

Friends of Lone Pine Cemetery

Whitman County, Washington

A Washington State Historic Site

Newsletter

Spring—2016

<http://lonepinecemetery.com>

HISTORY OF THE LONE PINE COMMUNITY

Condensed from the "The Tekoa Story" "From Bunch Grass to Grain"

Most of the following facts were gathered from Mrs. I. N. Clark, Early pioneer resident, and dedicated to the pioneers of the State of Washington and were used by Mrs. August Wolf in a school program in the early 1930's.

In 1880, a few years after the battle with the Indians at Rosalia, rapid settlement of the Palouse country east of Rosalia began. Among the earliest pioneers to settle in what is now known as Lone Pine and Fairbanks were the I. N. Clark, C. Malmsten, J. C. Higbee, Ben Copland, H. Smiley, Mat. Lathrum, J. Morgan, J. Cozier, J. McLean families, most of who came from California and Oregon and north via the Walla Walla-Colfax route to Farmington and then north where they settled.

Lone Pine, deriving its name from a lonesome pine tree on the rolling Palouse hills, was located about half way between the Farmington and Rockford settlements. It played an important part in pioneer history though not destined to become a town. A log cabin, built near the lone pine tree, served as a Post Office, schoolhouse, stage depot and tavern. It was later destroyed by fire.

The Lone Pine School held in the log cabin organized in 1881 was but a three-month term, held during the summer months by the same instructor contracted for the winter term in Tekoa. In 1889 when Washington became a state and danger of losing the school, for being below standard, became imminent, a bitter fight ensued in which the pioneer spirit of progress emerged victorious. A nine month school was established which remained intact until 1935 when students were taken into Tekoa. A separate schoolhouse was built in 1914 the beautiful modern school house was erected with domestic science and manual training departments added with classes through the tenth grade.

Wheat raising immediately became the chief occupation of these early settlers who hauled their produce 25 and 30 miles to market in Cheney. In about 1889 ~ 1890 when the O. W. R.R. & N. railroad, which was forging steadily northeast from Walla Walla, extended its rail road from Farmington to Rockford and on to Spokane, it came through the sawmill district, now the town of Tekoa, and Tekoa then became the grain-marketing center. In 1908 or 1909 the Milwaukee railroad was built through Lone Pine, and an elevator and warehouse built there. Due to these warehouses and the introduction of modern machinery, harvest was completed in three or four weeks where formerly it took four to five months. H. Smiley who took great pride in beautifying his homestead, saw his dreams crumble when the Milwaukee railroad came directly through his building site causing the removal of his buildings.

The little community of "Fork of the Creek" got its mail from Lone Pine as the Post Office had been established there in 1879. The mail was brought to Lone Pine by the stage that ran from Walla Walla to Cheney. Mr. S. E. Coffin furnished the horse and buggy and his nephew Norman Crawford carried the mail from Lone Pine to "Fork of the Creek" which later changed its name to "Tekoa" from the Holy Bible meaning city of tents. During the railroad construction, the town lacked buildings to house all the workers, requiring very many tents.

Continued next page

My Blue Family was part of the history of the Lone Pine area during the time it was first settled so I decided to add it to this article. Jim Irwin

My interest in the History of the community of Lone Pine, Whitman County, WA is due to my great grandparents Amos & Sarah Blue who brought their family to the area sometime between 1870 when their daughter Mary Jane (their last child) was born in the Eugene Oregon area and 1888 when Sarah Blue died and was buried at the Lone Pine Cemetery. Mary Jane married Daniel Webster York in Latah and she is mentioned in the book "The Tekoa Story" as working as a cook or cook's helper on a farm in the area.

Thomas Aaron Blue, the second child of Amos & Sarah, married Matilda Anna Mckinney and their eight children were born and raised in Farmington WA. Three of their daughters died very young and were buried near their grandmother in the Lone Pine Cemetery.

My grandfather, James Blue, the third child of Amos & Sarah, married Martha Jane Ramsey in Oaksdale in 1889 and homesteaded in the area south of Tekoa and their first child, Henry Harrison was born in 1891. The following year the family moved from Whitman County to Dayton WA where my next two uncles were born. The next four children, all boys were born in Nez Perce County Idaho between 1898 and 1907 and their first child, Henry died at the age of eighteen in 1909 and was buried in the Morrow Cemetery in the area of Craigmont and Winchester. Like the Lone Pine Community, the only remnant of the Morrow community is the cemetery and it has been well cared for by people in nearby Craigmont and descendants of the pioneers buried there.

