

Local man relives war trauma during visit to European beaches



Photo courtesy of DICK AND GLADYS FERGUSON

Dick Ferguson and his daughter, Gwynneth Ferguson, walk among grave markers at the Omaha Beach Cemetery. Ferguson was looking for a star-topped marker on the grave of a comrade who was Jewish.

Dick Ferguson was one of 24 men on his ship to survive a German E-boat torpedo during World War II.

By **CARRIE CHICKEN**
of the Union-Bulletin

HUNTSVILLE — Dick Ferguson's 80th birthday present from his daughter and son-in-law was a trip to Europe.

Accompanied by his wife, Gladys, daughter Gwynneth and her husband Lewis Neace, he revisited the shoreline he almost never saw. He traveled to France this April, and recounted for his family the landing he was part of — the invasion of Normandy, which spelled the beginning of the end of World War II in Europe.

On June 6, 1944, Ferguson was one of 15,000 troops who

stormed the beaches of Normandy.

"Nine thousand three hundred and eighty are still laying there," he said recently.

But for Ferguson and the other 24 surviving members of his company, whatever the Germans had to dish out on those beaches was a picnic compared to the unspoken horror they had endured less than six weeks before.

As the Army prepared for the D-Day invasion, they used beaches on the southern part of England, including Slapton Beach, as practice sites during Operation Tiger.

In the early morning hours of April 28, 1944, Ferguson, attached to the Army's Fourth Infantry Division, was aboard



FERGUSON

the LST 531, one of eight in a poorly guarded convoy making its way under cover of darkness in the English Channel.

Ferguson was in his bunk when the first torpedo fired from a German E-boat hit the ship. "I remember the first one going through — a big ball of fire," he said.

Ferguson slept with his life belt on, properly attached under his armpits. It was a precaution that probably saved his life.

The second torpedo sliced the ship in two, and "I came out through the hole," Ferguson said.

Ferguson found himself in the dark, in the water. All he could see was fire on the water from burning fuel. "It was dark and the ocean was on fire. You heard motors a-running everywhere, and

Please see **SHIP, A3**

Ship survivors locked up in stockades

Continued from Page A1

people hollering for help.”

Many men who made it to the 45-degree water had not put their life belts on correctly. The belts should be worn under the armpits, but soldiers, encumbered with other equipment, found it easier to wrap them around their waists. This forced their heads underwater, causing them to drown.

Ferguson's own life belt sprang a leak, but he found two dead men floating. "I just hooked my arms through their jackets."

Before being rescued eight hours later by the crew from LST 515, Ferguson had gathered three other survivors onto his macabre raft.

On shore, the survivors were "locked up in a stockade," under threat of court martial if they dared speak of the incident.

Worried the Germans may have taken prisoners, the military kept survivors under guard until the bodies of men carrying copies of plans for D-Day were recovered.

The ship Ferguson was on was one of two that sank in the attack, while a third one was badly damaged, but managed to reach shore. All told, 729 Americans died.

Training for D-Day continued, and Ferguson was a member of the landing craft personnel when the beaches of Normandy were stormed. "Bullets were flying all the time. Everybody was a target there," he said.

Ferguson's job was to help get soldiers to the beach, loading them into landing craft.

Walking through the Omaha Beach Cemetery was the hardest part of his return journey this year, Ferguson said.

After the beach landing during the war, Ferguson was assigned to a truck company. He delivered supplies to the front lines and ferried German POWs to England on the return trips.

After returning to the U.S., Ferguson, a Missouri native, drifted, following harvests. He ended up in Columbia County, where he met and married Gladys Crabb, of Starbuck. They settled in Huntsville, raising two children. Daughter Gwynneth married Waitsburg native Lewis Neace. They live in Portland, where both are physicians. Son Richard recently retired as Postmaster in Starbuck.

Throughout his 2½ years stationed in England, he boarded with the West family. He and the West's daughter, Gwynneth, developed a close relationship, but when it was time for Ferguson to come home, she did not want to leave England, and he did not want to stay.

Until this spring, he had had no contact with her, although he and Gladys named their daughter for her.

Daughter Gwynneth contacted Gwynneth West Carpenter and arranged a meeting during their visit to England this year.

The couple also met Ken Small, author of "The Forgotten Dead," a book about the tragedy of Operation Tiger. Small fought bureaucracy and red tape to campaign for a monument to the men who died in the operation.

The Fergusons attended a ceremony April 28 conducted at the memorial Small has erected at Torcross, one of the villages along Slapton Beach.

Ferguson's visit also drew the attention of a pair of German journalists, who are making a documentary about Operation Tiger. They spent an entire day interviewing Ferguson, until he called off

the interview when questions became too intense.

The experience of the shipwreck, and the war in general continue to haunt Ferguson, he said.

"He had a lot of nightmares," Gladys said.

"I've fought it ever since. Still do," Ferguson said.

Carrie Chicken can be reached at cec@innw.net or 522-5289.

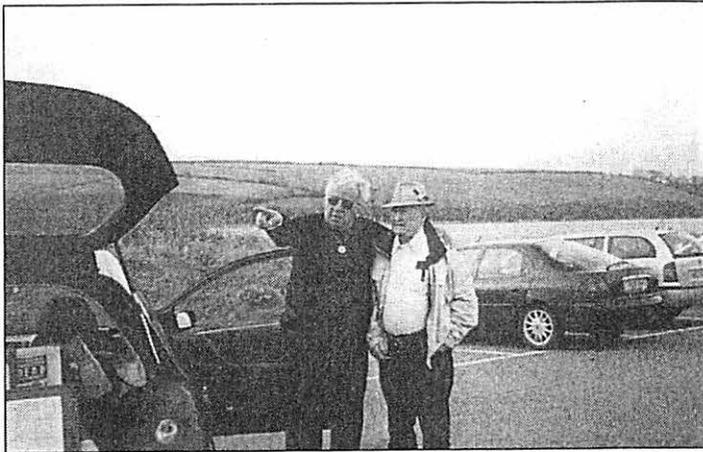


Dick Ferguson is shown in this World War II military photo.



Photos courtesy of DICK AND GLADYS FERGUSON

Gwynneth Ferguson and her father, Dick Ferguson, walk toward Omaha Beach, where Dick Ferguson was among soldiers who stormed the beach on June 6, 1944. The marker at the end of the path bears the names of the soldiers who died during the landing.



Author Keri Small of Slapton, England, points out a landmark to Dick Ferguson. Small became curious about the amount of jewelry and military items he found on the beach. His investigation led him to learn about the untold story of the loss of lives in a training mission off the coast of Slapton on April 28, 1944. Survivors, including Ferguson, were forbidden to talk about the incident for many years.



Dick Ferguson is shown here with his wife Gladys (left) and Gwynneth West Carpenter, who was his companion while he was stationed at Slapton. Until this April when the Fergusons visited Slapton, the Fergusons has not communicated with Carpenter, although the Fergusons named their daughter (in the background, by the door) after her.

Ferguson / Ferguson / Ferguson

Washington Territory Columbia Co Marriages 1876-1889

Witnesses

Hape B Ferguson - Married - E. Louisa Montgomery 5/19/1881 Edward Wilson
George Hammond

Burials

Age	Name	Plot	Cemetery	Dates	Ownership
67	Alvina R	H	Dayton	buried 7 June 1967	L. Ferguson
80	Inez	H	"	" 6 Aug 1888 7 June 1971	E. H. Corney
	Russell G.	H	"	1900 -	1967
	Mrs. S. A.	K	"	1864 - buried - 5 Aug 1917	John Benn

1883 Census

Pg. 142 - Ole Ferguson 38M Manufacturer Norway Married

1885 Census

Pg. 56 - O. L. Ferguson 20M Waiter Ore

1887 Census

Pg. 89 - O. Ferguson 41M Norway

1900 Census

Pg. 76 - (Dayton Precinct - under household of James Hubbell.)
(Abigail Pettijohn was mother of Hulda Hubbell, wife of James.
Abigail Pettijohn was born 31 Jan 1806 in Ross Co., Ohio & her
maiden name being Abigail Ferguson)

Pg 98 - (Dayton Precinct)

Scott - ?	Ferguson	head	Aug 1853	Ill	Ind	Ind (1854)
May	" (0/0)	wife	June 1861	Neb	Can Eng	Can Eng
Alon	"	son	Sept 1883	Ill	Ill	Ill

Columbia Co. Newspaper Abstracts

1882-1883

Pg 44 - Homestead #2614: Henry Metz

Witness: Henry Ferguson (Nov 1883)

Pg 50 - Homestead #2614: Henry Metz

Witness: Henry Ferguson (Dec 1883)

1884-1886

Pg 4 - Died in Walla Walla, 6 Jan 1884, Stephen Hull, son of Wm F. and Sarah J. Ferguson.

1890-1892

Pg 2 - Ole Ferguson, a workman at Donley's furniture factory, at Baileyburg, dropped dead on Tuesday morning, from heart failure. He has worked for Mr. Donley for the past 9 years. He was a native of Norway, 46 years of age & leaves 2 daughters aged 12 and 14 years, his wife having died several years ago in the old country. He was buried in the Dayton Cemetery on Wednesday (May 1890)

1892-1894

Pg 21 - B. Donley, administrator of the estate of Ole Ferguson, deceased. (Dec 1892)

Ferguson / Ferguson

1894-1896

Pg 9. Married in this City at the residence of the bride's parents, 19 Aug 1894, Daniel Ferguson + Miss Mary Andrews.

Pg 48. Grandma Pettijohn was given a party Friday at the home of her daughter Mrs. Hubbel, in honor of her 90th birthday. Grandma was born in Ross Co., Ohio 31 Jan 1806. Her maiden name was Abigail Ferguson. She was a twin, but her twin sister died at 16 years of age. She became a member of the M.E. Church when she was a small girl. She married Samuel Pettijohn/Pettijohn in 1823 at the age of 17. In 1836 she moved to Edgar Co., Ill., where she lived in harmony with her husband & children, but her home was made sad by the death of her husband in 1844 & she was left a widow with 9 children to support & educate. Three of her sons fought in the Union Army of the Civil War & 2 of them died for their Country. She came to Washington in 1881 with her daughter, Mrs. Hubbell. She has 29 grand-children, 50 great-grandchildren & 1 great great grandchild.
(Feb 1896)

1896-1898

Pg 21. Born in this City, 12 March 1897, to Mr + Mrs. D. Ferguson, a son.

Pg 66. Member of Company #1.

Private E. G. Ferguson (May 1898)

1898-1901

Pg 39. Born to the wife of D. Ferguson, Thursday, a daughter. - W.W. Union
(Oct 1899)

1901-1903

Pg 18. Mrs. Daniel Ferguson of Walla Walla arrived in the City Friday on a visit to her parents, Mr. + Mrs. Andrews. (Aug 1901)

1903-1905

- Pg 18 - Born in Walla Walla, 16 April 1903, to Mr + Mrs. O. Ferguson, a daughter.
- Pg 23 - Mr. A. Walker of Mc Minnville, Oregon will make his home in Dayton.
Mrs. Walker is a sister of S. A. Ferguson (June 1903)
- Pg 32 - Mr + Mrs. S. A. Ferguson, accompanied by Mr. Ferguson's sister,
Mrs. Jennie Church, left for a trip to the Coast. (Aug. 1903)
- Pg 61 - Mrs. Lott. Cline left for Walla Walla to visit her sister, Mrs. O.
Ferguson. (June 1904)
- Pg 97 - Mr + Mrs. S. A. Ferguson have returned from Imperial, Cal., where
Mr. Ferguson bought 80 acres of land near Imperial and
Donald. (March 1905)
- Pg 102 - Mrs. Lee Ellis, sister of Mrs. O. Ferguson of this place suffered a
dislocated left shoulder Sunday when the North Coast freight
train was in a wreck. (Apr 1905)

1905-1908

- Pg 74 - Don Ferguson arrived from Kempton, Idaho to visit her parents,
Mr + Mrs. S. A. Ferguson. (Feb 1907)

1908-1909

- Pg 56 - Miss Lucile Ferguson of Walla Walla is visiting her grandmother,
Mrs. Andrews + other relatives (Feb 1909)

FAMILY GROUP No.

Husband's Full Name

Franklin

This Information Obtained From:

Husband's Data	Day	Month	Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Husband
Birth							
Chr nd							
Mar.							
Death							
Burial							

1st *Eliza sister of Mrs Charlotte Jolley*

2nd *1900 Census says she had 6 children, 4 living*

Places of Residence
Occupation
Other wives, if any, No. (1) (2) etc. Make separate sheet for each mar.
His Father
Mother's Maiden Name

Hand obit of Blanche

Wife's Full Maiden Name

Eliza Ann Russell

Wife's Data	Day	Month	Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Wife
Birth	6	8	1851			North Carolina	
Chr nd							
Death	4	7	1938	Dayton	Columbia	Wash	
Burial							

Places of Residence
Occupation if other than Housewife
Other husbands, if any, No. (1) (2) etc. Make separate sheet for each mar. *1st Allen Howard Conello, Col. Co. Wm Nov 1897*
Her Father
Mother's Maiden Name

Sex	Children's Names in Full (Arrange in order of birth)	Children's Data	Day	Month	Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Children
	1	Birth							<i>living in</i>
		Mar.							<i>Montgomery Calif 1943</i>
		Death							
		Burial							
M	<i>John Edwin</i>	Birth							
		Mar.							
		Death							
		Burial							
	2	Birth							
		Mar.							
		Death							
		Burial							
	<i>Willie</i>	Birth							
		Mar.							
		Death							
		Burial							
	3	Birth	5	2	1878	Bozeman City		Colorado	
		Mar.	25	9	1896	Dayton	Columbia	Wash	
		Death	12	5	1962	Dayton		Wash	
		Burial	16	5	1962	Dayton	Columbia	Wash	
F	<i>E. John Dawson</i> <i>Mary "Mamie"</i>	Birth	2	2	1880	Canon City		Colorado	
		Mar.							
		Death	21	3	1943	Dayton	Columbia	Wash	<i>63 years</i>
		Burial	23	3	1943	Dayton			<i>Plot 26</i>
M	<i>Louise Clay</i>	Birth							
		Mar.							
		Death							
		Burial							
	4	Birth							
		Mar.							
		Death							
		Burial							
	5	Birth							
		Mar.							
		Death							
		Burial							
	6	Birth							
		Mar.							
		Death							
		Burial							
	7	Birth							
		Mar.							
		Death							
		Burial							
	8	Birth							
		Mar.							
		Death							
		Burial							
	9	Birth							
		Mar.							
		Death							
		Burial							
	10	Birth							
		Mar.							
		Death							
		Burial							

*If married more than one No. each mar. (1) (2) etc. and list in "Add. info. on children" column. Use reverse side for additional children, other notes, references or information.

Fernleaf

1892 Census

Pg 2 - Pg 40 - (Clayton)

E. A. Fernleaf	40 F	N.C.
W. "	16 M	Cal
M. "	14 F	"
C. "	12 M	"

1900 Census

Pg 184 - (Coello Precinct - under household of Alex G. Howard)

Elija A (6/4) wife Aug 1851 N.C. N.C. N.C. marr 2 yrs.
 (Alex G. Howard & Elija E. Fernleaf were married Nov 1897)

Burials

<u>Age</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Plot</u>	<u>Cemetery</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Ownership</u>
78	Blanch E	G	Clayton	1885- Buried - 12 Oct 1963	1963 B. Fernleaf
63	J. Clay	G	"	1880- Buried - 23 Mar 1943	1943 B. Fernleaf

Columbia Co. Newspaper Abstracts

1892-1894

Pg 61 - Coello - Willie Fernleaf of Clayton made a call on his aunt, Mrs. C. Lowrey. (Dec 1893)

1894-1896

Pg 5 - Master Clay Fernleaf came down from Robinett Mt., on a visit into his aunt Mrs. C. Lowrey. (Coello Item - July 1894)

1896-1898

Pg 16 - Married in this City, 15 Sept 1896, E. J. Dawson & Miss
Mary E. Fernleaf.

Pg 24 - Mrs. Mary Dawson, nee Fernleaf, was expecting postoffice
matter here & making a little visit with Mrs. C. B. Lowery
(Jan 1897)

Pg 30 - Allen A. Howard & Eliza E. Fernleaf were married at the home
of the bride, near Conello, Wednesday evening. (Nov 1897)

1905-1908

Pg 113 - Mr & Mrs. Clay Fernleaf returned to Spokane after visiting
with Mrs. Fernleaf's mother, Mrs. Allen Howard (Nov 1907)

3 Nov 1938

Harvest wages was spent buying
winter supplies. Mr. and Mrs. Clay
Fernleaf would take their stock from
their homestead on Griffin fork to
winter outside, and bring back a
sleigh-load of pork flour and beans
for the winter.

27 Nov 1897

Allen A. Howard and Eliza E. Fernleaf were married at the home of the bride, near Covello, Wednesday evening.

7 July 1938

MRS. ELIZA ANN HOWARD

Mrs. Eliza Ann Howard, resident for nearly 50 years, died at the home of her son, L. C. Fernleaf, 1506 South Fourth street, Monday morning after a long period of failing health. Funeral services were held from the Hubbard-Rogg chapel Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock with Rev. R. L. Jenkins of the M. E. church in charge, and interment was made in the family plot at the Dayton cemetery.

The deceased was born in North Carolina August 6, 1851, and lived in other parts of the country before coming here with her young family in 1889. She reared her children in Dayton and had since made this her home. She leaves two sons, J. E.

Fernleaf of California, and L. C. Fernleaf, Dayton, one daughter, Mrs. John Dawson, also of Dayton, and several grandchildren.

24 Feb 1917

S. J. Howard.

Pete Howard died in this city Friday morning at the home of his father, A. H. Howard. He had been in poor health for the past year, but few knew that he was in a dangerous condition at all. He was 48 years of age, and had lived here since a boy of sixteen. He was born in Walla Walla, and came here with his parents to settle on a farm. He followed farming all his life, near Marengo, where he lived until a short time ago.

The funeral will be held tomorrow morning at Turner with Rev. W. C. Gilmore of the Congregational Church officiating, and burial will be made at the Turner cemetery.

24 Oct 1917

Mrs. Charlotte Lowry.

Mrs. Charlotte Lowry, aged 67 years and 8 months, passed away at Carter, Montana, Wednesday, October the 17th after several years of failing health. She was brought back here by her children and the funeral held from the Covello Church Tuesday morning at eleven o'clock. Burial was made in the family plot at the Covello cemetery.

Mrs. Lowry lived for many years at Covello and was at one time post-mistress there. Of late years she had made her home with her children in Montana. She is survived by two daughters, Mrs. Cap Prater and Mrs. Ed Ross, a son, James Lowry, three sisters and a brother. Mrs. Allen Howard of this city is a sister, the only one in this part of the country.

25 March 1943

L. C. Fernleaf

L. C. Fernleaf, 63, died at the Brining hospital Sunday at 5:30 a. m. after an illness of about two weeks. His health had been poor for some time, but his condition was not thought critical until about three days before his death when he was taken to the hospital.

Funeral services were held from the Hubbard-Rogg chapel Tuesday at 2:30 p. m. with the Rev. George Martin of the United Brethren church in charge, and interment was made at the Dayton cemetery.

Lowery Clay Fernleaf was born in Canyon City, Colorado February 2, 1880, and came here in boyhood with his parents. He lived on a farm on Tucanon during his youth and continued to farm in that district for many years. He spent most of his life in this part of the country, and served for a time as a member of the city police force. Of late years he had been employed as county welfare visitor. He was a member of the Odd Fellow lodge for many years, and had held many offices in the order.

Survivors include his widow, Mrs. Blanche Sears Fernleaf, Dayton; a sister, Mrs. Mamie Dawson, Dayton; a brother, John Edwin Fernleaf, Arcata, Cal.; a step-brother, Ben Howard, Pomeroy; a step-sister, Mrs. Nell Julian, Tacoma; a number of nephews and nieces, and a foster grand-daughter, Alene Bisconner, Dayton.

17 May 1962

**Mary Dawson
Funeral Rite
Held May 16**

Funeral services for Mrs. Mary Dawson, 84, resident of Columbia county for 70 years, were held Wednesday morning, May 16, from the Hubbard-Rogg Chapel.

The Rev. Bryan Yates, pastor of Dayton Christian church, officiated. Interment was at Dayton City Cemetery.

Mrs. Dawson died May 12 at Yakima where she had made her home for the past five years after leaving Columbia county. She was preceded in death by her husband, E. John Dawson, on March 30, 1937.

She was born February 5, 1878, at Boulder City, Colorado.

Members of the family are: Harry Dawson and Wayne Dawson, both of Dayton; Mrs. M. J. (Leone) McElwain of Dayton; Mrs. Naomi Coble of Yakima; Mrs. Anna Bender of Grandview; Cecil Dawson of Alderwood Manor; James Dawson of Hood River, Oregon; 17 grandchildren; 21 great grandchildren, and four great-great grandchildren.

19 Dec 1963

**B. Fernleaf
Service Held**

Funeral service for Mrs. Clay (Blanch) Fernleaf, who passed away at a Kirkland hospital December 5, was held Tuesday, December 10, at Ray's Chapel of Flowers in Waitsburg. Interment followed at Dayton City Cemetery.

Mrs. Fernleaf was born in North English, Iowa, to Rufus and Mary Sears. She grew to girlhood there and was married in 1907 to Clay Fernleaf, who preceded her in death in March of 1943.

She lived in or around Dayton from about 1910 until 1959 when she sold her home and moved to Wenatchee where she lived until ill health forced her to enter a hospital.

Mrs. Fernleaf is survived by several nieces and nephews and a foster granddaughter, Mrs. John McCaw of Wenatchee.

Flying insects have been found 12 miles above the surface of the earth.

Fearnleaf

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W. " "	16 M	Cal
M. " "	14 F	"
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1905-1908

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FAMILY GROUP No.

Husband's Full Name *William Freed*

This Information Obtained From:	Husband's Data	Day Month Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Husband
	Birth	<i>ca. 1794</i>			<i>Georgia</i>	
	Chr'nd					
	Mar.					
	Death	<i>20-12-1853</i>		<i>Macon</i>	<i>Ill</i>	
	Burial		<i>N. Fork, Conn.</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>"</i>	

Places of Residence

Occupation

Other wives, if any, No. (1) (2) etc. Make separate sheet for each mar.

His Father

Mother's Maiden Name

Wife's Full Maiden Name *Jane (Quinn)*

Wife's Data	Day Month Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Wife
Birth	<i>ca. 1896</i>			<i>S. Carolina</i>	
Chr'nd					
Death	<i>24-12-1853</i>		<i>Macon</i>	<i>Ill</i>	
Burial		<i>N. Fork, Conn.</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>"</i>	

Places of Residence

Occupation if other than Housewife

Other husbands, if any, No. (1) (2) etc. Make separate sheet for each mar.

