

Klickitat

Bennett, Mrs. Wilson M
Goldendale. Centerville
Rockland

Told to Fred Lockley in 1928.

I am the first white girl born in Klickitat county. My father, John Golden, was the founder of Goldendale. Father crossed the plains in 1853 and settled in Polk county in the Willamette valley. He ran a pack train to Yreka, Calif. for some years and later started a store there.

In 1857 he came back to Oregon and went into the cattle business with Louis Parrott. Father married his partner's sister, Jane Parrott. She was 14 and father was 45 at the time of their marriage. Mother was 15 years old when I was born.

In June 1858 father and mother went to the Dalles. On July 6 1858 father took up a place at what was called Rockland Ferry directly across from the Dalles. Centerville was later located not far from father's place.

Father started the first saw mill in Klickitat county. This was on Spring Creek at the Blockhouse, five miles from the present site of Goldendale. He hauled his lumber by ox team down the bed of the canyon to Columbus on the north bank of the Columbia. Columbus is now known as Maryhill.

He shipped his lumber on flatboats or scows operated by sail, up the Columbia to Umatilla landing.

When father and mother first went to Klickitat there were only six white families in the county. I learned to speak the Chinook jargon before I could talk English well. Most of our neighbors were Klickitat Indians.

Thomas Johnson, a native of Canada, surveyed the townsite of Goldendale for my father in 1871. Mr. Johnson settled in 1863 at Rockland. He built the first store in Goldendale.

Klickitat county was organized in 1859 but as there were only four white families in the county, nothing much was done about the organization. The county seat was located on Albert Allen's land claim-- 1928.

Miss Mary W. Priestley
21 W Gilman St. Madison Wisconsin

(loaned pictures to Agency in 1939 in connection with Simcoe)

Project under general direction of M.A. Johnson, superintendent and Mr. Thomas L. Carter, forest supervisor of the Yakima Indian Agency. In research problems all will be aided by Olaf T. Hagen, Regional Historian, National Park Service, San Francisco, Calif.

One WPA supervisor will be required for constant supervision

June 1, 1939, total of \$7,112 appropriated for project proposal.

For Simcoe sizds: See O'Neill, John F. Compiler and editor. Historic American Buildings Survey Catalogue, 1938, p. 230 Wash. 25

Abstracts were prepared.

Memorandum for field historians, on uniform practices in recording historical data, by Roland F. Lee, Chief Branch of Historic Sites, Washington D.C. June 17, 1938.

estimate- Rearrangement, cataloging and indexing of old Fort Simcoe Records, 1928.. 1200 man hours... 750 total dollars.

Research and compilation of data and reports to be used as basic material by sponsor for planning restoration etc. 11,880 man hours \$8,955 total \$9,705.

typist, clerk, int. proof reader, three research assistants,

interviewer, interpreter, supervisor, agency supt. forest
supervisor, regional historian.
supplies, paper, ink etc. 250 dollars.

June 17, 1939, Guide to Johnson: Talked to Miss Mary Priestly, got
material for story you may have seen in Republic Thursday night..

Mrs. Swanstrom Article, Seattle Sunday Times, Jan 15, 1939
Father Wilbur, via Anne Shannon Monroe.

Miss Mary W. Priestley

21 W Gilman St. Madison Wisconsin

(loaned pictures to Agency in 1939 in connection with Simcoe)

Project under general direction of M.A. Johnson, superintendent and Mr. Thomas L. Carter, forest supervisor of the Yakima Indian Agency. In research problems all will be aided by Olaf T. Hagen, Regional Historian, National Park Service, San Francisco, Calif.

One WPA supervisor will be required for constant supervision

June 1, 1939, total of \$7,119 appropriated for project proposal.

For Simcoe sizds: See O'Neill, John F. Compiler and editor. Historic American Buildings Survey Catalogue, 1938, p. 230 Wash. 25

Abstracts were prepared.

Memorandum for field historians, on uniform practices in recording historical data, by Roland F. Lee, Chief Branch of Historic Sites, Washington D.C. June 17, 1938.

estimate- Rearrangement, cataloging and indexing of old Fort Simcoe Records, 1928.. 1200 man hours... 750 total dollars.

Research and compilation of data and reports to be used as basic material by sponsor for planning restoration etc. 11,880 man hours \$8,955 total \$9,705.

typist, clerk, int. proof reader, three research assistants,

interviewer, interpreter, supervisor, agency supt. forest
supervisor, regional historian.
supplies, paper, ink etc. 250 dollars.

June 17, 1939, Guide to Johnson: Talked to Miss Mary Priestly, got
material for story you may have seen in Republic Thursday night..

Mrs. Swanstrom Article, Seattle Sunday Times, Jan 15, 1939
Father Wilbur, via Anne Shannon Monroe.

