

Yakima historical

Back in the 90s the sight of a farmer becoming stuck with his team on Yakima avenue was not an uncommon one. George Grist of Broadway recalled when reminiscing last week.

He was stuck himself at one time. Large pools of water were in the street and some wag put up a sign with the notation "No Fishing Allowed."

Grist arrived in Yakima in 1893, just a day ahead of Cox's army. The men of the town, Grist among them, marched down to the depot, carrying baseball bats but Cox's followers were not unruly and the bats were not used. Cox's men were fed and sent on their way.

Grist superintended the construction of the Washington hotel for Pat Mullins 26 years ago. Previous to that time Nick Hartung had an implement store on the site. On the corner across the street to the south Frank M. Spain had a grocery store.

The second job Grist superintended was the building of the Montana hotel. It was erected on the site of Yakima's first hotel, the Guillard house. That was a two-story structure which had been moved from the old town. It was torn down to make way for the new brick hotel. Later Grist had charge of the construction of the Michigan hotel.

In the early days Henry Allen was in the drug business on the corner where Hal Bowen's store is situated and Alex Miller had a feed store on the corner where he eventually erected his six story building. The late A.E. Larson at one time built an opera house on the corner south of the site now occupied by the Elks temple.

Other investments made by Pat Mullins were the purchase of the building now occupied by the Labberton Electric Co. a

back in the 90s the sight of a farmer becoming stuck with his farm in Salah Heights and the land in the Broadway district team on Yakima Avenue was not an uncommon one. George Grist of now occupied by the Bonneville dairy.

The old postoffice was situated on the east side of the first block on North First street where the former Braden's store was situated. (Yakima Republic, about 1935.)

Grist arrived in Yakima in 1893, just a day ahead of Cox's army. The men of the town, Grist among them, marched down to the depot, carrying a small bat but Cox's followers were not unruly and the bats were not used. Cox's men were fed and sent on their way.

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[notes from 18 Feb 51 news
article, SE Anthon (The Yakima
Grower)

Of the later day arrivals one was F.M. Raymond, who failed as an
apple grower in 1910 and decided he should stick by being a merchant.
From the Emporium, a department store on North Second and Yakima Ave.,
he bought into the Yakima Artificial Ice & Cold Storage Co., operated by J.L.
Hughes and associates including Lyman Bunting. Bunting went overseas to war
and returning he and Raymond purchased the firm and developed cold storage
operations. . . he organized and was president of the Liberty Savings
and Loan Association and believed that instilling thrift in a young person
was one of the best things that could be done.

Yakima history

About the first actual settler and mainstay and promoter of the Yakima country was Mr. F.M. Thorpe, now one of the well to do farmers of Kittitas valley.

Mr. Thorpe with his family came across the plains from old Missouri, arrived at what is now Portland, Ore, July 1844 in the summer of '59 he moved from Benton county, Oregon to what is now Klickitat county and located near the present site of Goldendale. W.T. IN February, 1861 he pulled up stakes and located on Yakima river opposite the present City.

The first white child born in the Yakima country was Rufus Clifford to the wife of F.M. Thorpe, April 3, 1863.

Yakima county was organized March 17, 1867. December 18, 1883 the county was divided; the northern part formed into Kittitas county containing the famous farming and fruit growing valleys of Kittitas and Wenatchee.

Wenatchee valley is from half a mile to three miles in width and some forty odd miles in length, extending from the northwest to the southeast with the clear snow water of the Wenatchee river winding slowly through it. The valley is but 400 feet above the level of the the sea; high pine clad mountains Delicious peaches and grapes are readily grown by the few settlers in the valley.

In September 1868 Mr. Thorpe and his son-in-law Chas. A. Splawn went to Kittitas valley and built them dwelling houses, the following February they moved their families there where they now reside.

In the years 61, 62 all of 8,000 men passed through the Yakima country going northward to the Caribee Smellikinson and Frazier river Gold Mines - the Washington Farmer March 14, 1885.

Yakima--Historical

That Yakima and its surrounding valley would be developed to the point they are now was something that Judge Mitchell Gilliam who has been on the bench for 26 years in Seattle did not foresee when he came to the valley in 1883.

Judge Gilliam, who presided in Judge A.W. Hawkins department of the Yakima county superior court last week was admitted to the bar here in 1884.

Coming to the valley from the Dalles, he located at Union Gap, then called Yakima. He studied in the law office of the late Edward Whitson, who afterward became the federal district judge. After being admitted to the bar he became a member of Whitson's firm.

