

Columbia county had but little connection with it except to furnish a company of stalwart volunteers. June 22d, soon after the massacre in Idaho, a man named Ritchie was killed north of Snake river by a renegade Snake Indian. This originated the report that all northern Indians were on the war path. Exposed settlements were deserted, and in the towns preparations were rapidly made for defense on an extended scale. All kinds of sanguinary stories were afloat on the wings of rumor. Absurd and improbable tales were readily believed. It was soon demonstrated that these reports that had caused great agitation, stagnation of business and obstruction of travel, were false; the people quieted down; settlers returned to their homes and the tumultuous country resumed its normal condition. The war never crossed Snake river; it was confined to Idaho and Montana.

It is undeniable, however, that settlers east of the Tucanon were in great trepidation. Leaving their homes they congregated at Lewiston, Dayton and Walla Walla. It was not so much Chief Joseph's band they feared; it was reasoned that his outbreak might encourage other tribes to rise, slaughter and burn. Volunteers came forward from Dayton, Walla Walla and the Pataha country, and served for several weeks with the troops in Idaho, and in scouting through the exposed sections of Washington. April 20, 1877, a conference with General Howard was held at Walla Walla. The volunteers from this town were commanded by Captain Paige, a little more than 20 strong. The company from Dayton numbered 45 young men; they had elected Colonel Geo. Hunter their captain. Levi Watrous was their lieutenant. In his book Colonel Hunter says:

The memorable event of 1877 was the Nez Perce Indian war. Although to a certain extent it affected the whole of Eastern Washington, so far as the war *per se*, was concerned,

"They said they would go to the assistance of the North Idaho people if I would lead them. When this transpired I was some 40 miles away, attending to some business for the Patrons of Husbandry, and had not heard

of the outbreak until the messenger met me one morning about eight o'clock. Together we hastened to Dayton, arriving there about three o'clock, p. m., where we found the boys rushing around, securing horses and all things needed for the trip.

"On my arrival I was warmly received by all. The command was tendered to me and I accepted it. It took us but a short time to secure horses, saddles and other articles required, for I told the boys I was sure that the government officers would be glad to receive and arm us. Late in the evening we moved out about seven miles, and encamped near my farm for the night. \* \* \* The following morning we resumed our march for Lewiston, 55 miles east, where we arrived that night.

"The next morning I tendered our services to Colonel Spurgeon, the representative of the government there, General O. O. Howard the commander of the department of the Columbia, having gone to the front, leaving Colonel Spurgeon to forward men and supplies as fast as they arrived at Lewiston, by steamer or otherwise. On presenting myself to the colonel I was received in a most courteous manner. He asked me whether I wished to co-operate with the United States troops, or go independently. I told him I was not able to arm, equip and maintain 45 men in the field, nor were any of my command able to do so; that I proposed to attach my company to General Howard's forces, and to operate in accordance with his orders, and requested him to fit out my company. He said General Howard would be glad to have us with him, and that within a day or two he would have plenty of needle guns and ammunition up from Fort Vancouver; that on their arrival he wished that I, with my command, would escort some army officers up to General Howard on Camas prairie."

At the time the Dayton boys arrived in Lewiston a company of about 25 men from Pomeroy, under command of Captain Elliott

and Lieutenant E. T. Wilson, arrived there. An attempt was made to consolidate the two companies, but failed and each went alone. While waiting for arms Captain Hunter escorted a party of army officers to Lapwai. The steamer carrying the arms arrived in a short time and the Dayton company was armed with 50-calibre needle guns, and furnished sufficient rations to last it to Camas prairie. The company at once started on a forced march for the front, in company with a small body of mounted soldiers. They moved swiftly to Lapai, and thence up and over Craig's mountain. The next day the company crossed the prairie and over the hills to the head of White Bird Creek, the scene of Colonel Perry's defeat a few days before, where soldiers were engaged in burying the dead of that disastrous battle.

About four o'clock the Dayton volunteers reached General Howard's headquarters on White Bird creek. Captain Hunter reported and formally tendered the company's services, and that night took up a position and put out guards. The following morning the command, all except the Dayton company, moved on to Salmon river, a few miles away. As the Dayton troops had been on a forced march from Lewiston they were left in camp to recuperate, but after a short time, the men becoming restless, they followed to the front. Indians could be seen on the opposite side of Salmon river and it was believed that they were strongly fortified and would give battle were an attempt made to cross the river. Reaching the summit of the high hills that overlooked the river, Captain Hunter dismounted his men, left a few in charge of the horses and with others ran swiftly down the steep hills to some cabins that had been built years before by miners. There they scouted up the river to where the White Bird trails struck it. Here they found General Howard's headquarters already established, and were soon joined by those who had been left in

charge of the horses. Colonel Hunter continues:

"Having obtained permission from General Howard, I, with a part of my company, went up the river a mile or two to where one Mason and others had been killed, and burned up in their cabins. My recollection is that in all there were three killed and burned here. We collected all the remains we could find and buried them. We found an old skiff that had been split in two which we managed to patch up; then we made paddles out of boards, and I and one of the boys paddled it down the river to headquarters, the rest of the boys running along the bank, ready to cover us in case of an attack."

After this incident Captain Hunter, First Sergeant John Long, of the Dayton company, and a gentleman named Randall, crossed the river in a skiff and made a scouting tour on the other side. They found no Indians, but plenty of "signs," the hostiles having, apparently, just left. That same evening, June 29th, by order of General Howard, the Dayton volunteers reported to Captain Marcus P. Miller, of the Fourth Artillery, for duty. The next day the command crossed the river, the Dayton company being the first over. Captain Hunter then received the following order:

**SPECIAL FIELD ORDER NO. 22.**

Captain George Hunter, commanding Dayton Volunteers, will at 6 p. m., tomorrow make a reconnaissance in the direction of Pittsburg Landing, and examine the country thoroughly as he proceeds, especially in the direction of Joseph's reported encampment.

By order of Brigadier General Howard.

