

P.O. Box 293, Fall City, WA 98024    [historylives@fallcityhistorical.org](mailto:historylives@fallcityhistorical.org)    [www.fallcityhistorical.org](http://www.fallcityhistorical.org)

## The Sawmill Saga



**Watson Allen Mill**

For years, logging was king in the Snoqualmie Valley, but what happened to the logs after they were cut? A majority went to be cut into lumber by the large mills like the Snoqualmie Falls Lumber Company that later became Weyerhaeuser. For smaller jobs several mills sprang up around the Fall City area. The first known mill was built by Watson Allen on Tokul Creek in 1873. The 1940s found mills built by Fred Grauberger south of the Fall City-Issaquah Road, and Harold Jones and Skip Baldasar both on the Raging River. Lindy MacManiman remembers the Pettijean Brothers running a steam-powered mill near Lake Marie in the 1960s!

Lumber was not the only thing being milled. The abundance of old growth cedar fed a thriving shingle mill industry. The McCann shingle mill, built at the mouth of the Raging River, produced shingles from the early 1900. It burned in 1907. Patterson Creek Mill also produced shingles. George Morton built his shingle mill on SE 328<sup>th</sup> Way in 1934. Morton's mill burned in 1936, but was rebuilt and used until after World War II.



**Morton Shingle Mill**

Many homes and buildings are built from trees felled in the valley and milled locally. Our books *Jack's History of Fall City* and *Preserving the Stories of Fall City* give more detailed accounts of the mills. The books are available for purchase on our website and at *The Lucky Duck Thrift Store*.



### *Visit a Working Sawmill!*

**Saturday, August 21<sup>st</sup> from 3:30-4:30**

Duane Isackson will talk about his 1936 mill and give a demonstration. **This is a great family event!**

Head west on Hwy 202 toward Redmond to the traffic light at NE 244<sup>th</sup>. Turn left on SE 244<sup>th</sup>. The mill will be visible from the road on the right side. Check our website for more details.



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





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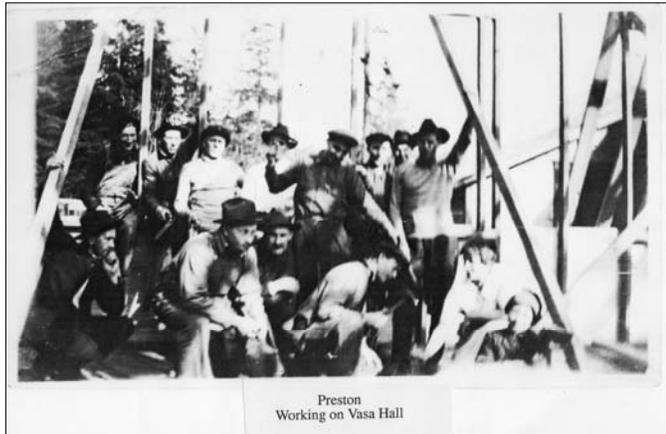
## EFFORTS UNDERWAY TO PRESERVE PRESTON VASA HALL

Nestled in Upper Preston is a community treasure which has served generations of families in preserving their Swedish traditions of foods, music, dance, and community. From the beginnings of the local logging industry, the Swedish immigrants of Upper Preston have had a community space where they came together to share in celebrations, challenges, and their daily lives.



**VASA Hall, Today. Source: Bonnie Eibert**

In 1949, some years after a fire destroyed their first building, the current hall was purchased from the Snoqualmie Lumber Company, and it was dismantled, transported, and re-assembled at its current location, board by board.



Preston Working on Vasa Hall

**Jan. 1949, VASA members rebuilding the Hall in Preston Source: Bonnie Eibert**

From then, it has served continuously as a community space where the Lodge members host bi-annual Meatball Dinners, as well as many other events. Just this past June, Lodge members were busy making "tunnbröd" (thin bread) that was sold at Midsummer Celebration at VASA Park. The members use recipes and even kitchen tools that have been passed down through the generations.

Stay tuned for news of this year's Meatball Dinner, to be held this Fall. In addition, VASA Hall is available to the public to rent.

## YOU CAN HELP PRESERVE VASA HALL

Interested in seeing this community treasure be preserved? Community members and organizations are invited to write a letter of support of the Lodge's efforts in applying for King County Landmark status, ensuring long-term preservation of their Swedish cultural and logging history. Please contact Bonnie Eiber at [skogsblomman378@outlook.com](mailto:skogsblomman378@outlook.com) for details and a template.