

Thorp

A native stone monument at the side of the south end of the Birchfield road in the Moxee district will be dedicated June 15 to mark the site of the log cabin home of the first permanent white settlers in the Yakima valley and the first school in central Washington.

It was in 1861 that Fielding Mortimer Thorp built the log cabin 180 feet west of the monument for himself, his wife and children. The cabin was 25 feet long and 16 feet wide and had rooms upstairs. One of these rooms served as the school for the Thorp children.

The teacher was Mrs. Letitia Flett ^{Haynes} ~~Haynes~~, who with her husband, Albert ^{Haynes} ~~Haynes~~, settled near the Thorp family in the Moxee area in the summer of 1862. The Thorp children, who were pupils in that pioneer school were Leonard, Willis, Baylis, Milton, Frances, Ellen, Armelde and Olive. All of them have died but they have many descendents in Central Washington.

Thorp himself paid the teacher's salary. Four years later after Yakima county was formed, he applied for creation of a school district and thus the first Yakima county school district came into being.

It was known as Yakima county school district No. 1. There is no longer a district by that number owing to the fact that school districts are given new and higher numbers each time they are merged with other territory. The present Moxee school district is known as No. 90. The Union Gap school district is still known as No. 2.

A teacher in that pioneer school was Mrs. N.J. Dickson, who is now lives in the Terrace Heights area. She was then Miss Leta Conrad. Her schoolhouse was a log cabin structure, built in 1867 after the

Thorp family moved in 1867, to a new home in Kittitas county.

The town of Thorp in Kittitas county derives its name from the head of that pioneer family. He continued to make his home there until his death about 45 years ago.

His home place in Kittitas county is now the home of one of his granddaughters, Mrs. W.D. Bruton. "No one but Thorps have ever lived there," she recently remarked proudly.

The Yakima valley has seen six generations of Thorps since Fielding Mortimer Thorp and his father, Maj. John Thorp, drove herds of cattle into the Moxee country in 1860. Maj. Thorp was born in Kentucky in 1796 and pioneered the Oregon country nearly a century ago. One of the youngest in the Thorp line is Maj. John Thorp's great-great-great granddaughter, nine year old Katherine Thorpe of Airmira.

Living grandchildren of Fielding Mortimer Thorp include Mrs. Margaret Hawkins of Yakima, Willis Thorp of Yakima, Alva and Warren Thorp of Toppenish, Mrs. Laura Hadley of Toppenish, Mrs. Vivian McClarey of Toppenish, Ed and Timothy Thorp of Seattle, Mrs. Eva Brown of Seattle, Mrs. W.D. Bruton of Thorp and Mrs. Mary Hays of Alberta, Canada.

The monument is made of stone that came from the Cowiche region. Mrs. Margaret Splawn, widow of the late Jack Splawn of a Yakima valley pioneer selected the stone. The Yakima Valley Pioneer association erected the monument.

Fred G. Weller, principal of the Moxee Central school and member of the Yakima Valley Historical society has charge of arrangements for the didatory program. Weller said it would occur, before the program of the Yakima Valley Pioneer association and the Yakima valley Historical society, at the state fairgrounds. Herbert Shaw, secretary-treasurer of the pioneer association is working with Weller on arrangements--Undated clip in scrapbook of Edna Mae Beck Pierce.

A wrestling match which caused a fight between whites and Indians at the old town in early days became known as the battle of Union Gap, Orlando Beck said last week when recalling amusing incidents of pioneer days.

The sporting proclivities of Moses Bolman, saloon keeper, led him to bet We-Yallup, Indian chief on the Ahtanum, \$10 that Harley Taylor of Wenas could throw him two times out of three in a wrestling match. Taylor was a young man of 18 and a good wrestler.

Many Indians and whites came to see the match. Beck, who was then 14 was on hand with other boys.

Harley threw We-Yallup the first time; then We-Yallup threw Harley," Beck said. "The third fall was a dog fall with neither winning. Next Harley threw We-Yallup who then wanted to keep on wrestling but as the agreement was that two throws out of three should decide the match Harley refused to wrestle any more.

