

Came to this territory in 1872. People came from Missouri. The family came to San Francisco. Came up here on boat from there, up the river then on st amboat. We wanted to go to a new country. We had relatives--uncle here in cattle business. Belonged or went to several churches, born June 20, 1872 at Frankfort, Ky.

Mr. Ira Henderson is known as the tallest man in the county-6 feet 7 inches. He has been asked to impersonate Lincoln whom he very much resembled. His early memoirs are all of Klickitat county but

I took the interview anyway because he was interested in the project. He was a former sheriff of Klickitat county. He told me--

Our nearest town was Columbus but the name is now Maryhill. Our old ranch is part of the property purchased by Sam Hill as a setting for his big ranch home. When we came here this whole country side was covered with bunch grass on either side of the Columbia river. It was a beautiful sight to look up and down the river and see those acres of waving grass broken only by a waterhole here and there. That was the finest grazing ground God ever made. Now all that grass is gone and all that land is sown with wheat. Many a time I have looked out across the river and seen a band of antelope grazing there in the early days. Our ranch was a lonely place, 7 miles from the nearest neighbor and we called those who lived within a radius of 20 miles neighbors. My only playmates were my little sisters and the little Siwash Indians near us. I spoke the Chinook jargon in those days. We mixed the words right in with our English because they were more expensive of that new country than our words.

The first church in our community was a M.E. church. We used to have great camp meetings. Often these were held at some home in the neighborhood. The whole countryside would gather and stay for some days. That sort of cured me of churches. They used to come



and eat everything on the place. We also had the First-Day Adventists (not Seventh-Day Adventists--these people observed Sunday and not Saturday as the Sabbath) I believe the date for the establishment of the Methodist church was 1884 and for the First Day Adventists was 1881. Dr. Chapman was then M.E. first preacher. The competition between these two churches was keen and bitter.

I believe Amos Stark who came to Columbus in 1856 was the first settler there. He was a veteran of the Mexican War and had received land script for pay. With this he purchased his ranch. Many people there took out reforestation claims. You were given half a section of land if you put in a certain number of trees. Every farm had to be surrounded by a wind break of poplars. The wind there has always been terrific. Locust trees are very common plantings because they stand the drought.

In the early days and even quite recently droves of wild horses roamed the hills.

I remember best the election when Bryan's free silver was the issue. How hot and bothered both sides were. Elections in those days were very carelessly conducted. The Democrats had their ballot and the Republicans had theirs. The candidates would take their ballots out and peddle them among the voters. You've heard the term "Scratch your ballot. Well, that is how the term originated. If you didn't like a candidate on your ballot you could scratch his name but that didn't mean you voted for his opponent. It merely meant you voted for no one for that office.

Most of the houses in the early days were unpainted box houses. The lumber came from a mill 50 miles away. You see this was not a timber country. We had to have our fire wood 20 miles. We had splint bottom chairs, cast iron stoves but no fireplaces. We hauled our flour home in barrels. The roads were very bad, filled with deep ruts



made by the narrow wagon tires and in winter became almost impassable. It was fully 25 miles to town (Columbus) So when winter came upon us we would stock up our wagon with a winter grub stake. There were a few little stores cattered in the interior but we did not depend upon them for any amount of supplies. We shipped our wheat by steamboat to Walla Walla and had it ground into flour there. We always salted down salmong which we caught in a dip net. Prairie chickens too were common. Some of the earliest buildings were constructed of lumber shipped around the Horn. The soldiers' quarters at the Dalles are from some of that lumber. Grant at one time stayed there. The Guard House at The Dalles at one time was the only jail east of the mountains. I believe one of the buildings is now The Dalles Historical museum.

The first school I remember was a one room with 18-20 pupils ranging from the primary grades to high school. There was one teacher and the term lasted three months. This school was in the country three miles from my home. In 1882 I believe we first had a six months term. The teachers used to board around with the families.

In 1886 all of Goldendale burned down to the ground (Copy as to date) Many of the houses were papared with newspapers posted right on the bords with no lining.

In the flood of 1894 we were marrooned for three months and there was a grocery famine in our neighborhood. The RR tracks were 100 feet under water.

