

**LACEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY (LHS)**  
**2017 Summer Newsletter**



**“THE PIONEERS OF LACEY”**

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**Lacey Historical Society Annual Meeting-Potluck, & Lacey School Reunion**

Please join us for the Lacey Historical Society Annual Meeting, on Thursday, Sept. 28, 2017, between 5:30 & 8:00 p.m. at the Lacey Community Center, located at 6729 Pacific Ave. SE in Lacey, Wash. Dinner is potluck, so bring your favorite dish to share. Fried chicken, coffee, tea and lemonade will be provided at no charge.

We have made the Lacey School Reunion part of the annual meeting festivities. Former Lacey School students will have the opportunity to reconnect with their classmates. Once again, the Lacey Museum has graciously agreed to bring the school photographs everyone enjoys seeing. As usual, the Museum appreciates your help with identifying “unknown” students.

The Museum will also be displaying all the exhibit panels prepared for last years 50th Anniversary of the incorporation of Lacey. If you missed them or you saw just a few of them, this is your opportunity to see them now.

Last spring several trustees went through the old society records and discovered numerous photographs from past events. Many of these will be on display, but as with the school photographs, many of the participants are unidentified. We need your help in putting names to faces!

A lot of the articles in this newsletter are devoted to pioneer stories. This year we invite descendents to share stories of their pioneer ancestors during our round-table discussions. For those of us who arrived in the 20th century, it would be fun to share memories of our early years in those discussions.

**Please RSVP by Friday Sept. 22, 2017. Either mail your RSVP to our PO BOX, or call Susan Hartman at (360) 704-0507. Thank you.**

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**RUDDELL PIONEER CEMETERY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING**

The Ruddell Pioneer Cemetery Association is experiencing a decline in its active membership due to the passing of many of its active members. In view of these circumstances, the agenda of the Cemetery Annual Meeting will include a discussion of the possible Dissolution of the Association.

If you are the descendant of a pioneer buried in the Ruddell Pioneer Cemetery, **it is Very important that you attend the Cemetery Annual Meeting on Sept. 17, 2017. The future of the Association is at stake.**

The Ruddell Pioneer Cemetery Association will hold its Annual Meeting at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 17th at the Woodlawn Funeral Home on Mullen Road in Lacey.

**Please RSVP to Don Beatty at (360) 456-1983 or dabpeb@comcast.net if you plan to attend the Cemetery Association Meeting.**



Thank you.



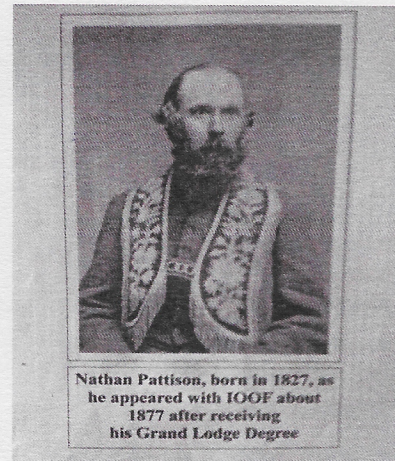
## Nathan Pattison Memories

On April 10, 1849 the Pattison clan left their homes near Sparta, Randolph County, Illinois, to take the trail to Oregon. Their company consisted primarily of Nathan's immediate family; his wife, Rachel; his parents, William and Mary; five brothers; and William's aunt, Charlotte Irwin. Nathan's brother, James, was accompanied by his wife, Jane, and their infant son. With the Pattisons were some relatives of Jane Pattison named Wyllie.

On April 2, eight days before they set out for Oregon, Nathan and eighteen-year-old Rachel E. Warren were married. On June 19: "*Rachel taken sick in the morning, died in the night.*" Thus did twenty-three-year-old Nathan Pattison record the death of his wife of two months, Rachel Warren Pattison. William wrote: "*...Rachel was taken with Colara...*" She was buried at Ash Hollow near present-day Lewellen in western Nebraska.

Charlotte Irwin died on October 12 as the company crossed the Blue Mountains. The Pattisons reached The Dalles of the Columbia on November 3. An attempt was made to raft down the river but an early winter storm left them stranded at the Cascades. After many days of privation they finally reached Fort Vancouver late in the month. The Pattisons spent the winter in the area while the men of the company cut timber to earn their living. They went on to Oregon City in the spring of 1850.

Over the next two years the clan moved northward to the Cowlitz Landing and eventually to Chambers Prairie, the area surrounding present-day Pattison Lake in Lacey, Wash.