(Signed): M. C. WILKINSON.

First Lieutenant Third Infantry, Aide de Camp.

Concerning the fulfillment of these orders Colonel Hunter in his book says:

Pursuant to this order I selected ten or twelve of my best mounted men, and in company with a signal officer furnished by the general to accom-

pany this expedition, we pushed on up the mountain in the direction of Canoe Encampment. We found the mountain very steep and hard to climb. On reaching the summit we soon struck Joseph's trail, which was broad and easily followed, as Joseph had hundreds of horses with him. These trails we followed some distance, then swung around, and returned by way of Pittsburg Landing. Arriving at the summit of the mountain we tried for some time to attract the attention of those at headquarters on Salmon river, twelve or fifteen miles away, but we failed to catch their eye. After fully satisfying ourselves that the Indians had gone toward Canoe Encampment, on Snake river, we returned, having traveled over forty miles over rough mountains, and the most of the way without a trail.

The Dayton company then proceeded with General Howard's army on the trail of the hostile Indians, and gained as far as a small rivulet nearly opposite the mouth of Rocky canyon, where they camped. Here news was received that Chief Joseph had made a flank movement and swung around back to Camas prairie, and that he had Colonels Perry and Whipple's commands surrounded near the Cottonwood house. These were the troops that had been so roughly handled in the White Bird canyon. They had been sent back by General Howard from Salmon river for ammunition and supplies, and were attacked at the Cottonwood house, where brave young Lieutenant Raines lost his life. He was out with eight or ten soldiers making a reconnaissance, and was cut off by the Indians, and the whole party killed after making a gallant fight. This news resulted in the company of Dayton volunteers, of 45 men, and Captain McConville's company of fifteen Lewiston volunteers, being sent on a forced march across the country by way of Rocky canyon to the Cottonwood house to the relief of Colonels Whipple and Perry. The order for this move was as follows:

**SPECIAL ORDER NO. 23.**

Captain George Hunter, commanding Dayton Volunteers, will proceed via Rocky canyon to Cottonwood, I. T., reporting upon his arrival there to the commanding officer. As soon as his serv-

ices can be dispensed with on reaching Lewiston, I. T., Captain Hunter, with his company, is hereby relieved from duty with this command.

By order of Brigadier General Howard.  
(Signed.) M. C. WILKINSON,  
Aide de Camp.

Accompanying this order was the following:

Headquarters Department of the Columbia, in the field. Camp Raines; Junction of Rocky canyon and Canoe Encampment Trail, I. T., July 4, 1877. Special Field order No. 23.

The commanding general of the department takes this opportunity to convey to Captain George Hunter, commanding Dayton Volunteers, and the individual members of his company, his thanks for the hearty, prompt and energetic manner in which they have responded to every call to duty during the period in which they have served in his command. Often sent in the advance under the most trying circumstances they have never failed to answer cheerfully every demand to perilous duty.

By command of Brigadier General Howard.  
(Signed.) M. C. WILKINSON,  
First Lieutenant Third Infantry, Aide de Camp.

In his book Colonel Hunter says, explaining this order relieving his company from duty:

"As the most of my command were young farmers who were needed at that time at their homes to care for their crops, and Howard thought he had sufficient United States troops to cope with the hostiles, he sent the order by the men he dispatched for boats to cross us over Salmon river."

Continuing Colonel Hunter says:

Receiving Special Field order No. 22, McConville's company and mine (sixty-five men all told), made a forced march to Salmon river opposite the mouth of Rocky canyon, and there camped for the night. The next morning the boats reached us about daylight, when we ferried our men and supplies over, swimming our horses, and pushed on over the mountain for Camas prairie. On the top of this mountain we met another courier who stated that fighting was still going on at Cottonwood. So we hurried on to the prairie where we stopped half an hour to rest our horses and partake of a lunch ourselves. From an adjacent hill

we could see men riding back and forth near the Cottonwood. This assured us that the fight was still going on. Soon remounting we rode across the level prairie as fast as our horses could stand it. At about sundown we were among the low mounds, or hills, a few miles from the Cottonwood house. Then, as we could not see any signs of the Indians, or hear any shooting, we concluded that they had drawn off to attack us, and were lying in concealment among these hills. We believed they could make it warm for us before we were able to reach the soldiers. Having arrived at this conclusion, we called in our advance guards. I told McConville I would do the scouting through these hills myself, and in case he was attacked he had better have our horses shot down and use their bodies for breastworks, for they were so tired it was about impossible to get away from the Indians on them. The Indians would be mounted on fresh, fleet horses or ponies. All must make up their minds to either whip the Indians or themselves be killed to a man.

Captain McConville was an old soldier, but without experience in Indian warfare. He was a brave man and a good officer. He requested me, in case of an attack to return and assume command of our men. Getting ready to go forward, I told him to keep his men a few yards apart, and to move only as I should signal to have him from time to time as I passed over the hills, and to always keep a good place in view whereat to make a stand and fight. All being understood I passed rapidly ahead, from mound to mound, closely examining the ground for evidences of the presence of Indians as I went, and signalling McConville as I proceeded over mound, hill, gulch and flat at as rapid a pace as my "Little Wonder" could carry me; and until in the fast gathering darkness I heard a loud voice saying, Don't shoot at the man coming on that white horse; that is Captain Hunter—I know his riding." The sentence was hardly finished when I galloped up the slope, and into the midst of a squad of soldiers who were standing around a gatling gun near some rifle pits. I was soon grasping the hand of Major Bab-bitt and others. This hill had been fortified with rifle pits by the soldiers, who had defended and held it against Joseph's entire force for a day or two.

Captain McConville soon came up with our two commands. But our rejoicings at having gotten in so easily were soon turned to exclamations of sadness as we listened to the particulars of the gallant fight that had been made a few hours before our arrival by seventeen Mount Idaho men.

