

## Pioneers

Col. W.F. Prosser

district.

News of the death of Col. W.F. Prosser formerly mayor of this city was received in North Yakima Sunday.

Col. Prosser died at his home in Seattle Saturday after a brief illness, death being due to complications arising from the dilation of the heart. He was the founder of the town of Prosser in this valley where at home time he was a homesteader.

He was elected auditor of Yakima county, that being before Benton had separated and living near his residence here was elected mayor of the city and was sent from here to the constitutional convention in 1889. He had a great many warm personal friends in the town and valley.

Since territorial days Col. Prosser has been prominent in the history of Washington having been a member of the convention which framed the organic articles of the state, chairman of the first harbor line commission, mayor of North Yakima, member of the board of visitors to the U.S.

military academy at West Point under the appointment of President Roosevelt, city treasurer of Seattle from 1908 to 1910 and more recently president of the newly organized Conservative Casualty company of Seattle.

Seventy-seven years of age, Col. Prosser was a pioneer of California as well as Washington. When 20 years old after teaching school and surveying in Pennsylvania he set out across the plains in the trail of the gold rush, hoping to strengthen his physical condition. When he reached Humboldt county in 1854 he was as rugged and hardy as the other prairie schooner voyagers and he served as an officer in the volunteer company that was raised to fight the hostile Indians of that



district.

With the outbreak of the civil war he returned East and was offered a commission in the regular army by Abraham Lincoln but he believed the war would soon be over and decided upon the volunteer service. He first served as a member of Gen. Buell's bodyguard and later in the Pennsylvania and Tennessee cavalry.

Passing through the battle of Shiloh, Stone River, Chickamauga and the siege of Knoxville the close of the war saw him in command cavalry of the District of North Alabama. He was taken prisoner and had a narrow escape from summary death.

Col. Prosser figured in the stormy scenes of reconstruction in Tennessee serving in the legislature

and in 1868 he was elected to congress. There he became intimately acquainted with the leading men of the time, especially with Gen. Grant and James Blaine. He was appointed postmaster at Nashville and while serving was named also commissioner of the state of Tennessee to the centennial in Philadelphia in 1876.

For ten years, partly before and partly after this first big exposition held in America he acted as an official and made trips to Europe to study the Vienna and other expositions. While in Tennessee he published the Nashville Tennessean American.

Col. Prosser was perhaps the first conservator of government timber in the Northwest having been sent to the Pacific coast in 1879 as special agent of the general land office with Washington, Oregon and Idaho in his charge. He took up a homestead the townsites of Prosser and lived there several years. Elected auditor of Yakima county



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of Yakima county, he moved to North Yakima and from there was sent as a delegate to the constitutional convention in 1889. His most notable work in the convention was in obtaining liberal allowances of public lands for the maintenance of schools.

Coming to Seattle about 10 years ago Col. Prosser organized engaged in the real estate business and the publication of the Washington Historical Magazine. When elected city treasurer he was given 20,000 votes out of a total of 25,000 cast. His writings for magazines and newspapers have been numerous and he is author of "A History of Puget Sound <sup>the</sup> Country." He is a past commander of the Loyal Legion.

Col. Prosser is survived by his wife who is prominent in social affairs and one son, William T. Prosser a well known newspaper man and two daughters, the Misses Margaret and Mildred--Yakima Herald, Sept. 20, 1911.

## Nile--Pioneers

.William Carmack

2 col picture. At the left is the first unit of the home William Carmack built 58 years ago when he came into the Nile valley to settle with the addition at the right built some years later. It is typical of the manner in which the earlier pioneers solved their own housing worries.

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Housing difficulties were nothing new for the the Yakima valley pioneers.

Every pioneer who made his way into the valley with the idea of homesteading here was at once faced with a special housing problem. With the pioneers it was any old house in a dust storm but even so the house had to be strong enough to serve as protection against the winter cold and to stand possible siege by hostile Indians.

Fifty-eight years ago when William Carmack came into the Nile valley and decided to homestead he cut the logs for his first cabin which became home for a number of years.

The logs were handsawed and when a few years later he put up an addition the Carmack home was cause for pride. It was about as palatial a cabin as there was in the Yakima valley and, standing in the clearing on the Nile hillside, commanded a marvelous view.

The eldest daughter, Mrs. G.M. Dunham, was only two years old when the Carmacks came to the Nile and the other three children, Mrs

William DeGooyer, Mrs. Walter Ehlers and Ralph Carmack were all born in the old home. Later Carmack built the house now known the length and breadth of the valley simply as Carmack's and a center of glowing hospitality since its final board was nailed in place.

Recently the Carmacks sold their homestead but are still living on the old place, a privilege granted to them indefinitely by

the new ranch owner.