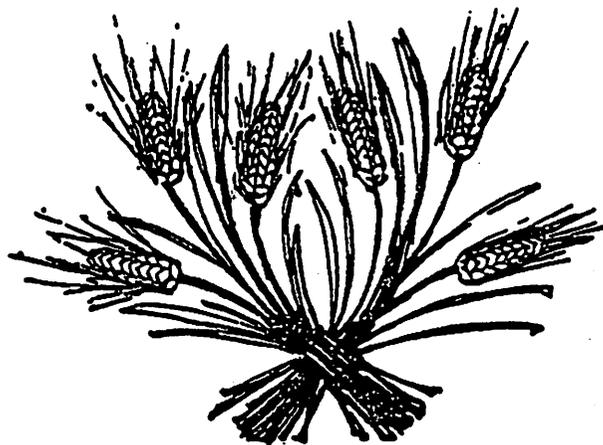
Her Father

Mother's Maiden Name

Sex	Children's Names in Full (Arrange in order of birth)	Children's Data	Day Month Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Children
		Birth	<i>7/8-1816</i>		<i>White</i>	<i>Ill</i>	
		Mar.					
		Death	<i>20-9-1835</i>		<i>Macon</i>	<i>Ill</i>	<i>Pyramid</i>
		Burial					
F	<i>Elizabeth</i> Full Name of Spouse*	Birth	<i>25-5-1818</i>		<i>White</i>	<i>Ill</i>	<i>m 2nd 12 Aug</i>
		Mar. (1)	<i>22-9-1836</i>		<i>Macon</i>	<i>Ill</i>	<i>1849 Macon</i>
		Death	<i>13-11-1870</i>	<i>Nevada</i>	<i>Stump</i>	<i>Ill</i>	<i>Ch. Ill</i>
		Burial					
F	<i>Mary</i> Full Name of Spouse*	Birth	<i>17-5-1820</i>			<i>Ill</i>	
		Mar.	<i>13-3-1849</i>		<i>Macon</i>	<i>Ill</i>	
		Death	<i>17-2-1886</i>		<i>Stump</i>	<i>Ill</i>	
		Burial		<i>Madison</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>"</i>	
M	<i>James</i> Full Name of Spouse*	Birth	<i>4-6-1822</i>		<i>White</i>	<i>Ill</i>	<i>m 2nd 5 Feb</i>
		Mar. (1)	<i>20-12-1842</i>		<i>Macon</i>	<i>Ill</i>	<i>1858 Stump</i>
		Death					<i>Ch. Ill</i>
		Burial					
F	<i>Margaret Jane</i> Full Name of Spouse*	Birth	<i>5-5-1825</i>			<i>Ill</i>	
		Mar.					
		Death	<i>6-9-1835</i>		<i>Macon</i>	<i>Ill</i>	
		Burial		<i>Mt. Zion Presb. Church, Conn.</i>			
F	<i>Maria</i> Full Name of Spouse*	Birth	<i>25-3-1828</i>		<i>White</i>	<i>Ill</i>	
		Mar.	<i>26-9-1846</i>		<i>Macon</i>	<i>Ill</i>	
		Death	<i>9-1-1907</i>	<i>Spokane -</i>	<i>Spokane -</i>	<i>Ill</i>	
		Burial					
F	<i>Susannah</i> Full Name of Spouse*	Birth	<i>1835</i>			<i>Ill</i>	
		Mar.					
		Death					
		Burial					
M	<i>Joshua</i> Full Name of Spouse*	Birth	<i>1837</i>			<i>Ill</i>	
		Mar.					
		Death	<i>17-3-1857</i>			<i>Ill</i>	
		Burial					
F	<i>Sarah E</i> Full Name of Spouse*	Birth					
		Mar.					
		Death					
		Burial					
		Birth					
		Mar.					
		Death					
		Burial					

*If married more than once No. each mar. (1) (2) etc. and list in "Add. info. on children" column. Use reverse side for additional children, other notes, references or information.

TUETH



other families
Hart
Fields
Newkirk
Wills

BY

DORIS E. WASTRADOWSKI

DAYTON MEMORIAL LIBRARY
DAYTON, WASHINGTON

There is not a great deal known about the Fields family, and much of the information which I have obtained has come from a Fields descendant, Maxine Buhler, of Santa Barbara, California. She is a direct descendant of Susannah Fields, daughter of William and Jane Fields.

William Fields, according to the 1850 census of Macon County, Illinois, was born in Georgia. His wife, Jane Davidson, according to the same census, was born in South Carolina. He is thought to have been born about 1794 and she about 1796. Research of Kentucky records have led me to believe that they migrated to Kentucky before going on to Illinois where they first settled in White County. William Fields did not buy land in Illinois until June 29, 1840 when he bought land in Macon County. He and his wife both died in Macon County within four days of each other and are buried in the North Fork Cemetery near Decatur, Illinois. Note pictures of grave monuments in this book.

My husband, Carl, and I personally discovered the above graves in the North Fork Cemetery. We were about to give up on our search going from stone to stone as there was no caretaker present from whom to inquire the whereabouts of graves. Suddenly Carl pushed back the grass from some white slabs lying flat on the ground, and there were the two graves of my great, great grandparents. They lost two daughters in 1835 who are buried at the Mt. Zion Presbyterian Cemetery, Mt. Zion, Illinois. These grave monuments, the small slab type used for children, are still standing with inscriptions almost obliterated with age and weather.

The Mt. Zion Presbyterian Church Records show Jane Feilds (Fields) and Peggy Feilds (Fields) as members received in September 1835. Joshua Fields and Mary Wheeler (Fields) were both listed on the Mt. Zion Presbyterian Church Register. This pretty well confirms the fact that this family's religious preference was Presbyterian.

William Fields is shown on the 1820 census of White County, Illinois, Fox River township, with one male under ten years of age, and two females under ten years of age, one male, age 16-26 and one female, age 16-26.



William FIELDS

b. ca 1794 in Georgia

m. Jane Davidson

d. 20 December 1853, Macon County, Illinois, buried at North Fork Cemetery.

Jane DAVIDSON

b. ca 1796 in South Carolina

d. 24 December 1853, Macon County, Illinois, buried at North Fork Cemetery

See below:

CHILDREN:

1. Elizabeth

b. July/August 1816, White County, Illinois

d. 20 September 1835 (age 19 years), Macon County, Illinois

2. Mary

b. 25 May 1818, White County, Illinois

m/1 22 September 1836 to Raleigh Wheeler, Macon Co., IL (Marr. Records, Macon Co., IL 1829-1850)

m/2 12 August 1849 to Edward Tueth, Macon Co., IL

(Marriage received from Macon Co., IL Court House)

d. 13 November 1870, Nevada, Story Co., Iowa

(Grave Monument - Walnut Grove Cemetery, Nevada, IA)

Raleigh Wheeler

b. 1813 in Tennessee

m/1 7 October 1833 to Rebecca Travis (Macon Co., IL Marr. Records 1829-1850)

Rebecca Travis b. 21 March 1815 (or baptized) Macon Co., IL: Mt. Zion

Presbyterian Church Register

Parents of Raleigh Wheeler: Fr.- Wm. Wheeler Sr., b. in VA; d. in 1866;

Mo.-Elizabeth Hays, b. in VA; d. ca 1836. (History of Macon Co., IL, pub. 188

d. 1843 in Illinois

Children of Mary Fields and Raleigh Wheeler:

(2-1) William Wheeler

b. 1837, Macon Co., Illinois

m. Amanda J. (maiden name unk.)

d. before 1879

Columbia County, Washington marriage records show Mrs. Amanda J.

Wheeler marrying N. L. McCormick on May 12, 1879.

William Wheeler is listed in the Homestead Register as filing for a homestead in Walla Walla Co., WA, March 6, 1874.

Children:

(1) Mary E., b. 1862, Illinois (was eight in 1870; census records)

(2) Lucinda A., b. 1869, Iowa (was one year old in 1870; census records)

(2-2) Elizabeth J. Wheeler

b. February 1841, Macon Co., Illinois

m. 30 November 1862 to Moses J. Hunt, Story Co., Iowa

d. 30 September 1926, Walla Walla City, Walla Walla Co., WA

Moses J. Hunt

b. 22 December 1842 in Kentucky

d. 7 February 1920, Walla Walla City, Walla Walla Co., WA

Parents: B. Hunt and Barbara Swim (Death Cert. Washington State)

Children:

(1) Raughla (dau)

b. 7 November 1863, Story Co., Iowa

d. 25 January 1864, Story Co., Iowa; buried at Walnut Grove Cemetery, Nevada, Iowa.

Parents of Jane Davidson:

William Davidson, b. 6 Aug. 1766, Union District, SC; d. Dec. 1837, Mt Zion,

Elizabeth Mayes, b. 14 May 1775, PA; d. before 1841, Mt. Zion, IL

m. 1795 Union District SC

- (2) Arthur E.
 b. May 1868, Story Co., Iowa
 m. 3 April 1898 to Mary Hopkins (b. 1871, d. 1963; d/o Ira E. Hopkins and Lovisa Barden Hopkins); buried at Dayton City Cemetery, Dayton, Columbia Co., WA.
 d. 1954, buried at Dayton City Cemetery, Dayton, Columbia Co., WA
- (3) Florence
 b. 10 December 1874, Story Co., IA
 m. 27 January 1889 to Frank T. Hender (Hinder), Garfield Co., WA
 d. 18 September 1891, Garfield Co., WA
 Child: Ross Hinder (son), b. Sept. 1891, Garfield Co., WA
- (4) Ernest
 b. June 1880 in Washington Territory
- (5) Myrtle
 b. August 1884 In Washington Territory
 m. 28 December 1901 to C. L. Zimmerman

Information on Elizabeth J. Wheeler was obtained from 1900 Census of Garfield Co., WA; Story Co., Iowa Marr. Records, Vital Records of Washington State; 1850 Census, Macon Co., IL, and from excerpts from East Washingtonian, the Garfield County newspaper. Arthur E. Hunt and his wife, Mary, are buried at Dayton City Cemetery, Dayton, WA. Information was taken from their grave monuments as well as those of her parents.

E. W. 26 September 1891 Obituary: "Florence, wife of Frank T. Hender, and daughter of Moses and Elizabeth Hunt, was born in Story Co., IA 10 December 1874, was married 27 January 1889 in the German Baptist Church, and died 18 September 1891, leaving a husband, an infant son, a father and mother, two brothers and a sister."

E.W. 9 April 1898: "Married 3 April 1898 Arthur Hunt formerly of Garfield Co., now of Adams Co. to Miss Mary Hopkins."

On the 1900 Census of Garfield County, Washington, Elizabeth J. Hunt is reported as the mother of seven children, three living at the time.

(2-3) John Wheeler

b. 1843, Macon Co., IL (was seven years old on 1850 census)

3. James Fields

b. 17 May 1820, Illinois

m. 13 March 1849 to Elizabeth (Chandler) Lee, Macon County, Illinois

d. 17 July 1886, Story Co., Iowa; buried at Maxwell, Iowa

Elizabeth Chandler

b. 17 August 1822, Macon Co., Illinois

m/l Mr. Lee or Leigh?

d. 22 May 1903, Ames, Story Co., Iowa

Elizabeth Chandler who was previously married to a Mr. Lee or Leigh (census records show the name as "Leigh") had two children by this marriage. The James Fields family is shown as having two children, Elizabeth J., age 4 and Thomas Leigh, age 3 on the 1850 census of Macon Co., IL. This would mean they were born in 1846 and 1847 respectively. Elizabeth Lee and James Fields were married in 1849. (Macon Co., Marr. Records 1829-1850)

The obituary of Elizabeth Chandler (see copy in this book) states there were nine children born to Elizabeth Chandler. Seven of these are listed as heirs on the probate record of James Fields. This information was given to the writer by Fred Stemler of Des Moines, Iowa who is a direct descendant of James Fields.

Children of James Fields and Elizabeth (Chandler) Lee:

- (3-1) Mary Ann
 - b. 26 January 1850, Macon Co., IL
 - m. 14 June 1868 to James Marshall, Clinton, IA
 - d. 8 May 1900, Clinton, Clinton Co., IA
- (3-2) John Joshua
 - b. 9 September 1856, Macon Co., IL
 - d. 2 December 1906 in railroad accident
- (3-3) George Washington Fields
 - b. 9 September 1856, Macon Co., IL
 - m. 31 August 1882 to Mary Caroline Cline
- (3-4) Jeremiah Mark
 - b. 1858, Story Co., IA
 - m. 18 July 1881 to Hattie Noyes
- (3-5) Rebecca Louisa
 - b. 1861, Story Co., IA
 - m. 25 May 1882 to James E. Cline
 - d. 20 December 1948
- (3-6) Matilda Margaret
 - b. 16 July 1864, Story Co., IA
 - m. 26 March 1881 to Joseph Yazel, Marshall Co., IA
 - d. 3 June 1935, Des Moines, Polk Co., IA
 Joseph Yazel
 - b. 10 November 1852
 - d. 5 August 1916, Elkhart twp., Polk Co., IA
 Parents: Fr.-George Yazel; Mo-Sarah Mathis
 Children of Matilda Margaret Fields and Joseph Yazel:
 - (1) Mary Etta
 - b. 18 February 1882
 - (2) James Dean
 - b. 1885
 - (3) Fern Ray
 - b. 12 October 1888
 - (4) Edna Mae
 - b. 9 October 1889
 - (5) Ross
 - b. 1899
 - (6) Mystie
 - b. 26 May 1903, Polk Co., IA
 - m. 31 March 1922 to Clyde Pearl Stemler
 - d. 21 June 1951, Des Moines, Polk Co., IA
 Children:
 - a. Margaret Ruth
 - b. 7 June 1926
 - m. Marvin H. Sandvick
 - b. Robert Earl
 - b. 18 July 1932
 - m. Janice Clarke
 - c. Patricia Mae
 - b. 6 November 1934
 - m. August L. Sandvick

d. Fred Stemler

b. 1 June 1938, Elkhart twp., Polk Co. IA
 m. 7 June 1958 to Marlene K. Triplett, Ankeny, Polk Co., IA
 (b. 2 Jan. 1940, Des Moines, IA; dau. of Mark Triplett and Ruth Gervena Cole)

Children:

Tamara Jeanne, b. 25 Jan. 1961, Des Moines, IA; m. 1978 to Gregory A. Brown
 Michelle, b. 17 July 1962, Des Moines, Polk Co., IA

4. Margaret Jane Fields

b. 4 June 1822, White County, Illinois
 m/1 20 December 1842 to Robert Hawks, Macon Co., IL (Macon Co., IL Marr. Records 1829-1850). Rob't Hawks d. 14 July 1855 in Story Co., IA.

Children of Robert Hawks and Margaret J. Fields:

(4-1) John Thomas (he is listed as John F. on census reports of Macon Co., IL and Polk Co., IA)

b. 5 May 1848, Macon Co., IL
 m. 19 December 1867 to Martha Anne Walters at Hamilton Co., IA
 d. 27 April 1919, Huntsville, Columbia Co., WA

Children:

- (1) Minnie Margaret b. 12 Feb. 1869, Iowa; d. 3 May 1949, Pasco, WA
- (2) Ida Minetta b. 11 August 1870, Iowa; d. 14 July 1926
- (3) Robert Elmer b. 9 Nov. 1872, Iowa
- (4) Edna Luetta b. 21 Nov. 1874, Washington Co., KS; d. 15 Mar. 1961
- (5) Gertrude Alverda b. 13 Oct. 1876, Kansas; d. 31 Aug. 1966, Spokane, WA
- (6) Nella Amanda b. 14 April 1878, Topeka, KS; d. March 1935 " "
- (7) William Floyd b. 7 Jan. 1880, Clifton KS; d. 8 April 1969, Walla Walla, WA
- (8) Rosetta Maude b. 7 July 1881, Clifton, KS; d. 14 April 1931, Medical Lake, Spokane, WA
- (9) Ernest b. 29 Dec. 1882; d. in Infancy
- (10) Daisy Blanche b. 14 April 1884, Kansas
- (11) Zelma Belle b. 4 Feb. 1886, Waitsburg, WA
- (12) Louis Vernon (John) b. 20 March 1888; d. 11 July 1941
- (13) Eunice Flo b. 4 Nov. 1889, Huntsville, WA; d. 7 Nov. 1941, Zillah, WA
- (14) Flossie Martha b. 28 May, 1891, Huntsville, WA; d. Feb. 1966 Yakima, WA

(4-2) Priscilla J.

b. 1849/50 (age 6 mon. on 1850 Census of Macon Co., IL)
 m. Nathaniel B. Denney (Than)

(4-3) William E.

b. 13 Jan. 1853, Cambridge, IA;
 m. 16 Oct. 1878 to Clarissa Minerva Cattron, ** See below*
 d. 1933 at Walla Walla, WA ✓

Children: (not in order)

- (1) Henry R. (age 6 on 1880 Census of Columbia Co., WA)
 b. 1874 in Washington Territory
- (2) Ada B. (age 9 months on 1880 Census of Columbia Co., WA)
 b. 1879/80 in Washington Territory
- (3) Clyde M.
- (4) Frank Irving b. 1 Jan. 1887
- (5) Paul
- (6) Leslie

✱ b. 11 June 1850, Des, Moines, IA

WILLIAM FIELDS AND JANE DAVIDSON (Cont'd)

- (7) John (died in youth)
- (8) Margaret
- (9) Dolly
- (10) Ellen (died very young)
- (4-4) Robert O.
 - b. 22 July 1855, Story Co., IA (from personal letter of Robert O. Hawks to George A. Draper, dated Dec. 1, 1938)
 - m/1 Mollie Winnett
 - m/2 Pearl ?
 - Children:
 - (1) Byron
 - (2) Myrtle
 - (3) Grace

Except where otherwise noted, the information on the descendants of Robert Hawks and Margaret (Fields) Hawks was obtained from "Hawks-Hunt Family" by Gladys Kerns Bell and Roscoe E. Bell. In the same book is a copy of the letter mentioned above from Robert O. Hawks to George A. Draper. Robert describes the journey from Iowa in the spring of 1869 to Washington Territory. There were four families travelling together. They travelled by wagon. The Hunt's (Robert's mother had married Benjamin J. Hunt by this time) had two new wagons and six mules. They had several encounters with Indians along the way, but only one incident was with hostile Indians.

- m/2 5 February 1858 Margaret (Fields) Hawks to Benjamin J. Hunt in Story Co., IA (Story Co., IA Marriage Records; copy from Story County Court House)
- Benjamin J. Hunt
 - b. 16 November 1821 in Kentucky (s/o Ezekiel Hunt who was b. in Virginia)
 - m/1 Barbara Swim who was born in Kentucky
 - Children of Benjamin J. Hunt and Barbara Swim:
 - (1) Moses
 - b. 22 December 1842 in Kentucky
 - m. 30 November 1862 to Elizabeth J. Wheeler, Story Co., IA
 - d. 7 February 1920, Walla Walla, WA; buried at Pomeroy, WA (Death Certificate from State of Washington)
 - (2) Mary J.
 - b. 1844 in Kentucky
 - m. Mr. Pickard
 - d. ca 1932, Spokane County, WA
 - (3) E. J. Hunt (dau.) b. 1852 in Iowa; listed on 1860 census of Polk Co., IA as idiotic.
 - (4) Catharine (Kate) **
 - b. 6 December 1852, in Iowa
 - m. 1873 to Demetrius L. Payne
 - d. 16 February 1919, Dayton, Columbia Co., WA; buried at Dayton City Cem.
 - Children:
 - a. Lottie Lillian
 - b. 9 September 1873, Washington
 - d. 4 May 1900, Dayton, Columbia Co., WA
 - b. Orval
 - b. February 1881, Washington Territory
 - m. Nora J. Hopkins; b. 1880, d. 1960
 - d. 1969, Dayton, Columbia Co., WA

**Catharine's name appears spelled in a variety of spellings. However, I have taken it from the way it appears on her grave monument.

- (5) Benjamin F.
 b. January 1855, Polk Co., IA (1900 Census of Garfield Co., WA)
 m. Lydia H. ?
 Children:
 a. Edward F., b. August 1882, Washington Territory
 b. Ida M., b. January 1884, " "
 c. Anna B., b. December 1886, " "
 d. Margaret J., b. October 1888, Washington
 e. Walter H., b. October 1891, Washington
 f. Delbert H., b. October 1892, Washington
 g. Lydia L., b. March 1895, Washington
 h. William J., b. January 1898, Washington

Children of Benjamin J. Hunt and Margaret (Fields) Hawks Hunt:

- (4-5) Nannie A.
 b. 18 February 1859, Polk Co., IA
 m. 31 July 1878 to Jeremiah E. Henkle, Huntsville, Columbia Co., WA
 They had a daughter, Beulah who married Robert Hunter.
 (4-6) Sherman (twin)
 (4-7) Sheridan (twin)
 (4-8) Wm. S. Hunt

The above information was obtained from Polk Co., IA 1850 and 1860 census; 1900 Garfield Co., WA census; Story Co., IA Marr. Rec.; Dayton City Cemetery Records, Dayton, WA. Benjamin Hunt was listed as guardian of the two minor Hawks children, W. E. Hawks and Robert Hawks, sons of Robert Hawks, deceased, in a petition to sell the shares of the estate of Robert Hawks, deceased, March 19, 1868. The petition was made to the court of Story County, Iowa. The record also states that the wife of Benjamin Hunt is the mother of the Hawks children. Another record on file at the Story County, Iowa Court House but made out in Polk County, Iowa is one in which Benjamin Hunt and his wife, Margaret J. Hunt, have appointed Alexander Pierce as their attorney to conduct all their business in the State of Iowa. This was initiated April 13, 1869 shortly before they moved to Washington Territory. (See copy of last document on page 88 of this book.)

5. Matilda Fields
 b. 5 May 1825, Illinois
 d. 6 September 1835, Macon Co., IL; buried at Mt. Zion Presb. Church Cem.
6. Susannah
 b. 25 March 1828, White Co., Illinois
 m. 26 March 1846 to Edward McKinzie (McKenzie), Macon Co., IL
 d. 9 January 1907, Spokane, Spokane Co., WA
 Edward McKinzie
 b. 1825 in Kentucky
 d. 16 November 1895, Anatone, Asotin Co., WA
 Children:
 (6-1) Mary A.
 b. 27 May 1847 in Illinois
 d. 7 January 1849, Macon Co., IL (aged 1 yr. 7 mo. 11 da.):
 buried at North Fork Cemetery near Decatur, IL.
 (6-2) Aurelia V.
 b. 17 February 1850, Macon Co., IL
 d. 1 August 1851, Macon Co., IL (aged 1 yr. 5 mo. 14 da.)
 buried at North Fork Cem., near Decatur, IL.

I know all men By these Presents
 That We Benjamin & Hunt and
 Mary of Hunt his wife of the County
 of Polk and State of Iowa have made
 and constituted and by these Presents do make
 and constitute and appoint Alexander Pierce
 of Madison Township Polk County and State
 of Iowa our true and lawful attorney for us
 and in our name and stead to do all our
 Business in the State of Iowa By selling
 Land Collecting debts or running his business
 giving and granting to our attorney full
 power to perform every act and every thing
 whatsoever is requisite and necessary to be
 done in and about the premises as fully and
 to all intents and purposes as we might or
 could do if we were personally present with
 full power of substitution and revocation
 Here by ratifying all that said ^{attorney} or his substitute
 shall lawfully do or cause to be done
 I witness whereof we have hereunto set our
 hand this thirteenth day of April in the
 year of our lord one thousand eight hundred
 and sixty nine
 B. J. Hunt

State of Iowa }
 Polk County }
 Margaret J. Hunt

on the 13th day of April 1869. Before me William
 Gilmer a Justice of the Peace in and for said
 County Personally came Ben. J. Hunt and
 Margaret J. Hunt his wife. Personally known to
 me to be the identical persons whose names are
 affixed to the above instrument as grantors
 and severally acknowledged. The execution of
 the same to be their voluntary act and
 deed for the purposes therein expressed. in testimony
 whereof I hereunto set my name at my
 office in Madison Township County and State
 of Iowa said
 Wm Gilmer J.P.

This is agreement drawn up by Benjamin J. Hunt and Margaret J. Hunt with attorney, Alexander Pierce, authorizing him to take care of their business in State of Iowa. This was done just prior to their departure for Washington Territory. See their signatures. If written by the attorney, he needed some lessons in spelling and grammar.