Ferries

Lyons ferry. Field trip from Waitsburg, August 14-15, 1951

Photos taken. Informants. Mr. and Mrs. N.G. Turner, box 839? Starbuck. u

Mr. and Mrs. Turner have operated the ferry for six years.

Trip made by devious road, oil and gravel, early (5 a.m. daylight time) from Waitsburg..no breakfast,nothing opened.

North out of Waitsburg over old Mullan road, thence northwest to Prescott. Rolling wheat land..plowed..stubble..cattle grazing..pheasants and dove on road.. narrow, steep grade to get down into Palouse canyon

Found ferryman at breakfast.

Union Pacific train rolls by between house on bluff overlooking ferry.."bDdO "black gnats" swarming over ferry..still , turbid water
Ferryman a sturgeon fisherman..photos..poor quality some worth sending for in emergency. snaps.

Truit ran ferry for Mrs. Lyons about 30 years after Lyons died.

Turners acquired ferry in 1945 from Elvin Fitter who had it 1/5 years. He inherited it from his uncle, Dr. William Cummings (last name spelling unsure) Dr. had it some 20 years. No reason for name doctor.. Used to be called Palouse ferry.

Old ledgers, box of them, called Palouse ferry in 1872. Have entries dating back to 1867. Have information used first in 1860 carried ox team over. In 1888 still called Palouse ferry. Old ledger of 1872 fire scorched. Old original Lyons home burned..other ledgers up to 1917 called it Palouse, although it was always known as Lyons ferry to old timers.

Entries --1876 330 head of cattle \$33. 11 loose horses \$1.10
7 riding horses \$1.75; 1 wagon \$1.50.

Lyons had 200 head of horses. Kept there for stages and freighters, traded them off for fresh horses.

"Ferry Entry-"To Indian--horse over and back \$2.00 January 1893.
One two horse team up \$2; 2 horses to hay \$1; Two meals \$1. Dec 11,

1872. "Cross 100 head of horses \$12 a day." ????

August 1, 1872--Indian on horse \$1; after horse \$1.

May 3--Wages to Indian \$6; 1876, to Indians for horses \$49.

For herding horses 4 mos. \$140.


To Indian Charley \$50 March 6, 1881. "Indian Charley Bones."

Oau

.....

Cayuses Branded, 1884. Kamiakun, one bay filly.

Brought from Charley.

Pete Lons horse brand, marked in back  . Cattle branding referred to many times.

Ferry slow starter, approach..dog jumped on board. Wheel in center.. end sweeps to catch current. Cable. Cable inspected regular. Smooth trip..One quarter of a mile across. Seldom high. In another few weeks power might be used by boat attached to side to start, current okay on north shore, power probably necessary on south shore. Eight car ferry. Handled 2,000 sheep one day last year.

Boat built five or six years ago to replace three car ferry of former operator. Ice freezes over--sometimes five or 10 below zero. Not much snow.

Whale Island..

Dave Nelson , boatman (early winter, 1954.)

Haystack rock. Local name for rock at end of island. toward left bank
24 ~~22~~ miles by road down left bank. 28 miles by road, down right bank.

Churn drill working about 4 miles above ^{Mer}everly.

dust devils whirl

soft spattering of rain on unquenchable soil.

waves of homeseekers--thinking of them as you look over toward
Slope to east..The broke both their plows and their hearts trying
to wrest a living from the unyielding land...year after year...

Core drillings-- black basalt, glossy black, few foot and two foot
lengths, pieces fractured.

Boat trip-hugging shore , darting out into current, waves- rock
scraping bottom of boat, nose down , then motor, slap, bang slap, ease
up, level off. Now turn bend and up against force of
rapids.

walk-walk on island, ~~b000~~ biting wind. tears in eyes by cold.
Rock paintings, bear paws, sun bursts, foot prints, head dresses.

Drift wood fire on shore.

Life preservers. Off in slow current, downstream and i to lowest
pids, bounce, slap, waves three and four feet high, riffles, then runnin
wild toward Haystack rocks, ~~ten~~ then right against rough water,
closer to shore, the up Chale Chute channel ~~xxx~~ against full force
of the rapids for 100 yards. Moved clear. Then slow moving channel,
at lower end and in still water. water drill rig. Anchor close to
"white horse" rock.

Potholes, black ~~xxxxxx~~ basalt, polished basalt, ground smooth
by water, potholes large, feet deep--small ones. Fractured by time
and the elements.

Mines

(Blue Bucket)

Blue Bucket Mine. ⁺old by Olive Tine, Walla Walla county.

Each morning riders were sent out to locate water. They were camped one night on a little stream, very shallow, when the riders returned saying that it would take a day and night to reach the next camp.

