

Fire broke out on the roof of the county courthouse Saturday at 12 o'clock noon. The cause is unknown. It is attributed to either an exposed cross wire or a defective fire. The building was insured for \$6,500 and the furniture for \$1,000. The structure was a complete loss but the county records were saved and part of the fixtures.

The fire gained good headway before it was discovered...

Prefect order was maintained among the courthouse employes and officials in placing the county records and other documents in the valuts and also by the large number who volunteered their services in the rescue work.

The greatest part of the fixtures and minor accounts and filings were saved.

Twelve prisoners were in the jail which was part of the building, at the time the fire broke out. Pale and trembling with fear they waited patiently without ever murmuring a word of complaint of the wild and terrible thoughts that must have been passing through their minds. Thick walls on every side, iron bars over the windows and above them were the angry flames rapidly approaching their quarters.

Finally Sheriff Grant came to their rescue. The change that came over their faces at the first appearance of the sheriff can never be told in one word. Their gratitude was expressed in a loud chorus; "Good."

In their gratitude each patted the sheriff gratefully on the shoulder. They were taken to the city jail; it being the only available place under the circumstances. When on their way the sheriff said; "Every man marched along as gently as a lamb."

So the old landmark lies today a desolate and irreparable ruin of its former self. The last legal argument has been spoken there;

the last case tried; the last prisoner sentenced; the last verdict rendered. The old is now ready to give place to the new.

There has been some talk about fixing up the walls and roofing the ruin and installing some of the county officials in the ruin, pending the completion of the new building. This cost, it is said, would not exceed \$500, while rent for the new quarters would be considerably in excess of that amount.

For the time, however, quarters have been arranged for in the Alaska building, where all offices will be located save that of the sheriff. He will probably hold forth in the office of the new city marshal until the jail and his own office can be arranged for service in the old building.

Last night Chief Hauser severely criticized those who deliberately drove over the fire hose.

Many people are not aware, perhaps, that the records of Yakima county were completely destroyed by fire March 31, 1882 when the county seat was at Yakima City. On April 4 of the same year the board of county commissioners, consisting of David Longmire, J. P. Sharp and A. McDaniel assembled in special session and passed a resolution resulting in the final construction of the building that was destroyed yesterday noon.

The building of the new courthouse was delayed by hostile legislation, but when Kittitas county was created, the work went ahead, the litigants dropping the agitation that had caused the delay.

By an act approved by Governor Squire, Jan. 9, 1886, it was provided that North Yakima should thenceforth be the county seat instead of Yakima City and ordered that the county commissioners should remove the courthouse and all other county buildings or property by them considered of sufficient value to justify the expense.

The courthouse was moved in due time; a jail was built under it and all the machinery of local government property installed in fitting quarters at North Yakima where the county seat has ever since remained.

The burned building was brought to this city in 1886 (copy) by the Northern Pacific Railroad company at the time many other buildings were being hauled to this city because of the change in the location of the county seat--The Yakima Herald, May 9, 1906.

Yakima Historical

The present court house of this county was built in 1882 at Yakima City and was moved to North Yakima in the spring of 1886. It was constructed to take the place of the old building that was destroyed by fire on the 31st of March, 1882, and represents the same design as adopted by the commissioners of the county at that time. The building cost about \$2,200, according to the original contract, but since moving it to this place a number of improvements have been made. The brick basement now used for the jail was added, the vaults were put in and a general overhauling was given the structure.

Previous to the fire court was held in the Pratt building at Yakima City in which was stored all the county records and other valuable papers belonging to the county. It was supposed at the time that the Pratt building was set on fire by parties who wished to get rid of some papers applicable to some valuable land in the county, whereby, were they out of the way, title to certain property would fall to parties instigating the crime of arson. Nothing but two books were saved from the conflagration, both of which are of little value. Seeing that steps should at once be taken towards putting up a new building the commissioners met a few days later and issued the following notice:

Territory of Washington

County of Yakima ss.

