



Lacey Historical Society
NEWSLETTER

P.O.Box 3324, Lacey WA 98509-3324

JUNE 1996

The Lacey Historical Commission recently completed a document titled, Lacey History Time Line. It documents important dates in the history of Lacey, beginning pre-1846 until present. It will be continued in upcoming newsletters, as space allows.

- Pre-1845 Lacey area prairies and lakes are prime fishing and hunting areas for the Nisqually Indians.
- 1846 Nathan Eaton visits the area.
- 1848 David and Elizabeth Chambers settle near David's brothers, who live on the prairie known as Chambers Prairie.
- 1849 Freeman Tyrell comes to the area and stakes out a claim north of Long Lake.
- 1850 Nathan Eaton returns from the California Gold Rush and settles on land along a creek that comes to be known as Eaton Creek.
- 1851 Newcomers to the area include Stephen Ruddell and his family and Stephen's stepson, Urban East Hicks. Just before the end of the year, Isaac Wood arrives in the area and the next year takes out a Donation Land Claim.
- 1852 New to the area, after crossing the Oregon Trail, are William and Mary Pattison, James and Jane Pattison, William Parsons, Henry Parsons, Gallatin Hartsock, Joseph and Phebe Conner. William Rutledge clears some land and builds a cabin next to a lake that becomes known as Rutledge Lake (now Hicks Lake). He leaves the claim the next year.

TO BE CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE

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REMEMBER!! LACEY FOUNDER'S DAY IS JUNE 29

LET'S GO VISITING

Summer Issue

Family History of Tyrus Himes

In October 1853, after enduring a lengthy and perilous crossing of the Oregon Trail, Tyrus and Emeline Himes and their four children found shelter in a log cabin on the claim of David and Elizabeth Chambers near Chambers Prairie. The Chambers fed the exhausted family a sumptuous meal that so impressed George Himes, the eldest son, he wrote about it 74 years later in an article for the Olympia News. The Himes staked out their own claim just a couple of miles east of the Chambers' on land that runs approximately from Carpenter Road in the west, to Union Mill Road in the east, to Lake Lois in the north, and to the Northern Pacific Railroad tracks in the south.

The arrival in the west was the fulfillment of a long dream for Tyrus Himes. Born in 1818 in Bradford County, Pennsylvania, Himes began plans to journey west in 1838 after hearing a lecture on the Oregon country. He married Emeline Holcombe, also a native of Pennsylvania, in 1843 and in 1846 with their young son, George, made the first leg of the journey. When the family reached Stark County, Illinois, Tyrus was forced to stop because of an old injury to his leg. Finally on March 21, 1853 the Himes family embarked on the Oregon Trail in two wagons. In Oregon, the family joined the Longmire party, the first wagon train to cross the Cascade Mountains directly into western Washington.

Once the family had settled on its land claim, Tyrus opened a boot and shoe shop in Olympia which he kept open during the week. This enterprise, and the development of his land, had to be postponed during the Indian War of 1855-56 when the family took shelter in four different stockades. Once the war was over, Tyrus resumed his business in Olympia. Emeline managed to oversee the development of the farm during the week while caring for the growing family of eight children. Tyrus gave up his shop in 1863 and lived on his farm until his death in 1879. Emeline continued with the farm until 1881 when she sold it to David Fleetwood. She died in 1898 in Elma.

(This information comes from the files of George Himes, courtesy of the Lacey Museum.)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Your response to the April 1996 Newsletter was an outstanding support of loyalty to your Lacey roots! Over 45 members mailed in their '96 dues, some with new address changes. Thank you so much. The money does help but more so your belief and confidence. Our 1996 membership status is 75; 1997 is 10; and 1998 is 1.

The new 2:00 p.m., third Wednesday, meeting time of the Lacey Historical Society has brought Genevieve Mason, Virginia and Ray McLeran, Harold Yates, and Lois L. Bowen to the monthly meetings. We were all treated with smoked salmon pieces that Harold is famous for. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated, Harold.

Now that summer is here, the trustees will be vacationing during July and August. But come September 18, we'll be at the Museum at 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. Please come and join us.

VISITING MEMBERS ARE MOST WELCOME !!!!!

MEETING NEWS

Have you spotted the two brown historical name signs in Lacey? One says, "Foy Street", the other, "Robbins Road". These brown signs hang below the green "Clearbrook" and green "6th Avenue" signs. Still lost? Foy Street and Clearbrook are directly in front of Lacey Fire District #3. Robbins Road and 6th Avenue enter St. Martins from College Street. Keep looking. There may be more coming.

Did you know that it was Tom Huntamer who resolved the "hangup" concerning the displaying of the signs?

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The Stormans' Corporation community support program (in which the Society has participated for several years) consists of a one percent rebate on sales slips on items purchased from Ralph's Thriftway and Bayview Grocery. The receipt collection dates are:

3rd quarter (July - September); Allowed dates: Jan.-Sept.)
4th quarter (October - December); " " : April-Dec.)

Remember to save your sales slips and send them to the Lacey Historical Society, Box 3324, Lacey, WA 98509-3324.

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