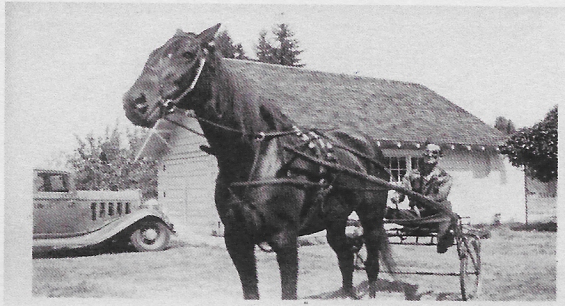
The Pattisons took adjoining Donation Land Claims giving them over 2000 acres on which they farmed and raised cattle. In 1857, William and Mary Pattison and four of their sons returned to their Camp Creek claim near Eugene, Oregon. James, Jane, and Nathan, however, decided to stay and bought the land claims of the departing Pattisons. Most of those departing are buried at the Oakville Cemetery southwest of Albany, Oregon.

Nathan Pattison never remarried and lived with his brother James and family for most of the rest of his life at various places near and in Olympia, Washington. Nathan's name appears on an Indian War Muster Roll, Jan. 1856 in Captain Isaac Hayes's Company E, first regiment, as well as the Roster of the Columbia Engine Company No. 1. Olympia's early fire department, 1866-1880s. He was active in the Olympia Lodge No. 1, Olympia's early fire department, 1866-1880s. He was active in the Olympia Lodge of the IOOF, becoming at one point Noble Grand. Nathan died at age sixty-six near Olympia in 1893 and is buried in a family plot with James, Jane, their children, and other descendents in the vicinity of this marker.



# Ike Ellis, Lacey Entrepreneur-Woodland Driving Park

In 1889, according to the historian Burton Richards, an entrepreneur named Ike Ellis bought 82 acres of land adjacent to Homann Drive in Lacey, Washington. On a portion of it he built a race track, *Woodland Driving Park*.



It became nationally known because it remained dry the year around, its soil consistency being such that it never became soggy even after rainfall. *Woodland Driving Park* and associated activities kept Lacey in the limelight, to a modest degree, for the next half century

Along with the track, Ellis built stables to accommodate 110 horses. Northern Pacific Railway Co. ran a station, in accordance with an agreement between Ellis and the railroad.

The new "driving park" attracted racing enthusiasts from Tacoma, Seattle and faraway Portland. Ellis, seeing that new accommodations were needed, built a three-story hostelry, *Woodland Hotel*, on race track property. It was handier to the track than an earlier inn, which was situated on Union Mills Road.

In 1913, track and hotel were bought by George Huggins, who operated them until his death in 1920. By that time, prohibition was

in force, and, according to Richards, the hotel had become a bootlegging center. It continued as such, he said, until the 18th Amendment was repealed.

*Lacey: A Historical Review.*  
A special section of  
*The Olympian*, in Olympia,  
Washington  
  
Wednesday, October 1,  
1986.

## From the book

### "ALL THE WAYS I FOUND TO HURT MYSELF"



"Sometimes at dusk, up at the end of Kinwood Road, I could hear the occasional cougar. Fleetwood's Lake (yes, originally homesteaded by er's forebearers) was quite a hub for creatures of the forest. I only heard (HEARD) cougar, but I have seen bobcat at waters edge thirty feet from me."

screaming of an  
my fifth grade teach-

"Once a coyote ran out of a cornfield at the fence line and passed between my legs as I lifted one to crawl through the barbed wire fence. After he ran through my legs, he stopped, turned around, and looked at me in astonishment; we both nearly peed ourselves."

"I think a small black bear nearly ran down my mom while she was hanging up laundry to dry on the line behind our house."

"By today's standards where and when I lived was rugged and wild, but we didn't feel there was anything to be afraid of — not cougars, or bears, not coyotes, bobcats or chickens."



Author: Alan Gorscuh (Volume One / pages 79-80)

## Memories

Michael O'Keefe

### English Admiral Lord Nelson and the Ruddell Pioneer Cemetery

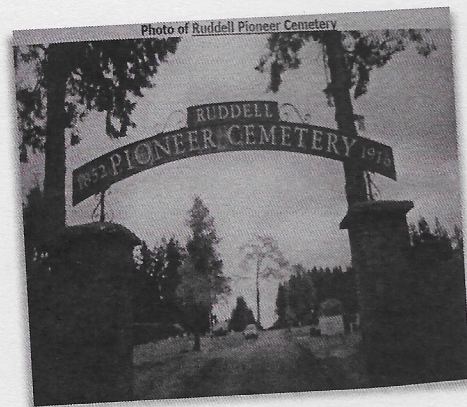
Every English school child knows of Admiral Lord Nelson who is perhaps the most famous of all of England's war heroes. His most famous battle was the sea battle of Cape Trafalgar of 1805 in which he defeated the French Armada, but lost his own life in the battle. Unfortunately, his personal life was not as honorable as his military accomplishments and he was known to have had more than one flagrant extra marital affair.