\* \* \* It was believed that the Indians had seen me and the command approaching across the prairie, and that the warm reception they had received at the hands of the seventeen Mount Idaho

boys was a "pointer" to what they might expect at the hands of sixty-five men of similar habits. At least they drew off in the direction of the Kamai reservation pretty soon. On the arrival of our two commands the boys were soon in camp and listening to different accounts of the happenings of the past few days at and near the Cottonwood house. \* \* \* The next morning I received orders to escort the dead and wounded of the brave seventeen across the prairie to Mount Idaho. Fully expecting the Indians would give us battle when they saw us out in open ground, and as we had never tried our needle guns, I ordered my men to try them at a target. The boys moved out and, to our utter astonishment, not one in twenty of our cartridges would fire, as one after another of the boys attempted to test their guns.

Then things began to "rumble," and the air was resonant with "cuss" words as we all began to realize the helpless condition we had unknowingly been in while making the dangerous and toilsome marches of the past few days, sometimes almost into the jaws of death, encumbered with heavy belts filled with worthless cartridges, which rendered our guns useless except as clubs, and only a portion of the command provided with small arms. Major Babbitt, who had issued these cartridges to my men, being present, he at once had other cases brought out, opened and examined. He said there had been some damaged cartridges discovered before, and by accident we had got hold of some of them. We were all satisfied that it was an unintentional mistake, and could see that the officer who had furnished them to us felt really worse about it than we did. \* \* \* This incident I note to show that sometimes luck favors those who are unable to favor themselves. In other words, "a fool for luck."

Being furnished with good cartridges we started across to Mount Idaho with the dead and wounded, arriving there without molestation. The next day we buried the dead. As we were now away from the government troops, and were not likely to be able to join them for some time, and the hostiles being near us, it was thought best to consolidate the Idaho and Washington volunteers and form a regiment, there being three companies of Idaho men and one (my own) from Washington Territory. After some delay we effected an organization by electing Captain McConville, colonel; myself, lieutenant colonel, and George Sears, major, of the First Regiment of Idaho and Washington Volunteers.

It was at this time that Colonel Hunter was shot in a quarrel with E. T. Wilson, who was at the time a member of Captain McCon-

ville's company. The quarrel grew out of jealousy over the selection of the officers of the regiment. Matters were straightened out and Colonel Hunter and Mr. Wilson became warm friends. The volunteers moved on in the direction of Kamai, under command of Colonel McConville, leaving their newly chosen lieutenant colonel in the hospital. Within a day or two the volunteers were attacked on a hill where they had made a stand, but the hostiles found them too strongly fortified, and drew off after succeeding in capturing a few horses. Continuing his story Colonel Hunter says:

The ball had been extracted from my neck and I was able to move around a little, when the courier arrived at Mount Idaho with the news of the attack. I proceeded forthwith to secure a sufficient number of horses to remount our men and sent them to the command. A day or two later a courier brought in word that the Indians had engaged General Howard in battle at Kamai, and that the volunteers had refused to assist him in the fight, and moved down to Clearwater on their side of the mountain, General Howard being on the opposite side of the Clearwater from Mount Idaho. When I heard this I induced a one-armed courier named George Greer to bring my horse to me, and to fill my canteen with water. Then we quietly left the hospital and Mount Idaho, and went to the scene of battle as fast as we could, armed with only one old revolver between us. On going into the hospital I had loaned my gun and revolver to a party who I believed could make better use of them in the field than I could in bed. Being both well mounted we made good time, and arrived at Kamai just after Howard's cavalry and McConville's command, together with a few Indian scouts, had been repulsed on the Lo-lo trails. \* \* \* The volunteers and cavalry, having found the hostiles too well posted in the timber and brush, had returned to Kamai. My first inquiry upon meeting General Howard was as to the conduct of the volunteers during the battle of Kamai, of which I had heard the uncomplimentary report at Mount Idaho. He said there was no blame to be attached to McConville's command; that their showing themselves on the mountain was all that could be expected of them under the circumstances; for they, by their presence there, were attracting the attention of the hostiles to a certain extent, and preventing them from flanking Howard and returning to Camas prairie, where the people were now almost at their mercy. Besides, if McConville had attempted to come



down with a small body of men, the Indians would have undoubtedly, cut him up badly. Finally, he said, that McConville had used good judgment and done all that was necessary to be done on his ride to the river.

To Colonel Hunter General Howard also said that he had given Lieutenant Watrous permission to return with the Dayton volunteers to Mount Idaho for the colonel and accompany him home. This was subsequently done.

Such was the part played by the Dayton volunteers in the war inaugurated by the great Indian strategist, Chief Joseph. The history of the latter reads like a tale of romance, and his death at Nespelim, in September, 1904, awakened many favorable comments, editorial and otherwise, on his life and character.