In 1879 we had a bad Indian scare. We thought Chief Joseph and Chief Moses of Idaho were going to unite and clean out the whites. But nothing came of it.

I remember a fourth of July celebration the year of the Johnstown flood. I rode to The Dalles on horseback. They had advertised a big free celebration. But when the flood came along they gave all their

to the flood sufferers so there was no celebration.

The G.R. & N railway came to the rescue and put on a boat excursion on down the river to Bonneville at an Island there. The round trip was \$1 and you furnished your lunch. There they had speeches, exercises, etc. April 6, 1936.

Henderson, James

I came to the state of Washington in 1894 from Minnesota (Stearns county)

I came with a colonizing group, coming on the strength of the advertising. I wanted to get to a milder climate.

We came over the scenic Canadian Pacific route.

The canal was being built, farms had been made with the men owning the ~~Verdin and Pioneer~~ Konnewoc ditch. The first project was not successful and went into the hands of the receivers. Later bought by government for a federal reclamation project. Later the Lichty people took over the mortgaged townsite and went ahead to colonize and settle. In 1893 Paul Schultze laid out the townsite, graded the streets and planted trees at every intersection on every lot corner.

I was a druggist. Have the story yet. It was the first drug store in Sunnyside.

I was born January 10, 1868, Fox Lake, Wis and was married August 27, 1872. There were five children.

(Interviewer's comment: Mr. Henderson has been in very ill health. Like so many of these old-timers his memory is poor and an interview is too wearing. He made an abrupt ending to this, so it isn't quite finished. Augusta, Eastland, July 17, 1936. Yakima.



Herke, John

I came to Washington territory in 1871 from Germany with my parents.

They came because of greater opportunity. I was only 3 and don't recall the journey. My father thought the Northwest was the best place. We settled in the open on a homestead. We had sheep and cattle and farmed.

I was born in 1867. Never married. (Didn't remember his father-- may not have been naturalized.)

Lived in log houses and homemade. Forded rivers as there were no bridges. We had very little of anything, raised our own food.

[Interviewer's note: Not very talkative and story disconnected. Lives with sister, humble surroundings. From the standpoint of a historian, this interview is a total loss. Augusta Eastland, March 31, 1936, Yakima.]

Klickitat

Hill , Margaret

Rockland-old courthouse

wheat-ferries

I came to Washington territory in 1870 from Washington county,  
Ore.

I married J.H. Hill, who was a teacher for over 40 years.

High water in the Columbia washed away Grant's station

One of the things I remember is the sight of wagons loaded with  
wheat winding down the mountains to Columbus to be ferried on scows  
to Grants station. Far as you could see the teams of four and six  
horses would be coming in a long procession. Thousands of sacks  
would be piled waiting to be ferried over.

The house I live in was built in the 70s and escaped the fire.  
It was one of the original homes in Goldendale

The old courthouse at Rockland is still hanging to the bluff and  
above the Columbia.

We used to drive an ox team to church. We spent our first winter  
at Golden's sawmill. Father could make anything and our furniture  
was homemade-1936.

Houser, Clarence J.

Ellensburg.

Houser was born in a log school house on Protection Island near Seattle in 1868 His family made the trip around Cape Horn (Correction--father across plains, mother vy Cape Horn. ) in 1868 they settled near Seattle.

In 1868 his father, Tillman Houser rode over the Snoqualmie pass and looked on what is now Ellensburg. He went back and sold his cow, got another horse and a wagon and somehow drove back with his family in the first wagon that ever came across the pass. He cut his way, foot by foot. When he came to Lake Meachelus he built a raft and rafted horses and wagon and family down the lake. The logs were held together with wooden pins.

Charles Splawn's the only family there then. Dutch Goller and Fred Ludi were here but were bachelors. The second house Tillman Houser built for his wife and three children had a shingled roof. The first house was built of unhewn logs, chinked with wedge shaped bits and daubed with mud. A roof tree went down the middle of the roof. There were two other poles parallel with it and three smaller poles. This was covered with rye grass and dirt thrown over the grass. When Tillman Houser got a broad ax he made a house of hewn logs. The place where he felled the trees is known as Houser's Flat.