My great grandfather, Urban E. Hicks was the step son of Steven Duley Ruddell and the son of Steven's wife, Winifred Hicks Ruddell. When Steven and Winifred traveled across the plains, they brought Urban and his wife Elisa Jane with them. Elisa Jane was not well and died in 1853. Her death was the impetus for establishing the Ruddell Pioneer Cemetery and Elisa Jane was the first person to be buried in the new cemetery in 1853.

After the death of Elisa Jane, Urban married India Ann Hartsock who was born in 1831 in, you guessed it, Indiana. India Ann was one of five daughters of Elizabeth Miller Hartsock. India Ann always maintained that her mother, Elizabeth Miller Hartsock was the illegitimate daughter of Admiral Lord Nelson. Lord Nelson's date of death was October 21, 1805. Elizabeth's date of birth is listed as 1805. True or not, it is an interesting story.

Steven Duley Ruddell, Winifred Hicks Ruddell, Urban E. Hicks, Elisa Jane Hicks, Elizabeth Miller Hartsock and India Ann Hartsock Hicks are all buried in the Pioneer Section of the Ruddell Pioneer Cemetery.

The son of Urban and India Ann, Gallatin Gwin Hicks donated the ornate entrance gate to the Cemetery. He was also a delegate to the Washington Constitutional Convention and the youngest person to sign the Washington State Constitution. He later established Gwinwood Resort on Hicks Lake.



Susan Hartman, LHS  
Newsletter Editor



**"Nieces Recall Generous Uncle who 'Spoiled' Them."**

Alfred O. Nystrom lived all his 82 years in the Lacey area. "He was a good guy who always took good care of us," said Susan Gordham, one of Nystrom's two nieces. "Al was always looking out for my sister and me."

Nystrom was born Nov. 27, 1914, in Sherlock, now know as the Nisqually area. In May 1936, he married Alva McCracken. Nystrom and his wife had no children of their own. Gordham and her older sister, Carla Nystrom, daughters of Alfred's brother, were the only two children in Alfred's life.

The nieces say their Uncle Al and Aunt Alva spoiled them. "We'd always get great Christmas presents from them," Carla Nystrom said. "They bought us snow skis, luggage and even hope chests."

In the 1960s Alfred and Alva built a house on 10 acres of land near Lake St. Claire. Alfred had a trail made that snaked through the property. Then he bought the girls a little Honda motorcycle.

"We used to bomb through the woods on that thing and make new trails with our friends. We were so spoiled," Carla said.

Margaret Nystrom, the girls' mother and Alfred's sister-in-law, said that Alfred and Alva were always close to the family.

"They were real good to the kids", she said.

She and her husband had a cabin up near the Nisqually entrance to Mount Rainier National Park and they frequently took the girls camping. Alfred and Alva often brought a trailer up to the cabin to join them"

"He was really an outdoorsy type," Carla said. "He loved to camp and fish and dig for clams and go salmon fishing at Westport. And he was always out working in his great big garden."

In the 1950s Alfred and his father bought into Lacey Co-Ply, a plywood company. They were two of the original members of the co-op.

Margaret said Alfred liked to build things. He put together a picnic table for the cabin and built a deck there, too. Both were very sturdy, she said.

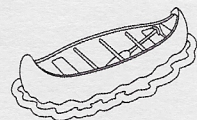
"He was just a good, hard-working guy," she said.

Alfred was also a fan of the Washington State University Cougars. When Carla attended WSU, Alfred and Alva would travel to Pullman once a year with Carla's parents to visit her and attend a football game.

Carla and Susan remembered that their uncle had a knack for keeping the family warm during the winter. "He had this big fireplace," Susan said. "In the winter he'd build these great big fires and it would get so hot my aunt would have to open the doors to cool the house down."

Carla said Susan sometimes reminisce about their Uncle Al as they walk around Olympia's Capitol Lake together during lunch hour. "He was a kindhearted, giving man," Carla said.

Alfred died of heart failure March 15, 1997 at the city's Roolan Health Care Center. His wife Alva died in 1984.



**TRIBUTE: A Life Well Lived.**

Tribute, an occasional feature of the News Tribune, is a look back at the life of a local resident who made a difference in his or her community.

*By Bill Hutchens. The News Tribune. 1997*