One might suppose that 50 years of living during which they have seen a wilderness tamed and a modern highway pass by the home with an endless parade of automobiles would have repressed the sense of adventure for the Carmacks. It has not done so as the Carmacks are now busily planning for their first airplane trip on which they expect to visit relatives in their former home state of Minnesota..Yakima Sunday Herald , June 1, 1947.

the Yakima valley pioneers. Every pioneer who made his way into the valley with the idea of homesteading here was at one time faced with a special problem. With the wind era it was any day a dust storm but even as the house had to be strong enough to serve as protection against the winter cold and to stand possible siege by hostile Indians. Fifty-eight years ago when William Carmack came into the valley and decided to homestead he cut the logs for his first cabin which became home for a number of years. The logs were hand-sawn and when a few years later he put up an addition the Carmack home was cause for pride. It was about as palatial a cabin as there was in the Yakima valley and, standing in the clearing on the N. 1/2 hillside, commanded a marvelous view. The eldest daughter, Mrs. G. E. Dyer, was only two years old when the Carmacks came to the N. 1/2 and the other three children, William Dyer, Mrs. Walter Miller and Ralph Carmack were all born in the old home. Later Carmack built the house now known the length and breadth of the valley simply as "Carmack's" and a center of a growing community since its final board was nailed in place. Recently the Carmacks sold their home estate but are still living on the old place, a plot of ground to them indefinitely by



## Pioneers

William F. Prosser  
California

William F. Prosser, the colleague of R.O. Dunbar of the eleventh district is a republican. He was born on the 16th of March, 1834, near Williamsport, Pa., was educated in the common schools of that state, attending the Johnstown academy for three terms; engaged in teaching school, studying law and surveying until 20 years of age when he emigrated in 1854 across the plains to California; engaged in mining chiefly in Trinity county: was second lieutenant in the Trinity rangers, a company organized to assist the regular troops in the Indian wars of 1853-59 about Humboldt bay: was the first republican candidate of the republican party in Trinity county for the legislature in California in 1860; went east at the breaking out of the war of the rebellion in 1861; enlisted as a private in the Anderson troop; served in the army of the Cumberland throughout the war; took part in the battles of Shiloh, Stone River, Chickamagua, siege of Knoxville and many others; was commissioned major of the Second Tennessee cavalry regiment in March, 1863; lieutenant colonel same regiment in March 1864 and colonel in June 1865. After the war was located on a farm seven miles from Nashville, Tenn., was elected to the Tennessee legislature in 1867; was elected to congress from Nashville in 1868; was postmaster of Nashville for three years; was one of the commissioners from the state of Tennessee to the Centennial exhibition at Philadelphia in 1876; was appointed special agent for the general land office for Oregon and Washington territory in March, 1879, served in that capacity for six years; was removed in the early part of Cleveland's administration; located a homestead in 1882 upon the site of the present town of Prosser, Yakima county; was elected auditor of Yakima county for two years in 1886; and was elected a member of the constitutional convention in May, 1889. from the counties of Yakima and Klickitat, receiving the largest number of votes cast for any candidate in that district: was married in 1880

at Seattle to Miss Flora Thornton; has two children, a son and a daughter.--Yakima Herald, N<sup>o</sup>rth Yakima, Washington Territory, July 18, 1889.



David Guilland, a prominent citizen and pioneer of Yakima peacefully passed away on Saturday last. Mr. Guilland, whose advanced age of 76 years had enfeebled him very much of late retired to his room at the old Guilland hotel in this city and a few moments later was found by the present proprietor of the hotel hostelry, H.A. Smull, dead in his chair.

The deceased died of rheumatism of the heart which ailment had been seriously afflicting him for some time past. He was a native of Switzerland and came to Yakima over 30 years ago, engaging in stock raising in the Horse Heaven country. Prior to his moving to Yakima he had been a truck farmer near Memphis, Tenn., on an extensive scale.

Deceased was a man of very positive convictions, strong in his likes and dislikes, yet possessed of sterling honesty and strong common sense.

As a leading hotel keeper in Yakima's early days he became widely known on the coast. His widow and five grown children survive him, namely Mrs. J.B. Huntington of Portland, Ore; Mrs. Virginia Bartholet, Miss Mathild, David and George Guilland, the latter being now in the Klondike and David engaged in surveying in Montana.... The Yakima Republic, October 5, 1900.



## Pioneers

### Jack Ker

Jack Ker, known to every old timer in Yakima died on Monday night at Old Town of dropsy. His age was reckoned at 72 years but he looked much older. He was formerly constable of Yakima City. He was elected corner in 1896 by the fusion party but was defeated for the office last year in the republican land slide. Jack Ker was widely known in this county, having been a pioneer of pioneers.