"The Indian chief, who was not satisfied with the outcome and did not give up the money when the argument between him and Bolman became heated, fought. The Indians became excited, took the side of their chief and when one of them came up with a spike to hit Bolman, some of the whites took a hand in the scrap and a general fight between the whites and Indians ensued."

After the fight was over Bolman told We-Yallup that he would shoot him if he ever came to town. We-Yallup stayed out of the town. This did not suit him so once when meeting Beck out in the sagebrush he asked him to intercede for him with Bolman so he might come to town when necessary. He promised to be peaceable if the permission was granted.

Beck took the word to Bolman who said the Indian might come to town if he were a good Indian. Afterward the Indian visited the old town when he wanted and there was no further trouble.

At one time We-Yallup disputed with Saluskin as to which of them should be chief. This led to a fight which lasted two days. The battle between them was amusing, Beck said, for they did not know how to fight but tugged at each other's hair and wore themselves out.

Finally Saluskin hit We-Yallup over the head with a club knocking him out. That settled the dispute and Saluskin was recognized as the chief of the Yakima Indians while We-Yallup remained sub-chief among the Antanum Indians--Elias Nelson, clipping Edna Mae Beck Pierce, about 1938)

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Parker Heights, March 26--Mrs. Dan McDonald saw her first spring in the Yakima valley 72 years ago.

Her curls would shake on her shoulders when she rode horseback from the log cabin in Parker Bottom up into the hills which rise behind the big Yellow house where she now lives.

And there, she and her brothers and sisters would find a profusion of sage lilies, camas, oyster plants. Down along the river would be syringas and choke cherries and many wild currants. And even before the snow melted the little wild buttercups would be poking up a herald of the spring.

Mrs. McDonald was 10 that first spring in the valley. The year before had been the most exciting of her life. Because she had ridden horseback across the plains from Tennessee and her father, Capt. Robert Dunn, had let her drive the band of shorthorn cattle they were bringing west.

The Dunn train had been midway across the plains when word came of the Custer massacre and of the terrible Indian wars in which they were heading.

The train turned back-but stubborn Capt. Dunn kept on and later was joined by other travelers, all men who were coming west for gold mining.

Members of Capt Dunn's family received many warnings along the way--and they spent some sleepless nights. But Mrs. McDonald counts as her closest escape the flood which hit her home when she was 12.

Spring was late that year and the river stayed frozen. Capt. Dunn was taking care of the ferry just below the present Sunnyside dam late one night. A chinook wind had been blowing and he feared the breaking ice might damage the ferry.

In the house only Mrs. Dunn and Ella (Mrs. McDonald) were up. Suddenly the ice bank broke and the river flooded through the lowland, smashed into the house, knocked out the fireplace and strewn out the furniture. Mrs. Dunn grabbed the younger children out of bed and her daughter tore for the barn. On workhorses the family fled into the hills.

Capt. Dunn overtook them and kept bonfires going all night to keep them from freezing. Mrs. McDonald remembers that he had to give the youngsters his coat and shirt because they had not time to dress.

When Ella Dunn was married to Dan McDonald, Sr. they moved just a short distance from where she had grown up. Her husband had extensive holdings throughout the lower valley, including a 400 acre ranch on which the town of Donald was located.

When he and his wife's brother, Duncan Dunn were killed in a tragic accident in 1928 their funeral had one of the largest attendances in the history of the valley--attesting to the family's popularity.

Now the big family home has been divided into a duplex arrangement. Mrs. McDonald's son, Dan McDonald and his family live on one side and she lives on the other. She demands her independence and keeps up the work on her side.

The interest in the community affairs her husband always maintained is held by Mrs. McDonald--Undated clipping in scrapbook of Mrs. Edna Mae Beck Pierce. (estimated around 1938)

Mortimer Fielding Thorp first settler in Yakima valley, 1860, located at Moxee Valley across the river from Union Gap and 1861 moved his family of five girls and four boys to Yakima by pack train from Klickitat co. He also brought with him about 250 head of fine Durham cattle. He also brought goodhorses, took up homestead in Moxee.