Fred Parker, who died last fall studied law in that office and before Judge Gilliam left Yakima in 1886 Parker was a member of the firm with him and Whitson.

There was much feeling against moving the old town from the Union Gap locality to the present location, Judge Gilliam recalled. His law office was in what was then the First National bank building. This building, a frame structure was moved from the old town to what is now Yakima and was located where the Larson building now stands. Later this building was supplanted by the First National bank building which was torn down last year to make way for the Larson building.

Thirty days were required to move the old structure from old town to the new townsite.

At the time of his arrival in the valley there were scarcely any houses in the vicinity of what is now Yakima and the railway had not yet come through. The Stanum andaches valleys were farming districts in those

days, but reservation was still in a wild state.

There were many cattle at that time but the apple industry was unknown.

Only a few attorneys were in the valley when he came, Judge Gilliam recalled. Among them were James B. Reavis, later a state supreme court judge, Edward Pruyn, Austin Mires, Whitson and Henry J. Snively, prominent attorney who died last fall, came while Judge Gilliam was here.

He recalled that he met Judge R.B. Milroy now Yakima county superior court commissioner when Milroy was making a horseback trip through the valley in 1883. Milroy, who was then with the land office in Olympia located here in March, 1885. He had made an earlier trip through this valley in 1873.

After Judge Gilliam left Yakima he was in Ellensburg for four years. He went to Seattle in 1890. He commented that in those days a trip to Ellensburg on horseback over the hills was a long day's ride.

He has been on the bench the longest of any judge in King county. Judge Gilliam has visited Yakima periodically during the residence in Seattle. The Yakima Republic, April 18, 1935.

Pioneers

Purdy J. Flint

Coming to Yakima in 1867 Purdy J. Flint, 301 North Second street, celebrated his 82nd birthday yesterday. Aside from being a trifle hard of hearing Mr. Flint is today as well and healthy as at any time in his life.

In thinking back over his life in the Yakima valley Mr. Flint told of first seeing the Yakima river on May 22, 1867. He had driven his team overland from a point 10 miles from Salem, Ore. and was looking for a home. He bought a homestead on what is now Parker Bottom from William Sloan and began raising cattle. He lived in the Yakima valley that summer and in the fall returned to Oregon for his wife.

When they first began living in the valley the nearest store was at The Dalles and to make a journey to the store for supplies took a week. The trip was usually made in the fall he explained and enough foodstuffs were brought back to last the home for a year.

Before the railroad came into the valley stated Mr. Flint "we would send out produce to market. To get around the trouble of freighting our goods we just raised cattle and drove them to the freighting point.

The first store in the Yakima valley was owned by a man named French and his wife was a squaw stated Mr. Flint and with a chuckle he told of his first trip to the new trading post.

"I had never been there before and French was busy at something and his wife was not around. He saw me and then called to his wife, 'Honey, Honey, but when Honey did not make her appearance she was very dark.'

Of course we had lots of experiences that were interesting at the time but to the people now they probably wouldn't mean much, he said.

Pausing for an instant Mr. Flint went on. "I was born about 20 miles from Milwaukee in Wisconsin on August 26, 1842. In 1845 my family moved to California and in 1846 came overland again from California on horseback from California into Polk county, Oregon.

"In one day we made 112 miles through the Sacramento valley without water," stated Mr. Flint in remarking on the early hardships of travel. The route they followed is the present Pacific highway." The Yakima Daily Republic, Wednesday August 27, 1924.

Pioneers--Sunnyside
(newspapers)

Sunnyside, Feb. 26- One of the pioneers of the Sunnyside district, E.H. Ragland, who was a leading architect of the Pacific coast during the time he was actively engaged in practice, died at his home early today at the age of 74.

Mr. Ragland left his mark in many cities and counted among his architectural activities the designing of the Spokesman-Review building at Spokane, of the Los Angeles Times building and of the Sunnyside high school.

Mr. Ragland had lived for about 20 years in the Sunnyside district and during all that time had given generously of himself to worthy civic enterprises. He was a leader among valley Masons and had won many lodge honors.

Death was due to injuries received four years ago in an automobile accident on the highway near Tacoma. About 18 years ago he married the sister of his wife who survives him.--The Yakima Republic, Feb. 26, 1925.

One hundred pioneers of the Grandview district who have transformed a sandy sagebrush waste into a marvelous orchard and farm country yesterday held their annual winter rally at the Masonic hall and took stock of changes. A.B. Marshall was elected president of the association for the coming year with J.H. Stuckrath vice president and J.M. Fleming secretary-treasurer.

