

FALL CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

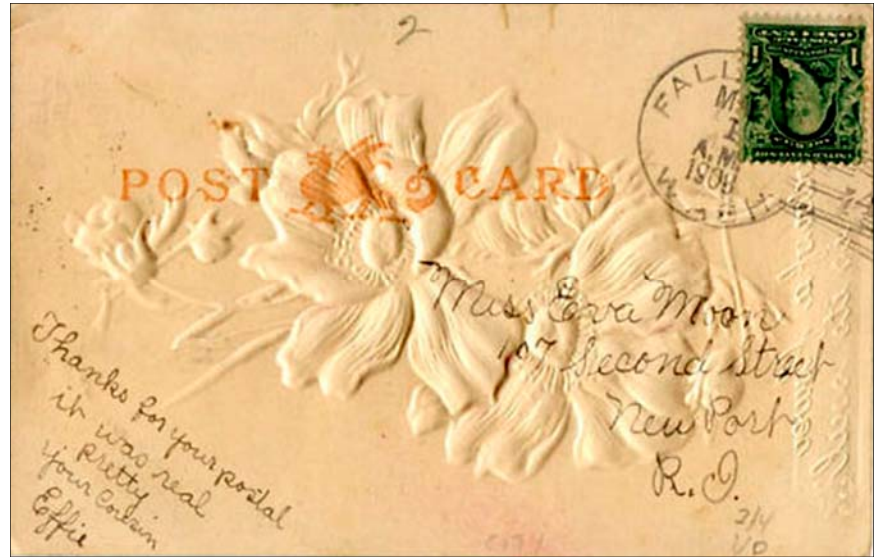
fallcityhistorical@juno.com

www.fallcityhistorical.org

Text messages

from years gone by...

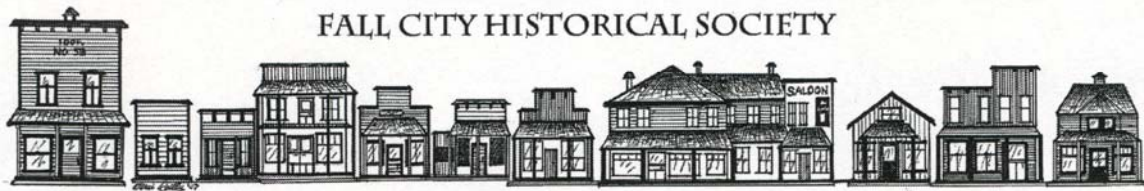
In the early 1900s, roads and bridges were in, but of poor quality especially in the winter months. It was difficult for folks to get together with family over the mid-winter holidays, even if they were not many miles away. Telephones were not available to most families. But daily mail delivery was widespread. A penny postcard and penny stamp would get your message to friends and family.



The fancy embossed postcard shown above was sent from Fall City in 1908, possibly by Effie Howe, who came to Fall City with her husband John and family that year. This was a way to touch bases with the family they had left behind.



This “Great War” postcard, with a design embroidered on silk in a cardboard frame, was sent during World War I by Perry Burns, “With best wishes and love from France,” to his sister Clara Burns in Fall City.



FALL CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

fallcityhistorical@juno.com

www.fallcityhistorical.org

Ancient forests “by the numbers”

The Darius Kinsey photo below, taken in 1902, is rare in that it is labelled with information about the scene. Many photos exist showing very old fallen cedar logs being cut for shingle bolts...a testimony to the incredible resistance of cedar to the forces of weather and rot which break down other types of trees when they die, especially if lying on the ground.

To really appreciate the story being told here, one can use Kinsey’s “average number rings to inch, twenty-three” to calculate the age of the trees: one-half the diameter of the tree multiplied by twelve and then by twenty-three gives an approximate number of years the tree lived before being fallen. The five and one-half foot fallen cedar log would be almost 760 years old when it fell. After that, it acted as a “nurse log” for other seedlings, which grew and were logged to leave the large stumps shown. The largest stump is said to be ten and one-half feet in diameter. At 23 rings per inch, that comes to about 1450 years... so the cedar log has been on the forest floor at least that long. Amazing.



Courtesy of Whatcom Museum, Bellingham

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