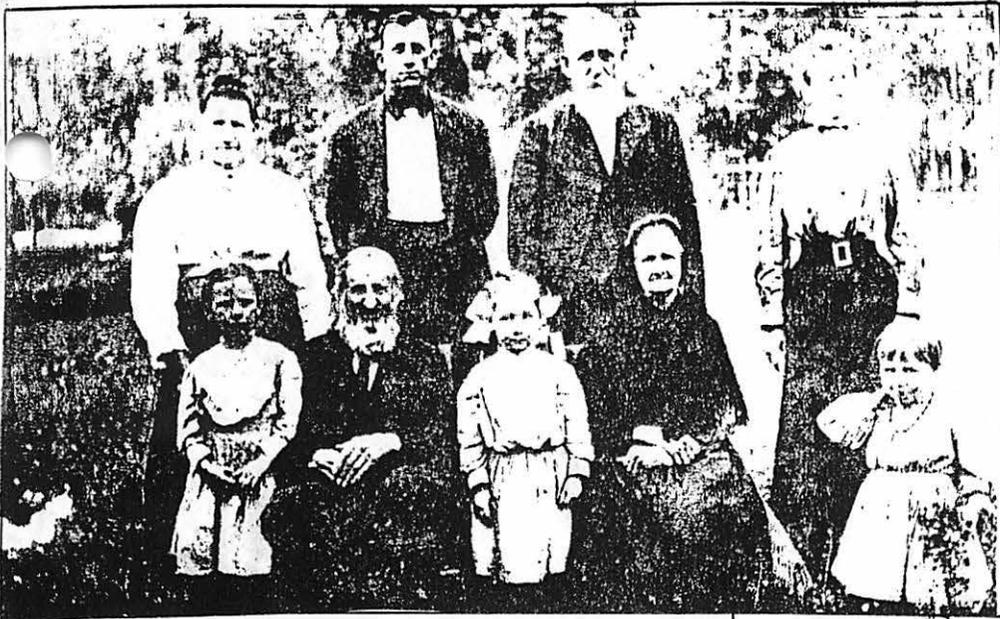
- (6-3) Catherine
b. 29 October 1851, Macon Co., IL
d. Infancy
- (6-4) Margaret
b. 25 August 1853, Macon Co., IL
d. Infancy
- (6-5) Sarah Ellen
b. 25 March 1856, Cambridge, Story Co., IA
m. 30 January 1873 to James Wills Newkirk, Story Co., IA
d. 20 November 1935, LaGrande, Union Co., OR; buried at Greenwood Memorial Terrace, Spokane, WA.
- (6-6) Alma Frances
b. 11 March 1859, Story Co., IA
m. 26 March 1882 to Albert Harlow, Story Co., IA
d. 12 October 1938, Spokane, Spokane Co., WA
- (6-7) William Nathaniel
b. 4 March 1862, Ames, Story Co., IA
m. 26 March 1885 to Ellen Harlow, Dayton, Columbia Co., WA
(Columbia Co., WA Marr. Records)
- (6-8) Minerva Jane
b. 29 December 1865, Ames, Story Co., IA
m. & February 1884 to George Harlow, at Dayton, Columbia Co., WA
d. 24 February 1956, Palouse, Whitman Co., WA
- (6-9) Ira Edward
b. 9 January 1869, Ames, Story Co., IA
m. 16 December 1888 to Viola Sargent, Forks, Asotin Co., WA
(d/o Mr. and Mrs. John R. Sargent; d. 13 Feb. 1952)
d. 23 December 1958, Asotin, Asotin Co., WA
Children:
(1) Edna McKinzie m. William Patrick
(2) Edward John McKinzie
(3) Ruby McKinzie m. Homer Loy

The above information was obtained from Macon Co., Illinois Marr. Records; 1870 census of Story Co., Iowa; family history as told to Maxine Buhler of Santa Barbara, CA (direct descendant of Susannah Fields McKinzie) and obituary notice of Ira E. McKenzie.

Edward McKinzie (McKenzie) is listed among the Old Settlers of Story Co., Iowa who settled there prior to January 1, 1858 in the History of Story County, Iowa, page 363. He is also listed in the same book among the pensioners which would indicate that he had some military service.

7. Joshua Fields
b. 1835, Illinois
8. Sarah E.
b. 1837, Illinois
m. Aaron McKinzie
d. 17 March 1857, Iowa

It is believed that William and Jane (Davidson) Fields had other children, but a search for them has revealed no information.



Back Row, left to right:
Katherine Hunt Payne,
Orval Durette Payne, son of
Katherine & D. L. Payne,
Demetrius Payne, Nora Jane
Hopkins Payne (wife of Orval)
Front row: Mata Lillian Payne,
Benjamin J. Hunt, Vesta Roena
Payne, Margaret (Fields) Hawks
Hunt and Merle Payne.

This is four generation photo
probably taken in the early
1900's.

Impressions and Observations of The Journal Man

By Fred Lockley 6-6-36

"The town of Huntsville, Wash., was built on my father's place," said Mrs. J. E. Henkle of Philomath. "Huntsville seminary, located there, was operated under the auspices of the radical branch of the United Brethren church.

"My father, Benjamin Hunt, was a farmer, was born inucky. My mother's maiden name was Margaret Fields. She was born in Illinois. Father and Mother were married in 1858. Father was then a widower with five children, and my mother was a widow with four children. My mother's first husband was Robert Hawks. My half-brother, Robert O. Hawks, who formerly lived at Pendleton and for some years at Walla Walla, where he was county school superintendent, is now 81 years old and lives at Los Angeles. Father and Mother had four children. My brother Sherman lived for some years at Dayton and Waitsburg, Wash., but now lives at Walla Walla. Sheridan lives at Los Angeles.

"I was born in Polk county, Iowa, on February 18, 1859. I was 10 years old when we came West. I went to school in Washington Territory, and in 1875, when I was 16, I came to Philomath to attend Philomath college. The Rev. R. E. Williams was then president of the college. He is now living at Des Moines and is 87 years old. I attended Philomath college in 1875 and 1876. In 1877 I attended St. Pauls Episcopal school at Walla Walla. I met my husband, Jeremiah E. Henkle, when I was a student at Philomath. We were married July 31, 1878, at the home of my parents, at Huntsville, Washington Territory. On our way to Philomath on our wedding trip we spent part of our honeymoon at the home of J. K. Gill, in Portland. We also visited an old-time friend, Frank Aiken, at that time president of Portland. My husband was a widower with one son, Otis, now living at Bend, Or. My husband's first wife was Lizzie Mason. Her father, George Mason, and his wife, known as 'Aunt Betsy' Mason, crossed the plains in 1853 and took up a donation land claim on Marys river. My husband and his first wife were married on Sep-

tember 21, 1873. She died in 1876.

"My father, Benjamin J. Hunt, was born in Fleming county, Kentucky, on November 16, 1821. Father and Mother lived on a farm near Des Moines, Iowa, when Father decided to go West. We came from Iowa to the vicinity of Walla Walla in the summer of 1869, traveling by mule team. The trip took three months.

"My husband and I have had two children. Our son, Rodell, died in 1916. Our daughter, Beulah, married Robert Hunter. They live in Chicago. My husband was born in Lee county, Iowa, on November 18, 1843. He was 10 years old when he crossed the plains with his parents to the Willamette valley in 1853. His father, Ichabod Henkle, was born in West Virginia on October 10, 1810, and moved to Ohio in 1839. My husband's grandfather, Jacob Henkle, and my father-in-law settled in Benton county. Jacob was 77 when he died, in 1875. Ichabod Henkle was one of the incorporators of the Oregon & Yaquina Bay Wagon Road company and was a director of the Willamette Valley Coast railroad, connecting Albany and Yaquina. The maiden name of my husband's mother was Mary A. King. My husband became a student at Philomath college in 1872. Later, he became a partner of J. L. Shipley in a store. His partner died in 1877 and my husband ran the store till 1891. He and his father made a trip on foot in 1859 to Yaquina Bay. They made the trip later, in 1863, going down the Yaquina river in a skiff. In 1864 my husband enlisted in Company A, 1st Oregon volunteers. This company was stationed for a while at Fort Yamhill, and later at Fort Vancouver. He is one of the few Civil war veterans still living in Benton county. Although he will soon celebrate his 93d birthday, he is still active, though his eyesight has failed him. I believe there are only two members of Company A of the 1st Oregon now living.

"The town of Philomath was started in 1865. The officials of the United Brethren church bought the land from David Henderson, who had taken up the place as a donation land claim. The college was opened in the fall of 1867, with Joseph Hannon as president."

Mrs. Katherine Payne.

Mrs. Katherine Payne, aged 66 years passed away at the home of her son, O. D. Payne, of this city, Sunday morning at 5:10 o'clock, following a stroke of paralysis which had occurred a few days ago. It was the second attack of the kind she had had, and she had been in very poor health for several years.

The deceased was born in Iowa and came West with her parents in 1862. The trip was made across the plains by team and the Hunt family settled in that part of the Touchet Valley which is now Huntsville. That town was named for Mr. Hunt whose farm once included the site.

Katherine Hunts was married to D. L. Payne, also a pioneer settler here, in 1873. He farmed for a time in that part of the county, Payne Hollow, which derived its name from him, and then took up a homestead on Eckler Mountain.

Mrs. Payne is survived by but one child, O. D. Payne, her only daughter, Lottie Payne, having died in young womanhood. She is also survived by three grandchildren, two sisters, Mrs. Mary Pickard of Elberton, and Mrs. Nannie Henkle of Philomath, Oregon, and four brothers who are: Moses Hunt of Ralston, Wash.; B. F. Hunt, of Salem, Oregon; S. P. Hunt of Portland, Oregon, and W. S. Hunt of Prosser, Wash.

Funeral services for Mrs. Payne were held Monday afternoon at 2 o'clock with Rev. W. C. Gilmore of the Congregational Church officiating.

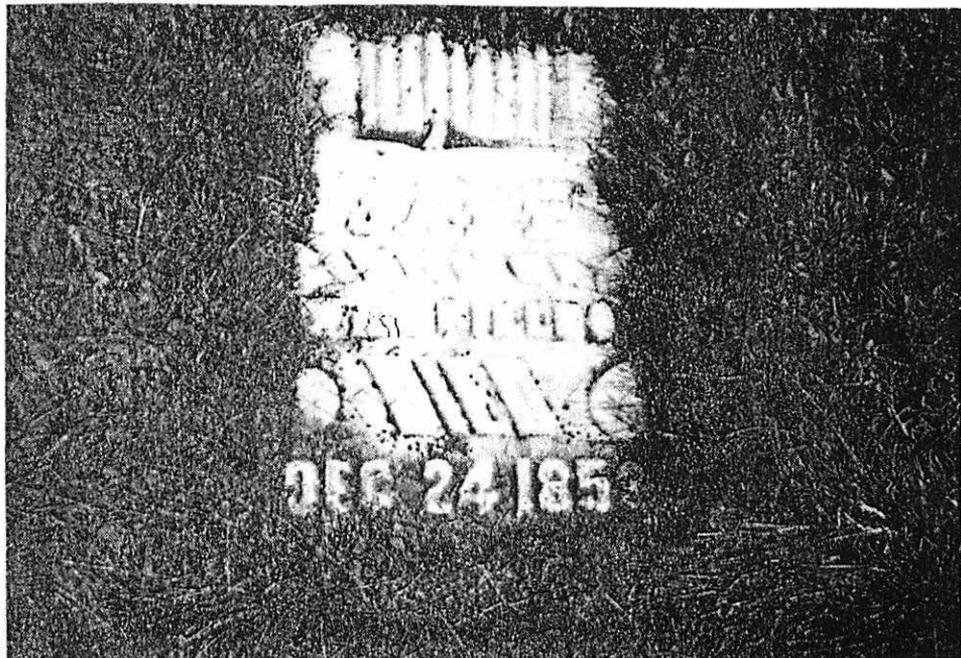
The article on left was published from an interview with Nannie A. Hunt Henkle, oldest daughter of Benjamin Hunt and Margaret Fields Hawks Hunt.



"WM. FIELDS DIED DEC. 20, 1853, AGED 59 years" (This stone in North Fork Cemetery, Decatur, IL has fallen over and is lying flat, overgrown with grass. Picture taken by writer in October, 1980 along with the one of Jane Fields below)



This picture is believed to be "Aunt Nervie" or Minerva Jane McKinzie Harlow, who was granddaughter of William and Jane Fields.



"JANE, WIFE OF WM. FIELDS DIED DEC. 24, 1853"

Entries: 4277 Updated: Mon Apr 29 10:37:12 2002

Contact: [Craig Rice](mailto:craig.rice@pfizer.com) <craig.rice@pfizer.com>

- ID: I3530
- Name: Margaret Jane Fields
- Given Name: Margaret Jane
- Surname: Fields
- Sex: F
- _UID: A940AF482771564E852F5491EB118C9BD823
- Note:

<From "The Hawks and Hunt Family Record," pg. 4>

"It is said that Margaret Fields was the daughter of William Fields, and that Margaret's Grandmother was Elizabeth Rutledge - Mother of Anne Rutledge, Abraham Lincoln's girl friend, whom he loved so much."

<From: "The Hawks and Hunt Family Record," by Gladys Kerns Bell & Roscoe E. Bell, pg. 39, July 1979>

Gleanings:

From Cleo's report we got the interesting story of Grandma Hunt being a midwife to many pregnant women in that area. The story has been told by a number of you about the baby that was born with 2 extra fingers and two extra toes and a sort of web between his toes. Great Grandma took the scissors and cut off the extra toes and fingers, and cut the webbing between his toes. He grew to manhood with no more problems with his toes and fingers.

Cleo says that Grandpa would read the paper at night and Grandma would be doing knitting or crocheting. One time Grandma called the President of the Ladies Aid at Prescott and said, "is this Mrs. Crow?" "This is Mrs. Hawks." Grandpa said that none of the ten girls would come up to "Ma" making buttermilk biscuits. I remember stopping on the way from school and Grandma was making doughnuts, Grandpa cooking them, and they would have a big dishpan full.
(by Charlotte H. Danielson Lloyd, February 1979)

<From: "The Hawks and Hunt Family Record," by Gladys Kerns Bell & Roscoe E. Bell, pg. 42, July 1979>

Zelma Hawks Fullerton made the following speech in 1967 about her Grandmother, Margaret:

Margaret Jane Fields was born, June 4, 1822, in White County, Illinois. Her Father's name was William Fields. Her Grandmother's name was Elizabeth Rutledge who was the Mother of Ann Rutledge.

Margaret Fields was married to Robert Hawks in Malcom County, Illinois, December 19, 1842. They moved to Hines, Iowa with their three children in 1852. The children are John Thomas, the oldest, Priscilla, the second child, and William (Billy). Robert was born in 1855. Robert, the Father died in Hines County in 1855 of sunstroke. In 1858 Margaret married Benjamin J. Hunt and they moved from Story County to his home in Polk County. In the spring of 1869, they sold their holdings and started by the first part of May for the Golden West. They came by wagon train. They made a survey and found they had 55 wagons, which were plenty to make them safe from attack by the Indians. This trip west was joint venture with four other families and their own family. My Father was the oldest of Grandma Hunt's family. My mother and father, Martha A. Walters and John Thomas Hawks were married in Hamilton County, Iowa on December 19, 1868. I am the eleventh of fourteen children.

I was born in Huntsville, WA, the town established by and named for my Grandfather in 1870. I was born February 4, 1886 on part of the land homesteaded by my Grandparents and I still live there. Huntsville is located one mile south of the Lewis and Clark State Park and 2 1/2 miles north of Waitsburg, in the fertile Touchet Valley of Walla Walla County, WA. The Blue Mountains are located about fifteen miles to the east and at different locations, can be seen on clear days.

Huntsville is in Section 6, township 9, North Range 38. Part of the 160 acres was located on the north side of the river and the log house was built near the bend in the Touchet River that is protected by the 160 acres and which he farmed. The rest of his land was all fertile bottom land. Most vegetable crops and many fruits and nuts, including peaches, cherries, pears, and berries of all kinds grow well here.

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This is where Benjamin Hunt took up a homestead. They soon grew all their own fruits and vegetables, had milk cows and their own meat. They made their own soap out of ashes and tallow, and made their own candles. They preserved many of the fruits and garden vegetables for their use in winter.

Margaret was a kind and loving woman and the people came from all around for her to help them when they were hurt or sick. For people with bad burns she made poultices of beaten egg white and put those on the burns. She acted as a midwife and brought in over 100 babies. One little baby was born with web hands and feet and one little extra finger on each hand and an extra little toe on each foot. She took scissors and snipped off the extra little fingers and toes and healed and she cut the web fingers and toes and the baby grew up to become an adult with no scars to show and used the fingers and toes as normal ones.

Margaret's son, John Thomas Hawks and Martha Anne Walters were married in Hamilton County on December 19, 1868 and came to Huntsville and brought their children. They had fourteen children and I am the eleventh. I was born on part of the land homesteaded by my Grandparents. Huntsville town was established and named for Benjamin Hunt in 1870. He kept the hill land for farming and gave six acres to the Washington Institute for a United Brethren Church and School. The second floor was used for church and school programs and the first floor for the school. The building was 40' x 50'. My Grandmother cooked for the carpenters during construction and never charged them a cent. My older sisters and neighbor girls attended this school.

The Washington Seminary was built in 1900 and just a short distance from the Washington Institute on the land that my Grandparents donated for the Institute. They held Church and School for several years there. The school grew and needed larger quarters and a Patent was issued to G.T. Pollard, signed by Ulysses S. Grant in 1877 or 1878. Deeds were signed as follows: Hunt to Washington Institute, 1880; Hunt to S. Dist. 7 for Lot 1 Blk. 1, 1880; G.T. Pollard for lot 3 Blk. 2 to School Dist. 7, December 3, 1884 signed B.T. Pollard and Benjamin Hunt.

For several years the young College flourished. Electricity came to Huntsville and all was well. To help the settlers, the Benjamin Hunts sold lots in Huntsville for building new homes for the price of \$2.00 and \$3.00 a piece. So that he could be sure to keep Huntsville clean and pure in future years he had the following written at the bottom of each of these deeds: "Subject to the following Restrictions"

"In case any spirits or Malt liquors are manufactured or sold on said premises, or the same is used for a Gambling House, Billiard Saloon, Bowling Alley, House of Ill Fame or Theater, the same shall revert to the Grantor." To this date, most property owners in Huntsville still have this written in their deeds. This was a very strict religious school. A flaw grew when some wanted Lodges and to belong to them. Some were for and some were against; the Hunts were against. Those against the Lodges were called the Radical United Brethren. A lawsuit followed and those for Lodges won. After this the College enrollment dwindled with few teachers wanting to teach there and so the College ended its short career.

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However, the town, with all the new population was booming. Houses had been built and the town had roads and lanes. The Hunts built a house close to the old log cabin and moved into it. A General Store was built and most all household goods could be bought there. The store also housed a United States Post Office.

The School District #7 purchased the Seminary for a public school, January 9, 1912, for the price of \$2,500.00. This school was used for a public school for about 30 years before being remodeled. The upper story was removed to make a more modern one-story school for a cost of \$5,000.00. In 1954 the smaller schools were consolidated. Huntsville was closed and joined the Dayton School District.]

My Grandparents raise a lot of corn and they would have the Indian camp on their place and shuck the corn. The Indians would come through Huntsville and pass by the Hawks farm in big bands, and turn their horses into the wheat. When my mother would see them coming and my father would be gone she would take us children up on the hill behind the straw or hay stack until the Indians were out of sight. Our neighbors would hide in their cornfields until the Indians went by.

One time my Mother was sorting apples with her back to the road. She heard a grunt and turned around. She threw up her hands and screamed. There stood two Buck Indians close to her and they laughed when they saw they had frightened her. The Indians nearly always stopped at our place for apples, cherries, and little Petite plums. They loved to eat the fruit, seeds and all. There used to be an Indian preacher who wore a white vest and a swallow-tailed coat that would come by every once in a while. He would give us children candy and gum and said he wanted to marry one of us girls or at least perform the ceremony.

My father bought a little white pony from the Indians for us children to ride. We thought it was the finest pony in the world. Two or three of us would get on her and ride and ride. Finally, when she would get tired of carrying us, she would rear up and off we would go. She would run away and turn her head and look back at us. One time my sister got provoked at this pony and decided to break her by raring up. She tied her head down to a post. So when the rope slipped off her nose, it cut her tongue off and it fell to the ground. We all felt very bad about it. She wouldn't eat for almost a week and we were afraid she was going to die. Finally, we buttered some bread and put a lot of sugar on it and started to eat. It wasn't long before she was all right and eating all of her food.

This same pony would go back to the Indians from whom we bought her and then we would feel very bad. She had to swim the Snake River to get back where they were. She went back two or three times to the Indians. The Indians would bring her back and put out their hand and say, "money, money." Papa would pay them.

My

My life has been lived in the Pioneer Tradition and my interest in our traditions has had an outlet in working with the Daughters of Pioneers of Washington, Dayton Chapter. I thank you and wish, with you all, that the "pioneer spirit" never dies.

1 2

- *Birth:* 4 JUN 1822 in White Co, IL
- *Death:* 4 DEC 1912 in Dayton, WA

Father: [William Fields](#) b: 1794 in Georgia

Mother: [Jane Davidson](#) b: 1796 in Union Co, SC

Marriage 1 [Robert Hawks](#) b: ABT 1820 in Illinois

- *Married:* 20 DEC 1842
- *Married:* 19 DEC 1842 in Malcom Co, IL

Children

1. [John Thomas Hawks](#) b: ABT 1847 in Illinois
2. [William E. Hawks](#) b: 1853
3. [Robert O. Hawks](#) b: 19 JUL 1855
4. [Priscilla J. Hawks](#) b: 1850 in Illinois

Marriage 2 [J. Benjamin Hunt](#) b: 16 NOV 1821 in Fleming Co, KY

- *Married:* 1858

Children

1. [Nancy \(Nannie\) Alvira Hunt](#) b: 18 FEB 1859 in Polk City, IA

Sources:

1. Abbrev

Field - Fields

1883 Census

Pg 30 - Martin Fields 53 M Mill Man
 P. E. " 52 F

Pg 72 - J. W. Fields 52 M Ohio
 Samuel " 14 M Kan

1885 Census

Pg 9 - J. W. Fields 54 M Farmer Ohio Married - Single

Pg 9 - Joseph Fielder 13 M Kan

1887 Census

Pg 51 - W. M. Fields 42 M Farmer Ohio
 Saml " 17 M Kan
 Joe " 15 M "
 N " 12 M W. T.
 J. W. " 55 M Ohio

Pg 95 - G. S. Fields 32 M Mo.