The first sheriff appointed by the governor was Gilbert Pell. However he did not qualify and Charles Splawn was appointed sheriff and was elected at the first election held in Yakima county at Union Gap, June 3rd, 1867. Officers elected were:

Alfred Henson, G.W. Allen and Thomas Goodwin, County commission Charles A. Splawn, sheriff; John Lindsey, assessor; E.W. Lyen, treasurer; S.C. Taylor, superintendent of schools; Henry Davis, coroner.

The county business was held in the home of Fielding Mortimore Thorps home (copy) until he left Yakima in 1869 and moved to Thorp, Wash. near Ellensburg. County business was then moved to C.P. Cooke home and remained there until Barker brothers who owned the first store Union Gap gave a lot for the building of the new court house in (1880 or 1870) struck over on typewriter) This court house was destroyed by fire, March 31, 1882, all county records were destroyed, the third court house came into being and was moved to North Yakima in 1887.

In 1867 the neighbors brought their mail from Umatilla by saddle horse, the neighbors would each take their turns in carrying the mail. In 1868 a man by the name of Parson carried the mail. The government began carrying the mail in 1870. In 1875 a memorial was addressed to the postmaster general by the legislature of the territory asking for better service; this memorial bears in an interesting way on conditions in Yakima in 1875. It sets forth that

there are over 2,000 people in Yakima valley. (copy of old typed sheet in scrapbook of Mrs. Edna Mae Beck Pierce. Date undetermined... about 1930.)

The first sheriff appointed by the governor was Gifford Bell. However he did not qualify and Charles Shaw was appointed sheriff and was elected at the first election held in Yakima county at Union Gap, June 3rd, 1867. Officers elected were Alfred Benson, S.W. Allen and Thomas Goodwin, County commissioners; Charles A. Shaw, sheriff; John Lindsay, assessor; E.W. Lyon, treasurer; S.C. Taylor, superintendent of schools; Henry Davis, coroner.

The county business was held in the home of William Thompson home (copy) until he left Yakima in 1869 and moved to Thorp, Wash. near Ellensburg. County business was then moved to C.F. Cooke home and remained there until Barker brothers who owned the first store Union Gap gave a lot for the building of the new court house in 1870 or 1871 struck over on typewriter. This court house was destroyed by fire, March 31, 1882, all county records were destroyed, the third court house came to being and was moved to North Yakima in 1887. In 1867 the neighbors brought their mail from Omalla by saddle horse, the neighbors would each take their turn in carrying the mail. In 1868 a man by the name of Larson carried the mail. The government began carrying the mail in 1870. In 1875 a memorial was addressed to the post master general by the Legislature of the territory asking for better service; this memorial passed in an interesting way on conditions in Yakima in 1875. It sets forth that

L.N. Pollard

Floods are nothing new to I.N. Pollard, 82, Yakima valley pioneer and in 1883 shortly after he was married he and his wife very nearly lost their lives because they became hungry while angry river waters swirled around their temporary home in the Nile district.

They were to tend David Longmire's dairy stock and make butter. But they had been there only a few days when the Naches river rose and they were flooded onto a small plot of ground. Pollard said the river for two months was the highest he has ever seen it.

Pretty soon we were eating just butter and getting mighty tired of it," he remembered. "Then one day two Indians who had been fishing in the Tieton swam to us. They had salmon and other things and butter we traded for everything we could get."

However that flood was just another minor incident in the life of the young man who had rolled west in a covered wagon, settled at Yelm Prairie and came to the valley when he was 22 years old.

Much more vivid was Pollard's recollection of the first band in the valley in which he played a B-flat horn. That was in 1882.

"We played for the Fourth of July celebration in Old Town" he remembered. He got paid \$100 for it. That band, in the struggling valley community was an achievement in cultural and social life.

When Pollard came to the valley in 1877 there were no orchards although there were a few straggling trees and that year he tasted his first peach. Irrigation however was being practiced on a small scale by the Indians in the Tampico district for growing truck gardens and later these unpretentious systems were improved upon by the pioneers.