Mrs. Fleming, chairman of the association's history committee has reported that the committee has almost completed an authentic record of the settlement and development of the Grandview district. There will be about 12,000 words in the book which is to be illustrated with views of past and present.

Farwell Morris presided at the annual dinner at which talks were made by J.W. Keller, S.G. Peterson and Mr. Stuckrath who was one of the pioneer school men of the community. The Yakima Republic, January 20, 1926.

Nob Hill.

Hubbard ditch
Pioneers

Resting quietly within her lovely home at 113 North Third street, surrounded by relatives and friends lives Mrs. Elizabeth Ann Hubbard a pioneer of the Yakima valley who has the proud distinction of living in the midst of four generations.

The years have dealt kindly with this aged well preserved lady. Her hair is silvery white, but her eyes dance with animation and memory carries her back over the long vista of years living again the stirring events of excitement of frontier life in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois, Minnesota, California and Washington.

The following are the four generations that this honored lady lives among in the city of North Yakima: Elizabeth Ann Hubbard, aged 75 years; Mrs. Emma Smith, daughter; Mrs. William Lince, daughter; Mrs. L.Z. Karr, daughter of Mrs. Smith; Mrs. R.J. Curry, daughter of Mrs. Smith; Helen M. Karr, aged 4, daughter of Mrs. Karr; Ira R. Curry, aged 8, child of Mrs. Curry; Florence Curry, aged 6, child of Mrs. Curry; Godfrey, aged 6/4, child of Mrs. Curry and Esther, aged 3, child of Mrs. Curry.

Mrs. Hubbard was born in Bedford county, Pennsylvania, February 5, 1831. Her maiden name was Elizabeth Ann Vickroy, a name that she is very proud of. In 1849 she, in company with her parents moved from Pennsylvania into the state of Ohio. A year later they went to Illinois. Later she went to Minnesota where she saw much of frontier life, having lived there a number of years among the Indians, their closest white neighbors living twenty-five miles away from them. From Minnesota they went to San Francisco and came to the Yakima valley in the year 1879. Mr. Hubbard left San Francisco and came to the Yakima valley where he lived up to the time of his death. Mrs. Hubbard arrived four months later having come by boat from San Francisco to The Dalles, Oregon, where she was

met by her husband. They drove overland to Yakima City. On the way night overtook them and they stopped at an Indian home on the Satus where they received every care and attention.

They located in Yakima City, where could not finish the ditch in time (copy) enable them to raise crops so they decided to discontinue work on it until the next season. They then went and worked out to raise money enough to keep them and their families through the winter.

The next summer they were joined by others who were far sighted enough to see the vast importance of the ditch as well as its possibilities. Work was begun in the early spring and it was not until July in the year 1880 that they got water through the ditch to the Hubbard place.

Mrs. Hubbard still owns eighty acres of the original homestead. Mr. and Mrs. Karr are still living on it at present. Mr. Hubbard sold forty acres of it to Col. L.S. Howlett for \$200 \$20 an acre in 1886.

Two years later there were twenty acres more of it sold for about \$60 an acre and still later ten acres were sold for \$70 an acre. The last ten acres were that was sold off the place brought \$100 an acre. This was in 1891. This was thought to be an exceedingly high price for land. The same place today will command a price of \$1,000 not less than \$1,000 an acre.

In addition to the eighty acres of the original homestead Mrs. Hubbard owns a fifty-foot lot where she is living at 114 North Third street (copy) and two fifty foot lots at 109 and 111 North Fourth street, all of which are well improved and very valuable property.

Every place she has lived, whether among Indians or white people, she has always commanded their respect. Mr. Hubbard engaged in the business of contracting and carpentry. His first big

contract was the building of the school house in Yakima City ... which is still in existence.

After nine months' residence in Yakima City they came up here and took up the first homestead consisting of 160 acres on what is known as the bench on Nob Hill. It was Mrs. Hubbard who gave Nob Hill the name that it has gone under ever since. He named it after the wealthy people's district in San Francisco which was known to her as Nob Hill.

"When we homestead on the hill everybody laughed at us, saying that we would starve to death and the land would never be worth anything because it would be impossible to get water on it. Mr. Hubbard spent many days looking over the situation. In fact he was the first man to suggest getting water on the land. His first move was to dig a well forty feet deep. He struck a vein of water at thirty-five feet. Mr. Hubbard was not only the first man to advocate the possibility of running a ditch and watering the ~~dead~~ land he was the one who surveyed the course of the Hubbard ditch.

