

FALL CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

historylives@fallcityhistorical.orgwww.fallcityhistorical.org

2020 Vision: Focus on Farming

Over the years, farming has been an important part of life in Fall City. And as a livelihood, farming has seldom gotten the respect that it deserves or been documented as thoroughly as many other occupations. We'd like to try to gather more stories and photos of farming during the coming year.

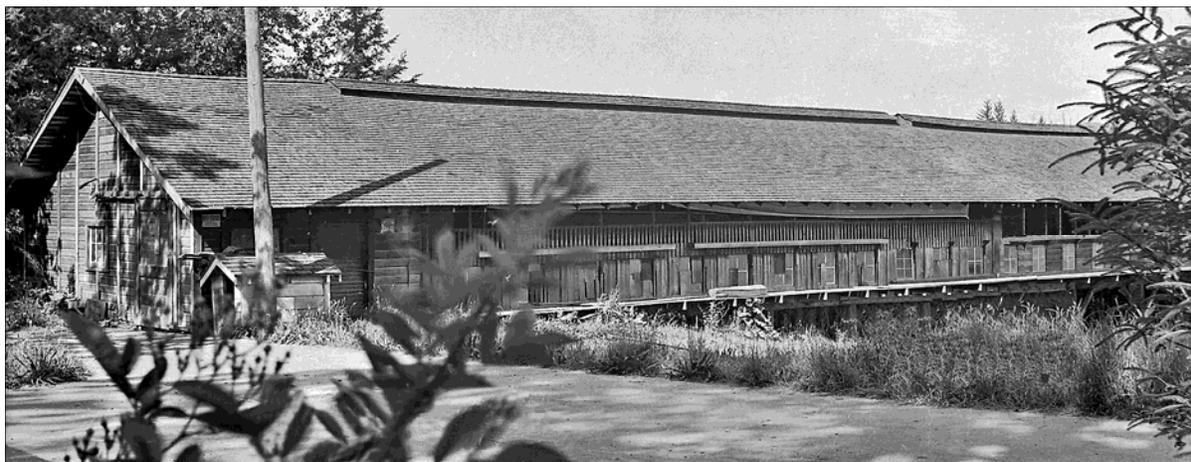


Anton and Mary Johnson,
with sunflowers grown for silage.

Can you help? If you or your family or neighbors currently farm or have in earlier years, would you please get in touch with us? We'd love to add your stories and photographs to the Fall City Archives. You can reach us by sending a note to PO Box 293 in Fall City, by emailing historylives@fallcityhistorical.org, or by calling 206-999-2022 to make an appointment to visit.

Condensed from the "Chicken Industry" article in the April 7, 1920 issue of the *Fall City Spirit*:

In the last few years the chicken industry has greatly increased in the valley. Mr Totten, who is our best known chicken farmer, has near 850 chickens and is getting about 400 eggs a day. He calculates that the total cost of feeding the chickens for a day is \$7.80. They receive an average of \$11.80 a day from egg sales. So he clears about \$4 a day.



Claude Hoover built this 50-nest, 2160-square-foot chicken house in 1921. Photo 1940.

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



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Letters... a lost art?

Donna Driver-Kummen

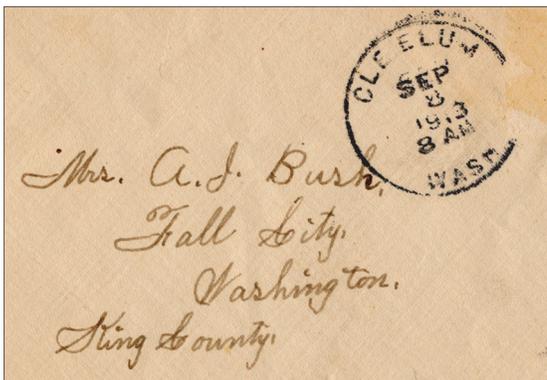
Have you ever stumbled on an old pack of letters tied in a ribbon or maybe opened a cigar box to find correspondence from a long lost relative? Letters from the past offer unique insights into life that enrich our history beyond dates and news articles. There are the wonderful discoveries of our parents' love letters to each other or letters your mom kept that you wrote from camp.



Not so long ago, people wrote letters routinely. If your friends and relatives lived far enough away to require a long-distance phone call, a weekly letter would supply the update on the week's activity. Parents wrote to offer encouragement to their kids away at college for the first time. Pen pals shared the details of life across distances. Some of the most poignant letters come from military personnel. Their first-hand reports give us heart-wrenching accounts of the events they witnessed.

Writing letters was an artform. The type of stationery one used said a lot about your station in life. If you had a monogram on fine vellum, you were certainly upper crust – or trying to appear so. Fountain pens with colored ink further defined your style. Of course, fine penmanship was a requirement. Envelopes might be sprayed with a special scent or have a secret message such as XOXOXO or SWAK. Hand writing a letter allowed the slow development of thoughts. Once written, letters had to be stuffed, addressed, stamped and mailed. Plenty of time to reconsider a rash action. When the mail was more than bills and junk mail, people used to go to the mailbox in anticipation. Was there a reply to my invitation, a recipe from Aunt Margaret, or news from the front? Later, when the typewriter saved those of us with difficult handwriting, the content could still be rich and personal.

So, now we text, email, Instagram, facebook, Snap Chat and send other instant means of communication. In some ways we communicate more, but this seems a "quantity/quality" issue. What will we be leaving our children to discover in the attic? And how can we capture these personal accounts for historical record?



Please consider sharing letters with us...

As part of our archives, we would like to include first person accounts of local life and history. If you have letters that you would share, we can scan them and return the originals to you.

Send us a letter...

or email us at historylives@fallcityhistorical.org.