Be it remembered that on this third day of April, 1882, we, the undersigned, the county commissioners of said Yakima county, believing that the interests of the county require a special session, do hereby agree to meet at the auditor's office of said county on the 4th day of April, 1882, for the purpose of devising ways and means to overcome the loss sustained by the fire of the 31st day of March, 1882, by which the auditor's office and county records were destroyed, and for such further action as may be deemed necessary.

David Longmire, Chairman of Board

J. P. Sharp, County Commissioner

A. J. McDaniel, County Commissioner.

S. T. Munson was the county auditor and on the day of meeting he was directed to advertise in the Yakima Record, a paper published by R. V. Chadd, for bids for furnishing material for a new court house and building the same. At this meeting a new set of records was ordered, and the auditor was directed to take up his office in the jail. On the fifth of May following the contract for the new building was awarded to G. W. Goodwin for furnishing the lumber and to E. R. Welch and Edward Wilson for constructing it. The commissioners met regularly in this building at Yakima City until December 11, 1885. This was the last meeting held in that place. The next meeting was on February 1, 1886, at North Yakima. The building was moved to this place, a distance of about four miles from the original site, the Northern Pacific railway company defraying all expenses.

The Yakima Herald
North Yakima, Wash.
Dec. 31, 1901

The old courthouse, after years of service in the history of Yakima county passed from the hands of the commissioners yesterday to Jesse Chicochette for the magnificent sum of \$275.

The courthouse must be moved within 60 days and then work of clearing away from the front lawn of the new courthouse will be done preparatory to beautifying it next summer.

The old courthouse was the central figure in the scene of bitter strife which existed when the North Pacific decided to move the county seat from Yakima City to North Yakima.

It has had a turbulent history up to that point when its existence became calmer with age and barring a fire or two and having its walls bored open occasionally by jail breakers it settled down into a peaceful life which will soon be over.

Just what bitterness arose over the moving of houses, stores and public buildings from Yakima City to North Yakima is plainly shown in the Yakima Sun, February 17, 1885, Vol 1, No. 1 of which is in the possession of The Herald.

The Sun was the first paper ever published in Yakima and in its initial announcement told the people that it was not a weekly or monthly and would appear at any time the people saw fit to "vindicate and defend their city and property from any and all persons who are seeking by false representations to crush them and render their houses and property worthless." (?)

This means that the paper was published for the sole purpose of taking up the fight relative to moving from the old town to the new.

Letters from a large number of citizens are printed and to read these letters today there is much that is humorous and pathetic found.

Central in this fight was the old courthouse because it meant the

removal of the county seat and much to make a city grow.

In this paper North Yakima is referred to as New Yakima. One letter declares that this is not a good location.

The writer states "misrepresentation and falsehood may win for a time but in the end honesty and fair dealing will triumph. We have in Yakima what New Yakima cannot have for years to come, if it ever can, on account of the rocky nature of the land on which the town is located and that is shade and fruit trees." We believe as above stated that Yakima cannot be made to produce vegetables of any kind for it is mostly loose ground. Now as the topography of the new townsite is so unattractive and possessing no natural advantages that is not possessed to great abundance by the old town, therefore I cannot see how any amount of booming will give new Yakima anything more than a temporary growth."

Other letters are along similar lines. One man condemns the Northern Pacific; another declares that the Oregonian is a liar in telling of moving a town; a third says that no pure water can be found in New Yakima; another states that the school system of New Yakima will probably never equal to that of old town; another advocates boycotting the NP and asking for an extension of the O.R. & N Through the Klickitat.

There was much bitterness expressed throughout the fight, which was eventually won for this city.

Probably North Yakima has had as interesting a history as any town in the northwest. The Northern Pacific agreed to move old town to New Yakima and to give each one much more land here than possessed in the old village. Many took advantage of this offer and the foundation of the metropolis of central Washington was laid.

Among the buildings moved was the old courthouse. This structure was erected in the old town shortly after the fire which destroyed the original structure. It was one of the first buildings to be

moved here free of charge by the Northern Pacific.

Old -timers here recall an amusing incident in connection with the fight put up by the NP to avoid taxes at that time. The wheels of one of the company's locomotives were tied up by a chain and padlock to secure back taxes. One H.J. Snively, rather well known in these parts at the present time, was responsible for the move.

