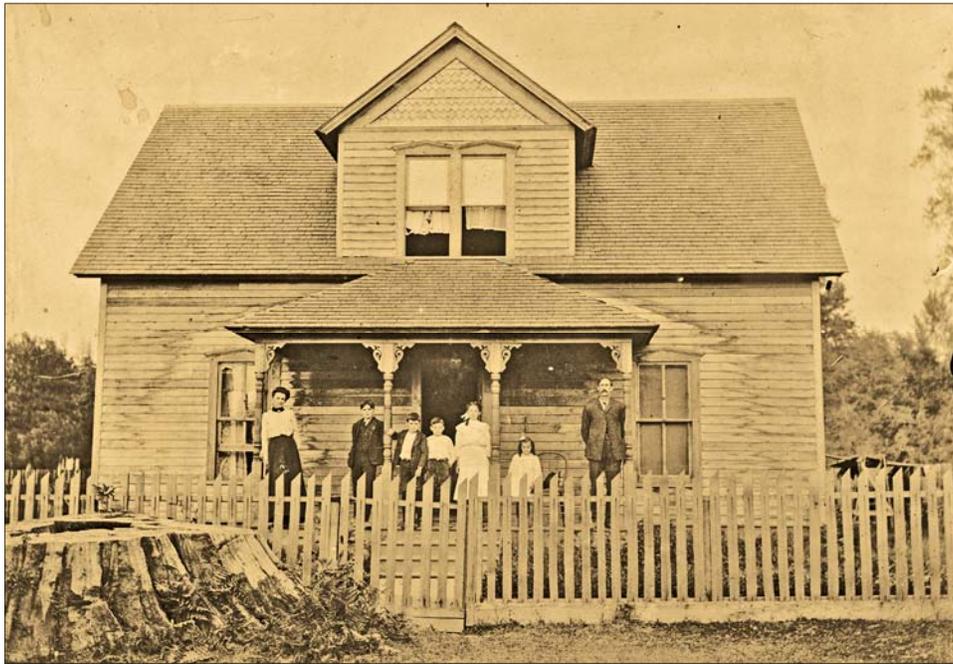




Feature Article

Moore-Parmelee House, built in 1905

King County Landmark 2003



This photo is dated 1905, the year the Moore house was built.

Charles and Minnie Moore

Charles (went by Charlie) Afton Moore and Minnie Stem were married in 1890 in Ohio. They had five children there before moving to Washington in 1903. (Children are shown in the photo above, in center, L-R: Harry, Ralph, Paul, Leatha and Dolly. Parents at left and right sides.) They lived initially in Preston, to be near Minnie's sister. Charlie, a farmer so far in life, then went to work cutting shingle bolts. He worked longest at McCann's Mill at Lake Marie near Fall City, where the family lived in a large tent near the lake. Minnie cooked for the camp and looked after the children. In 1905, Charlie bought a lot in Fall City for \$40 and built a house. The photo shows the family on the porch, probably shortly after the house was completed. Note the large stump in the foreground.

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One of the special things about the Moore-Parmelee House is that it features an intact system of vertical-plank or box wall construction, fairly rare in King County. This inexpensive and speedy type of construction involves the use of sturdy, rough-sawn planks up to 2 inches thick, affixed side-by-side in vertical fashion to a plate and sill framework, creating a “single wall” construction that lacks the airspace and insulation advantage of walls created with studs and finished on both sides. Living in a tent in a logging camp in 1905 with several children to shelter, Charlie and Minnie may have been attracted to this quick construction method. There are three similar houses, all built in 1904, in Preston, where they might have gotten the idea. The lumber (about \$153) came from the Preston Mill and is said to have been provided on credit.



Moore family at home circa 1912

*L-R: Paul, Pansy ('Dolly'), Ralph, Charlie (father), Chuck (age 5, born in Fall City),
Minnie (mother), Leatha and husband Ed Munro, and Harry.*

The house was built as a 1½ story, 6-room dwelling (4 on the main floor and 2 small bedrooms upstairs) with a steeply pitched side gable roof. The main dwelling was 20 x 31 feet, with porch projections on front and rear. The exterior walls were first sealed with vertical battens to close the cracks between boards, then siding added as shown in the photos. By the 1912 photo above,