The Blue family then moved to Walla Walla in 1910 where my mother was born in 1911 and married my father, Clifford Irwin in 1932. My sister, Arlene and I still live in Walla Walla; apparently we didn't inherit the wanderlust genes of our ancestors.



My Blue Family in 1910 in Walla Walla WA..
Amos Blue on the left , James & Martha on the right.
Two missing Children: Henry died in 1909 My Mother Essie, not born yet.

Calvin Dwight Craig

Calvin Dwight Craig was born on 25 Aug 1883 in Dodge City, Kansas as the second child of *Francis Alfred "Boss" Craig and Susan Ann Landers. He had eight siblings, namely: Francis Edward 'Ed', Joseph Landers, Myrtle Eleanor, *George Alfred, George Alfred, Myrtle Eleanor, Francis Edward, and Joseph F. He died on 04 Apr 1894 in Tekoa, Whitman Co., WA

Calvin died at the age of 10 and was the 21st person buried at Lone Cemetery.



Helen Marian Clark

Helen Marian Clark was born on 10 Jul 1876 in California, USA as the fifth child of Ichabod Niles Clark and Lucy Dollarhide. She had ten siblings, namely: Henry James Senior, Dinarzade Minnie, Jesse B, Nancy Lorraine, Dudley N, Lucy E., Gracie Viola, Alvin Edwin, Amos Everett, and Arthur Harvey. She died on 25 Nov 1894 in Lone Pine, Whitman, Washington.

Helen died at the age of 18 and was the 22nd person buried at Lone Pine.



Devitt E Thayer

Devitt E Thayer was born on 10 Oct 1894 in Oakesdale, Whitman, Washington, USA as the seventh child of Eli Fairfax Thayer and Amelia Catherine Hingston Drew. He had ten siblings, namely: Edna May, Frank E, Sadie K, Lillie Washington, Georgia Eliza, Mamie Estelle, Cora Belle, Elsie Irene, Osie Claude, and Vergie C. He died on 18 Dec 1894 in Oakesdale, Whitman, Washington, USA.

Devitt died at the age of 2 months and was the 23rd person buried at Lone Pine.



<http://lonepinecemetery.com/index.htm>

**Friends of Lone Pine Cemetery Next Meeting
Tuesday April 20, 2016 10:30 am
The Feeding Station Tekoa WA**

Since 2006, a small group of volunteers have met at least twice a year for the purpose of meeting and planning the future of keeping the cemetery presentable to the public and spending time working on clearing the many years of uncontrolled brush that has taken over the entire cemetery.

If you have not visited the cemetery lately we encourage you to do so and see the improvements that have taken place. We are still a long way from completing our goals for the cemetery but our vision of what we can accomplish is becoming more clear with each semi-annual work party. With the help of the youth group called HOPE from the Upper Columbia Academy at Spangle WA, we have made some great headway with the overgrowth. Their youthful energy is a sight to behold for us older volunteers that have been doing much of the hand work for several years now. We also would like to encourage other people that have an interest in preserving this historic cemetery that has been placed on the list of Washington State Historic Places, to meet with us at our meeting place in Tekoa and give us your support with any ideas or recommendations for the future of the cemetery.

Some of the work needed is not just hand work but requires the use of machinery that must be hired or rented and of course there is other expenses that need to be met. We have had some very generous contributions from many descendants and other friends that have no direct connections to the cemetery. These contributions have been a tremendous help to us and we appreciate every dollar that we receive. But, like running for a political office, we need to continue asking for additional funds to keep going forward and not falling behind in our efforts. Mother nature continues to challenge us with new growth every day that the sun shines and the rain comes down.

We need your help with any amount of time or money that you can spare, it will be put to very good use. We have enclosed a self addressed envelope for your convenience.

Thank you very much for your past and future support,

Friends

Officers of: Friends of Lone Pine Cemetery

President: Terry Smiley tbsmiley@comcast.net

Vice president: Pat Smiley tbsmiley@comcast.net

Sec/Treas: Jim Irwin jim1938irwin@gmail.com

If you have information, articles, pictures, or would like more information, or to make a donation, please contact any of the above officers or

Email: jim1938irwin@gmail.com / phone: 509-200-0786

mail: **601 Village Way Unit 60**

Walla Walla WA 99362