All was hurry and bustle as the men rushed out to bring in their cattle. One of the men, Mr. Herrin, came in with his cattle and showed the others a piece of metal he had found in a gopher hill.

Several of the men handled it but none of them had ever seen gold in its native state.

One of them took his wagon wrench and hammered the metal on his tire, remarking, "It is malleable; it is gold," then he handed it back and went on hitching up his oxen. Mr. Herrin threw the ore, if ore it was into a blue bucket, containing tools.

Indians

Annihilation of the Chimacums.

As told to Gilbert Pilcher by James G. McCurdy, banker of Port Townsend, Jefferson county.

Among the events that moved the people of Port Townsend and the northeastern section of Jefferson county in the early days, none was greater than the three-day battle that resulted in the complete annihilation of the Chimacum Indian tribe of 1857.

And none caused greater fear among them; for the battle aged less than half a dozen miles from the little settlement on Quimper peninsula and the white people there, only a few score altogether, were so greatly outnumbered by the contending savages that they trembled in hourly fear that the successful warriors, their lust for killing whetted by victory, might at any time turn upon the white invaders and massacre them also.

On January 26, 1855, Governor Isaac I. Stevens of the territory of Washington and superintendent of Indian affairs in this territory had caused to assemble the chiefs, subchiefs, headmen and delegates of many Indian villages occupying certain lands on the Strait of Fuca and Hood's canal, known as the Olympia Peninsula at Point No point and there a treaty was signed, one of the tribes subscribing being the Chimacums occupying land along Port Townsend bay at the present site of Irondale and Hadlock and the whole Marrowstone Island which at that time was connected with the mainland by a narrow sandspit.

Chiefs and subchiefs signing for the Chimacum tribe were Chief Kul-kuh-han, Subchiefs Ets-sah-quat, Kai-a-han and Klen-a-kunst. The tribe numbered about 400.

The Snohomish tribe located along the Snohomish river across Puget Sound was then the strongest tribe on the sound. The Barclay Sound Indians living on the western shores of Vancouver island were also a powerful tribe. These two tribes were intermarried and very

friendly to each other.

The Barclay Sound Indians frequently visited the Snohomishes, passing Port Townsend and Marrowstone Point on which now Fort Flager is situated, en route to the villages of the Snohomish peoples. The Chimacums, a warlike and predatory people watched for their passing from lookout trees at the present Irondale. When the canoes of the Barclay Sound Indians approached the Chimacums would go over the portage, intercept the canoes and rob them, often capturing the young girls and selling them as slaves.

The Snohomish Indians, en route to visit their friends at Barclay Sound, would be intercepted at Marrowstone and subjected to the same treatment.

In the spring of 1857 the Barclay Sound Indians and the Snohomish tribe combined to wipe out their marauders and their plan of attack indicated careful planning and considerable knowledge of savage military strategy. The Barclay Sound warriors landed at Keymes on Discovery Bay and slunk through the forest to the west of Irondale. The Snohomish Indians pretending to be en route to visit their friends on Vancouver Island, came by canoe past Port Townsend. Port Townsendites, however, noted they wore war paint and were much worried as the long line of canoes passed their settlement. They are supposed to have landed at Glen Cove and spent the night there.

Other Snohomish warriors landed on the shores of Oak Bay and proceeded through the forests to the south of Irondale. Yet others remained in canoes in Oak Bay until the following morning.

At daylight the warriors from Barclay Sound and Snohomish appeared in canoes in Townsend Bay just off Irondale and a force of Chimacums manned their canoes and proceeded to give them battle. When the fight was over a few Barclay Sound and Snohomish Indians were dead. But the Chimacums who had remained there (copy)

At the same time the Indians who had come from Keymes and entered the fray from the west and those who had landed at Oak ^{Bay} attacked the Chiacums from the south. The battle on shore raged around and about the mouth of Chiacum creek and the Chiacums last stand took place at the present site of Irondale. When the battle ended all the Chiacum Indians were dead with the exception of two girls. One of these was taken as a prisoner by the Barclay Sound tribe, the other was held by the Snhomishes.

In accordance with the burial custom of those days, the Barclay Sound and Snhomish Indians killed in the water battle were taken to Kuhn Spit and placed in canoes which then were drawn up on the shore, back into the thick brush and covered with sticks. There were about fifty canoes in this burial of the allied warriors. The Chiacums who were killed in their canoes and in the land battle were taken to Peckem Spit and their remains treated the same as the other tribes. On the ~~intermediate~~ beach from the mouth of Chiacum Creek to Irondale at intervals of about 100 feet the visitors placed on tall poles the heads of a number of Chiacum dead, to mark the place of their annihilation. And for three days the victorious allies danced the dance of death around these gruesome monuments.