Robbers Roost

In 1869 A.J. Splawn started a trading post, named in jest Robbers Roost. Then John Shoudy built a store. Ellensburg was named for his wife, Ellen. Shoudy bought flour for his store from Umatilla, Oregon.

Cattle men

Mr. Houser rode the range since he was old enough to sit on a horse. The first winter the cattle had to be fed was 1880-81. A blizzard raged for three days. The wind blew as it hasn't blown since. There were



three currents, the middle one blowing in the opposite direction. The houser corral was seven feet high. The snow had drifted so high not a post could be seen.

When it was over not many cattle were left alive. Ben Snipes, whose battle bore the S brand; Dave Murray, Lazy Z-the Z lying down; Frank Snipes and H.H. Allen all rode in the Kittitas round up to collect their cattle which had strayed over the hills from the Yakima country.

#### Home-factory

The home of the early settlers was a workshop. Mr. Houser's father brought from the Dalles, Oregon, once a year, a side of sole leather and one of upper leather. He made wooden lasts for their shoes. Pegs were made from choke-cherry wood. The mother sewed the uppers and father put the shoes together. It took two days to make a pair. Mr. Houser said this for them..that they wore.

Mother made their hats out of wheat straw. She braided and sewed the wheat into wide brimmed hats.

#### Indians

Indians kept them badly scared up. In 1878 the whites were fortified three times at Charles Wheeler's farm. They built a stockade with port holes to shoot from. On the LeBru place the fort was of up-ended logs. Guards were mounted on top. Only when the guards were there were the children allowed out for a run. All night the orders were to call , then to shoot. Mr. Houser also fortified up on the Charles Schnebly place, disobeyed the strict orders given the children and strayed outside when he was supposed to come in. He was nearly shot.

When the Indian scare was over everybody had gone back to work, his parents were gone, his sister and brothers in the barn and Mr. Houser saw Indians coming across the fields. He ran to the house to lock the door.

If the Indians knew the men were out and only the women and children were home it was a sort of bright interlude between actual war

times to gallop the cayuses around and around the house whooping their way cries and threats and beating on the house with sticks. When they had made sure, the women were frightened beyond their senses, they would ride away.

### Dave Corral

Through many of the pioneers' narratives there is mention of Dave Corral, saloon man, gambler, fighter. Always his name was spoken with respect. The famous poker game in Wenatchee when Dave Corral, Frank Reeves and Chris Gray played for two days and two nights is legend. Chips were \$20 apiece. At the end of the game Dave won \$20, Chris lost \$20 and Frank Broke even.

It was Dave who won fifteen straight games of seven-up, lost the sixteenth and then quit, because the game was too much "see-saw."



Came to Washington territory in 1884, from North Carolina.

Came with husband. We took an emigrant train and spent our honeymoon traveling to Goldendale.

Mr. Jackson was in the sheep business here when he went back to North Carolina on a visit we met and were married. We went to Omaha took train and stage to the Dalles, ferried at Columbus

We acquired land by homestead, pre-emption and timber culture. Had over 640 acres of land. Developed three farms and a fine orchard.

There were not many houses in the country but most of them were of boards with homemade furniture.

Goldendale was built on an old pasture. It was dry and not very attractive. When it burned in 1888 N.B. Brooks built a kiln and bricks were made for new buildings. (80 years old-1936.)

Jones, Harry

I came to the territory of Washington in 1873 from Jackson county, Wisconsin. I came to Helena with sister and family, a schoolmate of mine accompanied me. We wanted to see the west.

I came back in 1906 on the recommendation of my doctor who advised us to bring our son to Yakima county. I opened a state bank in Wapato. I have since bought land.

I was born in Carroll county, Indiana in 1852. Married September 28, 1886. Have one son, one daughter. My son went to France, and died <sup>returned</sup> my daughter and one grandchild live in Akron, O.

(Interviewer's comment: 84 years old and a remarkable man in every way. Lives with his widowed sister since the death of his wife, lives in a comfortable ranch home.)"