Two years after he settled in the Wenas Pollard went into the cattle business and at odd moments worked in the lumber mill at the head of the Wenas to get a little necessary cash. Indian scares were frequent and one night when he left the mill his cousin

and he went down river a few miles to spend the night.

"Some time that night riders came into the Wenas to warn the settlers to run from the Indians as they were supposed to be coming in from Kittitas, down the Naches and up from Oregon to kill all ranchers," Pollard said. "We didn't know about it until next morning when we found nobody at the mill and all the ranches empty," he continued.

"We ran to the Purdin place and found on y a dog. Then we went to David Longmire's and then to the Cleman's place where we stayed a week. We wanted to run down to Old Town but people said that was where the Indians were to begin their slaughter so we stayed away.

"Finally, Pollard said, "we got word a gunboat on the river near The Dalles had fired at the Indians crossing from the Oregon. They had all turned back but seven and we think those are the ones who killed Mr. and Mrs. Lorenzo Perkins at White Bluffs," he continued.

"The massacre didn't come off and the valley became tranquil again and settled down to await coming of the railroad which was to mean so much to North Yakima.

Pollard, in the home of his son Otis, on Englewood heights, recalled with pleasure his full years as a pioneer in the valley and energetic as he looks ahead to other years. Bill Granberg, Herald Staff writer. Undated clipping, Edna Mae Beck Pierce.

Records of early settlement in the Yakima valley indicate that Mrs. Priscilla Goodwin was the first person buried in the old cemetery in Union Gap which was known as Yakima City in early days.

She was the wife of Dr. L.H. Goodwin and died a month after the family reached the Yakima valley in 1865.

Dr. Goodwin was the leader of a wagon train which crossed the plains. He stopped for a brief time in Walla Walla and had intended to go on to the coast but changed his mind and settled in the Yakima valley. The homestead law had been passed by congress the year before but lands there probably had not been surveyed and Dr. Goodwin undoubtedly established a preemption claim or squatters right when he made his home just north of the present site of Union Gap.

The town had not been founded and there were but few settlers in the valley at that time. The plot of ground, in which he buried his wife, he later gave to the community for a cemetery.

With Dr. Goodwin when he came to the Yakima valley were three others, George W., Thomas and Benton Goodwin. The last named was deaf and dumb. George W. Goodwin owned land in the southern part of Union Gap and later started a store but it was not the first one.

Thomas Goodwin and Benton Goodwin were the first white men to build a ditch for irrigation purposes. They diverted water from the Yakima river and irrigated land south of the present city of Yakima and produced 40 bushels of wheat to the acre. This was in 1866.

Thomas Goodwin later settled in the Wenatchee valley as did Columbus Goodwin, who was known among the pioneers as L. M. Goodwin. The latter was a blacksmith who was a cavalryman in the Union army during the Civil war and was the farrier of the regiment. Dr. Goodwin was a prominent Mason and on his death his body was taken by the Masons to

Walla Walla forburial.

The most pretentious grave in the old burial ground was that of Sumner Barker who started a store in 1800 1869 , the first to be established on the site which was to become the pioneer town. He was joined the following year by his brother, O.D. Barker. The brothers had a grist mill in the town where the bench drops off to lower ground along the Yakima river. Power was obtained from an overshot wheel the water coming by a ditch from Antanum creek.

Yakima City was a thriving town when R.B. Milroy saw it as a boy of 13 in 1873. He was with his father, Gen. R.H. Milroy, superintendent of Indian affairs in Washington territory who was on a trip visiting Indian tribes in eastern and northern Washington.

There were three mercantile stores, two or more saloons, a blacksmith shop, a hotel and a livery stable in the town. Cattle raising was the main industry in the valley then.

George W. Goodwin started his store in the old town in 1870 and in the same year Charles and Joseph Schanno established the third store.

Special interest attaches to the old burial ground because the bodies of Lorenzo B. Perkins and his wife, Blanche Perkins who were murdered by the Indians in 1878 were buried there. Perkins had been on the Columbia river taking care of cattle for W.L. Slawn and he and his wife had left on horseback for Yakima City.