1889 Census

Pg 82 - J. W. Field 57 M Kan
 Saml " 19 M "
 J. S. " 17 M "

Pg 84 - A Fields 22 M Ill

1892 Census

Bk 1 - p 2 - W. M. Field 41m Farmer Ohio

Bk 2 - pg 44 -

(Wayton) - S Field 24m Kan

Washington Territory Marriages, Columbia Co. 1876-1889

Witnesses

Elizabeth Field - Married - Jimmie or Jimmie? Newley - 2/21/1878 Noah Calvert
Geni Lindley

Latella " - " - J. Frank Beesley - license issued 21 Oct 1882

Witnessed Columbia Co. Marriages 1876-1889

Ben Field - witnessed m/0 - 3/19/1879 - Marton Black + Polly Ann Craft

Benjamin " - " " - 2/9/1879 - Thomas Craft + Francis D. Fletcher

B. F. " - " " - 6/3/1877 - Nathaniel Hatley + Effie A. Pinter

G. S. " - " " - 9/15/1886 - William B. Savage + M. J. Hoxeycutt

Burials

<u>Age</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Plot</u>	<u>Wayton</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Ownership</u>
10 days	Krista	F	Cemetery	buried 1 Feb 1890	Kevin Field

Fields

Early Columbia Co., Wash. Territory Marriages 1876-1889

Latella - Married - Frank J. Beezley - license issued 21 Oct 1882

Witnessed Columbia Co. Marriages 1876-1889

Ben-witnessed m/s - 19 Mar 1879 - Matton Black + Polly Ann Craft

Benjamin - " " - 3 Feb 1879 - Thomas Craft + Francis D. Fletcher

B. F. - " " - 3 June 1877 - Nathaniel Hatley + Effie A. Pentler

G. S. - " " - 5 Sept 1886 - William B. Savage + M. J. Honeycutt

Columbia Co Newspaper Abstracts

1882-1883

Pg 16 - Married at Carson Bros' mill 22 Oct 1882, J. Frank Beezley of Wasco County, Oregon + Miss Latella Field of this County. (Nov 1882)

Pg 20 - Marriage licenses issued during 1882:

Latella Field + J. Frank Beezley (Jan 1883)

1886-1887

Pg 2 - Ben Fields, at one time a resident of Dayton, but now of Astoria County was in town this week. (Apr 1886)

Pg 16 - Candidate Sketch: J. W. Fields was born in Adams County in 1830. He went to the California mines in 1852 + 2 years later to Jacksonville, Oregon. He came to Wasco-Wasco in 1861, a resident of this County since 1880. Candidate for County Commissioner, (Oct 1886)

1887-1890

Pg 20- L. K. Field's body was brought to town & buried in the City Cemetery last Sat. Thursday morning he wrote the following fragment of a letter, addressed to W. G. Field, 759 Wandsworth Road London, England: "I am in a position to pay off my debt to you only await instructions as to how you will have it. I ought never to have borrowed it, but --". This pencil was afterward found in the sheep corral. That morning Field borrowed a pistol of one of the herders. Friday morning his lifeless body was found on the bank of a small creek near the river. He had shot himself in the mouth. His people all live in England. He was about 28 years of age. Dr. Black of Garfield County held an inquest & found it suicide. (May 1888)

Pg 68- J. W. Fields has lived in this county for 28 years. (Sept 1889)

Pg 77- J. W. Fields, an honored citizen of this county died on Wednesday as a result of injuries received when gored by his Holstein bull. (Dec 1889)

Pg 78- Obituary for J. W. Fields, who died on Dec 18, 1889: J. W. Fields was born in Adams County, Ohio, 16 June 1830. He came to Calif. in 1852, to Oregon 1858 & to Walla Walla Valley in 1861. In 1875 he moved to Watsburg. He moved to Fields Gulch in 1880. His funeral was preached at the M. E. Church at Watsburg after which the remains were laid to rest in the L. O. O. F. cemetery. Simon Fields of Walla Walla was over to attend the funeral of his brother.

Fields

1890-1892

Pg 41- Simon S. Fields, administrator of the estate of J. W. Fields, dec'd. (July 1891)

Pg 43- Simon S. Fields, administrator of the estate of J. W. Fields, dec'd. (Aug 1891)

1892-1894

Pg 39- S. M. Fields, father of Mr. Fields and John Moore of Humboldt, Ill., arrived in this city Saturday. (May 1893)

1903-1905

Pg 7- Comera: Joseph Smith died at his home a few days ago, aged 81. He crossed the plains in 1846 in a wagon train of which only the following pioneers are known to be living: Ezra Dugh of Spokane; Washington Dugh of Halcyon, Oregon; Hank Trimble of Lewiston and Martha J. St. George, formerly Martha J. Comera, wife of the founder of the town of Comera, then Martha Trimble. Smith was married in 1850 or 1851 to Jane Fields in the Willamette valley. The wife, with 3 sons & 2 daughters survive him. The daughters are the wives of Green Sweeney & John Harris of Garfield County. (Jan 1903)

Fine

(Railroad Precinct) 1900 Census

Pg 12 - Thomas M. Fine Lead Oct 1860 Ore Mo Ill m. 204.
 Maggie (7/4) " wife Aug 1863 Ore Ala Tenn
 T. Alice " dau Feb 1881 Ore Ore Ore
 Ada " dau Oct 1882 " " "
 Guy " son Oct 1892 WA " "
 Lester " son May 1897 " " "

Pg 149 - (Bundy Precinct)

Thomas M. Fine Lead Oct 1860 Ore Mo Ca. m. ?
 Margaret A. (5/4) " wife Aug 1863 Ore Tenn Ala
 Ada E. " dau Sept 1882 Ore Ore Ore
 Guy W. " son Oct 1892 Wa " "
 Lester " son May 1897 " " "

(1870 Walla Walla County Mortality Schedule)

Fine / Fine? Weedon 4 yrs old white male
 born in Washington Territory
 Died in Sept - Disease of the Throat

Columbia Co. Newspaper Abstracts

1905-1908

Pg 56 - W. W. Walter, one of the oldest pioneers of the Coukret valley, died Sunday of heart disease. Deceased was 79 years of age and has resided in the vicinity of Walla Walla since 1859. Mr. Walter was a survivor of the Cayuse Indian war. Three daughters and a son are left to mourn. They are: Mrs. Henry Fine's, Mrs. J. H. Pettijohn and Miss Kate Walters, all of Prescott & Mrs. J. O. Walter, of this city. - Walla Walla Union. (Sept 1906)

<u>Age</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Plot</u>	<u>Burials</u> <u>Cemetery</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Ownership</u>
	Armel		Dayton	Buried - 5 Apr 1961	
48	Bessie A.	A	"	18 Dec 1883 - 1 May 1962	Sarah Manning
				Buried - 3 May 1962	
56	John Wesley	B	"	1908 -	1964 Sarah Manning
				Buried - 23 Jan 1964	
64	Lillian A.	H	"	1896 -	1961 Myron Fine
				Buried - 5 Apr 1961	
59	Myron C.	H	"	1893 -	1952 Myron Fine
				Buried - 27 Oct 1952	
67	Waver L.	A	"	21 Sept 1883 - 1 Oct 1950	Sarah Manning
				Buried - 5 Sept 1950	
	Steel Bernard S. John	O	"		Columbia
				Buried - 7 Jan 1941	

Waltzburg Cemetery

Baby - 1907
 Margaret A "Maggie" 1863-1939
 Roy C. - b. 1 June 1887
 d. 12 May 1898 (son of L.M. + M. Fine)
 Thomas M. "Bud" 1860-1935

Irmy Cemetery - Prescott

Henry L. - 1856-1830 probably 1930
 Olive M. - 1857-1957
 Amelia 1896-1902
 Charity 1896-1902

Fine

1905-1908 (cont)

Pg 87 - Prescott, Wash., 12 May 1907 - Merle Fine, son of Henry Fine, living about a half mile east of here accidentally discharged a gun this morning the ball passing through the eye lid. The boy is only suffering from the discomfort of the flesh wound as not even his eyeball was injured. (

Check in book "Dancing With Mules" for a little more info on the Fine family.

5 Oct 1950

Warren Fine Dies Sunday

Death occurred for Warren Fine early Sunday afternoon after a sudden attack of illness Saturday evening. Mr. and Mrs. Fine, accompanied by Mrs. Laura Fletcher, were on their way to attend the Starbuck Grange Booster Night program when Warren became ill while driving down Smith hollow. They stopped at the Orie Fletcher place, near the Tucanon, and it was decided Warren should be brought back to the hospital in Dayton.

All efforts to improve his condition failed and he passed into a coma during the night and did not regain consciousness.

Here 44 Years

Warren Fine was born near Sprague, September 21, 1883, and much of his boyhood was spent near Prescott, but at the time of his death he had been a resident of Columbia county 44 years. In the past few years he has been in semi-retirement on an acreage just west of the city limits.

Funeral services are to be held from the Christian church at 2:30 this afternoon with the Rev. Earl C. Miller, assisted by Donald A. Ross, pastor of the church, officiating. The Starbuck Grange, of which Warren was a member, will have charge of the graveside services.

The deceased was married in Dayton to Bessie Manning July 14, 1906; she survives him as does their son, John Wesley Fine. He is also survived by his mother, Mrs. Olive Fine of Prescott; a sister, Mrs. Clarice Williams of Dinuba, California; five brothers, William and John Fine of Enterprise, Oregon; H. H. Fine of Portland; Jake Fine of Boise, Idaho, and Myron Fine of Prescott; four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

3 May 1962

Bessie Fine Last Service Held Today

Mrs. Bessie A. Fine, 78, native daughter and county pioneer, passed away early Tuesday morning, May 1, at Robison Nursing Home where she had been a patient for the past three years.

Funeral services will be conducted at 2 p.m. today, May 3, from the Hubbard-Rogg chapel with the Rev. M. E. Jordan, pastor of the First Methodist church, officiating. Interment will be at the family plot in Dayton City Cemetery.

Mrs. Fine was born December 18, 1883, in Columbia county, daughter of Wesley Manning and Sarah Petyjohn Manning, early pioneers. She received her education in local schools.

Married in 1906

She and Warren Thomas Fine were married July 14, 1906, in Prescott. The couple farmed in the Starbuck area for many years. Mr. Fine passed away in 1950.

Mrs. Fine was a charter member of the Starbuck Grange.

Members of the family include one son, John W. Fine, of Seattle; two grandsons, Warren Fine of Dayton and Jack Fine of Walla Walla; two granddaughters, Adeana Basel of Moses Lake and Mrs. Janet Pounds of Dayton; and 11 great grandchildren.

4 May 1967

Brother-in-law Passes in Boise

Funeral service for Jake I. Fine, 75, Boise, Idaho, was held April 24 at the Idaho city.

Mr. Fine, brother-in-law of Lloyd and Dale Tewalt of Dayton and Carl Tewalt of St. Maries, Idaho, died April 21 after a brief illness.

Born December 25, 1891, in Sprague, he lived at Prescott before going to Boise in 1929. He was an employee of a tractor firm until his retirement in 1964.

Family members include his wife, Vera; a daughter; a sister, and one granddaughter.

Walla funeral home with interment following at Dayton City Cemetery.

Mr. Fine passed away Monday, January 20, at a Walla Walla hospital.

He was born March 8, 1907, in Washington state.

Members of the family include two daughters: Mrs. Janet Patton of Dayton and Mrs. Benna Basel of Moses Lake; two sons, Warren Fine of Clarkston and Jack Fine of Walla Walla; and 16 grandchildren.

30 Jan 1964

J. W. Fine Funeral Held

Last rites for John Wesley "Buster" Fine, 56 of Dayton were conducted Thursday morning, January 23, from a Walla

12 Jan 1967

MOTHER SUCCUMBS DEC. 27 IN YAKIMA

Funeral service for Mrs. Jessie Bisconer, 88, mother of Mrs. George (Dorothy) Jewett of Dayton, was conducted December 30, 1966, at a Yakima funeral home.

Mrs. Bisconer passed away December 27, 1966. She was born March 12, 1878. The Rev. R. Riley Johnson officiated with interment following at West Hills Memorial Gardens in Yakima.

Dorothy Jewett

Dorothy L. Jewett, 85, of 26 W. Martin St. died May 14, 1997, at St. Mary Medical Center.

The funeral was held at 11 a.m. Friday at Hubbard-Rogg Chapel, 111 S. Second St., Dayton. The Rev. David Bruce officiated. Burial was held at the family plot in the Dayton City Cemetery.

Mrs. Jewett was born Oct. 14, 1911, in Wallowa, Ore., to Fred and Jessie Schoonmaker Bisconer. She attended schools at Wallowa, Marengo on the Tucannon River, Starbuck and in Yakima where she graduated from high school.

In 1927 she married John "Buster" Fine at Pomeroy; they later divorced.

She married George "Maggie" Jewett in 1940 in Lewiston. They lived in Dayton except during World War II when they were in Portland working as welders in the shipyards.

The couple are former owners and operators of the Good Eats and Sports Center cafes and the Fourth Street Market in Dayton. Mr. Jewett died in 1983.

Mrs. Jewett was a charter member of the Eagles Auxiliary and a member of Royal Neighbors and Schuyler Rebekah Lodge. She loved playing bingo.

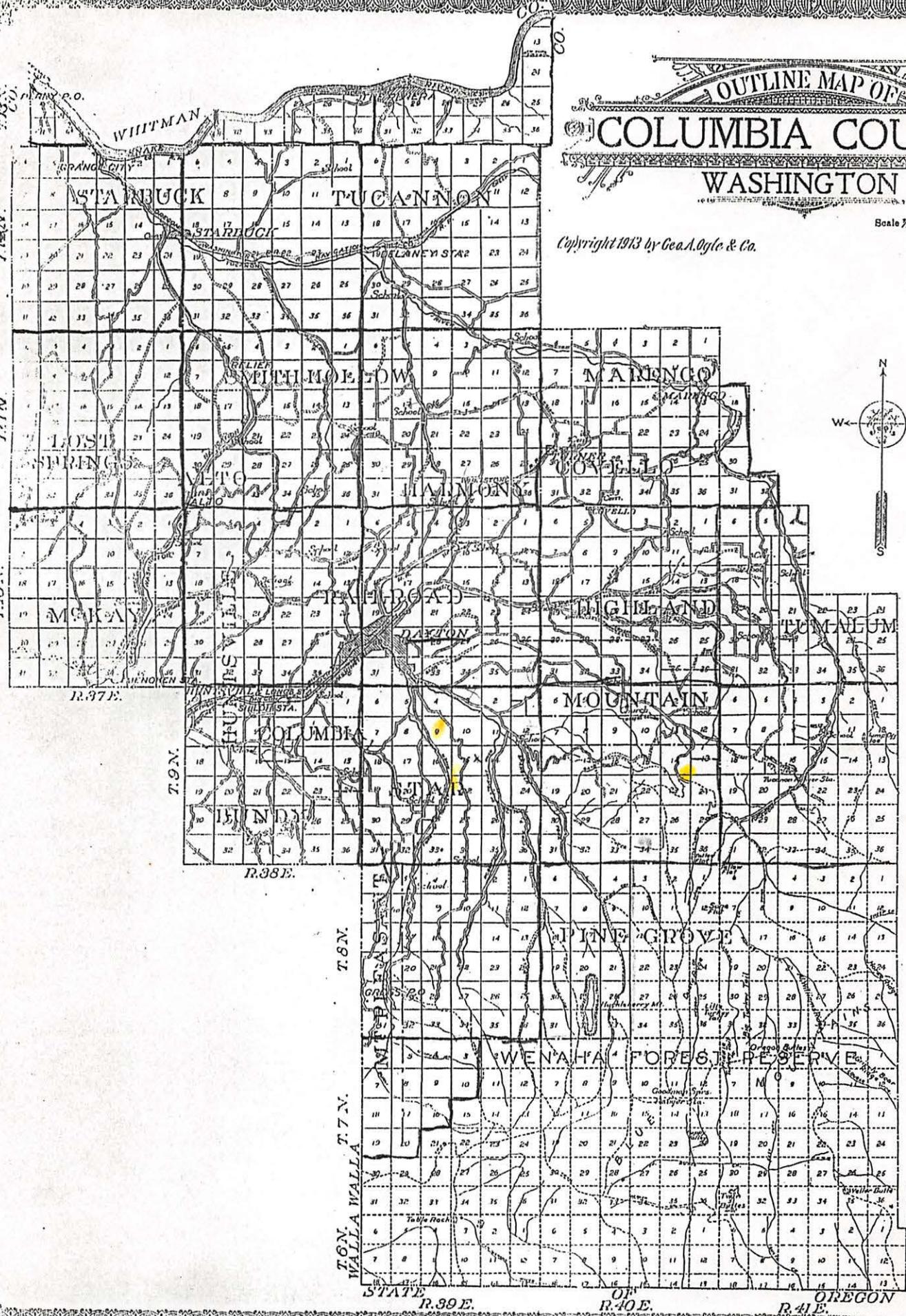
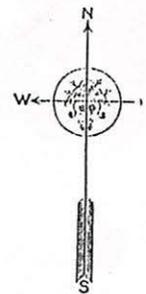
Surviving are three daughters and sons-in-law, Adeana and Bill Neely of Milton Freewater, Janet and Bill Eades of Dayton and Kathy and Darrel Golay of Walla Walla; two sons and two daughters-in-law, Jack Fine and Ted and Linda Jewett, all of Dayton and Darlene Fine of Walla Walla; a sister, Georgia Graham of Portland; 22 grandchildren; 45 great-grandchildren; and 15 great-great grandchildren. She was preceded

in death by a son, Sonny Fine; three grandchildren; and 10 siblings.

OUTLINE MAP OF
COLUMBIA CO.
WASHINGTON

Scale 1/2" = 1 mi.

Copyright 1913 by Geo. A. Ogle & Co.



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T. 9 N.
T. 8 N.
T. 7 N.
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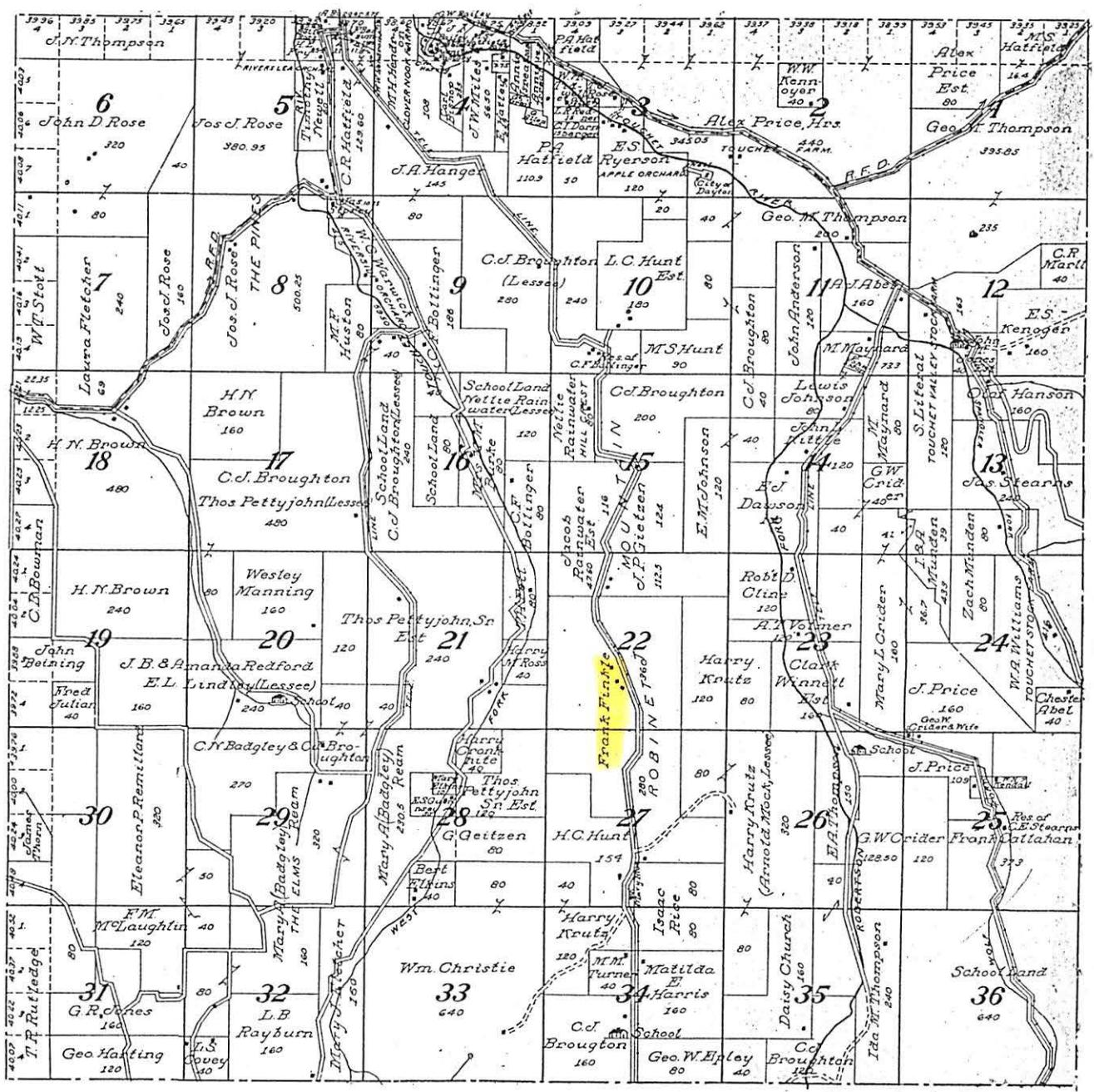
R. 37 E. R. 38 E. R. 39 E. R. 40 E. R. 41 E.

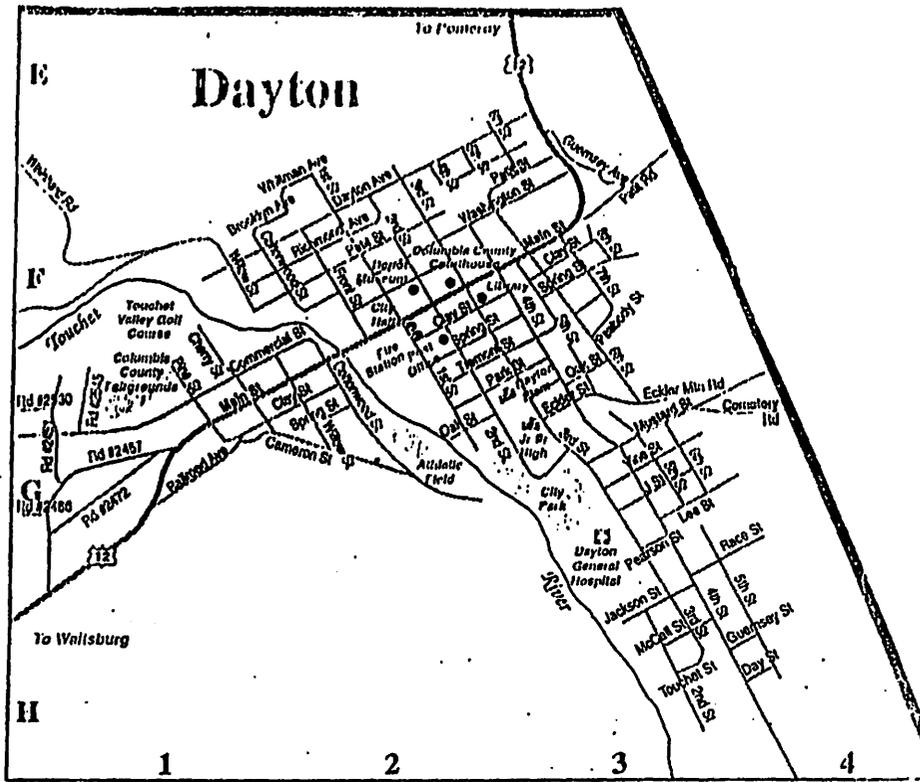
CARFIELD


TOWNSHIP 9 N., RANGE 39 E.
 OF THE WILLAMETTE MERIDIAN

Scale 1 1/4 inches to 1 mile

1913





Abbreviations

av	avenue
b	board
bet	between
bkpr	bookkeeper
carp	carpenter
cashr	cashier
clk	clerk
cor	corner
dlr	dealer
e	east
engr	engineer
es	east side
lab	laborer
mach	machinist
mgr	manager
n	north
ne	northeast
ns	north side
nw	northwest
opr	operator
r	residence
rms	rooms
R R	railroad
s	south
se	southeast
ss	south side
sw	southwest
st	street
slsma	salesman
tehr	teacher
w	west
ws	west side
wid	widow
wks	works

Dayton City Directory
1909

Finkel Frank farmer r ws 4th second n of Washington av
 Finkle Elmer farmer r 330 w Main
 Finkle Henry r 120 w Main

FAMILY GROUP No. _____

Husband's Full Name *Peter Feible*

This Information Obtained From:	Husband's Date	Day Month Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Husband
Birth					<i>Germany</i>	
Chr'nd						
Mar.						
Death					<i>Ohio</i>	
Burial						

Places of Residence _____

Occupation _____

Other wives, if any, No. (1) (2) etc. Make separate sheet for each mar.