Supplementary to Jones History:

"I was just out of school and wanted to see the world said Harry Jones of Wapato in discussing his trip through the west in 1872 (note difference with date, 1873 first line of this account)

It must have been a like motive that impelled his ancestors to come to this country in 1860 where they became prominent in the early development of the colonies and later in their defense. One of these men, Benjamin Jones, was a captain in the revolutionary army.

"As the frontier moved westward the Jones family moved along with it. They were in Indiana at the beginning of the great Oregon immigration. All eyes were turned toward the rich Oregon country with its genial climate, its wonderful forests, its streams, mountains and pasture lands.

Two years before I was born, Mr. Jones remarked, my parents made their plans and packed their prairie schooner to join the departing caravan.



Jones, Harry-2

The oxen were yoked and hitched to the canvas covered wagon, nothing now but farewells and they would be off on the long trail.

With departure so near at hand my grandmother's fortitude reached the breaking point. Fear for their safety overcame all desire for their future welfare in the land of promise. Indians were on the warpath.

My grandmother entreated them to wait for more settled times. "After all, it might be better to indure the ills we have then lose our scalps" my father reflected as he stood at the farmhouse gate back there in Indiana, his vision piercing the distance, seeking out that faraway trail, winding toward the sno-capped peaks beyond which lay the Oregon country.

His decision was made, the oxen were transferred to the plow. He little knew how momentous was that decision. Not many weeks had passed when word was brought back that every member of that wagon train had perished at the hands of the savages. Every man, woman and child made the supreme sacrifice not many miles from the little fringe of settlement which was the frontier.

The Civil War was over, leaving its aftermath of hard times and what they called a depression. In the west there was room to expand and grow, another immigration was setting in. Like the Matanuska colony many of them, nearly all in fact, took the red-plush trail, but they got there in time to add impetus to the development of the vast domain. Many of these men and women, like young Harry, had received a good education and the west was in need of them.

Accompanied by his sister and her two children young Harry left in 1872 en route for Helena.

At Ogden, Utah, they boarded a stage belonging to the Northwestern Stage co. They traveled to Helena, a lively mining town, his sister's destination. The young men, with Jasper Griffin, decided to proceed from that point in 1873 (note date again) so equipped themselves in true western fashion. Each purchased a horse for \$35 and a Smith and

Jones, Harry- 3

true western fashion. Each purchased a horse for \$35 and a Smith and Weston revolver for \$7. The guns were not new but the salesman showed them some good marksmanship, hitting a 50 cent piece at 20 to 25 (?) the boys were never able to repeat that maneuver nor display any skill at all, as the guns proved very unsatisfactory, but they helped to fill in the picture. Traveling light, with only a blanket, a frying pan, a few pounds of bacon and a little flour for flapjacks, the two young adventures took the road which led over the old military trail built by Mullen in 1850. Over this road from Ft Benton on the Missouri through the Rocky mountains, bullwhips crack- ed over the heads of many a team of oxen and mules. No drivers were necessary, one of them riding the lead animal, three helpers going along. Usually there were 15 to 20 oxen or mules in the team. The wagons alone weighed 3,000 pounds. When the whips cracked oxen bent to the yoke, dug their feet into the earth and pulled.

(This part belongs to the paragraph preceding page having reference to Northwestern Stage co.)

The travelers camped at Coeur d'Alene, then trailed along to Fort Walla Walla where there was a small town. At Wallula they paid a dollar and a half apiece to be ferried across. The ferryman took a long drink of water on the Washington side and filled some water bottles, remarking the Snake river water was not fit to drink. It was so muddy, caused by some placer mining in the mountains.

"We saw no more buildings," said Mr. Jones, "until we reached Union Gap. The Bartholet mill was there first in 1871. Where Prosser now stands we met a man with a scrawny team of cayuses hitched to a dilapidated wagon. He was on his way to Walla Walla from the Wenas valley with 700 pounds of cheese. At the present site of Toppenish we saw a man putting up hay. We didn't stop at Union Gap but saw two men working at the Bartholet mill.