They camped at Rattlesnake springs for the night and a small group of Indians, who were there, murdered them in the morning just after they had mounted their horses to continue their ride to old town.

When Perkins and his wife did not come to Yakima City after the pioneers learned they had left the Columbia river late in June a search party was organized and the bodies were found in a draw near the springs. Feelings ran high among the pioneers and

eventually the murderers paid for their hideous crime by being hung.

In the cemetery was buried Mrs. Anna G. Kingsbury, wife of Capt. John T. Kingsbury and mother of Dr. John A. Kingsbury, assistant WPA administrator. Capt. Kingsbury had come to Yakima City to make surveys for the Northern Pacific railroad.

In his dealings with the owners of land through which the road would pass he was unable to get satisfactory terms so received orders to locate a town further up the valley. The new town became North Yakima which later was changed to Yakima by an act of the state legislature while Yakima City, the old town, became Union Gap.

The railroad company moved the buildings of residents of the old town without cost and gave them lots of similar importance in the new town. Most of the businessmen and residents accepted this offer although feeling over the establishment of a new town was greatly resented.

Because many of the old timers moved to the new town the cemetery became neglected and the move now is for the preservation of the old burial ground as a matter of community pride. Elias Nelson, Herald Staff Writer, Sunday, July 10, 1938.

...C.C. Goodwin donated an acre of his land for the original cemetery which was never platted so there is no record of grave owners. The first burial was that of Goodwin's mother, Mrs. Priscilla Goodwin..

Buried also the Perkinses...their bodies were found 10 days after the murder and brought to the little village of Union Gap...

Other names on the stones recall vivid chapters of Yakima's development though a few of those originally laid to rest at Union Gap have been moved to Tahoma cemetery. But at Union Gap lie Sophia E. Farris, who died in 1891 but whose descendants are still act

in Yakima; Sebastian Lauber, who died in 1903 and whose work was the organization of the New Schanno Ditch after the death of Schanno, and John D. Barnett, who died in 1899 and whose name is carried forward by Judge Dylph Barnett of the Yakima superior court.

Other names, too, have modern echoes.

There is Lewis Ker, who died at 72 years of age in ~~1890~~ 1899 and who was the founder of the Ker family, active in Yakima development; Hannah Chappell, who died in 1882 and who is remembered by many of the real pioneers for her aid in the Chappell store, one of the first mercantile establishments in the district and Susan Bennett, whose death in 1881 robbed the pioneer community of a babe of but a year. Other members of the family including her grandparents, John and Martha Edwards, are buried near her.

Wartime memories are also recalled by the persons who stroll in the peace of the old cemetery with only noises now heard there the hum of motor traffic on the main highway to the west and the ripple of the meandering river, not far to the east.

John D. Edwards, who died in 1887 is listed on his stone as a member of Company C. volunteers of the Indian Wars.

In that same year perished Walter Grant, killed by being dragged by a horse. The children of G.J. Gervais, who operated a general merchandise store in the brick building now being used by Robert Secrest are buried close by. That name too has meant much to the development of the valley.

Among the other graves is that of Sumner Barker, who came from Maine to the west and died in 1879. Barker's addition to Union Gap was his property and he operated the pioneer settlement's first grist mill and general store. John McDaniel who crossed the plains in 1844 at six years of age was buried there in the winter of 1877.

Three years later the wife of Edward Wilson was laid to rest in Union Gap and in 1886 Abijah O'Neal was buried at the side of his wife who died 12 years earlier. Incidentally O'Neal was the first real horseman of the valley; his racing mare brought from Portland successfully defended the Yakima speed claims to the tune of a \$1,000 bet which was quite a fortune in these days. C

A trip through the cemetery, even when taken alone, is an interesting picture of the pioneer life of the valley. If taken in company with some person as familiar with its history as Orlando Beck, say the passage of events is so vividly painted that they seem as real as though the occurrences were of a day ago instead of many years in the mists of the past--Clipping, undated, from Yakima Republic, in scrapbook of Edna Mae Beck Pierce.