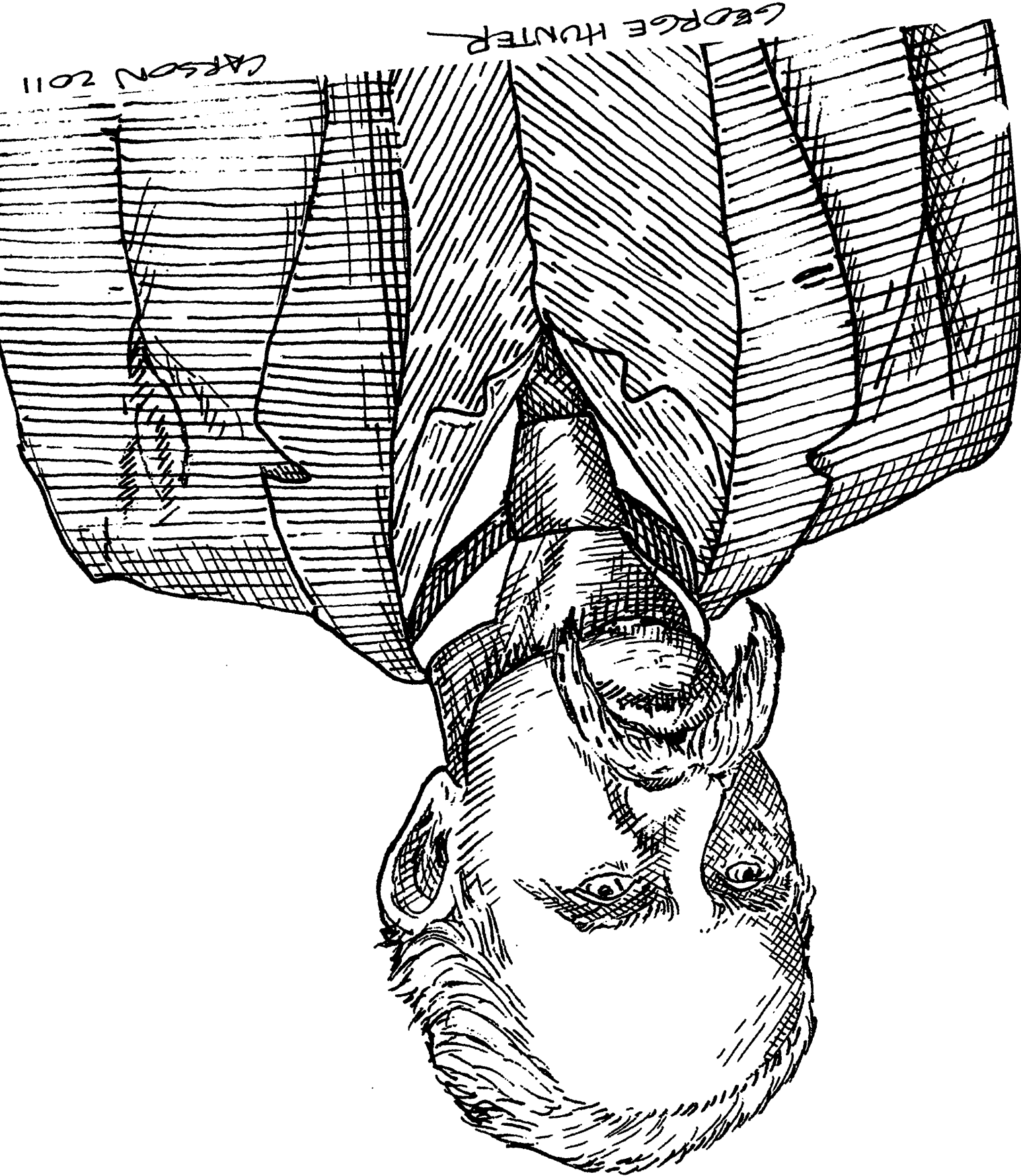
At the time of the organization of Columbia county, in 1875, there were not a few who doubted the ability of the people living in the new county to maintain the organization owing to the small population and assessable property. But those who secured the creation of the new political division were far-sighted. And the dawn of prosperity had arrived. Not only was the county organization maintained, but the county was kept out of debt and its scrip was at par. During the first few years the increase in population was so great that, according to the census of 1878, Columbia county had a population of seventy more than the parent county, Walla Walla. In the language of the Columbia "Chronicle" of August 31, 1878, "Walla Walla is no longer the rival of Columbia; her rival has crossed over the river."

In 1877 the air was full of railroad rumors. A road from Dayton, via Waitsburg and Walla Walla, to Weston, Oregon, was projected but did not materialize, at least, not until the Oregon Railroad & Navigation Company came to the front. In the autumn of this year the Seattle & Walla Walla Railroad Company made a "forlorn hope" effort to secure

financial aid to build a line across the Cascades, and thus forestall the Northern Pacific Railway Company. At this period the latter corporation was on the eve of resuming active operations. In November, during the closing hours of the legislature, a bill was passed in the interest of the Seattle and Walla Walla Company, under a suspension of the rules. The act provided that the latter road should amend its articles of incorporation so as to continue the road from Walla Walla through Dayton to Colfax. A special election to be held April 9, 1878, was provided for in the measure, for the purpose of voting on the question of a subscription to its stock by various counties, the amount for each county being designated. It was provided that an adverse decision by both King and Walla Walla counties should act as a negative to the whole proposition. The organic act of the Territory of Washington contained a clause expressly forbidding the Legislative Assembly to issue, or authorize the issuance of any obligations. In view of this it was the general opinion that the legislature had exceeded its authority, and the whole matter was dropped.

For the first time, in 1877, Columbia county was connected with the outside world by telegraph. Between Walla Walla and Dayton was this link with the world's great telegraph chain built, and the name of the corporation was the Dayton & Walla Walla Telegraph Company. It had been organized in the spring of that year. The line was completed and opened for service in July. About \$2,000 were advanced by the citizens of Dayton as aid in the construction of the line, they agreeing to use this amount in telegraphing. Later this enterprise passed into the Western Union Telegraph Company.

In the spring of 1879 a telegraph line was constructed from Dayton to Lewiston and Fort Lapwai by the war department. This was for military purposes. On the 17th of June the first message was sent by the citizens



### CENSUS of the Inhabitants in

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May

188 3

County Assessor

[illegible]