"He did his surveying with a carpenter's plumb line, a distance of eight miles. People laughed at him when he undertook the task. The men who helped him with the work were J.T. Stewart, William Thornton, Joseph Stevenson and James Beck.

"Work was commenced on the ditch and pushed with all haste. It was necessary to build it across a small corner of Tom Nelson's place in the Naches. Nelson refused to let them proceed with the work unless they paid him \$200. Money with these early settlers was a scarce article but they succeeded in raising the amount among them. It was getting late in the summer and they saw that they had many friends among them. When they went to live on their Nob Hill homestead their white friends told them that they would never be able to keep anything as the Indians would steal from them. In all their experience they never had anything stolen from them by the

Indians....

Mr. Hubbard was a large stalwart man standing six feet in his stocking feet. He was one of those jolly jovial whole souled men who always tried to look upon the bright side of life. He later weighed over 200 pounds. He died July 3, 1900 at the age of 72---The Yakima Herald, July 25, 1906

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Mrs. A.E. Hubbard

The distinction of being the first white woman to live on Nob Hill now so thickly settled belongs to Mrs. A.E. (Grandma) Hubbard.

Mrs. Hubbard's husband who was the prime mover in building the ditch long known by his name and now called the Cowiche and Naches ditch.

Mrs. Hubbard is Pennsylvania born and has lived in seven states...
..John Hubbard came up to investigate when friends wrote him Yakima looked good and the railroad had made a survey through here. Mrs. Hubbard following him two months later. Mr. Hubbard met her with a team at The Dalles and they came across country to Yakima in the approved method of old times, spending one night with some friendly Indians, the Scott and Saluskin families, now prominent among the Yakimas.

"People here thought Mr. Hubbard was very foolish when he picked out his homestead on Nob Hill. . Our quarter section lay between the streets now known as the cemetery road and the lower Nob Hill road. My husband soon sold eighty acres to other settlers but for awhile I hadn't a neighbor within calling distance and I was never a bit lonely either.

At first the Hubbards were obliged to haul water from the Ahtanum but as soon as they could get around to it they put

down a well striking water at 35 feet. Their Old Town acquaintances had all insisted that there was no water on the hill without going at least 300 feet or so below the surface.

Realizing of course that to make the land productive water must be brought to it, Mr. Hubbard interested several other men in his plan and they set to work on a ditch which should take its water from the Cowiche. They were late in getting to work and as none of the promoters had much capital it was necessary to stop every

little while and earn bread and butter. Mr. Hubbard, who was a carpenter by trade worked during the following winter and in the spring continued the operations on the ditch though it was July before the water was finally brought down to the Hubbard homestead.

The first garden ever set out on Nob Hill met with a sad fate. Mrs. Hubbard had grown some cabbages and other vegetables in the house and as soon as water was in sight set them outdoors in a small square of cleared ground back of the house. Her husband had been too busy yet to get much of the land cleared. She planted peas and they came up. Her cabbages were flourishing and she was delighted with the prospect of her home garden when going out one morning to look at it there was not a trace of any green thing there. The rabbits came down in the night and feasted. Her first precaution before planting next year was a rabbit proof fence.

Most of the grubbing on the Hubbard place and on neighboring tracts was done by a Chinaman, Shang Kow, more familiarly known as John. Mr. Hubbard built him a shack of his own on the place where he slept and did his own cooking. Mrs. Hubbard won her way to the Celestial heart by kindness to him when he was sick and by the seemingly surprising method of giving him cod liver oil which he faithfully took.

..I never knew what became of him. He always said he was going back to China. At first he grew wheat on our cleared land and later alfalfa as soon as people got to know about that kind of hay. He set out an orchard but later it got scaly and my grandson, Levi Karr, who lives on the old place now, cut it down. He has just set out a good many acres of new orchard now..." The Yakima Herald, May 12, 1909.

Pioneers

Andrew Gervais

Andrew Gervais, who was one of the first settlers in Old Town, before Old Town was known as Old Town and when North Yakima had not even been dreamed of, died in St Elizabeth's hospital last night at 7 o'clock. He had been ailing for some time.

Three weeks ago he took seriously ill and a few days ago was brought to North Yakima and put in the hospital. The funeral will probably be held tomorrow.