His Father _____

Mother's Maiden Name _____

Wife's Full Maiden Name *Lena Weibel*

Wife's Date	Day Month Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Wife
Birth				<i>Germany</i>	
Chr'nd					
Death					
Burial				<i>Ohio</i>	

Places of Residence _____

Occupation if other than Housewife _____

Other husbands, if any, No. (1) (2) etc. Make separate sheet for each mar.

Her Father _____

Mother's Maiden Name _____

Sex	Children's Names in Full (Arrange in order of birth)	Children's Date	Day Month Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Children
		Birth	<i>6-1850</i>			<i>Ohio</i>	
		Mar.					
	Full Name of Spouse*	Death	<i>4-1929</i>				<i>78 yrs</i>
<i>m</i>	<i>Henry</i>	Burial	<i>27-4-1929</i>				<i>Plot C</i>
		Birth					
		Mar.					
	Full Name of Spouse*	Death					
<i>m</i>	<i>Peter</i>	Burial					
		Birth	<i>29-1-1854</i>	<i>Marietta</i>	<i>- Wash. -</i>	<i>Ohio</i>	<i>mar 2nd</i>
	<i>2- Bernice C. Bennett</i>	Mar(1)	<i>24-1-1886</i>	<i>Dayton</i>	<i>Columbia</i>	<i>Wash</i>	
	<i>1- Helia Ann Sammeter</i>	Death	<i>28-8-1930</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>76 yrs</i>
<i>m</i>	<i>Frank S</i>	Burial	<i>30-8-1930</i>	<i>Dayton, Penn.</i>	<i>Columbia</i>	<i>Wash.</i>	<i>Plot C</i>
		Birth					
		Mar.					
	Full Name of Spouse*	Death					
<i>m</i>	<i>Charles</i>	Burial					
		Birth					
		Mar.					
	Full Name of Spouse*	Death					
<i>m</i>	<i>Adam</i>	Burial					
		Birth					
		Mar.					
	Full Name of Spouse*	Death					
<i>m</i>	<i>Joseph</i>	Burial					
		Birth					
		Mar.					
	Full Name of Spouse*	Death					
<i>F</i>	<i>Leona</i>	Burial					
		Birth					
		Mar.					
	Full Name of Spouse*	Death					
		Burial					
		Birth					
		Mar.					
	Full Name of Spouse*	Death					
		Burial					
		Birth					
		Mar.					
	Full Name of Spouse*	Death					
		Burial					

*If married more than once No. each mar. (1) (2) etc. and list in "Add. info. on children" column. Use reverse side for additional children, other notes, references or information.

FAMILY GROUP No.

Husband's Full Name *Frank S Friddle*

This Information Obtained From:		Husband's Date	Day Month Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Husband
Birth		29-1-1854		Meivetta	Wash	Ohio	
Chr'nd							
Mar.	(1)	24-1-1886		Dayton	Columbia	Wash	
Death		28-8-1930		"	"	"	76 yrs
Burial		30-8-1930		Dayton Cem	"	"	Plot C
Places of Residence							
Occupation							
Other wives, if any. No. (1) (2) etc. Make separate sheet for each mar. (2) <i>Therese C. Bennett</i>							
His Father <i>Peter Friddle</i>				Mother's Maiden Name <i>Jessie Wendels</i>			

Wife's Full Maiden Name		Wife's Date	Day Month Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Wife
<i>Delia Ann Rannwater</i>							
Birth		23-2-1868				Oregon	
Chr'nd							
Death		9-8-1921		Dayton	Columbia	Wash	52 yrs
Burial		11-8-1921		Dayton Cem	"	"	Plot C
Places of Residence							
Occupation if other than Housewife							
Other husbands, if any. No. (1) (2) etc. Make separate sheet for each mar.							
Her Father <i>Josh Rannwater</i>				Mother's Maiden Name <i>Lucinda Williams</i>			

Sex	Children's Names in Full (Arrange in order of birth)	Children's Date	Day Month Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Children
1	<i>Flora Susanna Mock</i> Full Name of Spouse* <i>Ben "Bennie"</i>	Birth	9-11-1897		Columbia	Wash	
		Mar.					
		Death	18-2-1974	Dayton	Columbia	Wash	86 yrs
		Burial	21-2-1974	Dayton Cem	"	"	Plot C
2	<i>Elmer</i> Full Name of Spouse*	Birth	4-1890		Columbia	Wash	Living in Portland 1982
		Mar.					
		Death					
		Burial					
3	<i>Clarence</i> Full Name of Spouse*	Birth	24-4-1893		Columbia	Wash	
		Mar.					
		Death	9-4-1894	Dayton	Columbia	Wash	11 months
		Burial	25-4-1894	Dayton Cem	"	"	Plot C
4	<i>Frank S</i> Full Name of Spouse*	Birth	2-11-1905	Dayton	Columbia	Wash	
		Mar.					
		Death	9-4-1913	Dayton	Columbia	Wash	7 yrs
		Burial	11-4-1913	Dayton Cem	"	"	Plot C
5	<i>George M. Mock</i> Full Name of Spouse* <i>Theresa "Tracy"</i>	Birth	21-11-1900	Dayton	Columbia	Wash	
		Mar.	2-10-1921	Walla Walla	Walla Walla	Wash	
		Death	27-8-1982	Dayton	Columbia	Wash	81 yrs
		Burial	31-8-1982	Dayton Cem	"	"	Plot C
6	Full Name of Spouse*	Birth					
		Mar.					
		Death					
		Burial					
7	Full Name of Spouse*	Birth					
		Mar.					
		Death					
		Burial					
8	Full Name of Spouse*	Birth					
		Mar.					
		Death					
		Burial					
9	Full Name of Spouse*	Birth					
		Mar.					
		Death					
		Burial					
10	Full Name of Spouse*	Birth					
		Mar.					
		Death					
		Burial					

*If married more than once No. each mar. (1) (2) etc. and list in "Add. info. on children" column. Use reverse side for additional children, other notes, references or information.

AN
ILLUSTRATED HISTORY
OF
SOUTHEASTERN WASHINGTON

INCLUDING
WALLA WALLA, COLUMBIA, GARFIELD AND
ASOTIN COUNTIES

WASHINGTON

WESTERN HISTORICAL PUBLISHING COMPANY
PUBLISHERS
1906

DAYTON MEMORIAL LIBRARY
DAYTON, WASHINGTON

FRANK FINKEL. Any man who has endured the hardships and performed the arduous labors incident to pioneer life and now has gained a competence sufficient to retire from business is certainly to be commended. It is no small thing to enter a wild country and open a farm, and it requires no mean judgment to be able to handle the property successfully and pass through the panics that have swept the country, maintaining a successful issue throughout it all. The subject of this article has so done and is to be classed with the substantial and leading men of the country. At present, Mr. Finkel is residing in Dayton and from his home place gives attention to the oversight of his property throughout the county. He has a fine estate of four hundred and

eighty acres of choice farm land, which has been improved with everything needed. The income from this property is a handsome annual dividend and Mr. Finkel gives attention also to handling some stock which brings in a revenue. He comes from stanch German ancestry, being the son of Peter and Lena (Windel) Finkel, and was born in Washington county, Ohio, on January 29, 1854. The parents were natives of Germany and came to America when young. They settled first in Ohio and there remained, substantial and well to do farmers, until their death. They raised a family of seven children, named as follows, Henry, Peter, Frank, Charles, Adam, Joseph and Teresa. The parents maintained a reputation for uprightness and integrity which is a fine legacy for their descendants. The first fifteen years of our subject's life were spent in Washington county and there he gained his educational training from the country schools. At that time he departed from the parental roof, journeying to Wisconsin and Iowa where he worked for five years, then took a trip by rail to the Golden Gate and after looking over the prospects in California came on up through Oregon to Washington and spent his first year here in Columbia county, landing here in 1879. For a time he was occupied in smelter work for Evans Gay. Next, he took a trip to Spokane and through the Big Bend country and was more convinced than ever that the proper place to settle was near Dayton. Consequently, he secured four hundred and eighty acres of land and from that time on until the day of his retirement, he was known as one of the industrious and successful agriculturists of the county. Each year found him improving a little over the one passed and owing to his economy and wisdom, he laid by a comfortable fortune.

In 1886, Mr. Finkel married Miss Lila, the daughter of Jake and Lucinda (Williams) Rainwater, natives of Tennessee and Missouri, respectively. They crossed the plains in early

days to Oregon, where Mrs. Finkel was born. The family returned to Missouri and spent a short time in the same state, then crossed the plains again with wagons to Columbia county, where the father now lives. The mother died some years ago and Mr. Rainwater is now living with a second wife. To Mr. and Mrs. Finkel three children have been born, Bennie, Elmer and Teresa.

In political matters we find Mr. Finkel pulling in the Republican harness. He is well informed on the questions of the day and always shows himself an enthusiastic supporter of the principles embodied in that party. He has taken a keen interest in the advancement of educational facilities, the building of good roads and the maintaining of good government.

Mr. Finkel is a member of the A. O. U. W. and with his wife enjoys the respect and confidence of all the good people in the community.

Page 471-72

The Chronicle - Abstracted
Dayton, W.A.
11 Sept 1930

Frank Finkel Was Custer Survivor

Pioneer Leaves Story of Thrilling
Escape From Indians.

The recent death of Frank Finkel, pioneer Dayton resident, makes of more than passing interest, the statement made public by Mr. Finkel some years ago regarding his escape from the Indians, as the only survivor of the Custer massacre, in 1874. Mrs. Finkel has recently written to the widow of General Custer, Mrs. Elizabeth B. Custer, 71 Park avenue, New York City, setting forth Mr. Finkel's claims to be known as the only survivor of the Custer massacre, but has not yet had a reply. The address of Mrs. Custer was secured through a friend of the Finkel family who lives in New York. Mr. Finkel left a written statement of his experience.

A brief review of Mr. Finkel's experience is as follows:

The men were trapped like rats, surrounded on all sides by Indians, and at the height of the battle Mr. Finkel was wounded, and almost immediately after a bullet struck his horse in the flank, causing it to bolt. As the horse ran through the Indians, a bullet struck Mr. Finkel in the side and another in the foot. His horse was sufficiently fleet to outdistance Indians who followed him for some distance. After night-fall he stopped by a stream and was lying in the grass covered with blood, his horse standing by him, when two Indians came by. They would have passed on in the dark, but Mr. Finkel's horse whinnied at their horses and they stopped. Thinking Finkel dead, or fatally wounded, they kicked him and then turned away to take his horse. As they turned he pulled his revolver and shot one of the Indians dead. The other, thinking he was in an ambush fled. He then took the ammunition belt from the dead Indian's body, mounted his horse and rode on in the night, fearing other Indians would come that way. He found another stream, but it was alkali. A prairie hen was sitting on some eggs near the water and he shot her and tried to eat the raw meat, but it made him sick.

On the morning of the fourth day out, he came to a stream of fresh water. The wound in his side was giving him trouble by this time and the injured foot and leg had turned black. He reached a hut where a man was cutting wood, and after some difficulty convinced the man, who kept him covered with a gun, that he was severely injured and needed help. The man finally helped

him into the house, where another man lay ill of consumption. They did what they could for the injured man, even to probing with an improvised probe for the bullet in his side. They were unable to locate it. It came out near the naval some time years ago, when it caused an abscess.

The foot was causing a great deal of trouble, and the men wanted to amputate it with a saw, believing it the only way to save the soldier's life, but Mr. Finkel refused to allow this. The men then fixed a syrup from pine pitch and poured it, boiling hot, into the wound. This treatment seared the wound and it healed. The wound in the side was treated with bear grease.

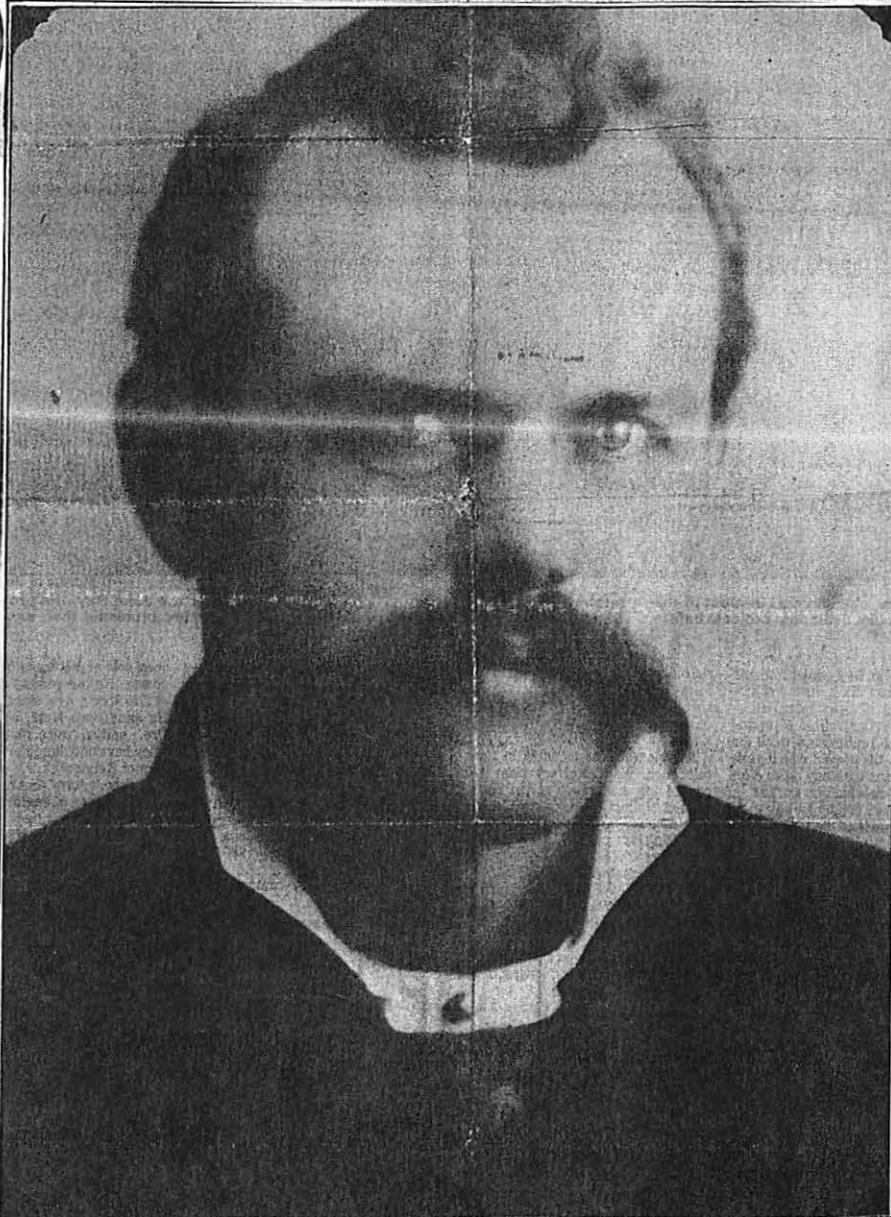
The consumptive died within a few weeks and Mr. Finkel remained with the other man until his foot got so that he could walk fairly well, when he decided to move on. The man with whom he had been staying agreed to show him the way to Fort Benton. At the fort he told his story and asked to be discharged from the army. He had no credentials and no witnesses, however, and the officers refused to issue a discharge. As a result he never received his discharge. He went to St. Louis, where he stayed for some time and later came west to Dayton and had resided in Columbia county for 51 years at the time of his death.

His story is a most interesting one, and it is unfortunate that he could not have secured his discharge, thus establishing with the government his identity as the one survivor of the Custer massacre.

Walla Union-Bulletin Sunday, August 17, 1986

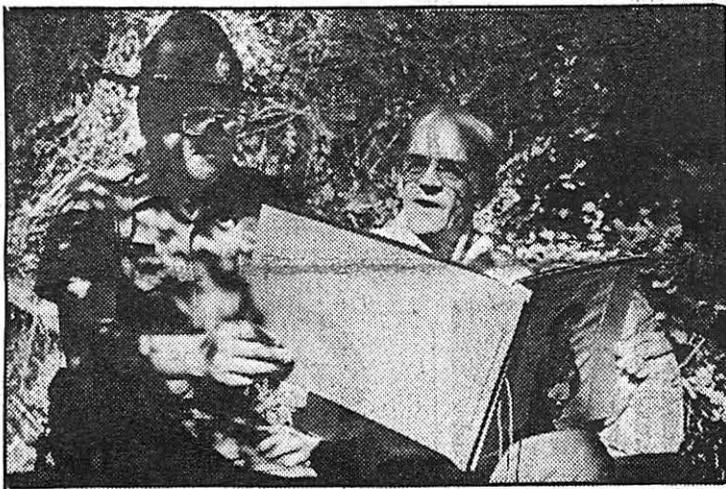
Two local men are searching for proof that Custer's Last Stand did, indeed, have a

SOLE SURVIVOR



Photos courtesy of Gary Lentz and Gordon Bateman

In describing the infamous battle and his escape, Finkel said he had his gun aimed to fire when a bullet struck the butt, knocking off a splinter which struck him between the eyes. The blood from the wound nearly blinded him. At that moment a second bullet struck his horse in the flank. As the frightened horse reared, another bullet pierced a rein, and the horse bolted "right through the Indians." Finkel said all he could do was "to lie low and let him go." Despite the maddened steed's speed, Finkel said he was hit by another bullet in his side and another in his foot as the horse raced from the scene. Although the Indians gave chase, he and his horse got away.



U-B photo by Nadine Munns Gerkey

Above left, Gary Lentz, left, and Gordon Bateman are searching for proof that a nineteenth centu-

ry Dayton farmer, Frank Finkel, pictured at top, was the sole survivor of the 1876 Battle of Little



Bighorn, under the command of then-Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer, above right.

By NADINE MUNNS GERKEY
Of the Union-Bulletin

"Massacred: Gen. Custer and 261 men. No officer or man of five companies left to tell the tale."

That headline appeared in the Bismarck, N.D., "Tribune" more than 110 years ago. The extra edition, dated July 6, 1876, 12 days after the battle, was the first account of what has become known as the Custer Massacre.

But former Columbia County resident Gordon Bateman, now of Walla Walla, and Lewis and Clark Trail State Park ranger Gary Lentz, are among those who dispute the claim that no one survived the infamous battle led by Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer. They believe that a Dayton farmer, Frank Finkel, may well have lived to tell the tale.

Their efforts to prove that Finkel wasn't a fake have led them repeatedly back to the battle site along the Little Bighorn River in Montana. They have read every article they can find about that brief but bloody skirmish, and they have joined organizations that continue to probe the story of the Battle of the Little Bighorn, called the "most famous and controversial conflict in Western history."

Bateman said he got hooked on the Custer saga 30 years ago when he read the book "Custer's Luck." And he "never got over it."

He visited the four-mile-long battlefield four times in the early 1970s and spent hours in a nearby museum un-

earthing more facts about the conflict.

Always a Custer buff, Lentz heard about the controversial Finkel claim from Bateman four years ago.

"Even as a kid I was intrigued by Custer's Last Stand. I always have wondered what really happened," he said.

Lentz had visited the battle site, near Hardin, Mont., six times before he met Bateman. He revisited the scene twice last year, walking across the terrain where the flamboyant Custer stood embattled, standing on a bluff looking down at the site where the Indian village nestled.

He pictured the huge encampment of some 4,000 tepees, imagined the strategically divided calvary forces trying to entrap the Indians.

Custer, leading one column of a planned two-column attack under the command of Gen. Alfred Terry, arrived near the Little Bighorn River on the night of June 24, 1876. But instead of waiting for Terry's arrival two days later, Custer decided to attack on June 25.

Custer then split his troops into two pincer arms, with himself at the head of the flanking arm and Maj. Marcus Reno leading the second arm.

It was Custer's troops who met Sitting Bull and the massed strength of the Sioux nations.

Camping on the battleground, Lentz checked the white marble stones marking the spots where each soldier fell. He recalled that the Seventh Cavalry, about 600 strong, had been told to round up the Indians and return them to the Sioux Reservation. They didn't know until too late that they were outnumbered more than six to one.

Bateman and Lentz have uncovered a number of sources in trying to piece together Finkel's tale of escape from near death.

Two such sources were a 1921 article about Finkel in the Walla Walla Bulletin and a speech he gave to the Dayton Kiwanis Club that same year, some 45 years after the battle.

There was also the research done by Dr. Charles Kuhlman, an American historian who published "Legend in History" — including a 22-page article on Finkel and the Battle of the Little Bighorn, for which the author interviewed Finkel's second wife, Hermie.

The book by Kuhlman — who was

convinced Finkel had survived the Custer Massacre — was published in 1951, the same year Hermie Finkel died.

Based on Hermie's statement, Kuhlman said Finkel enlisted under the alias "Frank Hall" in October 1874, and was assigned to Troop C of the Seventh Cavalry.

Finkel told the Bulletin reporter in 1921 that he used a false name because he didn't want his parents to know he had joined the Army. Once in, his buddies came to know him as Frank Finkel, he said.

In describing the infamous battle and his escape, Finkel told Hermie that he had his gun aimed to fire when a bullet struck the butt, knocking off a splinter which struck him between the eyes. The blood from the wound nearly blinded him.

At that moment a second bullet struck his horse in the flank. As the frightened horse reared, another bullet pierced a rein, and the horse bolted "right through the Indians." Finkel said all he could do was "to lie low and let him go."

Despite the maddened steed's speed, Finkel said he was hit by another bullet in his side and another in his foot as the horse raced from the scene. Although the Indians gave chase, he and his horse got away.

Eventually Finkel saw a hut ahead and a man cutting wood. The man nursed him back to health, applying hot pitch to the foot wound. By October Finkel was well enough to ride to Fort Benton, where he tried unsuccessfully to get his discharge from the Army.

Technically, after the battle, since he didn't get his discharge, he was a deserter. A limp, a scar on his forehead and the wound in his side were

evidence that he had been in the battle.

When Finkel told the Kiwanians military details about the Custer skirmish, none of that information was yet known by students of the battle, Kuhlman said. The only way Finkel could have known, he added, was by being "in the fight himself."

Lentz is just as convinced. "I tried to picture what Finkel said, and it made sense," he said. "I could almost hear the bugles and the echoing gun shots and smell the dust."

Among Bateman's collection of Finkel memorabilia is a 22-page article by a Dr. Charles Kuhlman who was convinced that Finkel did escape from the battlefield.

Results of a 1984 survey of the battlefield, presently being studied by bone and ballistics experts at the Midwest Archaeological Center in Lincoln, Neb., may further substantiate Finkel's description of the battle.

"Most local people believed Finkel," Bateman said, "He wasn't the kind of man to lie."

Two years after the battle, in 1878, the 6-foot-2½ Finkel showed up in Dayton. He married Delila Rainwater in 1886 and gradually amassed a prosperous farm estate. He and Delila raised three children; two other sons died at an early age.

In 1908 the Finkels bought the former Dr. C.H. Day home at the end of South Fourth Street, now the residence of the Lewis Talbotts. Finkel's tombstone lies on a shady knoll in the Dayton cemetery, surrounded by wheat fields. It reads simply, "Frank S. Finkel, 1854-1930." His first wife is buried by his side.

Bateman believes Finkel's story, but concedes there are a number of points that do not support his belief.

There is the matter of names on enlistment papers, for example:

An August Finckle enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1872 and served under

Custer, but his enlistment papers show him as a 27-year-old German. In 1872, Frank Finkel would have been 18.

Yet Bateman said a handwriting analyst said the "F," "N" and "K" from August Finckle's signature on his enlistment papers appear to match the same letters in Frank Finkel's signature on a postcard written to his daughter Theresia "Trace" Koch in 1914.

To further confuse the issue of names, there is a record of a Seventh Cavalry recruit named Frank Hall, the alias Finkel claimed to have used. But military records show that Frank Hall deserted in 1875, a year before the battle.