GEORGE HUNTER 1883

STATION AGENT AT HIS OWN GRANGE  
CITY OUTFIT, OR AT NEW YORK BAR



## Columbia County Volunteers - Nez Perce War 1877

| <u>Volunteer</u>                      | <u>Residence</u> | <u>Age</u> |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|------------|
| Captain George Hunter                 | Dayton           | 42         |
| First Lieutenant Levi Watrous         | Dayton           | 44         |
| Second Lieutenant John T. Ford        | Dayton           | 28         |
| Ordinance Sergeant Thomas H. Crawford | Dayton           | 29         |
| Second Sergeant Charles N. Clark      | Dayton           | 25         |
| Third Sergeant Milton F. Morgan       | Dayton           | 26         |
| Fourth Sergeant John H. Long          | Dayton           | 22         |
| Fifth Sergeant Joseph F Haff          | Paradise Valley  | 22         |
| Corporal Isaac J. Schrivner           | Dayton           | 33         |
| Corporal Fred Kenyon                  | Dayton           | 28         |
| Corporal William C. Vaughn            | Dayton           | 26         |
| Corporal George P. Bickers            | Dayton           | 23         |
| Martin R. Adams                       | Dayton           | 22         |
| Willis Baldwin                        | Dayton           | 25         |
| James W. Butler                       | Dayton           | 21         |
| Jerome R. Castle                      | Dayton           | 21         |
| Samuel Dillma                         | Paradise Valley  | 23         |
| Newton Davis                          | Dayton           | 22         |
| Dennis L. C. Edmondson                | Dayton           | 20         |
| Willis E. L. Ford                     | Walla Walla      | 21         |
| Clarence N. L. Ford                   | Walla Walla      | 19         |
| Latham P. Freeman                     | Paradise Valley  | 23         |
| William L. Grote                      | Dayton           | 17         |
| Byron L. Gates                        | Dayton           | 22         |
| Ninevah Hatley                        | Walla Walla      | 31         |

|                      |        |    |
|----------------------|--------|----|
| Andrew J. Harris     | Dayton | 29 |
| George C. Kenyon     | Dayton | 20 |
| Theodore Lowery      | Dayton | 18 |
| Thomas Norman        | Dayton | 23 |
| Jasper N. McLain     | Dayton | 22 |
| Linga G. Sparks      | Dayton | 24 |
| Sulathael Stephens   | Dayton | 22 |
| Alfred D. Standiford | Dayton | 23 |
| Howard B. Kielgley   | Dayton | 19 |
| James W. Turner      | Dayton | 35 |
| Louis M. Tielwell    | Dayton | 25 |
| James A. Woodward    | Dayton | 20 |
| Frank C. White       | Dayton | 22 |
| John C. Zumult       | Dayton | 28 |
| H. S. Thomas         | Dayton | 42 |
| John Weiss           | Dayton | 37 |

**Source: United States Congressional serial set, Issue 6755**

## Pataha Rangers Volunteers, W.T. - Nez Perce War 1877

| <u>Volunteer</u>             | <u>Residence</u> |
|------------------------------|------------------|
| John W. Elliot               | Pataha           |
| Eugene S. (T) Wilson         | Pataha           |
| Ambrose A. Owsley            |                  |
| Thornton W. Owsley           |                  |
| Homer Bounds                 |                  |
| Willard Bounds               |                  |
| Robert Short                 |                  |
| Elliot (First name unknown)  |                  |
| Frank McBreardy              |                  |
| John M. Williams             |                  |
| John M. Salle                |                  |
| Danl. McKay                  |                  |
| John Campbell                |                  |
| Samuel Shawlay               |                  |
| Charles Shearer              |                  |
| Edward Coe                   |                  |
| W.B. Tweedy                  |                  |
| Robert Bruce                 |                  |
| Lewis Tewalt (Louis Tewalt?) |                  |
| Thomas Cumpacker             |                  |
| Newton Thomas                |                  |
| Henry C. Able                |                  |
| Henry Vaughn                 |                  |
| L.N. Elidge                  |                  |

Geo. Pitt

John Hale

Dan Williams

Frank Cartwright

Some family information is also in a biography about Isaac Tewalt, contained in "An Illustrated History of Washington State," by Harvey K. Hines.

Incidentally, Cassandra's third husband was fellow two-time widower John Lewis Tewalt. His son Isaac married Cassandra's daughter Martha October 8, 1878. Thus, John Lewis is my fifth great-grandfather and his second wife Celia Cox is another fifth great-grandmother. All of the ancestors mentioned here were laid to rest at the Pataha Flat Cemetery in Pomeroy, Washington.

1880 Census WA Columbia ED 52 Pg 130D

Line 46

Bounds James L WM 50 Farmer MO TN TN

-----, Rachel WF 43 Wife Keeping house MO MO MO

-----, Willard WM 23 Son Farmer OR MO MO



CIVIL WAR SERVICE  
(UNION INFANTRY - IOWA)  
TREASURY AGENT  
BUREAU OF MILITARY  
INTELLIGENCE (S. S.)  
LT. COL. CO. VOLUNTEERS

LEVI WATROUS IN 1874

**MRS. ADALINE MOSELLE GALLUP WATROUS.**

**5307**

**Born in Massachusetts.**

**Wife of Levi Watrous.**

**Descendant of Col. Benadam Gallup, of Connecticut.**

**Daughter of Palmer Gallup and Desire Ball, his wife.**

**Granddaughter of Benadam Gallup and Cynthia Fish, his wife.**

**Gr.-granddaughter of Benadam Gallup and Bridget Palmer, his wife.**

**Gr.-gr.-granddaughter of Benadam Gallup and Hannah Avery, his wife.**

**Benadam Gallup was a member of the Committee of Safety and colonel of militia for coast defense. He was in Wadsworth's brigade at Long Island and White Plains.**

**Also Nos. 3180, 4170.**



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# The Genealogical History of the Gallup Family in the United States: Also ...

By John Douglas Gallup

"Levi Watrous"

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[Clear search](#)

project. ... the ... of the ... of his ... like his."