Andrew Gervais was 75 years old. He came to the Yakima 35 or 40 years ago and settled at Yakima City being one of the first settlers there. He remained a resident of Yakima City until the time of his death. When 25 years ago the North Yakima townsite was platted and the Northern Pacific offered free lots to new settlers and the town moved up here on wheels, Andrew Gervais familiarly known as Andy to the old-timers remained true to the old place. He did not move.

He was a French-Canadian, being born in the province of Quebec. His brothers, Pete and George, were among the early settlers with him. Pete is not now living. George lives in "the Hollow."

Andrew Gervais was married three times in this course of his life in Yakima City. His last wife died several years ago. He had three children, two boys and a girl who all grew up but who are not now living. He had a ranch in the early days but retired about 12 years ago and has been a resident of Old Town—the Yakima Republic, June 3, 1910.

Pioneers

Dan Lesh

Daniel Everett Lesh, one of the best known of the Yakima valley pioneers and closely associated with its early development died last evening of neugalga of the heart which came on suddenly as he was returning to his hotel rooms with his wife.

Mr. and Mrs. Lesh had been to dinner with at the Alex Miller home and were walking back. At the Elks temple his wife suggested getting into the car which was parked there but he replied that he did not feel well enough to drive. This was the first intimation that he was not well. By the time the hotel was reached his condition was much worse and doctor was summoned. The patient was immediately put to bed but died in a short time.

In 1881 Mr. Lesh returned to Iowa where he was married. In June of that year he came up from San Francisco on the same boat with R.B. Milroy, although neither knew the other at that time. Again Mr. Lesh taught school and then ran a general store. Later he took up a ranch five miles west of Ellensburg which he improved built a ditch into and then sold in 1884. Having seen the Yakima valley before the pioneer decided to return and took up a desert claim in the Ahtanum now known as the Hackett place.

In 1886 Mr. Lesh was elected sheriff of Yakima county and reelected in 1888 serving with H.J. Snively who was prosecuting attorney for the district at that time. In 1891 he went to the state legislature and through the efforts of Mr. Snively and other friends was named sergeant at arms of the lower house.

During the nineties he served a term in the senate. In the meantime his Ahtanum property was traded for a place in Fruitvale known as the Miller place. During this period he was also president of the Moxee company ranch which was his location until 1896, when his wife died. Twins were born at the time of her death

when Mr. Lesh was back east. The other twin also died.

For several years Mr. Lesh engaged in the real estate business in Yakima and was associated in many of the transactions with S_nively, M_llroy recalls that when Mr. Lesh and his wife made their first start in Kittitas county they made a small stake by operating an ice cream stand in Ellensburg on the Fourth of July.

O_n another expedition in the summer of 1888 Lesh and Milroy with a number of men of whom the latter is now the only remaining members took a vacation outing to escape the intense heat of the summer. They returned on Sept. 2 the hottest day of the season. One of the early friends of the deceased in the Yakima valley was Johnny Sharpstein now a prominent attorney in Walla Walla.

Mr. Lesh acquired property in Wide Hollow, C_owiche and what is known as the Lesh block on N_orth First street in the city. He also platted the L_oma Vista addition which he later sold and where his daughter, Mrs. Walker M_oren, lives.

Mr. Lesh was born October 5, 1853 in Wayne county, Indiana. His people then moved to Iowa for a number of years had varying success at farming in Kansas, Nebraska, and Iowa, in turn before moving back to Indiana.

In 1878 Lesh left his home place and started for the west via the old wagon trail across the plains through Fort Kearney, Cheyenne, Boise, Walla Walla and W~~alla~~W~~alla~~ Yakima which he reached in the fall of 1878. He first located on a half section of desert land 16 miles below Yakima known as the Waldron place which was later given up for lack of water. Mr. Lesh then turned to teaching what was known in those days as a "subscription school" during the summer, fall and following winter.

O_n Sept. 15 of last fall he married Miss A_navee A_mundsen and she was with him at his sudden death. Besides the twins there are

five children: Mrs. Anita Phillips of this place; Mrs. Thomas Hill of Seattle; Mrs. Walker M_oren of this city; Daniel Jr., and Marlowe A. Lesh. The deceased was a 32nd degree Mason and a member of the Elks club since 1903.

Funeral services will be held from the Elks temple tomorrow afternoon at 2 o'clock. The S_haw-Huston company has charge of the funeral arrangements. The Elks and Masons will assist in the services and it is planned to have the "ev.

Floyd Mynard of S_nokane here if possible--Yaki a Republic, Nov. 10, 1924.