There is other evidence, however, that seems to strongly support Finkel's claim:

An Indian scout at the Custer battle, Curly, said he saw one man on horseback escape. And a document at the Two Moon Indian Monument east of the battlefield stated that two men got away. Some weeks after the battle the bodies of Trooper Nathan Short and his horse were found near the seige. Bateman believes the second trooper could have been Finkel.

In addition, a Charles Windolph, who served under Reno and was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for bravery at Little Bighorn, years later referred to "my comrade Corporal Finkel." As one of the remaining Seventh Cavalry soldiers, Windolph said he searched the Custer battlefield, "a terrible sight" with near-na-ked, mutilated bodies lying scattered about, looking especially for Finkel, "but I was never able to recognize him."

Despite the conflicting evidence, for one Dayton man there is no question that Finkel's story is true.

G.M. Koch, 600 E. Clay St., said his father-in-law "was not a man to boast or to lie.

"There's no question about it," said Koch. "He was there."

Some day, somewhere, someone will prove it. So say Bateman and Lentz.

Gary Lentz will present a self-produced slide narration of the Battle of the Little Bighorn and Frank Finkel's claim that he was a survivor of Custer's Last Stand at Lewis & Clark State Park at 8:30 p.m., Aug. 31.

CLUSTER'S SOLE SURVIVOR-FRANK FINKEL

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Frank Finkel —

Evidence mounts that Finkel alone survived the Battle of the Little Big Horn.

By KEN ROBERTSON



Courtesy Milton Koch

Frank Finkel, in the late 1800s.

THE Sunday newspaper told an outlandish story about one of Dayton, Washington's most respected citizens.

Frank S. Finkel, a farmer who had come to Columbia County, Washington, 43 years before and had built up a spread that covered more than a square mile before he retired and permanently settled in town, was an Army deserter.

What's more, he left his unit in the middle of the West's most celebrated Indian battle — the Custer massacre. And to top it off, Finkel, the article said, was the sole survivor of the battle.

The March 20, 1921, story appeared in the Union Bulletin of Walla Walla, a town located not far from Dayton.

Finkel was a big, strapping man six feet, two-and-a-half inches tall with a scarred forehead and a limp — the result, he said, of being shot by an Indian. But to a few of Finkel's friends, the story apparently was no surprise. They'd heard him reluctantly tell the story perhaps as early as 1914, and they believed him. Orville Paine, a younger man who became a close friend of Finkel's, never doubted the story.

"Frank took me under his wing," Paine, who is now dead, once told Mike Floyd of Dayton, who retired recently after operating Elk Drug since 1952. "I know it (Finkel's story) is true because he told me it was. He wasn't the kind to lie."

Finkel impressed the author of the 1921 story in the same way: "Quiet in his manner, he has the appearance of

one with much reserve strength. He does not impress one as a man who would deliberately concoct a wild, improbable story for the sake of notoriety."

Finkel's entire life at Dayton supports these two observations. By 1906, he was well known enough to be profiled in a book titled, *Illustrated History of Southeastern Washington*. Finkel, the book said, was "to be classed with the substantial and leading men of the country."

That was high praise indeed for a man who had come to Columbia County as a common laborer. Finkel first turns up in Columbia County in the federal census

records for 1880, which list him as "Finkle, Frank," a 26-year-old unmarried sawmill worker.

FOR the next several decades, the public officials of Columbia County were to have trouble spelling the Finkel name as they tracked the family's land purchases and sales, mortgages and loans. As late as 1910, when Finkel bought a 160-acre parcel of land, the county clerk listed him as "Finkle, Frank."

It took Finkel several years to save the money to buy some land for himself. On Dec. 4, 1885, he bought 21 acres from Frank M. Bailey for \$600, but 10



Courtesy Milton Koch

Frank Finkel and his second wife, Hermie, in the porch swing of their Dayton, Washington home in the early 1920s.

Sole Survivor of Custer

days later, for unknown reasons, he sold the land for \$500, a substantial loss in those days.

Finkel married Delila Rainwater of Dayton in 1886, and in the ensuing years slowly built himself what became quite a large farm for the time. In October 1898, he "proved up" on his 120-acre homestead and was granted the land under the Homestead Act of 1862.

A month later, he paid \$4,000 for 160 more acres. And in March 1899, he paid \$2,000 for another 160 acres. In November 1902, he paid \$2,400 for another 160 acres and assumed a \$1,500 mortgage. By then he also was wealthy enough to invest in some downtown Dayton property, and bought two parcels, one for \$950 in March 1903 and another for \$300 in March 1904.

Perhaps the best evidence of his prosperity came in October 1908, when he bought the house of Dr. C. H. Day, the man for whom Dayton was named. Finkel, the son of two German immigrants who had left home at age 15 to seek his fortune, had arrived.

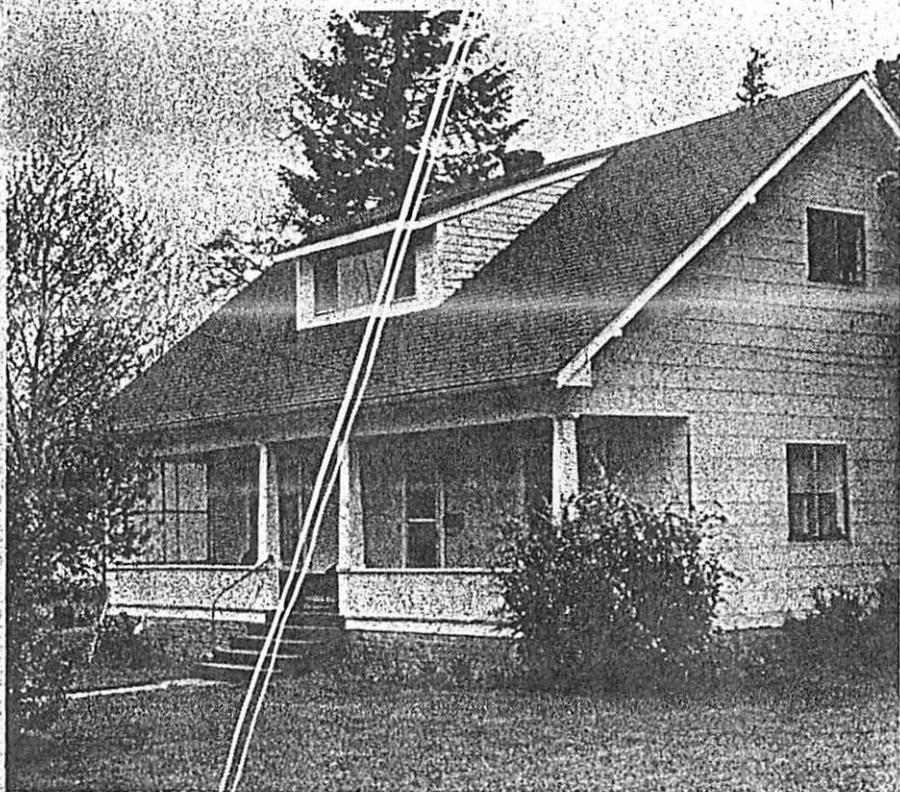
He bought another 160-acre farm in November 1910 for \$4,400, and eight months later paid \$250 in a sheriff's sale for another parcel of approximately 60 acres.

FRANK Finkel wasn't rich, but he certainly was well-to-do by the summer of 1911. His last recorded bank mortgage was taken out in March 1904, presumably to help plant that spring's crops. He owned a house, commercial property in town and 820 acres of farm land.

Besides developing this substantial estate, Finkel and his wife raised three children, Ben, Elmer and Theresia. Two others, Clarence and Frank W., died while children.

Frank's older brothers, Peter and Henry, also settled in Dayton, apparently forming a close-knit extended family. Henry is buried next to Frank in the family plot at the Dayton cemetery, and Henry's son, Clark, in March 1930, bought a parcel of farm land from his Uncle Frank.

Peter and Frank were among the Dayton pioneers later honored with a bronze plaque on a concrete bridge built



Courtesy the author

The house that Frank Finkel bought from Dayton, Washington, founder Dr. C. H. Day in 1908.

across the Touchet River in the 1920s.

Frank apparently farmed actively in Dayton until 1917, when at age 63, he sold 640 acres for \$35,000, plus a \$10,000 mortgage. In his approximately 39 years in Dayton, Frank Finkel had become, as the 1906 article said, a man who "enjoys the respect and confidence of all the good people in the community."

WHY, after so many years, did Finkel finally tell his story to a Walla Walla Bulletin reporter in 1921? He apparently had been simmering for years about the glorified, and often highly inaccurate, accounts published in pulp magazines and promoted by traveling wild west shows.

According to one account, Finkel tired of hearing his uninformed companions in a 1914 horseshoe game discuss the Custer massacre.

"A hell of a lot you know about it!" he reportedly said. When his companions asked how he knew any more about the battle than they did, he replied, "Well, I guess I know. I was there."

Robert A. Johnson, a Dayton resident

since 1906, when his family moved there from Orstad, Denmark, recalls a similar incident. Although Finkel was normally a quiet man who kept to himself, Johnson said an exhibition on the Custer massacre that came to the town's old Dreamland Theater around 1913-1918 so upset Finkel that he walked out muttering, "That's not the way it was at all."

Both these accounts roughly match that in a letter Finkel's second wife, Hermie, wrote in 1944: "The only reason it got out in the first place was because he got 'all het up' over what a bunch of men were telling about Custer's Last Stand."

THERE doesn't seem to be any other explanation. By 1921, his family was grown, but at least two of his children and his brother still lived in town.

In either 1916 or 1917, Finkel bought 1,000 acres of wheat land near Carter, Montana. He built a house and farmed there, but still spent much of the year in Dayton. And his Montana neighbors found him just as credible as his friends in Dayton.



Courtesy the author

Frank Finkel's grandson, Milton Koch, with photo of Finkel.

"I first became acquainted with Mr. Frank Finkel at our ranch north of Carter in 1916," Geneva Lippert once recalled. "Mr. Finkel had just purchased a tract of wheat land...that adjoined our crop land. We found Mr. Finkel to be a fine neighbor, hard worker, and honest and upright in all of his dealings."

Finkel's wife, Delila, died on Aug. 9, 1921, but was still alive when the newspaper story was published. Clearly he still had friends, family, money and perhaps as much renown as he wanted. For long after he began to tell the story, he remained reluctant to discuss it without considerable prodding. The sparse 1921 account reflects that:

WHERE they came upon the Indians there was a sort of swale with a couple of

knolls with bluffs at a distance. They could not see the Little Bighorn (River) where they were nor the Indian village. Finkle (the reporter also had trouble spelling Finkel's name) says that he believes Custer could have saved his command as Reno did by ordering a retreat but instead he pushed on until he was surrounded by Indians. The Indians surrounded them on every side but seemed to be thickest in the direction that seemed to Finkle to be north.

The firing had hardly begun when Finkle was struck in the foot by a ball and shortly after by another which hit him above the hip and ploughing through the flesh lodged in the abdominal muscles. A few years ago this bullet worked itself out of the flesh.

His horse was wounded in the flank



Courtesy Milton Koch

Frank Finkel in early 1900s.

and a bullet had cut one of the bridle lines. Then another bullet struck the iron on his gun and a splinter struck him between the eyes causing the blood to spurt out over his face and blinding him so that he was unable to see.

His horse became frantic and he was unable to control it with the one line, and it bolted for the hills. He could not remember going through the lines of the Indians although he recalled hearing the bullets whistle around his head. He presumed that the Indians judging from his bloody appearance thought it was useless to follow him as he would die anyway.

MORE detailed accounts than this exist, but apparently not by anyone who interviewed Finkel directly. It is the chief source for much of the most recent book about Finkel, *Sole Survivor*, by Douglas W. Ellison.

Ellison spends a major part of the 128-page book detailing the accuracy of Finkel's story, even though Finkel was trying to recall events that occurred 45 years earlier on June 25, 1876.

Among Ellison's most convincing points are that:

Finkel's description of the area where the battle started is "perfectly accurate," matching accounts published later that quoted Cheyenne Indians and John Martin, Custer's orderly, who came to the battle scene after the massacre.

Curley, a Crow Indian scout for Cus-

Old West

Hardin, Montana, published the Cheyenne (Indian) accounts, several years after Mr. Finkel's death, that we obtained a few key facts which enabled us to ferret out the details....

"This being true, Finkel could not possibly have known anything of what happened south of Custer Hill — unless he had been in the fight himself, or been present on the field. For there is not a chance in many millions that his account would have fitted so snugly into the facts if he had manufactured his story out of the whole cloth."

Kuhlman also noted that Finkel's descriptions of the surrounding terrain match, including the approximate locations of the creeks with alkaline and potable water.

OTHER historians who have since scrutinized Finkel's account of his escape from the battle disagree vehemently with Kuhlman. Chief among their arguments that Finkel's story was a fabrication is that neither his name nor the alias he said he enlisted under — Frank Hall — can be found among the Seventh Cavalry's records.

In response to a 1947 inquiry from U. S. Representative Frank B. Keefe, Colonel C. G. Blakney replied: "The case of Frank Finkel has received the attention of the Department of the Army on many occasions during the past 20 years, and at no time has it been possible to identify Mr. Finkel as a survivor of the Custer Massacre of 1876."

For the skeptics, that has been evidence enough that Finkel was a liar. A more likely explanation, however, seems that perhaps Finkel used more than one alias, and over the course of four decades forgot which one he had enlisted under.

That he used an alias is hardly surprising. Many troopers, like Finkel, were under age when they left home, subsequently joined the Army, and then didn't want to be tracked down by their families. Others probably were on the run from scrapes with the law. Still more perhaps had fought with the Confederacy in the Civil War and had adopted assumed names afterward.

It was not an uncommon practice for those who were down on their luck to enlist in the fall under a false name to be assured of a warm winter bunk and food, and then slip away when spring arrived. It also wasn't unusual for a man to change his alias from time to time.

KENNETH Hammer, author of *Little Big Horn Biographies*, has discov-



Courtesy the author

Finkel's simple gravestone in Dayton cemetery.

ered more than 30 of Custer's enlisted men apparently used aliases. Foremost among them was Charles Windolph, of Captain Frederick Benteen's troopers who survived and won two Congressional Medals of Honor for his part in the battle. His alias was Charles Wrangle.

Windolph, who when he died at Lead, South Dakota, on March 11, 1950, was the last surviving white man to have fought in the Custer battle, had a chance to clarify the debate about Finkel, but instead confused it.

At least twice he told researchers about the search to find and identify the bodies of the troopers: "We went among them (the dead) to see how many we could recognize. I was especially looking for my friend Corporal Finkle, but I never was able to recognize him," Windolph told magazine writer John P. Everett in 1930. Later, Windolph said in the 1947 book, *I Fought With Custer: The Story of Sergeant Windolph*, "I tried to find the body of my German friend, Trooper Finkle, the tallest man in the regiment. I could not identify him."

Windolph was talking about either Sergeant August Finkle or Frank Finkel, who said he served both as a private and corporal. Both were tall men for the time, the sergeant six feet, one-half inch tall, Frank Finkel six feet, two-and-a-half inches tall.

One researcher, without citing his source, has written that the sergeant definitely was not the tallest man in the regiment. "It is definitely known that Lt. George Wallace, later killed at the Battle of Wounded Knee, was taller than this," according to Robert J. Ege.

In one letter, Windolph's daughter wrote that her father "knew Frank Finkel well, that he was like a brother to him, that he looked for the body after the battle but was unable to identify

any body as being that of his comrade."

Later, however, Windolph reportedly refused to answer inquiries about Frank Finkel because, his daughter wrote, "he says the only living thing was Comanche (the horse of Capt. Myles Keogh)."

Both Windolph and August Finkle were natives of Germany, and could well have been close friends. But Frank Finkel's parents had emigrated to the United States from Germany as well. And it is odd that Windolph never referred to his friend as a sergeant or as August, but as a trooper or corporal named Frank.

In addition, August Finkle's body was identified. At least two Company C troops, Sergeant Daniel Knipe and Private Peter Thompson, who were dispatched from their company just before the battle started, mentioned they had seen Sergeant Finkle's body.

Whether Windolph knew Sergeant Finkle or Frank Finkel cannot be answered with certainty, like many other unresolved questions about the Custer Massacre. Sufficient facts to prove Finkel was a trooper may never be found.

Nonetheless, his friends and family believed him from the first. To this day, his reputation in Dayton is that of an honest, hard-working, proud and fiercely independent man who knew what the truth was and cared little what others thought.

His son-in-law, Milton Koch, now 89 and still a Dayton resident, is but one of the town's old-timers who knew and believed Frank Finkel, not skeptical historians. After all, the man buried in the shady little cemetery on a hill above town had spent an honest half-century earning Dayton's respect before he was laid to rest under a plain granite slab that says simply, "Frank S. Finkel, 1854-1930."



Old West

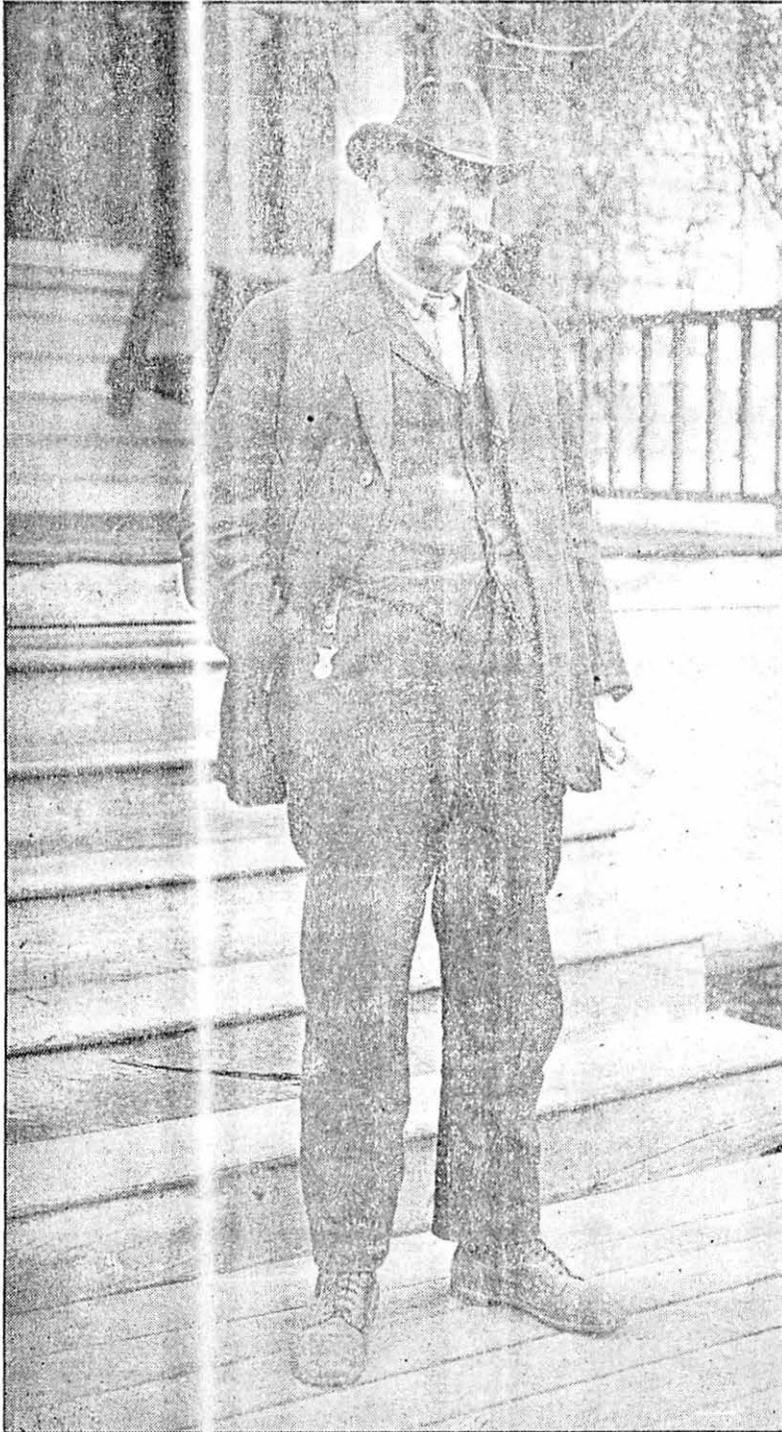
Walla Walla Bulletin
Walla Walla, WA
20 March 1921

FRANK FINKLE, DAYTON, WASH.

History Says That no Man Ever Came Out of this Fight Alive, but a Dayton Citizen Avers His Horse Carried Him Through Lines to Safety—Records of Indians Recall Fact that Single Trooper Did Escape in Manner Described by Former Scout.

FRANK FINKLE OF DAYTON IS A SURVIVOR OF CUSTER'S COMMAND

Has Been a Resident Here for Over Forty Years



(By V. H. Banfill of W. W. Bulletin)

There are mysteries in history which have never been settled. Historians work out a solution and think they have settled them forever but still they crop up at unexpected times and places. Who was the man in the iron mask? Did the son of Louis XVI escape the guillotine? To the people of this section, the long controversy as to whether or not Marcus Whitman went east to save Oregon to the United States has always been of interest.

In the annals of the plains, the greatest tragedy was the massacre on the Little Big Horn when the impetuous Custer and his gallant men of the Seventh Cavalry were overwhelmed by the hordes of the Sioux and other tribes. Not a man of the four companies under immediate command of Custer escaped except Curly, the half breed scout of Custer who crept away before the battle had well begun. So says history but history was never really sure. When later in the year a detachment was sent to examine the field and to give decent burial to the dead, they were able to account for all the troop but two. Afterward the skeletons of two men were found at a distance from the scene of conflict. All were accounted for but still a doubt remained. Might not these two have been soldiers from the commands of Benteen or Reno?

Years afterward, when the old Sioux chiefs and warriors told the story, they claimed that one trooper severely wounded got through their lines, Rain-in-the-Face, Red Cloud and Crazy Horse, the chiefs who led the battle while the great but cowardly Sitting Bull prayed for their success, have all asserted the same thing. But if this one soldier escaped, what became of him? Did he get away from the terrible situation only to perish from his wounds? Even those who credit the statements of the Sioux have believed so.

Dayton Claims Survivor

In Dayton, Washington, still lives a man who claims to be a survivor of the Custer massacre and tells a story, which whether true or not, is interesting.

Frank, Finkle, a retired farmer, aged 67, a tall, heavy set man, only beginning to show the effects of his years, has told his neighbors for years that he was with Custer on that ill-fated June day in 1876. When asked to tell the story by a representative of the Bulletin it was with difficulty that he could be induced to talk. Apparently, he is not the type who would draw an admiring crowd about him and say "I'm the fellow." According to his story, he came to Dayton in 1873, bought a farm and has lived there continuously ever since except for several years when he homesteaded near Great Falls. He is married and has two married sons and a daughter. Quiet in his manner, he has the appearance of one with much reserve strength. He does not impress one as a man who would deliberately concoct a wild, improbable story for the sake of notoriety.

Born In Ohio

Finkle was born in Washington county, Ohio, on the Ohio river, not far from the city of Marietta. When he was about 20 he left home and worked for some time in the Missouri valley on the Iowa side of the river. One day he and a friend went to Omaha. Recruits were being secured for the army to be sent to Arizona where the Aripahos war was raging along the Mexican border. As a result of a dare, the two chums enlisted, Finkle assuming the name of Frank Hall. He says that his reason for taking an assumed name was that he did not want his folks to know that he was in the army.

This was in the fall of 1874 and he spent the following year in Arizona and while there his friend was assigned to another command and he did not see him again. In the spring of 1876 he was sent north with some men and after stopping a brief time at Fort Laramie, Wyo., they joined Custer's command, the Seventh Cavalry. They were sent to the Black Hills from whence Custer started some time in March for Montana.

