

2542 Locust Ave. N.
Pasadena, Wash
4 August 1965

Dear Mr. Pelander,

I have been advised to write you by the Washington State Historical Society. It seems you have collected many things, and much historical data over the years which could have some information therein that could help me.

I am trying to locate the burial site of my grandfather "J. W." or John William Parker after whom Parker Bottom is named. He went by the name of Bill Parker most of his life in the northwest. He died 13 Oct 1875 presumably in The Dalles or Goldendale.

Another thing I am concerned over is the Pioneer Graveyard in Union Gap. In it are two little graves near the northeast corner of the cemetery. One is marked "Effa Barker" and the other is marked Alron Barker. I believe these two graves to be mis-marked. Nowhere in my reading about the Barkers have I learned of children with these names belonging to them. I presume the good intentions of the graveyard restorers were put to a test because dilapidated, split and weathered wooden head boards were hard to read and they did the best they could by borrowing the name of Barker from the impos-

ing headstone nearby. I have many good reasons to believe that these two little graves are the children of my grandfather, J. William Parker. Their names were Effa and Aaron, and they died within two days of each other and the following month my grandfather died.

Somewhere must be a graveyard plat of this little graveyard. I've written to the major's office in Union Gap but have not received a reply to my query - who is in authority of the cemetery and who might have a plat.

I am also trying to establish the origin of my grandfather and his wife. I do not receive replys to my letters to the Oregon Historical Society which I find quite vexing. I've also been in correspondence with the Wasco County Clerk in Oregon; The Yakima Valley Museum - no answer. The Daughters of the Pioneers; The Washington State Historical Society; The historian of The Dalles, no answer to name a few sources of possible information. I would appreciate very much any information or advise you may be able to give me concerning the afore mentioned. It seems Dr. Kuykendall should have recorded the births of some of the Parkers or should have made mention of them. Please do advise me.

Sincerely Yours,
Gerald P. Dennis

722 S. Conway
Kennewick, Wash.



Yakima Tribe
Box 632
Yakima Indian Agency
Tappanish, Wash.

2542 Locust Ave. St.
Tacoma, Wash. 98466
17 August 1965

Mr. Click Pelander
3701 Commonwealth Road
Yakima, Washington

Dear Mr. Pelander,

No doubt you must be somewhat surprised to receive word from me so soon, but in your letter dated 16 Aug. '65, I noticed you wrote having a "considerable material regarding Parker (Bottom) etc." I became quite conscious of this fact and perhaps I may have put some meaning into the phrase which you did not intend even by implication, but I must learn if you do have much concerning my great grandfather in this collection? I'm here searching out all and everything I can find pertaining to both he and his wife, Harriet. I plan to write a history of them for my family and have been searching for all facts and information to this end. My real interest is genealogy and I have yet to prove the origin of these great grandparents.

I have aroused some family enthusiasm but am not quite satisfied with the support I've received from them. I'm certain there is more to be had from this quarter, but have not stopped here. I've written the University of Washington, Washington State College, Yakima Library and Museum etc. I believe I wrote of my sources

previously, therefore I am much interested in your collection

Your reason for the name Pety Plat surprised me. I had the understanding it was named thusly because of the Catholic priests who were amongst the Indians before the Whites came in such numbers. It was termed Pety Plat before it was called Parker Bottom. I would like to correct this tale if you say this is not so

I was fortunate enough to be allowed to go through the late Ethel Swanstrom's papers which have been given to the University of Washington. I noticed some correspondence from both you and H. Jean Guie relative to Pt. Simcoe and other historical interests. I was somewhat disappointed not to find much of anything in connection with my family, but I did learn who the committee was for restoring the Pioneer graveyard in Union Gap. Mrs. Ann Smith didn't know and I still have not received word from the Mayor's office in that town. The Yakima Morning Herald, Sunday 19 May 1940 had a very nice write up with a large picture etc. Mrs. Swanstrom was it seems an inveterate newspaper clipper. I wish I had more time to investigate her file but I didn't and I am satisfied for what I was searching. The chairman of the Pioneer Graveyard Committee was Mrs. J. D. Milroy. I wonder if she and her associates are still living? There was a Mrs

N. P. Sylvester and Mrs C. N. Baker
also on this team for the restoration.
No doubt you may know them.

The article also made mention of
an old cemetery up the Aptanum where
Whites are buried. Do you know of
this one?

I am thankful for your interest in
my historical searches and also for
your nice letter.

One thing more before closing. my
great grandfather died at The Dalles at
age 40 so states The Oregonian on 18
October 1875, which is microfilmed and
in U of M. library. Grandfather's Bible
is in the Yakima Museum and it states
he died 23 October 1875. You might
appreciate this fact.

Sincerely Yours
Gerald P. Hennis