The top story of the old courthouse was destroyed by fire in 1906. But this was after arrangements had been made to erect the present handsome structure. The old building is held as sacred by a large number of people in this county.

Many have spent much of their business lives therein and they hate to part with it. But the old is compelled to give way to the new and probably in less than two months the courthouse will be nothing but a memory--The Yakima Herald, Dec. 18, 1907.

That the issuing of bonds for the construction of an annex to the court house to relieve crowded conditions in county offices and the county jail be submitted to the voters of Yakima county at the general election next fall is proposed by County Commissioner George Alexander. He made this suggestion this morning in commenting upon the recommendations of the grand jury that the building be constructed.

Cost of an adequate annex would probably be around half a million dollars, Mr. Alexander estimates. It would be impractical if not impossible to include a sufficient appropriation for such a building in the budget he says. It would also mean greater delay in getting the building which is badly needed, according to Mr. Alexander.

"We have realized for a long time that this thing would have to come. All of the offices in the court house are crowded, the jail is entirely inadequate and the county is paying out rent for quarters outside the building for several of the offices. We have not gone ahead with this thing sooner because we did not feel the time was right to undertake the proposition."

"Since 1922 we have paid off nearly a million dollars in indebtedness and will wipe out almost all that is left by next year. The reason we have done as little as possible in repairs on the old jail is because we have realized that we would soon have to have another building."

Mr. Alexander proposes that the new building be built around the jail extending about to the property line on the north and west. He suggests a three story structure which would serve as a unit for another court house building later. He advises putting the jail on the top floor of the annex. The Yakima Republic, November 28, 1925.

Court house-sale

At a meeting of the county commissioners Tuesday, Auditor Crocker was instructed to advertise the sale of the old courthouse building for December 2.

the yakima Herald, Nov. 6, 1907.

Courthouse

The county commissioners made an error in their call for the court house bond election on November 14 and consequently there will be none on that date as stated in the Herald.

The commissioners will hold another meeting on November 6 at which time they will be more careful in preparing a call for the election. It is thought that this matter will be given to the people to decide about the latter part of November or the first week in December--The Yakima Herald, Oct. 25, 1905.

We hear it talked that a petition will soon be circulated among the people of the body of Yakima county praying the legislature to pass an act providing for the removal of the courthouse from the old to the new town.

The inhabitants of the upper and lower ends of the county especially desire to have the county seat where they debark from the cars. The new town proprietors will give a warranty deed to a square, build a fine brick court house on it and present it to the county--The Washington Farmer, February 14, 1885.

Courthouse

The cornerstone of the new Yakima county court house will be laid with proper ceremonies on June 5th.

This was decided at a meeting of the county commissioners yesterday afternoon.

While the date has been set and the entire affair arranged in a preliminary manner, nothing definite in the way of a program has yet been decided upon.

The commissioners met with the intention of making complete arrangements for the dedication of the building and everything was properly adjusted save the details of the program. While it is not ready to be definitely known, it is known that there will be several speeches and the corner stone placed in position with such appropriate ceremonies as will make the day a memorable one.

It is hoped by the commissioners that the day chosen will be so well advertised that the city will be filled by residents of the county. All parts of the county will be represented on the program and exercises will take up the greater portion of the day--The Yakima Herald, May 2, 1906.

Courthouse

In a little more than ten months from this time Yakima county will have a new courthouse, modern, ample for all needs and purposes ready to furnish and occupy. Last Thursday the board of county commissioners adopted a resolution providing for a call for bids on the following construction which read as follows:

Notice is given that the board of county commissioners..will rect receive bids for the construction of courthouse and jail buildings of stone and fireproof construction for Yakima county on lots owned by the county on North Second and B streets in the city of North Yakima, said buildings to be constructed, completed and furnished in accordance with plans and specifications prepared by Newton C. Gauntt, the architect, who will have charge of the construction; said buildings to be complete in all and every particular, including the fireproofing, heating and plumbing and ready for occupancy on the completion of the contract on the 1st day of July, 1906 at noon of said day....

