

HISTORY

Until the mid-1870s, many pioneer families buried their dead on their home property. When a nameless roamer died while staying with a family at The Landing (the early name for Fall City), he was buried on a knoll overlooking town. (The marker was added much later.)



Others followed. By 1895, something had to be done about the growing number of informal burials. The first meeting of the Fall City Cemetery Association was held in 1898, and work was begun to organize the area and to buy sufficient land to plan for the future. The area north of the current loop road was set aside as burial ground for Native Americans. The Fall City IOOF (International Order of Odd Fellows) was also interested in a formal cemetery, and in 1902 they purchased the plat located west of the loop road. Additional land within the loop road and later to the south of it was purchased over the years by the Fall City Cemetery Association.

The area north of the current loop road was deeded to the Snoqualmie Tribe after their recognition as a legal entity in 1999. It is sacred ground to the Tribe, and they ask that visitors respect their boundaries and not enter that area.



For more information, contact:

Fall City Cemetery Association
P.O. Box 762, Fall City, WA 98024
425-888-1658

Brochure produced in 2022 by:

FALL CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 293, Fall City, WA 98024
historylives@fallcityhistorical.org
www.fallcityhistorical.org

The Cemetery Burial Index is available in the FCHS reference library.

 *Find us on Facebook!*

For more info on the history and people mentioned in this brochure, see:

Jack's History of Fall City by Jack Kelley, 2006
(Available from the Fall City Historical Society)

FALL CITY CEMETERY

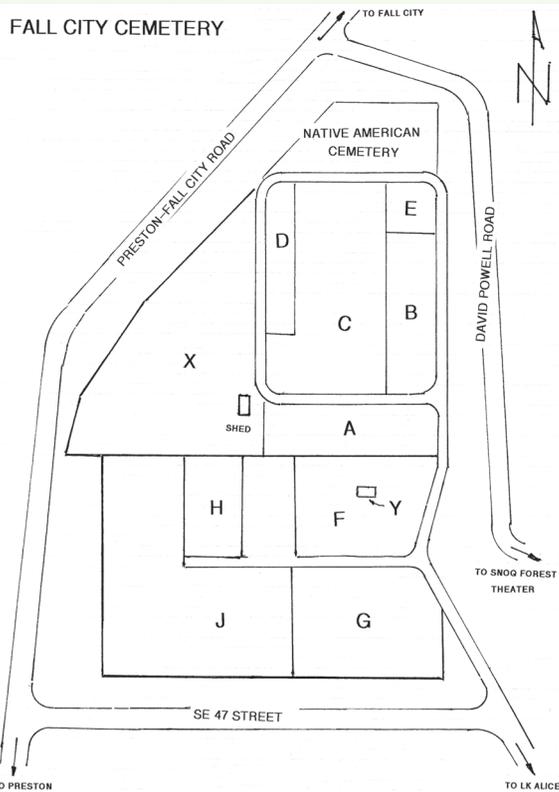
Fall City, Washington

(1/4 mile east of Preston-Fall City Road, on SE 47th Street)



FALL CITY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY





The early diagram above and aerial photo below show the loop road mentioned in the "History" section. Section "X" is the IOOF Cemetery. The small "Y" section is for cremated remains. The area north of the loop road is now the private property of the Snoqualmie Tribe and is sacred ground. It should not be entered by visitors.



SPECIAL EVENTS

Easter Sunrise Service

An Easter service is held at the cemetery each year by the Fall City United Methodist Church, established in 1885.

Memorial Day Observations

Local families traditionally go to the cemetery each year before Memorial Day to clean and decorate burial areas. Flags are placed at the graves of all veterans, and white crosses show the location of Civil War veterans (example at right). The Valley VFW conducts a service in memory of all who served. A special monument was erected in 1922, inscribed: "Dedicated to those who answered their country's call."



Cemetery Tours for Elementary School

Following their study of local history each year, students attend a cemetery tour conducted by a Fall City Historical Society member. The children see the graves of many of the earliest settlers in Fall City.



Students look at the grave marker for D. N. "Doc" Taylor, who owned the first store and restaurant in Fall City.



TWO STORIES

From the *Issaquah Independent*, Nov. 18, 1910:

"The high water Friday brought down the body of Fred Best, who was swept over the Falls about a month ago. It has probably been under the Falls until the water washed it out. The body was seen floating by Fall City by several men who notified Deputy Sheriff Kirkpatrick who was out of town, but in about two hours he with three other men had a boat started after the body. It was found by them hung against some snags in the River by Victor Hanson's place three miles from Fall City. Here a team was secured and Ole Haglund conveyed the body to Fall City where it was buried Saturday."

James Wiggle was the last teacher at Patterson Creek School just west of Fall City. In 1916 his wife and infant son Raymond died. His wife had requested that she be buried near water. James slipped onto the construction site for the bridge being built over the Snoqualmie River and put the two urns with their ashes into the gravel filling the concrete arches. In 1980, when the bridge was demolished, the two urns were found and were reburied in the Fall City Cemetery.





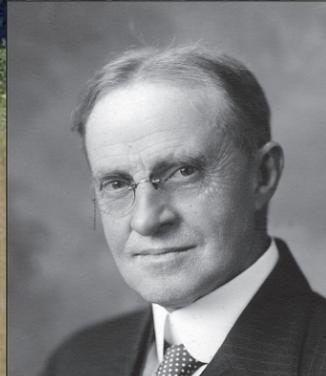
David "Doc" Taylor, his wife Helen, and three children, were the first white family to settle in what became Fall City. He opened the first hotel and restaurant here. The Taylor house built in 1903 still stands on River Street.



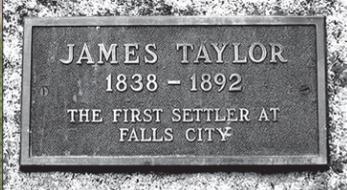
John Janicke was the first Civil War veteran to settle in our area and is one of 17 who are buried here. He and his family moved here in 1875, and he was soon elected Justice of the Peace for Tolt and The Landing (later Fall City).



Elva Bush Polley was born in 1892 to early settlers Jack and Hattie Bush. Growing up among the early families, she became our first historian. She married in 1916 and went to Alaska, but returned in 1922 and spent the rest of her life in Fall City, serving as postmaster here during World War II. For many years she wrote about Fall City for the *Snoqualmie Valley Record*.



Fall City's beloved "Doc" Cheney and his wife settled in town in 1905. He brought people into the world, eased their way out, and played other important roles.



In 1869, James Taylor and the brothers George and Edward Boham were the first to claim land under the Homestead Act in the area called The Landing. The Bohams established a trading post and petitioned for a post office that put us on the map as Fall City. They sold their lands to Jeremiah Borst in 1875 and left the area. Taylor stayed, and his brother David Taylor and family came in 1872.



HANCE AND NANCY MOORE. Hance claimed a homestead at The Landing in 1872; Nancy (Morris) arrived in Tolt in 1875; they married in 1876. They played many roles in the early days. Hance was a justice of the peace and Nancy was a lifelong midwife, working with Doc Cheney.



Jeremiah Borst became the first permanent white settler in the Snoqualmie Valley in 1858 when he staked a claim on 160 acres in the area later known as Meadowbrook. He farmed and established a trading post. In 1886, he and his wife moved to Fall City, and in 1888 were instrumental in platting the town.



As you enter the cemetery grounds, this kiosk provides a map and an index of burial sites by name.