## Children:

- \*1446 MOZART, b. at Agawam, May 25, 1829.
- \*1447 JOHN T. b. " March 13, 1832. [27, 1859.
- \*1448 ADALINE M. b. " May 9, 1834, m. Levi Watrous, Dec.
- \*1449 HORTENSE D. b. " Sept. 29, 1836, m. Wm. S. Fish, Sept. 14, 1856.
- \*1450 LIEBIE M. b. Sept. 9, 1842, m. Samuel Edgecomb of Mystic Bridge, Oct. 17, 1863; lives at Mystic.
- 1451 JAMES P. b. Jan. 21, 1845. He entered the Union Army at a call from his country in January, 1863, at the early age of 19 years. Enlisted in the First Connecticut Cavalry, and was soon promoted to the rank of orderly sergeant. He was engaged in several battles, including the battle of Winchester, and was with General Sheridan during his famous raid through the Shenandoah Valley. His superior officers gave him the name of a thoroughly good young man, and that of a very brave soldier. His captain said in writing after his death, "If I had an errand that needed true courage and pluck, I assigned it to Sergeant Gallup, and it was always sure to

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Three\_years\_with\_co....pdf

Capturing\_a\_locomo....pdf

Twenty\_five\_years\_in....pdf

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**Watrous, Chester A.** Aug 12, 1836-Apr 5, 1924  
Chester Watrous

**Watrous, Levi** 1848-1910  
Saturday, June 11, 1910  
Levi W. Watrous

Levi W. Watrous, familiarly known in Dayton as Uncle Levi, died at his home in Whetstone hollow Wednesday at 2:40 p.m. Mr. Watrous had been an invalid for four years requiring constant attention and care, and owing to his advanced age his demise was looked for at any time. He was aged 84 years 11 months and 25 days. He is survived by nine children, five sons and four daughters as follows: Henry F., Fred, Frank, Mrs. R. Walsh, Mrs. J.A. Knox, Mrs. P.A. Hatfield of this county; Mrs. James Butler, of Renton, Wash., and Walter and Reuben.

Julian Hawthorne's history of Washington, contains the following biography of Mr. Watrous as related by himself in 1893

Levi W. Watrous, rancher and stockman, of Dayton, Columbia county, Washington, was born in Ontario, Canada, June 13, 1825. His father, David Watrous, of New London, Conn., was a Methodist minister; his mother was Rebecca (Hodgkins) Watrous, whose early life was spent in Canada. She was the daughter of a British officer killed in India. The subject of our sketch was educated in the United States, where he removed with his parents at a very early age. In 1831 he accompanied them to the Western Reserve, Ohio, and after coming of age followed various callings. In 1840 he was married to Miss Elmira Fish, of Cleveland, Ohio, and located in Rock county, Wis. They have a family of nine living children. In 1850 Mr. Watrous went to Iowa, where he became a miller. In 1855 we find him in Minnesota where the city of Austin now stands, and in 1860 he returned to his saw milling in Iowa. The war breaking out he enlisted in 1861 in the Ninth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, did duty for the Government Secret Service, and then served for nine months as Wagon Master, after which he once more returned to his old occupation in Iowa. March of 1872 found him in Washington. Four years of saw milling, prepared the way for farming and horse raising, in which after his many wanderings, he is now permanently engaged. He has eight hundred acres under cultivation and large stock interest, besides a ranch of two hundred acres and two other within a few miles of the city. He has held various offices, having been the first county treasurer of Fayette county, Iowa, and justice of the peace. He is a populist in his political faith. He figured in the Nez Perce Indian War, going out as First Lieutenant of scouts, and returning in command of the company. Few men are more respected in eastern Washington than Mr. Watrous. He is full of interesting reminiscences of territorial Washington and Oregon.

The funeral was held Friday morning from the farm residence at 10 o'clock. Rev. W.H. Harris officiated. Interment was in the city cemetery.

Levi W. Watrous: lives three and one-half miles north west of Dayton; is a farmer and stockman, owns 400 acres of land; address is Dayton. He was born in Edwardsburg, Canada West, June 13, 1825, and came to this county in 1872.

All these Articles were taken from "The Dayton News"-1877

19 May, 1877

Levi Watrous appointed Road District Supervisor for R. D. " 21

\*\*\*\*\*

10 Aug. 1877

PRAIRIE FIRES- Mr. L. W. Watrous informs us that quite a large prairie fire occurred south of the Territorial road between Whetstone and McKay Hollow on last Tuesday. Several wheat fields were endangered but the prompt action of the harvest hands in that section prevented any damage so far as known. The fire is supposed to have started from the stub of a cigar dropped by a sheep herder. These fires should be prevented if possible as they destroy much valuable grass.

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21 Sept, 1877

L. Watrous, one day this week, saw three Indians trying to catch a citizen's horse out on Whetstone Hollow. He fired his rifle in the air over them; this only causes them to shake their blankets at him. He then tried the effect of a bullet near their heads, this caused them to clatawa on fast time.

\*\*\*\*\*

3 Aug 1877

Dayton, W. T.                      July 20th 1877  
To Brig. Gen Howard and officers:

Captain Hunter, Lieut. Watrous, Lieut. Ford and the individual members of Company A., Columbia County Volunteers, take pleasure in returning to Brig. Gen. Howard and officers their thanks, and this expression of gratitude for the courtesy and favors ever extended to them during their five weeks stay at the front. They also take the opportunity of expressing their entire confidence in the ability of General Howard, in the present Indian difficulty.

George Hunter, Captain  
Levi Watrous, 1st Lieut.  
J. T. Ford, 2nd Lieut.

Company A, C. C. Volunteers

THIS INFORMATION WAS TAKEN FROM THE HISTORY OF SOUTHEASTERN WASHINGTON  
Printed in 1906. On Page 295 (In Part)

The Nez Perce warriors never crossed the Snake River; it was Confined to Idaho and Montana.

It is undeniable, however that settlers east of the Tucanon were in great trepidation. Leaving their homes they congregated at Lewiston, Dayton and Walla Walla. It was not so much Chief Joseph's band they feared; it was reasoned that his outbreak might encourage other tribes to rise, slaughter and burn. Volunteers came forward from Dayton, Walla Walla and the Pataho country, and served for several weeks with the troops in Idaho, and in scouting through exposed sections of Washington. April 20, 1877, a conference with General Howard was held at Walla Walla. The volunteers from this town were commanded by Captain Paige, a little more than 20 strong. The Company from Dayton numbered 45 young men; the elected Colonel Geo. Hunter their Captain. Levi Watrous was their lieutenant.

