



## FALL CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 293, Fall City, WA 98024

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www.fallcityhistorical.org



# Westward Ho!



**How did pioneers get to Fall City?** In an article in the Valley Record in 1950, W. W. Stephenson chronicles the trek his family and the Parker family took from Kansas to settle in Fall City in 1884.

They set off on a mixed passenger/freight train for San Francisco earning a few dollars tending to the cattle in the other cars. Though the train suffered mechanical issues, they arrived safely in San Francisco.

Boarding the steamer “Queen of the Pacific” the Kansans sailed to Seattle. He reports it was uneventful except for a head-on encounter with a whale. After three days on a rocking sea, they were pleased to take a horse drawn carriage to a hotel. The two-story hotel was “modern” – rawhide bottomed chairs, a tin bucket and wash basin, and nails driven into the walls for clothing.

Here the two families plotted their next move. A hotel man arranged to hire a man with a team and wagon to move them to Leschi. It was a miserable trip with a rough muddy road. When the team got stuck in the mud, they took off their shoes (and sometimes pants) carrying family members across to dry land, then going back and unsticking the horses. Landing at the end of a long day, the mud-covered pioneers paid the \$20 fee (equivalent to about \$600 in today’s dollars) and got ready for the next day.

The steamer they chartered at Leschi nearly swamped with all the people on board. When they arrived at Houghton, they were happy pay the \$15 to be on dry land.

Next stop: Perrigo Farm in Redmond. They went by two wheel/one horse cart. It became obvious, that two men, two women, and five children and their luggage could not all ride in the cart, so they took turns riding and walking all day till they reached Perrigo. Setting up camp there, they cooked on an open fire and slept in the woodshed.

To go the length of Squak Lake (Lake Sammamish) they rented a rowboat which made four trips to get all of them to Squak (Issaquah). The women and children set up camp on the Bush farm while the men walked to Fall City. Mr. Baxter, Orin Baxter’s father, hitched up his team and wagon to fetch the women and children. Well, the team consisted of a horse and an educated mule, Jack. Old Jack didn’t like exerting himself on hills, so everyone had to get out till he cleared the hill. After several of these disembarkations, those who were old enough decided to walk. The group arrived in Fall City on September 19, 1884. Each family set up farming. Between the Parkers and the Stephensons, they had 13 children to populate their new hometown.





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Following up on last year’s cleaning of the Civil War Veterans’ markers at the Fall City Cemetery, this year the society organized volunteers to tackle markers of World War I Veterans. With special cleaner, stiff brushes, and toothbrushes for fine details, the crew attacked the decades of growth and grime. The before and afters were amazing. Special thanks to all the volunteers who took on the grimy task to honor those who served. The cemetery will be looking good for Memorial Day observances in May.



Cleaning Orley Krogh’s stone.

? ? ? ? ? Want to know more about Fall City History? ? ? ? ? ?

Our website is a treasure trove of photos, articles, and objects relating to Fall City History. From the Valley Record, I came across a “What’s happening” column called the Falls City Ripple. There I learned that “George Rutherford came back on the evening train and fell asleep and was carried by to Snoqualmie!” Also, “Mr. S. L. Bailey, the mail carrier, has pulled through his sickness and is able to attend to his business again.” You can find the 1914 blueprints for the Tarr Bridge, a picture of Julia Harshman’s opera cape, and school class pictures going back more than 100 years. To get a sampling of what we’ve collected go to our website, fallcityhistorical.org and search Online Collections – Random Images.

Those Fabulous ‘Fifties



Start scouring your attics and barns for artifacts from the 1950s. We’re doing a display of Fall City from that era and we need your help. What do you have that screams “Fall City in the ‘50s”? — records, pictures, toys, machines, books. There must be great stuff just waiting to see the light of day. If you have something interesting that you would be willing to lend to us for a week, email us at the address in the header. We’re secretly hoping for a turquoise and white ‘57 Chevy hardtop!

Support for our work from King County Heritage 4Culture is gratefully acknowledged.