He fought in the Indian war, being a participant in the battle with the Yakimas at Union Gap in 1856. He was a bachelor and leaves no kindred known here. He was a staunch democrat, a firm friend and a good hater.

Many anecdotes are told of him and some of the yarns he used to tell smacked of the marvelous. He once said that when ~~one~~ he first came to the Yakima country tobacco was so scarce that he would lay a twenty dollar gold piece on a plug and cut out a quid the size of the coin in exchange for the gold.

Jack was a free thinker and often used to say: "When a man's dead his body's cold and that's all there is to it."

Dr. Taft, Judge Beck, David Guiland and others in this city knew him 30 years ago when he kept a butcher shop at Umatilla. Henry Allen knew him 30 years ago in Klickitat county when he drove cattle to Umatilla.

He left a house and garden in Old Town, all his worldly possessions unless he has some gold pieces stored away as some of his friends believe. Jack was a kindly old soul and will be held long in the affectionate memory by his intimate friends. He was buried in Yakima City on Wednesday.

He was born in Ireland. Soon after coming to his country he entered the army, being stationed at Fortress Monroe. Early in 1855 the 9th Infantry was formed under General Churchill and Col. Wright and Mr. Ker joined the company which was soon ordered to proceed west to fight



the Indians, on the frontier of Oregon. Their first battle was fought near the cascades on the Columbia, March 28, 1856, the regiment being under the command of Colonel Wright.

Among the other troops engaged were two companies of the fourth infantry and a detachment of the second dragoons under the command of General, then Lieutenant Phil Sheridan. Later in the year the regiment was ordered to this part of the country, being stationed for a time at Fort Simcoe. It was then that Mr. Her decided that he had reached a country that was good enough for him and concluded to shake Uncle Sam and make a start in life for himself, although having had tempting offers to remain in the army and having passed a successful examination at Fort Vancouver which entitled him to a commission.

While army life had its charms there were other things which seemed to outweigh these attractions so in 1860 he received his discharge at Fort Colville, returning immediately to this valley where he began to gather about him considerable livestock.

In the early days when money was scarce every one in this then sparsely settled country found cattle raising the most remunerative business to engage in, Mr. Her bought a number of young cattle giving him word that he would pay for them on a certain date (story previously copied repeated) Yakima Herald May 18, 1899.



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George W. Nelson

George W. Nelson, who as a lad of 12 came with his father, John Nelson to homestead in the Lower Naches died this morning at his home, 231 North Front street. Mr. Nelson, who had lived in the Yakima valley 60 years had not been in the best of health.

In the course of his life Mr. Nelson had seen Yakima valley develop from the time his father planted what is believed to be the first commercial apple orchard in the valley until the present when it is known the world over as an apple center.

The original Nelson homestead, settled in 1865 was just north of the present Nelson bridge and was known throughout this section for its hospitality. Mr. Nelson himself farmed during his active life but some years ago retired. When he first came to the valley the Nelson home was the only one in the Naches district.

Mr. Nelson is survived by three children, Hebbert and DO Kennedy G. Of Yakima and Mrs. H.J. Leed of Seattle. There are also three sisters, Mrs. Frank Sinclair Mrs. Charles Dix and Miss Belle Nelson of Yakima and a brother Tom Nelson of C<sup>o</sup>wicke..The Yakima Republic, April 8, 1925.

## Pioneers

### Woodstock

Charles Woodstock, son of Fenn B and Fannie Woodcock, died February 25, being nearly twenty eight years of age.

He had for six years been a consistent and useful member of the Ahtanum Congregational church. He was superintendent of the Sunday school and had been for two years president of the Young People's Christian Endeavor. His natural ability and devotion to the work made him an excellent teacher--Yakima Herald, March 6, 1890.



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Political

E.F. Benson

What has Mr. E.F. Benson done that he should be entitled to the support for the legislature? .....

He came to this county three years ago, having resided in Lincoln county eight years previously and began sale of Sunnyside lands.

He very soon acquired the reputation of being a hustler. Every dollar of his earnings he has in lands at various points between North Yakima and Kennewick.

At the close of the World's fair he secured for our State Fair a collection of all the different minerals exhibited at Chicago from this state, also the Model Farm machinery, buildings etc. and all the glass jars for preserves, fruits, vegetables and seeds, which property alone cost the fair commission several thousand dollars.

He secured free transportation on the same from Chicago to Yakima.

On his return to this city he found the Yakima club disorganized and prepared to store its furniture; and agitated the formation of a commercial club, first by letters published in The Herald and then by person solicitation. He stimulated interest in the matter and largely through his efforts was the present flourishing organization founded and started in its work.