The troops marched parallel but at some distance from the river over rather rough and rolling land occasionally crossing streams but in a section in which there were no mountains. Custer, he says was a man of distinguished appearance, tall and slim with long flowing hair, a heavy moustache and a goatee. Custer did not get along very well with either Terry, his superior, or with Major Reno, who was under him. He regarded them both too slow and cautious and seemed to want all the glory for himself. The plan of the campaign against the Sioux was for Gibbons to come down the Big Horn and for Crook to move up from the south while Terry and Custer struck out to follow an Indian trail which was thought to lead to where the Indians were. Custer marched his men night and day and got to the place

where they were to meet about two days too soon. Custer and Reno moved their men in different columns although they kept in touch by the means of Indian scouts of whom Curly was the most important. Curly claimed to be a brother-in-law of the Indian chief Rain-in-the-Face.

It seemed to Finkle, that on the

Could Have Saved Command

morning of June 24, they were traveling from the southwest (as a matter of fact they were coming from the east.) Some people have stated, Finkle says, that the troops went down a sort of canyon, but he could not remember that they did. Where they came upon the Indians there was a sort of swale with a couple of knolls and with bluffs at a distance. They could not see the Little Big Horn from where they were nor the Indian village. Finkle says that he believes that Custer could have saved his command as Reno did by ordering a retreat but instead he pushed on until he was surrounded by Indians. The Indians surrounded them on every side but seemed to be thickest in the direction that seemed to Finkle to be north.

The firing had hardly begun when Finkle was struck in the foot by a ball and shortly after by another which hit him above the hip and ploughing thru the flesh lodged in the abdominal muscles. A few year ago this bullet worked itself out of the flesh.

His horse was wounded in the flank and a bullet had cut one of the bridle lines. Then another bullet struck the iron on his gun and a splinter struck him between the eyes causing the blood to spurt out over his face and blinding him so that he was unable to see. His horse became frantic and he was unable to control it with the one line and it bolted for the hills. He could not remember going through the lines of the Indians although he recalled rearing bullets whistle about his head. He presumed that the Indians judging from his bloody appearance thought that it was useless to follow him as he would die anyway.

Gets Outside Line

After he found himself outside the lines, he had no definite idea what to do. Part of the time he was unconscious and hardly knew how he managed to stay in the saddle. He had a hazy plan of following the trail back toward Terry's command. After he had gone a long way, he got off his horse and picketed him and slept awhile. Then he started again and the second day saw some mountains at a distance. The idea struck him that there might be some trappers there and he started for the mountains. The course Finkle took must have brought him to the Yellowstone river. This is the curious part of the narrative for Finkle has no recollection of crossing that river. "Yes, I

must have gotten across, some way to get to Fort Benton. My horse must have taken me across at one of the times when I didn't know much what was happening." The Yellowstone in June is usually a raging torrent and it seems almost impossible that he could have crossed it at that season.

Meets Trappers

On the evening of the third day, Finkle met a man on the plains who claimed to be a trapper. He took him to his cabin where he had a sick partner who died of mountain fever a few days later. Although these men claimed to be trappers, Finkle never saw any traps and the survivor did no work but provided himself with game. Whether the men were fugitives from justice or what had brought them to this uncivilized section, he was never able to find out. The sick man had called his partner by the name of Bill and that was the only information concerning him that he got in the four months that he stayed with him. Bill however, nursed him back to some semblance of health.

He was told that Fort Benton was about two days' journey to the north. One morning, in early November having recovered somewhat from his wounds, Finkle started out for Fort Benton. Bill went with him as far as he could and still return the same day. He travelled all the next day and on the morning of the third came to Fort Benton. "I learned then for the first time, that all of Custer's men were supposed to have been killed. I had no particular wish for notoriety and I only told them that I had been wounded in a fight with some Indians. There were no officers of my command there and I had no records or anything to get a discharge with and no one to apply to. But there was a boat going down the river at the time and I applied to the captain to let me work my way down. The captain thought I was too crippled up to make a good workman and he refused. So I got on the boat the morning it was to go and kept hidden until the boat had started. The captain didn't like it very well but he couldn't very well put me off out in the wilderness.

Finkle had intended to go back to Omaha but he and the captain did not get along well together and at Sioux City he left the boat. Finkle stayed at Sioux City until the following year when he came to Dayton.

"The only souvenir," he said, "I ever had of the battle was the bullet I carried for about 40 years but I have lost that too. I never had any discharge papers for I was never discharged from the army. There was none of my command left to apply to and I wasn't going to chase all over the country to find some one to discharge me. As far as the army was concerned, Frank Hall was reported dead along with the rest of Custer's men and I let it go at that."

Frank Finkel Was Custer Survivor

Pioneer Leaves Story of Thrilling
Escape From Indians.

The recent death of Frank Finkel, pioneer Dayton resident, makes of more than passing interest, the statement made public by Mr. Finkel some years ago regarding his escape from the Indians, as the only survivor of the Custer massacre, in 1874. Mrs. Finkel has recently written to the widow of General Custer, Mrs. Elizabeth B. Custer, 71 Park avenue, New York City, setting forth Mr. Finkel's claims to be known as the only survivor of the Custer massacre, but has not yet had a reply. The address of Mrs. Custer was secured through a friend of the Finkel family who lives in New York. Mr. Finkel left a written statement of his experience.

A brief review of Mr. Finkel's experience is as follows:

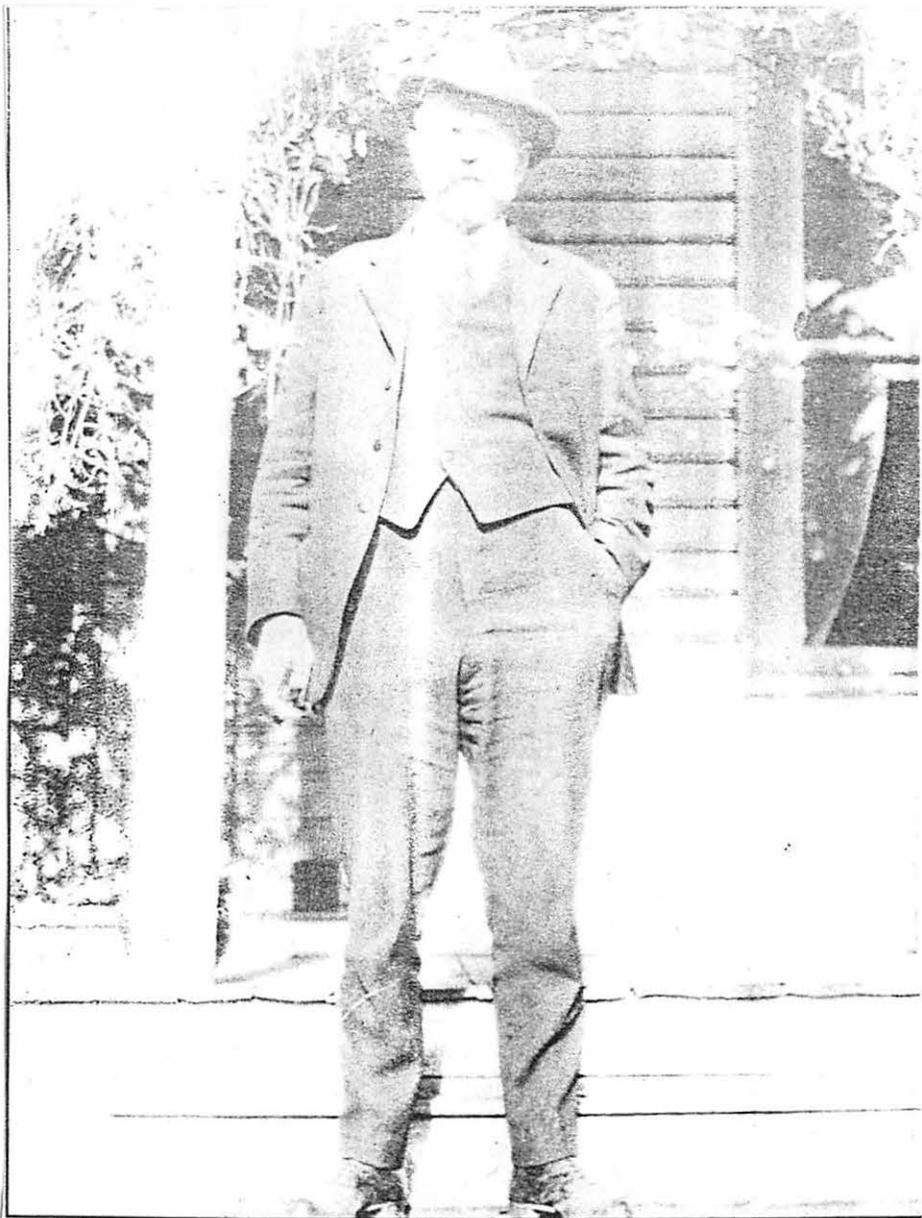
The men were trapped like rats, surrounded on all sides by Indians, and at the height of the battle Mr. Finkel was wounded, and almost immediately after a bullet struck his horse in the flank, causing it to bolt. As the horse ran through the Indians, a bullet struck Mr. Finkel in the side and another in the foot. His horse was sufficiently fleet to outdistance Indians who followed him for some distance. After night-fall he stopped by a stream and was lying in the grass covered with blood, his horse standing by him, when two Indians came by. They would have passed on in the dark, but Mr. Finkel's horse whinnied at their horses and they stopped. Thinking Finkel dead, or fatally wounded, they kicked him and then turned away to take his horse. As they turned he pulled his revolver and shot one of the Indians dead. The other, thinking he was in an ambush fled. He then took the ammunition belt from the dead Indian's body, mounted his horse and rode on in the night, fearing other Indians would come that way. He found another stream, but it was alkali. A prairie hen was sitting on some eggs near the water and he shot her and tried to eat the raw meat, but it made him sick.

On the morning of the fourth day out, he came to a stream of fresh water. The wound in his side, was giving him trouble by this time and he injured foot and leg had turned black. He reached a hut where a man was cutting wood, and after some difficulty convinced the man, who kept him covered with a gun, that he was severely injured and needed help. The man finally helped him into the house, where another man lay ill of consumption. They did what they could for the injured man, even to probing with an improvised probe for the bullet in his side. They were unable to locate it. It came out near the naval some nine years ago, when it caused an abscess.

The foot was causing a great deal of trouble, and the men wanted to amputate it with a saw, believing it the only way to save the soldier's life, but Mr. Finkel refused to allow this. The men then fixed a syrup from pine pitch and poured it, boiling hot, into the wound. This treatment seared the wound and it healed. The wound in the side was treated with bear grease.

The consumptive died within a few weeks and Mr. Finkel remained with the other man until his foot got so that he could walk fairly well, when he decided to move on. The man with whom he had been staying agreed to show him the way to Fort Benton. At the fort, he told his story and asked to be discharged from the army. He had no credentials and no witnesses, however, and the officers refused to issue a discharge. As a result he never received his discharge. He went to St. Paul, where he stayed for some time and later came west to Dayton and had resided in Columbia county for 51 years at the time of his death.

His story is a most interesting one, and it is unfortunate that he could not have secured his discharge, thus establishing with the government his identity as the one survivor of the Custer massacre.



Frank Finkel on the porch steps of his home in Dayton, Washington. *(Photo from Author's collection)*



Frank Finkel and his second wife, Hermie, on the porch of their Dayton, Washington home. Photograph taken a short time before Frank's death in 1930. *(Photo from Author's collection)*

ter's command who did survive the battle by leaving the troopers just before the shooting Finkel described had begun, recalled seeing a trooper ride through the Indian lines and told a story that matched Finkel's in many details.

Curley gave his first description of the horse the trooper rode — a sorrel roan — to Russell White Bear in 1923, and that account was not available to the general public until 1953, with the publication of W. A. Graham's *The Custer Myth*.

Finkel, who died in 1930, always insisted the horse he rode was a roan. The horse's speed, perhaps from the panic of being shot, saved Finkel from his pursuers. The 1921 account gives little detail about the rest of the wounded trooper's escape. A more complete account of that, although so colorful that it contrasts sharply with Finkel's sparse story, appeared in the June 22, 1947, issue of the *Billings, Montana, Gazette*.

Written by Kathryn Wright, it was based largely on information gleaned from Finkel's second wife, Hermie, by a professor who later became one of the chief promoters of Finkel's account, Dr. Charles Kuhlman, who at the time taught at a Billings college.

AFTER putting more distance between himself and the battleground, Finkle got a grip on the dangling reins, stopped his horse, slipped off into the prairie grass exhausted.

Blood from his forehead wound was congealed, but his shattered foot was still spurting. Tearing a strip from the saddle blanket, he fashioned a rude tourniquet, then remounted the roan and rode on — dazed, weak and thirsty to the point of delirium.

It had been late afternoon when he escaped the battle. Now purple twilight was blackening into night. Still he pushed on, driven by thirst. Then in the bottom of a coulee was the glitter of water.

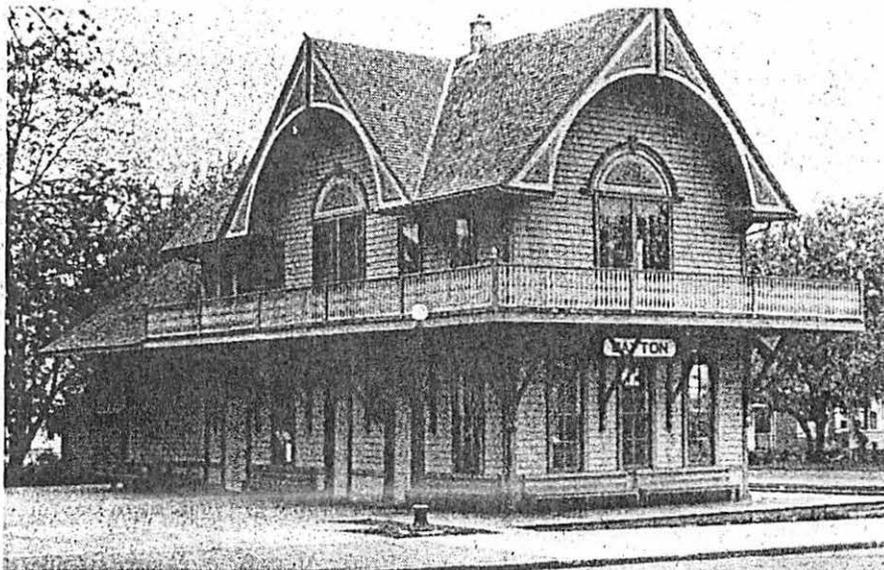
It was alkali.

He lay vomiting in the grass.

Nearby the roan nuzzled the earth for precious moisture. Then its head lifted, nostrils flared. A whinny sounded into the night as two riders approached.

Finkel opened his eyes. The riders were wearing warbonnets.

"I played dead," Finkel told his wife. They kicked me a couple of times, pulled me over and then went to get my horse. I pulled my revolver and killed one. The other ran for his horse. Guess he thought they'd been ambushed."



Courtesy the author

The 100-year-old Dayton train depot built a few years after Frank Finkel came to town.

Finkel pushed on through the dusk, stopping once again at a stream that again turned out to be alkaline. He killed a nesting prairie hen with his bare hands, but could not force down either its nearly-hatched eggs or its raw carcass.

At dawn, he discovered a wooded area ahead and rode for its cover. Inside, he found a clearing and a hut with a man chopping wood out front. This is Wright's account of the meeting:

AT the trooper's approach, the woodchopper let the ax slip from his hand. With his flat gray eyes fastened on Finkel's face, he pulled a gun.

"One more step, soldier, and I'll shoot."

Finkel, too weak to reply, rode nearer.

"God damn it. There ain't no room for strangers here. Git the hell away."

Finkel fell from his horse, unconscious.

The next the trooper knew, he was inside the hut and the woodchopper, called Bill by a thin man lying on a bed of boughs and blankets, was feeding him broth.

Afterward Bill tended Finkel's wounds, probing vainly with a piece of smoothed-down stick for the bullet in his side. It seemed, too, that Bill's efforts to save the shattered right foot were to be in vain. With his woodchopping tools he prepared to amputate Finkel's leg.

"Nothin' doin'," Finkel told Bill. "If I'm going to die, I'll do it with everything I've got."

Then the thin, bedridden man, whose name was never spoken in front of Fin-

kel, directed Bill to make a syrup of pitch pine and pour it into the wound.

The treatment seared the wound and it healed. The bullet hole in his side closed, aided by bear grease applied by the now-friendly Bill. Not long afterward, the unidentified invalid on the bed of boughs died. Finkel and Bill carried the frail frame to a secluded spot in the woods. Here they dug a grave.

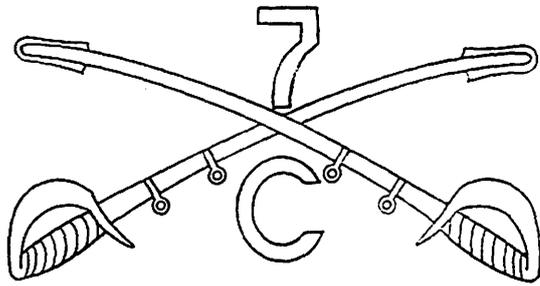
BY October, some three months after the battle, Finkel decided he was well enough to travel. He said a somewhat reluctant good-bye to Bill, who wanted him to stay.

The details of Finkel's trip back to civilization are hazy. But he apparently went to Fort Benton, found an officer and requested his discharge. The incredulous commander told him to find two witnesses to vouch for him.

Balked by that, Finkel apparently gave up, stowed away on a Missouri River steamer, returned to the Midwest to work and went West again when he had enough money for a stake.

Returning to the West in 1878, he discovered the promising little community of Dayton and settled there.

Kuhlman, who searched diligently for decades for evidence to confirm Finkel's story, became convinced that Finkel had survived the massacre. In an unpublished research paper on Finkel, Kuhlman points out that when Finkel first told his account of the battle, "nothing whatever of the fight south of the (Custer) Hill (where the troopers were massacred) was known by students of the battle. Some still deny that there was a skirmish line here at all. It was not until the late Dr. Thomas B. Marquis, of



CHAPTER ONE

A Look at Frank Finkel

"He does not impress one as a man who would deliberately concoct a wild, improbable story for the sake of notoriety."

—W. H. Banfill in the Walla Walla Bulletin, March 20, 1921

In 1906 the Western Historical Publishing Company of Spokane, Washington published a book entitled *Illustrated History of Southeastern Washington*. Included in this book were biographical sketches of some of the region's pioneers, including Frank Finkel. His biography appeared in the chapter titled "History of Columbia County," and is reproduced in full:

FRANK FINKEL. Any man who has endured the hardships and performed the arduous labors incident to pioneer life and now has gained a competence sufficient to retire from business is certainly to be commended. It is no small thing to enter a wild country and open a farm, and it requires no mean judgement to be able to handle the property successfully and pass through the panics that have swept the country, maintaining a successful issue throughout it all. The subject of this article has so done and is to be classed with the substantial and leading men of the country. At present, Mr. Finkel is residing in Dayton and from his home place gives attention to the oversight of his property throughout the county. He has a fine estate of 480 acres of choice farm land, which has been improved with everything needed. The income from this property is a handsome annual dividend and Mr. Finkel gives attention also to handling some stock which brings in a revenue. He comes from stanch German ancestry, being the son of Peter and Lena (Windel) Finkel, and was born in Washington county, Ohio, on January 29, 1854. The parents were natives of Germany and came to America when young. They settled first in Ohio and there remained, substantial and well to do farmers, until their death. They raised a family of seven children, named as follows; Henry, Peter, Frank, Charles, Adam, Joseph and Teresa. The parents maintained a reputation for uprightness and integrity which is a fine legacy for their descendants. The first fifteen years of our subject's life were spent in Washington county and there he gained his educational training from the country schools. At that time he

departed from the parental roof, journeying to Wisconsin and Iowa where he worked for five years, then took a trip by rail to the Golden Gate and after looking over the prospects in California came on up through Oregon to Washington and spent his first year here in Columbia county, landing here in 1879. For a time he was occupied in smelter work for Evans Gay. Next, he took a trip to Spokane and through the Big Bend country and was more convinced than ever that the proper place to settle was near Dayton. Consequently, he secured 480 acres of land and from that time on until the day of his retirement, he was known as one of the industrious and successful agriculturists of the county. Each year found him improving a little over the one passed and owing to his economy and wisdom, he laid by a comfortable fortune.

In 1886, Mr. Finkel married Miss Lila, the daughter of Jake and Lucinda (Williams) Rainwater, natives of Tennessee and Missouri, respectively. They crossed the plains in early days to Oregon, where Mrs. Finkel was born. The family returned to Missouri and spent a short time in the same state, then crossed the plains again with wagons to Columbia county, where the father now lives. The mother died some years ago and Mr. Rainwater is now living with a second wife. To Mr. and Mrs. Finkel three children have been born; Bennie, Elmer and Teresa.

In political matters we find Mr. Finkel pulling in the Republican harness. He is well informed on the questions of the day and always shows himself an enthusiastic supporter of the principles embodied in that party. He has taken a keen interest in the advancement of educational facilities, the building of good roads and the maintaining of good government.

Mr. Finkel is a member of the A.O.U.W. and with his wife enjoys the respect and confidence of all the good people in the community.

Most county pioneer biographies such as this were gained from a direct interview with the subject, and it is obvious that this one was no exception. This makes a puzzling fact even more startling, for while Frank's early life before coming to Washington Territory is well accounted for, no mention is made of his activities from 1874, when he quit working in Iowa, to 1879, when he arrived in Columbia County, Washington, except for "looking over the prospects in California."

Frank had obviously done something else in five years besides enjoy the California scenery; something he didn't wish to be made public, yet which he was not ashamed of, else he could have covered it up by extending the number of years he had worked in Wisconsin and Iowa.

About eight years later Frank would finally reveal to a small group of friends what he had done during those years.

First, a closer look should be taken at the early life of Frank Finkel.

The first recorded reference to Frank is found in the 1860 Federal Census return for Union Township, Washington County, Ohio; which was enumerated on July 24th of that year by L. L. Laflin, the Assistant Marshal. Included in that

Peter Finkle	age 59	Male	born in Germany
Magdaline "	age 40	Female	born in Germany
Henry "	age 10	Male	born in Ohio
Peter "	age 9	Male	born in Ohio
Frank "	age 7	Male	born in Ohio
Charles "	age 6	Male	born in Ohio
Adam "	age 2	Male	born in Ohio
Not named	age 3/12	Male	born in Ohio

The census noted that Peter Finkle was a farmer who had Real Estate valued at \$500 and Personal Estate valued at \$200. It also noted that the three eldest children, Henry, Peter and Frank, had attended school within the year.

The farm on which the Finkel (or Finkle) children were raised was located only a few miles from Marietta, the oldest town in Ohio, which had a population of 3,175 in 1850; 4,323 in 1860; and 5,218 in 1870.

According to his 1906 biography, Frank left home in 1869 at the age of 15. No reason was given for his departure at so early an age, although an account published after his death states that he had run away from home.¹ If so, it was apparently not the result of any great family difficulty, for Frank said that when he enlisted in the army, underage, he did not use his real name because "he did not want his folks to know that he was in the army."²

According to his 1906 biography Frank first came to the Dayton area in 1879, while the 1921 newspaper account gives the date as 1878.

His first verified residence in Columbia County is contained in the 1880 Federal Census return for that county, which was enumerated by A. E. McCall on June 25th, ironically four years to the day after Custer's stunning defeat on the Little Big Horn.

In that census is an extended entry for the household of 32-year-old Charles M. Grupe, a "Lumber Manufacturer," and his 22-year-old wife Emma. In addition to Mr. and Mrs. Grupe, 10 white males ranging in age from 21 to 44 also resided in their household. Of these men, one was a servant and cook, while the others were classified as boarders. Of these nine the oldest was married and worked as a sawyer, one was a bookkeeper, and the other seven were laborers in the mill.