No bid will be received after noon of Monday, Sept. 4, 1905.. dated at Yakima, August 11, 1905, Daniel Sinclair, chairman of board; D.A. McDonald, W.H. Cline, county commissioners; attest W.B. Newcomb, county auditor and ex-officio clerk of the board of county commissioners...

County

The Board of Trade of our city at its last regular meeting appointed a committee to memorialize our county fathers to take the necessary steps toward constructing a suitable county court house and hall of records.

This is a move in the right direction. The wooden structure on Second street in this city, which now offers an excuse for county buildings, in old sage brush times, answered the purpose. Then we lived in log cabins and were per force of necessity, satisfied with our surroundings. Now, being enveloped by beautiful mansions and stately houses of commerce and trade, our old court house is as much out of place as the cowhide boots the miner wears in the boudoir of a society belle.

(In Part) Yakima Herald, April 25, 1889. W.T.

Courthouse

The courthouse is undergoing repairs and changes at the hands of A.F. Switzer.

One of the stairways has been closed, thereby enlarging the treasurer's office, and the upper hall is being transformed into jury rooms--Yakima Herald, November 24, 1892.

Though threatening clouds obscured the sun and as one of the speakers put it, the sun god and the rain god seemed at war yesterday, the conditions at the time announced for laying the cornerstone of the new courthouse were most favorable and a very large crowd estimated at 2,000 witnessed the impressive ceremonies.

The crowd was noticeable for the number of old people mingled in with the younger ones. Doubtless there were quite a few present who saw the building of the old wooden structure at Yakima City many years ago.

W.I. Lince, who deserves as much credit as any other man, perhaps more than any other, for the new courthouse being built was master of ceremonies. At his suggestion the great audience joined heartily in singing the "Star Spangled Banner." Dr. Hayden offered prayer.... Attorney H.J. Snively was the orator of the day..."He said he would not lament or invite the lamentations of those present over the destruction of the old courthouse. It had had its uses. It had been a fort at one time; it had been used as a place to detain murderers; great speeches had been made there; justice had been rendered there and sometimes the other; but the old building stands there today as a link that connected the past, the frontier days with the present age of progress and development."I would rather have seen it burn down a few days ago," he declared, "for the reason I would rather see it die in harness than to see it torn down for kindling wood." The sentiment was greeted with a wave of applause.

..Frank J. Allen read a brief but very comprehensive history of the city dating back to 1855, prepared by J.D. Medill. This paper, which was included in the contents of the box in the cornerstone is here given in full..

deposited in the little box with other mementoes of the present time, so that generations of the future could find out the right and true history.

Yakima county was the scene of two rather fierce engagements in addition to a number of skirmishes in the war for supremacy in ~~between~~ the late summer of 1855 and is known in the history of the Pacific Northwest as the Yakima Indian war.

The principal cause of this conflict was due to the wanton murder by the northern Indians of a number of whites journeying from the coast settlements to the mines of Colville and British Columbia. These repeated outrages forced the United States government officials to finally take cognizance of the fact and send a body of troops from coast forts, aided by volunteers from Puget Sound and Oregon, to punish and overawe the Indians. An investigation of the situation led to the discovery that the chief men of the Yakimas were largely responsible for the disturbances by their efforts to incite the Spokanes, the Nez Percés, the Palouse and other tribes to a war of extermination against the whites, the orators of the Yakimas using the argument at the council fires of the confederacy that as the white men were becoming yearly more numerous in the country, it was imperative that the Indians should strike a deadly blow and exterminate their natural enemies. They urged, according to subsequent Indian testimony that not only should all the white miners passing through the Indian country be killed but that the constantly arriving horde of immigrants then on their way across the desert to found homes in the Willamette valley and on Puget Sound, be waylaid and exterminated.