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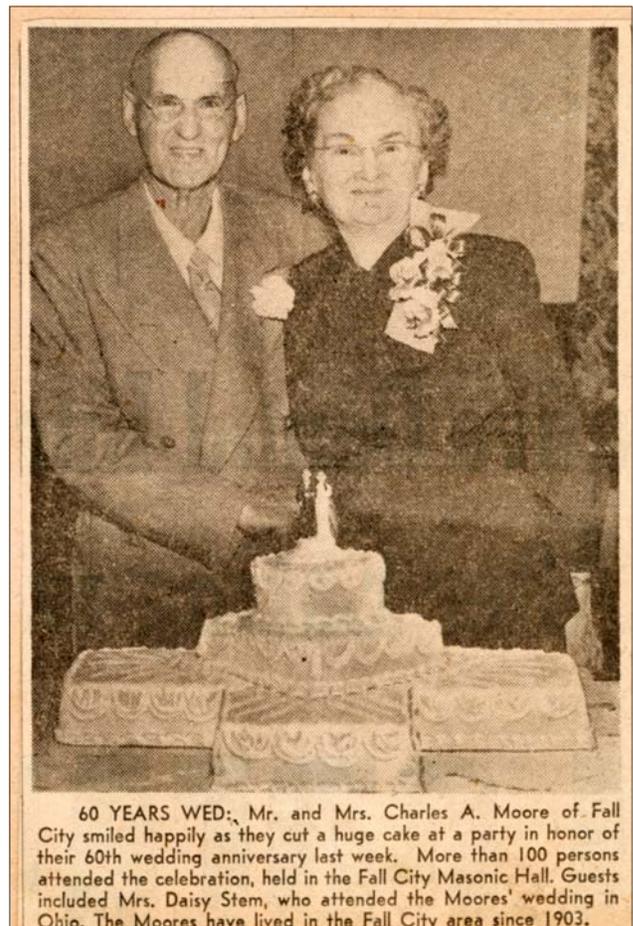
the house has been painted and the children are significantly older. In the center is Charles (Chuck) Alton Moore, born in 1907.



*(left) Roadbuilding c1910 Charlie driving, Paul standing, Harry on roller, Ralph sitting above.
(right) Main Street, Fall City, Charlie Moore driving*

During their time in Fall City, Charlie worked many jobs, including driving roadbuilding machinery shown in the photos above, and he played his violin for dances and events. Minnie was often chief cook for activities held at the Modern Woodman Hall, which used to be across the street from their home. They also operated a restaurant for a few years in the old Olympia Bar building.

The Moores sold their Fall City house in the mid-1920s and moved north near Sedro Woolley. They returned to Fall City about 1943 and lived here the rest of their lives. They observed their 60th Wedding Anniversary in 1950, celebrating with friends and family at a reception held in the Falls City Masonic Hall.



60 YEARS WED: Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Moore of Fall City smiled happily as they cut a huge cake at a party in honor of their 60th wedding anniversary last week. More than 100 persons attended the celebration, held in the Fall City Masonic Hall. Guests included Mrs. Daisy Stem, who attended the Moores' wedding in Ohio. The Moores have lived in the Fall City area since 1903.

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The older Moore children stayed in Washington State, but did not live near their parents. Chuck Moore, the youngest, lived most of his life in Fall City. He married Hazel Erickson of Preston and raised his family here.



Left: The Chuck Moore family in 1942.

L-R: Hazel, Rita, Little Hazel (Babe), Chuck, Charles (Little Chuckie).



In 2007, when Chuck turned 100, he was honored as Grand Marshal in the Fall City Days parade. (photo at right) He died later that year. His youngest daughter Hazel still lives in the Moore home where she grew up.

The Parmelee family

In the 1920s, the Moores sold their house to Al and Mary Minor, who may have lived in the house but were known to have rented it to others. In 1943, Al Minor sold the house to Elizabeth Alexander Parmelee, one of eight children in the John and Elizabeth Alexander family. The Alexanders came west from Missouri in 1900. They started a dairy farm just north of Fall City toward Carnation. (Farm is shown below in 1914.)



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Elizabeth Caroline “Carrie” Alexander met her future husband Eugene Parmelee in the early 1900s. He had come to Fall City from Michigan as a young man and got a job walking the lines for the Harshman Telephone Company. On his job one day, he stopped at the Alexander Farm to see if he could get something to eat... and met Carrie. After a courtship, Gene returned to Michigan and Carrie joined him later. They were married there in 1912 (wedding photo at right) and returned to Fall City in 1914. Gene worked on the King County Road Crew for many years building the Fall City-Redmond Road and later worked as a janitor at the Fall City Brick School. He was selling insurance at the time of his death. When he passed away in 1937, Carrie was left with the care of their seven children, ages seven to twenty-three.



Parmelee family with Jumbo the Tire, c. 1934. Glenn (seated on left), Gladys (seated on right), Philip (standing). In center of tire: Fay (bottom), girls L-R: Grace, Irene, Villa.