Mr. Benson's idea for the Interstate fair was to display produce from Sunnyside to the Selah Valley and show people how North Yakima and its tributary country is spread out.

When it was decided to hold a state fair he accepted a position as special commissioner of the Interstate fair, closed his office for a month and visited every railroad town and station between the Cascade

mountains and Idaho, recognizing in this a splendid opportunity for aiding the state fair while attending to his other duties.

Edwan F. Benson was born in Maine in 1861 and lived in Boston from 1870 to 1882, when he moved to the then territory of Washington. He is a graduate of the Boston University, one of the best law schools in America and was admitted to practice before the supreme court in Massachusetts. In this state he has been most of the time engaged in farming and stock raising except for two years when he was probate judge of Lincoln county and the past three years of his residence in Yakima--Yakima Herald Oct. 25, 1894.

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The Herald has received a ticket to a banquet to be given on the 16th inst. at the Palace hotel at Cripple Creek, Colorado by the chamber of commerce in celebration of the third year of that city's existence.

T.P. Airheart, who formerly resided in this county but who is now one of the directors of the Cripple Creek chamber of commerce adds a friendly postscript to the secretary's invitation-  
Yakima Herald, December 14, 1893.

## Pioneers

Benjamin Rosencrance, the well known pioneer of Yakima county is in town on business.

He reports that the experiments in the reclamation of the sage brush land on the peninsula between the Yakima and Columbia rivers have been entirely successful. Seven hundred acres are now under cultivation, watered by Rich and associates. One crop of alfalfa has been cut and the second crop is waist high. Several hundred acres of barley stands as high as a man's shoulder.

There are forty acres of hops that have been poled and are doing fine. As to vegetables, cabbages, onions, potatoes, etc. I have never seen a finer crop than is growing on this farm. This land was at considered to be worth ten cents an acre two years ago--  
Walla Walla Union Journal, June, 1893.



## Pioneers

### General Miles

F.C. Burlingame had a valuable saddle horse ruined Saturday by a fall which split open the knee cap.

General Miles had offered Mr. Burlingame \$1,000 for the animal--Yakima Herald, August 18, 1892.

## Pioneers

### Milton Hale

Milton Hale, one of the pioneers of the north west, died at Zillah March 14th, aged 57 years.

The deceased crossed the plains in 1852 with his parents, his mother dying en route. They had many exciting encounters with the Indians and finally settled in the Willamette valley.

Mr. Hale engaged in the sheep business in Eastern Oregon but the hard winter of 1880-81 left him only 450 sheep out of a band of 4,000.

He was the father of twelve children, seven boys and five girls, all of whom are now living.

His sons are located in the Sunnyside country, one of whom, C.S. Hale is a leading citizen of Zillah. Mr. Hale was a most kindly and excellent man and his acquaintances were all friends. The funeral services were held on Saturday--Yakima Herald, March 21, 1895.



## Pioneers

### Mrs. Isaac Hayes

Mrs. Isaac Hayes, a pioneer resident of the Yakima valley, died at the house of her husband, twelve miles up the Natcheez on Tuesday evening of heart disease.

The funeral ~~will be held~~ was held this afternoon at the home.

Mrs. Hayes had lived in Yakima for 14 years. During the last two years she was continuously affected with the trouble that resulted in her death.

She leaves a husband and six children, only one of the latter, Mrs. Thomas Clemmens, being a resident of Yakima. Mrs. Hayes was 58 years of age--Yakima Herald March 14, 1895.

The little black Collie of Mrs. Isaac Hayes stood looking down into the yawning pit when the body of Mrs. Hayes was buried. He refused to leave the body of his mistress.

Sexton Schwartze commenced shoveling the clods and clay upon the lid of the rough box, the dog howled piteously. When the sexton left the grave the dog ran uncertainly around but returned each time to the grave, crouching at the side and moaning as dogs do when in pain. After the sexton's work was completed he called to the dog not wishing to leave him along overnight on the bleak hillsides of Tahoma. The animal started up, followed the sexton a little way, ran back to the grave and again turned to the man--then left him and took his old station by the freshly upturned earth. For fully five minutes the sexton tried to persuade the dog to accompany him but then desisted and left them both--  
Yakima Herald, March 21, 1895.

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Burials

Phillip Beckett

Phillip Beckett, formerly of Seattle located on a piece of land near Mabton some three months ago but while picking hops this season was taken sick with typhoid fever and died on the 12th inst. He left a life insurance policy of \$3,000 which will be an assistance to his wife and children. He was 35 years of age. The body was embalmed and provided with a handsome casket by B.B. White, the undertaker, for shipment east, but on account of the nature of the death the railroad company refused transportation and the interment took place at the city cemetery on Wednesday--Yakima Herald, Oct. 11, 1894.