*History Of Washington*  
*The Evergreen State*  
*Julian Hawthorne*  
*Vol II*  
*1893*

WATROUS, LEVI W., rancher and stockman, of Dayton, Columbia County, Wash., was born in Ontario, Canada, June 13th, 1825. His father, David Watrous, of New London, Conn., was a Methodist minister; his mother was Rebecca (Hodgkins) Watrous, whose early life was spent in Canada. She was the daughter of a British officer, killed in India. The subject of our sketch was educated in the United States, where he removed with his parents at a very early age. In 1831 he accompanied them to the Western Reserve, Ohio, and after coming of age followed various callings, for the most part milling and farming.

In 1840 he journeyed to Wisconsin. In 1845 he was married to Miss Elmira Fish, of Cleveland, O., and located in Rock County, Wis. They have a family of nine living children. In 1850 Mr. Watrous went to Iowa, where he became a miller. In 1855 we find him in Minnesota, where the city of Austin now stands; and in 1860 he returned to his saw-milling in Iowa. The war breaking out, he enlisted in 1861 in the Ninth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, did duty for the Government Secret Service, and then served for nine months as Wagon-Master, after which he once more returned to his old occupation in Iowa. March of 1872 found him in Washington. Four years of saw-milling prepared the way for farming and horse-raising, in which, after his many wanderings, he is now permanently engaged. He has eight hundred acres under cultivation and large stock interests, besides a ranch of two hundred acres and two others within a few miles of the city. He has held various offices, having been the first County Treasurer of Fayette County, Ia., and Justice of the Peace. He is a Populist in his political faith. He figured in the Nez Percé Indian War, going out as First Lieutenant of Scouts, and returning in command of the company. Few men are more respected in Eastern Washington than Mr. Watrous. He is full of interesting reminiscences of territorial Washington and Oregon.

*Page 652-653*

*Brands 1886*



Levi W Watrous, horses and cattle,  
on the left shoulder.

81 R T Watrous, horses right shoulder;  
cattle, right hip.

*Brands 1913*

*H. F. Watrous*  
**LW** on left stifle of horses  
on left hip of cattle

## **NEZ PERCE WAR VOLUNTEERS--1877**

**Pg 120--Articles from newspapers and article in Southeastern Washington**

**Pg 5-6-George W. Blackmer**

**Pg 8-Caleb C. Burge**

**Pg 25-Arthur O. Hurd**

**Pg 48-Levi Watrous**

**Pg 55A-H.M. Boone**

**Pg 86-Mark B. Kenney**

**Pg 114-Levi Watous**

**Pg 124-A.J. Harris**

**Pg 129-Samuel Love Gilbreath**

**Pg 171-Organizing a militia Jan 20, 1879**

**Pg 172-Roster Company B, N.G.W.**

**Blackmer, George W.** buried Dec 19, 1916

Wednesday, December 20, 1916

**Geo. Blackmer Dies**

George W. Blackmer died Sunday morning at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Ed Derry, on East Pine street, College Place, aged 76 years. Besides his daughter, with whom he made his home, he is survived by five other children, who are Mrs. Etta Harty of Walla Walla; Francis, Ollie and George Blackmer, of American Falls, Idaho, and Mrs. Lina Reese of Walla Walla. Mr. Blackmer was born at St. Lawrence, N.Y., October 4, 1840, and enlisted in 1861, serving three years and three months, nine months of which were spent in Andersonville prison. He came to California during the gold excitement, and went back to Michigan where he was married to Miss Ruth Warner. He came to Walla Walla in '70 and walked to Dayton, where he took up a homestead, walking back the same day. He then made his home in Dayton until 1900, where all his children were born. He then moved to College Place, where he has made his home since. The funeral was held yesterday in Dayton under the auspices of the G.A.R.

Historic Sketches by Frank T. Gilbert p.50

George W. Blackmer: lives four miles south west of Dayton; is a farmer; owns 380 acres of land; address id Dayton. He was born in Russell, St. Lawrence county, New York, October 4, 1840; came to Montana in 1865, to the Territory in 1870 and to this county in 1871.

Illustrated History of Southeastern Washington p. 419

George W. Blackmer, who resides about two miles south from Dayton, on a nice large estate of fertile land, has passed a life of most thrilling adventure and hardship, both as a soldier and a hardy pioneer. Like Kit Carson or Buffalo Bill, his experiences are so extensive many a volume would have to be written to detail them. Equal in cunning, bravery and marksmanship to these two scouts, he has displayed his prowess on many occasions and won the plaudits of many people. He was born in New York, on October 4, 1840, the son of Olomon and Amarilla (Hyde) Blackmer. The mother was born at Burlington, Vermont in 1804. The father was born in Vermont in 1794, and was a veteran of the War of 1812, in which conflict he received a severe wound. He was a great hunter and Indian fighter and his son received much valuable training from his skillful father. Our subject was educated in New York, and when twenty-one, in 1861, enlisted in the Forty-fourth New York and was in the heaviest fighting of the Rebellion. He participated in all battles under McClellan, was in the Pennsylvania campaign, fought through the campaign under Burnside and participated in the battles at Fredericksburg, Antietam, Cold Harbor, Rappahannock, The Wilderness, Spottsylvania, Petersburg, Gettysburg, the Second Bull Run and the seven days struggle at Richmond. At Gettysburg, he had fourteen bullet holes in his clothing. In 1864, he received his honorable discharge and after a short visit at home, returned to the capitol at Washington, D.C., and was watchman in the treasury department for two months. Next he was in the quartermaster's department and went there to assist in erecting buildings for General Sherman and was there until the war closed. He was given fifteen men on one occasion to take General Sherman's mail from Wilmington, North Caroline, to Fayetteville. The route was up a sluggish river for one hundred and sixty miles and was beset by enemies the entire distance. They repulsed many attacks and on one occasion had a close call with three burning barges that the rebels sent against them. He succeeded in delivering the mail all right, however. After the battle of Cold Harbor, Mr. Blackmer was taken prisoner and was detained successively at Belle



Island, Salisbury and Andersonville. In the last place, he was without blankets or coats and had nothing to drink but stagnant water until the breaking out of the spring within the stockade, so well known in history.