Jones, Harry- 4

"The whole country was sagebrush. In the Yakima canyon we met F.M. Thorpe (copy) the stockman coming down from his ranch in the Kittitas on his way to The Dalles riding his famous black mule.

"Before leaving the valley we had a little luck in getting fresh game. I emptied my gun firing at a "fool" hen and Jasper finally brought it down. Amid roars of laughter he managed to declare that he "shot at its feet and hit it in the eye."

"Coming across an empty cabin we dismounted and entered. We found a kerosene can inside and we prepared our hen, adding some potatoes and soon were dispatching of one of the finest meals I ever tasted and a fine change from flapjacks. "

The trail taken by these young men was not identical with the one followed by Theodore Winthrop twenty years previously but no doubt the written account would have proved as interesting as "Canoe and Saddle."

They went to Puget Sound where they visited the settlement on the bay which had grown up around Yessler's mill. Jones sold his cayuse for \$35, paid \$20 for fare on a windjammer loaded with lumber. They were becalmed fully half of the time making the trip to San Francisco in 14 days.

Benton

Dreams of one day owning a flock of sheep encouraged the young shepherd land as he tended bands of sheep in the foothills of the Cascades of along the slopes of the Columbia.

Just out from England the homesick land longed for the "iltshire hills and his fathers' flocks and faithful sheep dogs. "I will have sheep of my own," he declared.

His meager savings were hoarded and a small beginning made. It was not long before he owned a small band which was to increase to thousands of sheep grazing in the foothills of the Cascades and along the Columbia.

As his flocks increased Young Kemp found time and means to travel. He visited his native land and on his return to the United States met the young woman who became his wife and journeyed with him from Michigan to the far west.

Came to Washington in 1898. Mr. Kemp came in 1884 when there was only one house in Prosser. He had bands of sheep totaling around 5,000 head.

Sheep were wintered in the Horse Heaven hills. In summer they ranged the Cascade foothills.

After the sheep business was well established Mr. Kemp bought the warehouse built by the sheepmen to handle wool. He also handled wheat and bought half of the first mill built in Prosser, known as the Taylor & Kemp mill, still operated under that name by sons of the families. Born in Michigan, Feb. 4, 1859

Augusta Eastland, April 21, 1936.



Aershaw, Robert

I came to Washington territory August 9, 1881 from Beaver county, Utah.

Father had left for Washington in 1880. I was the oldest of the family and in 1881 we all drove over , some neighbors coming along. We felt that there was greater opportunity for a la ge family.

We drove three covered wagons and one government ambulance father bought at auction at Ft Cameron.

We selected Washington because there was better cattle range. Cattle ranged from the Canadian line to the Columbia river.

Father bought a farm on the lower Naches where my brother now lives.. The witer of 1881-82 was so severe so much stock perished in many of the s stockmen felt like quitting. We drove our beef cattle to Seattle and took 10 days for the trip.

I bought a farm for myself in the Wenas valley, did general farming. I retired 12 years ago and my son lives on the ranch yet.

I freighted awhile. Have no trade but worked for wages until I bought my farm. After that I mined one year on the John Day river.

I was born August 30, 1861 in Beaver county, Utah. Nationalith, English on both sides, parents were born in England. I was married April 3, 1887. Had eight children and 13 grandchildren. There have ben four generations in the valley.

I remember Hamilton Lewis, Theodore Roosevelt and William Jennings Bryan when they were here. It was some distance to drive to Yakima. Farmers were tired out at night. We worked hard and stayed home.

Lumber was being used for houses when I came. The old schoolhouse is gone. The railroad was as far as Umatilla, later put through to Portland. We freighted from the Dalles. Some groceries were high, some no ~~other~~ higher than now.

Kershaw, Robert--2

We took turns helping in sickness in the neighborhood. Unfortunate settlers who ran out of food were provided for, always.

There were the usual pioneer day picnics and church suppers. Fourth of July was the event. There was a race track in the sagebrush at Old Town.

(Interviewer's comments-Has a nice home in Yakima where he and his wife live in comfort and plenty. Both very friendly.

Augusta Eastland, Yakima county, March 17, 1936.