The shrunken heads of the Chiacums remained there for several months. For many years the gun pits, trenches and lookout trees were in evidence and visited by awed whites. Even today on the scene of the Chiacums last stand at Irondale, it is not unusual to unearth grim evidences of the great battle and bones of the dead contenders are occasionally found in the brush and under logs in the vicinity of Irondale.

The people of Port Townsend, while the battle raged, assembled in a blockhouse which had been built previously as a refuge from

possible Indian attacks. They took no part in the short warfare for their numbers were few and they feared to interfere even as peacemakers, lest they too might be killed.

Many weeks passed before even the most venturesome of the whites visited the scene of the fray; for none knew but that loitering Barclay Sound or Snohomish Indians might misunderstand their curiosity and add their dead bodies to those in the Chinacum canoes.

The territory formerly held by the Chinacum tribe was occupied immediately after the battle by the Snohomish tribe which looked upon the section with great favor because of the excellent fishing grounds both offshore and in Chinacum Creek.

In the Chinacum valley too there were many beaver dams and the Indians considered the beavers a big asset. There were also large crabapple groves and on the prairies grew the "amas" an onionlike plant which they harvested for winter consumption. The Chinacum valley also was a favorite feeding round for elk in winter.

The young Chinacum girl taken as a prisoner to Snohomish returned to Oak Bay when she had grown to womanhood and married a man named Hoff, who homesteaded the place now owned by Joe Wah. The girl who was taken to Barclay Sound came back to Chinacum and married a man named Williamson who homesteaded the place at Chinacum now the property of Dr. Jay Gould.

Perhaps in the early 1890s, perhaps earlier, John Russel moved his family into what was known as the Tieton Basin. His homesite is now covered by the waters of the Tieton Reservoir. He had no road for vehicles into his haven so all of his supplies, equipment and all of the things the family possessed were transported by packhorses. This might require some doing because articles such as a cookstove and various other things were too bulky to be lashed down on the back of a horse. He even had a wagon on the premises. Obviously, the wagon must be dismantled and transported piece by piece. But John was happy with his surroundings, he was not irritated by close neighbors and the whole valley and surrounding mountains were his domain. In later years he had some difficulty on account of the compulsory state school law. What success the authorities may have had in compelling Russel to send his children to school, I do not recall. But in any event, it was a long way from John's cabin to a public school and no one had ever heard of a school bus in those times.

John was of noble physique, being something over six feet in height and with broad shoulders and no surplus flesh on his frame. He wore a black sombrero over a head of black hair which hung on his shoulders. His height was accentuated by high ~~heeled~~ ^{heeled} riding boots. His was a noble and striking figure in any company.

By the year 1900, it was generally recognized that the Yakima Valley had developed agriculturally to the point that the rivers could not supply sufficient irrigation water to supply the needs, more especially in years of low precipitation. And there were plans and schemes for the building of new and larger canals. There was no water for these new canals. So the government, through the Reclamation Service, was prevailed upon to conduct a study to determine how additional waters, over and above the natural river flows, might be supplied. To scout the mountain areas for reservoir sites required means for the engineers to get into the hills and to keep supplies on hand. John Russel was obviously fitted for the job of getting engineering crews into the mountains and keeping them supplied. He was engaged to handle the job in the Natches watershed area. He had the necessary pack trains, the knowledge of the trails and the knowhow to do the job. For assistants, he had two daughters who could handle a packtrain expertly. John, when he came to town, was given to celebrating more or less. And John was not one to be unduly rushed at any time. I recall standing on the corner of South Front Street and

Chestnut Street one day while John was in town (North Yakima). The pack train was assembled and the packs were lashed in place. The engineers were assembled too and everything was in readiness for the journey to the mountains. John was riding his saddlehorse around town, enjoying himself in the process. One of his daughter packers intercepted him at the point above described. She hailed her dad who stopped in the middle of the street and the daughter walked out to the vicinity of John saying, "The packs are on and the engineers are ready to start". John, with his hands resting on the saddle horn, looked down at her and replied as follows, "You tell them that when old John is ready, we will go". That was that and no back talk.

In line with his independent and untrammelled nature, John had never attempted to acquire legal title to his Tieton Basin domain. He simply had moved there, taken possession and, in his view, it was his land. He was there first. But when it was later decided that the government was to build the Tieton Dam and Reservoir, John's premises would obviously be covered many feet deep by the reservoir waters. John had no title and no doubt the government could have drowned the family out without let or hindrance. But, as I seem to recall, Senator Wesley Jones introduced a bill which resulted in Russell receiving some \$18,000 as damages from the government. I know nothing of the ultimate fate of John Russell.

Ross Morris
October 29, 1958