town of Ahtanum was established by the firm and the Ahtanum Lumber & Produce company operated by it for a time....Yakima Daily Republic, July 24, 1925.