A very rough time followed for the family, with little outside help being available in those days. In 1943 Carrie Parmelee managed to get the money together to buy the original Moore house. Only two of Carrie's children, daughters Villa and Irene, were living at home at that time. The house would remain her home for 44 years, a center for her family and daughter Irene's family in later years. Carrie Parmelee died in 1987 at the age of 99 and the house was passed on to daughter Irene. (see article on last page about Mrs. Parmelee's 96th birthday celebration.)

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In 2003 when the house had been declared a King County Landmark, Irene set out to rehabilitate the building. Enlisting the help of her children, mainly her eldest son, Gerry Anderson, who did all of the reconstruction, Irene methodically worked on every aspect of the project. She received financial help from King County and 4Culture. In May of 2012, Irene received a John D. Spellman Historic Preservation award from King County, recognizing her for her family's rehabilitation of the home. Irene's daughter Kris Anderson now lives in the house, the third generation in the family to call it home.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20, 2012 ■ DAILY UPDATES AT WWW.VALLEYRECORD.COM ■ 75 CE



Seth Truscott/Staff Photo

The historic Moore House was the family home during Fall City resident Irene Pike's teen years. Today, as she prepares to pass the home on to her daughter, Pike is nearing the completion of a 10-year restoration of the 108-year-old house—one of the community's oldest—as a legacy to her mother, Elizabeth Parmelee, pictured below with her husband Gene in 1912.

History at home

96th Birthday For Mrs. Parmelee

February 23, 1984

Elizabeth Caroline Alexander Parmelee will celebrate her "23rd" birthday on Wednesday, Feb. 29. Mrs. Parmelee, who was born 96 years ago in Charleston, Ill., should have had 24 birthdays, but since there was no leap year at the turn of the century, she went from age 8 to age 16 without having a birthday.

It was at the turn of the century, in 1900, that she came west from Missouri with her family, the John Alexanders, to settle in Fall City. She remembers the train ride with her mother, uncle, and six brothers and sisters. Her father had come eight months earlier to find work and arrange for a place for the family to live. He worked in shingle mills and other jobs before going into dairy farming. (The Alexanders were married 100 years ago in Charleston, Ill.)

It was while living at the family farm that Mrs. Parmelee met her future husband, Eugene Parmelee. They were married and raised their seven children in Fall City. Mr. Parmelee died in 1937.

Mrs. Parmelee recently learned that the home of her grandparents, Dr. and Mrs. Nelson Strange Freeman, has been acquired by the Illinois Department of Conservation. They plan to restore the house, located in Farmington (or Campbell) near Charleston, and surrounding property to its appearance in about 1870, when the Freemans lived there, and hope to have it open to the public as a historic site within four to five years. It will be on the Lincoln tour. A small building, believed to be Dr. Freeman's office, will be restored as a 1870 doctor's office.

Dr. Nelson Strange Freeman served in the Civil War from 1861 - 1866, reaching the rank of captain. He was the family physician of Thomas and Sarah (Sally) Lincoln. Records tell of an unexpected visit in February



ELIZABETH PARMELEE puts the finishing touches on a quilt. A reception for her 96th birthday will be held Sunday.

Record Photo

1861 from Mrs. Lincoln's stepson, Abe. Mrs. Lincoln rushed to the home of Mrs. Freeman because she had received word that Abe was coming and she had nothing in the house to eat. Mrs. Freeman told her to go back and get the house in order and she and the neighbors would bring in the dinner. This they did, initiating one of the most beloved Lincoln stories remembered by residents of Coles County.

Mrs. Parmelee's mother, Lizzie Freeman Alexander, told her family about how she sat on President Lincoln's knee when she was 4 years old. Her brother Charles, at age 6, remembered when Lincoln visited the school and gave each of the 60 children a coin. Charles was quoted as saying of President Lincoln: "He was such a kindly man, with the most wonderful smile."

Mrs. Parmelee keeps busy. She has just finished piecing together another quilt. She works at her longtime hobby of making scrapbooks from newspaper

articles, but spends most of her time doing extensive work on the Methodist Church history. She plans to take time to raise a garden this summer. She is a member of Lady Sterling Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and she belongs to Amaranth and Eastern Star. She has four daughters, Irene Pike and Villa Martinez of Fall City, Grace Brailard of Kirkland, and Gladys Priebe of Fairfield, Idaho, and one son, Fay Thomas Parmelee of Kapaa, Hawaii. Two sons, Phillip and Glenn, are deceased.

Mrs. Parmelee will be honored at a reception from noon - 2 p.m. on Sunday following services at Fall City United Methodist Church. Also being honored at this time will be Barbra Stubbs, who will celebrate her 93rd birthday on the 27th. The public is invited to attend.

Another important event to take place at the church service will be the baptism of Mathew Christ Brown, the infant son of the pastor and his wife.