Mr. Blackmer had two brothers, Esau and Jacob, who were also veterans of the Civil War. In 1865, our subject came to Montana and participated in all the mining excitements of the west and northwest. On one occasion he was to haul ten passengers to White Pine City for one hundred and fifty dollars each, but owing to the hostilities of the savages, they refused to go. Mr. Blackmer went alone, however, and continued until he reached Salt Lake City. During the entire way, he was aware that the Indians were on his trail, yet he was not injured. At Salt Lake, being well acquainted with Brigham Young and other Mormon leaders, he was strongly pressed by them to take a colonelcy in the dragoons, but refused. From Salt Lake City he went to Elko and crossed the Great American Desert, ninety miles in width, by moonlight without a drop of water for either himself or his horse. At Honey Lake he recruited and there remained until 1868, when he took a trip to New York on a visit and three months later, came to California. After that, he journeyed to the Willamette Valley, whence he crossed the mountains and in 1870 took a homestead, pre-emption, and timber culture claim. Mr. Blackmer has been an extensive traveler and explorer in every state in the union except three. At the present time he is living on a nice estate near Dayton, as stated, and is one of the substantial and well known farmers.

In 1868, in Michigan, Mr. Blackmer married Miss Amanda Warner, who was born in Calhoun county, that state in 1842. To them the following named children have been born: Mrs. Etta M. Hart, in 1872; Mrs. Bertha Derry, in 1876; Francis R., in 1878; Olomon H., in 1880; and George W., in 1885.

Mr. Blackmer's experience with the Indians has been extensive indeed. On many occasions he has visited them in the midst of their warlike hostilities but at such times he was never wounded or injured by them. However, he was wounded by them thrice at Yellowstone river. They respected his generosity and bravery, and many times would fight for instead of against him. On numerous occasions he has been in their camp and slept in their tepees while they were on the war path. He is a brave and fearless man and has done a noble work as a pioneer. His life record in fighting for his country is second to none and he has shown himself an upright man, a true and stanch friend and a patriotic citizen.

Regarding the Anderson stockade, Mr. Blackmer states that the first one was about forty acres and through it was a sluggish slough or bayou. The water was vile and one day, about a foot above the level of this slough, a good spring broke out, furnishing a stream as big as a broom handle. He secured a drink of refreshing water the first day it broke out, and it was a God-send to the poor, famishing soldiers.

**Burge, Caleb C.** Jan 25, 1834-Dec 26, 1916

Wednesday, December 27, 1916

Caleb C. Burge

Caleb C. Burge, pioneer of Dayton, died at his residence on Fourth street, Tuesday, December 26, aged eighty two years, eleven months and one day.

Mr. Burge was born in the state of New York, January 25, 1834. He crossed the plains with his parents in 1850, and came to Columbia county in 1876. He was an Indian War veteran and could relate many interesting stories of early days experienced on this coast.

In 1881 he owned a store with a brother on the Edward-Hindle corner. After disposing of this property he spent many years in Idaho, returning to Dayton several years ago, since which time he has lived a quiet retired life.

Mr. Burge was well liked by those who knew his principles and true nature.

The funeral will be held today from his residence at 2 o'clock.

**Hurd, Arthur O.** died Jan 23, 1901

Saturday, January 26, 1901

Arthur Hurd who has been working for Wm. Vaughan, and who is quite an old resident of this county, died at the residence of Mr. Vaughan in Dayton Wednesday. He had been suffering from appendicitis for some time. An operation was performed Tuesday after which Mr. Hurd passed away. He was a member of the original Company F, N.G.W. He was buried Thursday, the members of the old company acting as pall bearers.

Arthur Hurd, who died in this city Wednesday will be remembered by all the members of the original F company, N.G.W. He was a companion of Rantz Miller and a great base ball player

in the nineties. He leaves a wife to mourn his loss.

(March 2, 1901. Mrs. Hurd went to Clarence, Iowa to make her home)

June 11, 1936  
**H. M. BOONE DIED**  
**SATURDAY NIGHT**

H. M. Boone, a former state senator from Whitman county, and a leading merchant here for the last 16 years, died at his home in this city Saturday night at about 10 o'clock.

Funeral services were held from the Congregational church Monday afternoon at 3 o'clock with Rev. Thomas McCamant in charge. The Masonic lodge had charge of the impressive rites at the grave. Beautiful floral offerings from his many friends here and elsewhere were banked about the casket. Music was provided by L. H. Armstrong and Bob Butler, and the pallbearers were Byron Seney, J. L. Wallace, R. M. Sturdevant, Sam B. Oliver, W. W. Hendron and Len Neal, all from the Masonic lodge.

**Born Near Salem**

Horeb Marian Boone was born January 1, 1858, at Eola, near Salem, Oregon. His father, a great nephew of Daniel Boone, crossed the plains in 1852 and settled there, and his mother also came west by wagon train in early life.

In 1870, as a boy, he helped drive a herd of cattle from California through this region to the Montana mines where his father operated a meat market for several years. He worked one summer helping in the construction of the celebrated Baker railway into Walla Walla.

He settled in the Palouse country in 1873 where he farmed, acted as a scout in the Nez Perce Indian war and taught school. He was the first Whitman county assessor under statehood, and owned a store in Palouse for many years. He was mayor there for two terms and was state senator from 1904 to 1908. He helped develop a large irrigated ranch on the Columbia river, and with two of his sons he came to Dayton in 1919 where he has since resided. He was a member of the Congregational church and the Masonic lodge.

**Married In 1897**

In July, 1879, at Colfax he was married to Eufenia Holt, member of a pioneer family of that region. To this union five children were born, all of whom are living. They are Will H. and Holt Boone of this city, Ralph Boone, Mrs. Myrtle Pratt and Mrs. Eola Patten, all of Los Angeles. He also leaves 10 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Mr. Boone was the last member of a family of six children. He had always enjoyed splendid health, and for a period of more than 50 years he had never missed a day of work or pleasure on account of illness.