Among the latter group was included an entry for "Finkle, Frank," a 26-year-old unmarried white male who "works in saw mill." The census stated that Frank was born in Ohio, his father in Saxony, and his mother, unaccountably, in Pennsylvania.

Dayton was not incorporated as a village until 1881, but had grown to a population of 1,880 by 1890 and 2,216 by 1900. Subsequent population figures are 2,389 in 1910; 2,695 in 1920; and 2,528 in 1930, the year of Frank's death.

In 1889, the year Washington became a state, the Columbia County assessor conducted a rather inaccurate census of that county which included: Frank Finkle, age 33, born in Oregon; D. [Delilah?] Finkle, female, age 21, born in Washington Territory; and Ben Finkle, male, age 1, born in Washington Territory.

It was of course not Frank but rather his wife who was born in Oregon. In addition, Frank's age, as was also the case in the 1860 Federal Census, does not match his birthdate of January 29th, 1854.

A few years after 1906 Frank sold his farm near Dayton for \$40,000, a substantial sum in those days. It was also apparently about this time that Frank's wife died, although the exact date is presently unknown.

It is true that the 1921 newspaper article which first publicized his story of escape indicated that his wife was yet living at that time, but this was apparently a mistake. It is said, in fact, that Lila Finkel died without knowing her husband had survived Custer's Last Stand. She had asked him once how he had received his old injuries, to which he, in his reticent way, replied, "An Indian shot me." When she expressed her disbelief he let the matter drop and didn't mention it again.³

After selling his farm, which he may have done because of his wife's death, Frank took a homestead in the vicinity of Great Falls, Montana, and invested in more than 1,000 acres of wheat land, although he continued to maintain his home in Dayton.

The Montana farm apparently served as Frank's summer home throughout the remainder of his life, except the summer of his death.

It was on a Sunday afternoon in Dayton, in 1914 according to Robert Ege, that Frank Finkel first provided an explanation of his whereabouts during the missing years of his 1906 biography.

On that day four Dayton residents, one of them Frank Finkel, were pitching a friendly game of horseshoes, when the topic of conversation turned to Custer and his last battle. While his three companions ventured their own somewhat fantastic opinions on the causes and happenings of the battle, Frank listened in silence.

Finally, he could stand it no longer, "A hell of a lot you fellows know about it." When his friends asked how he happened to know so much about it, Frank replied, "Well, I guess I know, I was there."⁴

It is easy to imagine the men grinning at what they believed to be a good joke, until they realized that Frank was serious, and then realizing that if it was hard to believe his claim, it was harder yet to believe he would deliberately tell an outrageous lie.

Exactly what Frank told these men is not known, but from later printed accounts we are told that in the fall of 1874, while Frank was working in Iowa's

1. Oshkosh Northwestern, August 6, 1937.

2. Walla Walla Bulletin, op. cit.

3. Walla Walla Union-Bulletin, July 9, 1944; The Billings Gazette, op. cit.

4. Kuhlman manuscript, op. cit., 9; Real West, November 1966, 10.

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Missouri River valley, he and a friend named Charley Vaughn traveled down the river to Council Bluffs and its neighboring city of Omaha, Nebraska.

These cities were an important center of commerce at that time, with Council Bluff's population growing from 10,020 in 1870 to 18,063 in 1880; and Omaha's from 16,083 to 30,518 during the same period.

Frank's claim that this incident occurred in the fall of the year is significant, for with the harvest done and winter coming on, it was natural that many farm laborers would travel to the trade centers to see the sights and perhaps look for more comfortable cold weather employment.

Instead of finding a job, Frank and Charley received a dare to enlist in the army, which they did. Frank still lacked several months of being 21 years old, the required and much abused minimum age for enlistment, so to preclude any possibility of his parents finding out that he had joined the army and then perhaps attempting to have him discharged, he enlisted under the alias Frank Hall. Charley Vaughn, perhaps for similar reasons, also enlisted under an alias, although no record exists of what it was.

Following enlistment, according to the story, Frank and Charley were sent to Arizona Territory, where they were separated and never saw each other again.

There is a report that Frank had been sent to Cheyenne, Wyoming after enlistment.⁵ This statement was made by his second wife after his death, and may simply be a confusion of Frank's statement that he had stopped at Fort Laramie on the way to Fort Abraham Lincoln in the spring of 1876.

Frank stated that after becoming attached to the Seventh Cavalry and escaping from the Custer battle, he eventually made his way to a settlement on the Missouri River, which he declared was Fort Benton, and found passage on a steamboat to Sioux City, Iowa, where he worked on a nearby dairy farm long enough to earn money for a trip west, at which point his 1906 biography continues.

News of Frank's claim eventually reached the offices of the Walla Walla Bulletin, which ran his story as a Sunday feature in its March 20, 1921 edition. W. H. Banfill, who interviewed Frank and wrote the article, provided a fine description of the man: "Frank Finkle, a retired farmer, aged 67, a tall, heavy-set man, only beginning to show the effects of his years, has told his neighbors for years that he was with Custer on that ill-fated June day in 1867 [sic]. When asked to tell the story by a representative of the Bulletin it was with difficulty that he could be induced to talk. Apparently, he is not the type who would draw an admiring crowd about him and say 'I'm the fellow.' . . . Quiet in his manner, he has the appearance of one with much reserve strength. He does not impress one as a man who would deliberately concoct a wild, improbable story for the sake of notoriety."

The publication of this article caused a wide-reaching initial sensation, much of it complimentary. Edward S. Godfrey, who fought as an officer at the Little

Big Horn, apparently included a reference to Frank in a letter he wrote to E. A. Brininstool dated May 2, 1921, in which he said: "In the last few months, only four more 'living survivors of Custer's command' have cropped out."⁶

John Bronson Case, a cousin of George Custer's wife Elizabeth, was more specific and less tactful when he returned home to Kansas City after having attended the 45th anniversary observance of the battle on June 25th, 1921. When he was asked by the press if anyone had survived the battle, he replied, "Not a man was left, history says, although Rain-in-the-Face contends one trooper raced through the lines to safety. Frank Finkel of Dayton, Washington, says he is that man. But Finkel is a fake."⁷ Unfortunately for Mr. Case, Frank had not claimed, and never did, that he was the man mentioned by Rain-in-the-Face, whose story can be most readily found in the book *Indian Fights and Fighters*, by Cyrus Townsend Brady, which was published for the first time in 1904.

A few years after 1921 Frank remarried. His second wife, the former Hermie C. Bassett, did not learn of his claim until 1926, when she discovered the 1921 Bulletin article stuck between the pages of a large book in their Dayton home. Only upon being pressed for further details did he discuss the matter openly with her.⁸

The public reaction to his story apparently made Frank even more reluctant to discuss his claim, as evidenced by his attitude in 1927 when he was invited by the Dayton Kiwanis Club to be a speaker at their luncheon meeting to tell of his escape. Because he was building an addition onto his house at that time he said he did not want to take time off to attend the meeting. Only after the Club offered to supply a carpenter to work on the addition did Frank agree to come.

Congressman John W. Summers of Walla Walla, who would serve Washington in Congress from 1921 to 1933, and who would die in 1937, was also invited to the meeting for the express purpose of hearing Frank's story.

Congressman Summers, like many others in attendance, was impressed by Frank's straightforward presentation. Following the luncheon he asked Frank in a private conversation why he had not told his story long ago. Frank replied, somewhat bitterly, "Who in hell would have believed me if I had, anymore than they do now?"⁹

It was also in 1927, perhaps on an application by Congressman Summers, that the War Department made its first search of the records of Company C, Seventh Cavalry in an attempt to find the names Frank Finkel or Frank Hall.¹⁰ Neither name was found, and interest in the Finkel story soon waned.

In April of 1930 Frank went under the care of Dr. Bert E. Phillips of Dayton. An X-ray revealed that he was suffering from terminal stomach cancer.

On August 28th, 1930, at 4:45 a.m., Frank Finkel died at his home at 308 North 4th Street in Dayton, Washington.

6. E. A. Brininstool, *Troopers With Custer*, 248.
7. Lawrence A. Frost, *General Custer's Libbie*, 313.
8. Walla Walla Union-Bulletin, op. cit.
9. Kuhlman manuscript, op. cit., 9.
10. Letter to William H. Miller from the Adjutant General's Office, op. cit.

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17 & 18

5. Kuhlman manuscript, *Ibid.*, 3.

The biographical information on his death certificate, supplied by his wife, contains nothing that is not already known of him; that he was born at Marietta, Ohio on January 29th, 1854, that his parents were Peter Finkel and Lena Windel, both natives of Germany, and that he had been a farmer by occupation.

The certificate also stated that Frank was 76 years, 6 months, and 28 days old at the time of his death, that no operation had preceded death, and that no autopsy had been performed.

On August 30th, 1930 Frank Finkel was buried in the Dayton Cemetery.

Following her husband's death, Hermie Finkel married again and in 1933 took up residence in Oshkosh, Wisconsin with her new husband, Henry M. Billmeyer. It was here that she began an attempt to officially establish her late husband as a Seventh Cavalryman and survivor of Custer's Last Stand.

In early August of 1937 the **Oshkosh Northwestern** printed several items concerning the Custer battle, causing Mrs. Billmeyer to tell them of her former husband and his escape from that battle.

The resulting article appeared in the August 6, 1937 issue of the **Northwestern**, with the facts of the story being supplied by Mrs. Billmeyer as she remembered hearing them from Frank, in addition to using the 1921 **Bulletin** article as a reference. The article noted that Frank "had a reputation for honesty," stating further, "his facts were always the same; he never bragged or exaggerated on what he considered was his 'true' story. Those who knew Frank Finkel readily believed his claim that he was the lone survivor of the Custer massacre. . . ."

The May 1939 issue of **Winners of the West**, the Official Bulletin of the National Indian War Veterans, published in St. Joseph, Missouri, was the next publication to give space to the Finkel story. In that issue appeared two letters from Mrs. Billmeyer dated March 22, 1939 and April 11, 1939, along with a reprint of the **Northwestern** article, a copy of which Mrs. Billmeyer had enclosed with her first letter.

In that first letter she had stated her intention by writing: "My former husband, Frank Finkel, of Dayton, Wash., was an actual survivor of the Custer massacre and I have a great desire to prove this."

In closing her letter she provided an interesting insight into Frank's character: "Now, he was a staid, old farmer, read nothing but the daily papers; never read novels or went to movies. I would as soon think of a wooden Indian concocting such a story as he, simply because his mind did not run that way. He was a good citizen and a good farmer (he sold his farm in Dayton for \$40,000) and his elder son, Ben Finkel of Mohler, Idaho, was re-elected to serve in the Idaho legislature this year."

The **Walla Walla Union-Bulletin** of July 9, 1944 printed a letter from Mrs. Billmeyer which had been written about 10 days before, and presented the main facts of the story as they had appeared in the 1937 **Northwestern** article, a copy of which Mrs. Billmeyer had sent with her letter. In describing Frank's attitude toward his claim, Mrs. Billmeyer wrote: "He never talked about it with anyone

Finkle / Finkel

1883 Census

Pg 36 - Frank Finkle 29M Ohio

1885 Census

Pg 139 - Frank Finkle 31M Farmer Ohio

1887 Census

Pg 53 - Frank Finkel 31M Farmer Ohio Married
Lila " 19F Ore "

1889 Census

Pg 84 - Frank Finkle 33M Ohio Married
D " 21F W.T. "
Ben " 1M "

1892 Census

Pg 4-Pg 25 - Frank Finkle 37M Farmer Ohio Married
D " 21F H.K. Ore "
B. " 4M Wash "
Elmer " 2M "

1900 Census

Pg 132 - (Bundy Precinct)

Frank Finkle Head Jan 1857 Ohio Germ Germ (m 14y)

Abelak " (3/2) wife Feb 1868 Ore Tenn Mo

Bennie " son Nov 1887 Wa Ohio Ore

Elmer " son Apr 1890 " " "

(Married Jan 24, 1886 Frank Finkle to Delia Rainwater)

Pg 132 - (Bundy Precinct)

Henry Finkle Head June 1850 Ohio Germ Germ (m 27y)

Washington Territory Columbia Co. Marriages 1876-1889

Witnesses

Frank Finkle - Married - Delia Rainwater - 24 Jan 1886 - Jake Rainwater
E. C. Vandenburg

Burials

<u>Age</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Plot</u>	<u>Cemetery</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Ownership</u>
86	Bex	C	Dayton	9 Nov 1887 - 18 Feb 1974 buried - 21 Feb 1974	Ben Finkle
69	Clark	F	"	30 Sept 1889 - 11 July 1959 buried - 14 July 1959	Bell
11m	Clarence	C	"	24 April 1893 - 24 Apr 1894 buried - 25 Apr 1894	Frank Finkle
52	Delia Ann	C	"	23 Feb 1868 - 9 Aug 1921 buried - 11 Aug 1921	" "
83	Flora Susana	C	"	9 Mar 1888 - 12 May 1971 buried - 14 May 1971	Ben "
76	Frank S	C	"	1854 - buried 30 Aug 1930	Frank "
7	Frank W	C	"	2 Nov 1905 - 9 Apr 1912 buried - 11 Apr 1913?	" "
78	Henry	C	"	1850 - buried 27 Apr 1929	" "
87	Mary	F		Buried 28 Jan 1971	Bell

Columbia Co. Newspaper Abstracts

1884-1886

pg 59 - Married at the residence of J. G. Hunt, this County, 24 Jan 1886,
Mr. Frank Finkle to Miss Delia Rainwater.

Finkle

1887-1890

Pg 4 - Born in this County, 9 Nov 1887, to wife of Frank Finkle, a son

Pg 55 - D. S. # 6238 Pleasant A. Lord

Witness: Franklin Finkle (Apr 1889)

1890-1892

Pg 60 - Ld # 3867 Frank Finkel (E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ S9, T9N, R39E)

+ Witness: James Johnson, Rube Watrous, John Harris + Henry Hunt
(Jan 1892)

1892-1894

Pg 25 - Ld # 3902: Rudolf Bollinger

Witness: Frank Finkle (Jan 1893)

Pg 68 - Died in this County 24 Mar 1894, infant child of Mr + Mrs.
Frank Finkle.

1901-1903

Pg 36 - Frank Finkle has gone to Marietta, Ohio to visit relatives. (Dec 1901)

1903-1905

Pg 62 - Mrs. Frank Finkle & son returned from a visit in Pullman at
the home of Mrs. Hunt, Mrs. Finkle's sister. (July 1904)

Pg 64 - Friday of last week, Fred Rainwater, aged 10 y, 8 m, 24 d was
drowned in the tucket at Baileyburg. He and his cousin Elmer
Finkle decided to take a swim. Interment was in the Dayton
Cemetery. (July 1904)

1905-1908

Pg 57- Jacob S. Rainwater died Wednesday at his home on Robnett Mountain, aged 70y, 7m, 21d. Remains laid to rest in Dayton Cemetery. Jacob S. Rainwater was born in Tennessee, 12 Feb 1836 & when quite young went to Arkansas & then to Missouri where he married Lucinda Williamson, & from there across the plains with an ox team in 1864 to Oregon. In 1869 he returned to Missouri & in 1876 came to Dayton, where he has lived ever since. He was twice married & by his first wife had 8 children, of whom 5 still live & 3 are dead. His 2nd wife whom he married here was Miss Nellie Painter, from whom he had 9 children. From his 1st wife the living children are Mrs. Frank Finkle of Robnett Mountain; Mrs. Susan Hunt; Preston Rainwater; Mrs. Etta Hale of this county & Mrs. Alice Pettigrove of Winn Falls, Idaho. From the 2nd wife the children are Leonard; Robert; Jessie; Glady; Larney; Harold; Agnes; Leak and Ada all of whom are at home. (Oct-1906)

1908-1909

Pg 50- Arnold Mock & sisters, Mrs. Benj. Finkle & Miss Anna Mock are visiting relatives at Sevigor, Oregon this week. (Dec 1908)

4 Sept 1930

Frank Finkel Is Taken By Death

Long Time Resident of County—
Veteran of Indian Wars.

Frank Finkel, a highly esteemed pioneer resident of Columbia county, passed away at his home in this city Thursday, August 28, at the age of 76 years. Death followed an illness of many weeks.

The funeral was held Saturday afternoon from the Hubbard-Rogg chapel, the service being conducted by the Rev. W. C. Gilmore, pastor of the Congregational church. The services at the cemetery were in charge of the Odd Fellows lodge, of which Mr. Finkel had been a member for many years.

Mr. Finkel was born in Germany January 29, 1854, and came to this country when a boy. He enlisted in the army before he was 21 years of age and is believed to have been the only survivor of the Custer massacre, his story of that memorable fight, and of his experiences following, being of thrilling interest. A few years later he came out west and established a home in Columbia county, where he was engaged in farming for some years, retiring several years ago from active work.

Mr. Finkel is survived by his widow, one daughter, Mrs. Milton Koch of this city and two sons, Ben, a resident of Idaho, and Elmer of Milton, Oregon.

The Chronicle-Dispatch has at hand an interesting statement of his experiences in connection with and following the Custer massacre, which will be published in next week's paper.

12 Apr 1913

Frank W. Finkle.

Frank W., son of Frank Finkle, passed away at his home Wednesday morning of leakage of the heart. He was seven years and one month old. Frank was loved by many little friends who regret their separation. The funeral was held at the Christian church yesterday at 2 p. m. Rev. Gilmore officiated.

13 May 1971

Mrs. Ben Finkel Service Friday

(21 Feb 1974)

BEN FINKLE

Ben Finkle died February 18 in Dayton. He was born 9 Nov 1887, on Robinette Mt. to pioneer parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Finkle. He was reared and educated locally and farmed with his father on Robinette Mt. until 1918 when he moved to Craigmont, Idaho, to farm. He married the former Laura Flora Mock in Pomeroy on Feb. 12, 1908. He was a life long farmer and served for 12 years in the Idaho legislature. He was a past master of Nez Perce grange and was a member of the Dayton Christian church.

His wife preceded him in death in 1971.

He is survived by a brother Elmer in Portland: a sister Mrs. G.M. (Trace) Koch of Dayton, one niece and 3 nephews. His grandfather was Jacob Rainwater, a pioneer of this area.

Services will be held Thursday, Feb 21, at 1:30 p.m. In the Hubbard-Rogg chapel, with the Rev. Hal Watkins officiating. Private interment will follow in the Dayton city cemetery.

Mrs. Ben Finkel, 83, sister-in-law of Mrs. Milton Koch of Dayton, passed away at 2 a.m. Wednesday, May 12, at her home in Craigmont, Idaho.

Funeral service will be held at 10 a.m. Friday, May 14, at Nez Perce, Idaho, with concluding graveside service in Dayton City Cemetery Friday afternoon.

Mrs. Finkel is a former Dayton resident and is known by a number of Dayton residents. She was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Martin Mock, county pioneers.

Family members include two brothers: Frank Mock of Dayton and Ed Mock of Walla Walla; Four sisters: Minnie Mock and Irene Mock, both of Walla Walla, Rose Mock of Seattle and Bertha Mock of Phoenix, Ariz.

MRS FRANK FINKLE (13 Aug 1921)

Mrs. Le Lila Ann Rainwater Finkle, wife of Mr. Frank Finkle of this city, died Tuesday at 10:30 p.m. at the family home after only a few days illness. She was daughter of Jacob Rainwater and was born in Oregon, February 23, 1868. The family settled on Robinett mountain, a few miles from this city, many years ago, and the deceased has lived in this city and county ever since. Her husband, who survives her, was the only soldier who escaped the Custer massacre. Besides her husband she is survived by a daughter, Theresa Finkle and two sons, Ben Finkle of Nez Perce, Idaho, and Elmer Finkle of this city. She is also survived by a brother, Preston Rainwater, of this county, and three sisters, Mrs. Al Dale and Mrs. Joseph Gibson of this city and Mrs. Dyer Pettyjohn of Twin Falls, Idaho.

The funeral will be held Thursday at 2:30 from the Christian church in this city.

28 Jan 1971

Mary Finkel, 87, Graveside Today

Graveside funeral service for Mrs. Clark (Mary) Finkel, 87, native daughter of Dayton, will be held at 3 p.m. today, January 28, at Dayton City Cemetery.

Mrs. Finkel passed away Sunday, January 24, at Tacoma where she had been making her home for the past five years with her niece, Mrs. Bert Carmel.

She was born November 13, 1883, in Dayton, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Waugler. Reared and educated locally, she had been a life-long resident until moving to Tacoma.

Family members in addition to Mrs. Carmel are a sister, Mrs. Emma Kroepflin of Columbus, Montana, and a brother, Joe Waugler, of Great Falls, Montana.

(16 July 1959)

CLARK FINKLE

FUNERAL RITES HELD JULY 14

Funeral rites for Clark G. Finkle 69, were conducted at the United Brethern church, Dayton, by the Rev. Arlie Whybark at 11 a.m. Tuesday, July 14.

Interment was in the family plot in Dayton city cemetery.

Mr. Finkle died at the veterans hospital in Walla Walla on July 11. He had been a patient there on several occasions since last Sept. Funeral arrangements were handled by the DeWitt funeral home of Walla Walla.

Mr. Finkle was born at Marietta, Ohio, on Sept 30, 1889, and he attended schools in that state. He was a farmer in the Dayton area since 1910. In 1930 he married. Survivors include his widow Mary at the home near Dayton; a sister Hattie Delikam of Columbus, Ohio; and a brother Frank of McBain, Michigan.

George M. Koch

George M. Koch, 96, died June 6, 1990, at the Booker Rest Home in Dayton. He resided at 600 E. Clay, Dayton.

Funeral services were held Monday, June 11, 2:00 p.m., at the Hubbard-Rogg Chapel, 111 S. 2nd, Dayton. Reverend Bob Shields officiated. a private inurnment followed at the Dayton City Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the charity of the donor's choice.

George was born on May 2, 1894, in Chesley, Ontario, Canada to George and Catherine Koch. He was the seventh child of ten children. His family moved to the United States in 1904.

Mr. Koch engaged in farming around the Walla Walla and Lowden area. George enlisted in the United States service at the beginning of WWI with the Coast Artillery at Fort Warden, WA. He saw the end of WWI in France as a Corporal in the Artillery. Following WWI, he learned the sheet metal trade in Walla Walla.

He moved to Dayton in 1920 and operated a sheet metal and heating business there. He did expensive sheet metal work for the Green Giant Company in Dayton. He was well-known as an expert in the field, although he retired in 1958.

In 1923, George married Theresia Finkel who resided in Dayton. she preceded him in death in 1982.

George was an early member of the American Legion in Dayton. He held several offices in that organization. He enjoyed gardening and was well-known in Dayton and the surrounding area.

Aug

Theresia "Trace" Koch 1982

Theresia "Trace" Koch of 600 E. Clay, Dayton, passed away August 27 at Dayton General Hospital. She was 81.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, August 31 at the Hubbard-Rogg Funeral Chapel, Rev. Robert Shields officiated. Interment services were held at the family plot, Dayton City Cemetery.

Mrs. Koch was born November 21, 1900 in Dayton, to parents Frank and Delila Rainwater Finkel. She attended local schools.

She married G. M. Koch, on October 2, 1921 at Walla Walla. Mrs. Koch was a lifelong resident of Dayton.

Theresia "Trace" Koch was a member of the American Legion Auxilliary, Dayton Garden Club, Elizabeth. Forest Day Club, Congregational Church, Halpine Society and the Dayton P.T.A.

Mrs. Koch is survived by her husband at home; her son, Milton of Seattle; one brother, Elmer Finkel of Portland, Oregon; and four grand children, Leslie Koch, of Anchorage Alaska; Laura Koch, Fairbanks Alaska; and Elizabeth Regekah Koch of Seattle.

Those who wish may make contributions in her name to the Dayton Historical Society, care of Gladys Fletcher.