This fact determined Major Raines, commandant at Vancouver, to detail Major J.O. Haller, with one hundred men and a howitzer to invade the Yakima country which the latter proceeded to do, leaving The Dalles with his force October 3, 1855. Three days later Major Haller was attacked by a large force of Yakimas at a point about five miles east of Fort Simcoe which has since become known as the battle of Toppenish. This engagement which continued intermittently for three days was a savage fight the soldiers saving themselves from annihilation only by a vigorous use of their bayonets. Major Haller, seeing that he was greatly outnumbered, ordered a retreat to The Dalles with the enemy in pursuit, a fact that necessitated the abandonment of the supplies. The divided remnant of the diminutive army reached The Dalles October 9. The losses reported by Major Haller were five men killed and 17 wounded, several of the later subsequently dying. The Indians in the engagement were under the command of their celebrated chief, Kamiakin.

The defeat of Major Haller created consternation among the white settlers of the Yakima valley and they feared that a massacre would follow. Realizing that the federal troops would need aid to suppress the uprising, two companies of volunteers were called for from Washington territory and four from Oregon. The volunteer troops for that day were quickly raised and reported for duty at The Dalles for duty at The Dalles in October,

In this little army, composed of regulars and volunteers were numbered 903 men, nearly all of whom were mounted. The United States soldiers left the Dalles October 30 under the command of Major Rains and Oregon volunteers under command of Col. Nesmith, leaving two days later.

At Union Gap on November 8, 1855, Major Rains fell upon a

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party of hostiles and gave battle, driving the Indians in confusion across the Yakima river. During the subsequent night the enemy apparently gained reinforcements and on the following morning began an attack upon the Oregon troops encamped a short distance down the river. In the battle that ensued the Indians were completely routed and lost many killed, the whites losing two men by drowning in crossing the Yakima, two others being wounded. While the fight was in progress several hundred Indians, mostly old men and women were stationed on the lofty butte south of Union Gap where by industrious beating of tom-toms the graves were incited to battle.

This crushing defeat together with the appearance of so many soldiers so overawed the Indians and made the once proud Yakimas anxious for peace. Flushed with victory Major Raines laid waste all about him, even burning the Catholic mission house on the Ntatum which he found abandoned on his arrival and in which he made his headquarters while in the country. Detachments sent out destroyed every vestige of Indian villages in the surrounding valleys, while the terror-stricken native themselves fled to the mountains for safety. Thus was the way paved for the civilization of the white man in the beautiful valley of the Yakima. Subsequently by the establishment of a military post at Fort Simcoe where soldiers would be stationed as long as there was any danger of an Indian uprising, the peace of the

inhabitants was further assured. At this post at a later period General Philip M. Sheridan, then a captain in the regular army, served his country for a time.

So far as known the first whites other than fur traders to enter the Yakima country were two zealous missionaries of the Catholic church, Father Pandosy and Dalton who, it is believed, arrived here in 1847, building a cabin home in the Moxee, the

latter subsequently establishing himself in Parker on what is now the Sawyer ranch. In 1852 according to the testimony in a contest suit before the United States land office the Antanum mission was established by Fathers Chirosa and Herlomez. However, the honor of becoming the first permanent white settlers in this section, at least, fell to that splendid old pioneer and man of iron, Friedling Mortimer Thorp. (copy) In the fall of 1860 Mr. Thorp coming from Klickitat county established a home near the Yakima river in the Moxee to which he brought his wife and children accompanied by Charles Splawn, February 15, 1861, engaging in the cattle business. Here among the Indians and without white neighbors Mr. Thorp and his family lived.

The year 1862 brought a few new arrivals in the persons of Levi Armsworthy, Noble Saxon and A.J. Splawn, besides William Hull who made his home near the mouth of Hoppenish creek and established a ferry across the river at that point. The same year Alfred Henson and family 20 and Albert Haines and wife located in the Moxee. Other arrivals were William Parker from whom Parker Bottom took its name, Andrew Gervais and others.

An event of more than passing importance in that year was the establishment of the first school in the Yakima country which was conducted in the second story of the old Thorp home with Mrs. Albert Haines as the efficient teacher. The pupils were limited in number and consisted mainly of Thorp children.

1863-64 brought other new settlers among them were John Allen, John Cartwright, W.L. Splawn and Wife, J.B. Nelson, Augustine Cleman and many others. In 1864 the settlement further was augmented by the arrival of Dr. L.H. Goodwin, the Lindsey and Rozelle families and others. This party was en route to Puget sound with the idea of settling when, on falling in with