



## FALL CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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*Especially heartfelt thanks  
to all who sent in donations this year.*

It is a difficult time for all of us in a variety of ways, which means your kind donations are particularly appreciated.

*Thank you.*

## Fall City Hop Shed...a brief history

The unusual wooden building across the river in Fall City Community Park is the only structure remaining in King County from the “Hops Craze” - an agricultural boom in the late 1880s through early 1900s. It was built in 1888 by George Davis Rutherford, near a landing on the Snoqualmie River a short distance upstream from Fall City. (Early hop harvests were shipped by steamboat.) When the hops-growing boom collapsed, a shortened portion of the building (see right) was sold to Jack Bush and moved to its current location in 1904. Before King County later purchased the land for a park, the building was assessed by King County Preservation and declared an Historic Site, not to be torn down. In 1982, it received Landmark status. In 1991, the Fall City Hop Shed Foundation was formed to see if it could be restored and preserved. The Foundation commissioned a study by Greg Watson, to provide detailed history and recommendations for restoration. The study was completed in 1995. Based on this document, a grant was received from King County Preservation to cover the cost of two years extensive restoration work...and an incredible project began! (We’ll have links to more details later for those interested.) In 1997, an Open House was held at the restored Hop Shed to celebrate a successful restoration to a structure closer to its original design.



Hop Shed c1972  
(Snoq. Valley Hist. Museum)



After almost 20 years, signs of serious deterioration again were evident. Fall City Historical received a grant to fund a detailed assessment of the building, completed in 2016. In 2017, a grant request was submitted to carry out some of the stabilization and preservation recommendations in the Assessment, but only funds for preservation and waterproofing treatment were received. In 2019 a grant request was again made to fund stabilization measures, but it was not funded. Part of the problem is, understandably, that King County Preservation does not want to bear all the cost for this needed maintenance. So we are in the process of talking more with them, exploring other options, and trying to gather some funding locally. *Stay tuned!*

Hop Shed, 2016

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**FALLS CITY RIPPLE.**

Special Correspondence

David Thomas, who was one of the very first settlers in this section of King county, is dead. He was a typical pioneer and has left a beautiful farm and home for his five surviving children. He died Wednesday. The funeral will take place Friday, when the body will be laid to rest in the local cemetery beside his wife, who died about one year ago.

The deceased was a man of sterling worth, and his demise is regretted by many friends.

VENUS.

## Fall City Obituaries...707 of them!

One of the resources available through our website and at the office is our collection of Fall City obituaries. The earliest one is from 1896, for Louisa Huffman. Next in line is the David Thomas 1900 obituary, shown at left. (It is from an unknown early newspaper; we know the date from his grave marker.)

Judy Kelley gave the collection a major kickoff by donating three large notebooks of obituaries she had collected ...345 in all. We have added 66 from our archives, 149 collected and scanned, and a listing of 147 Valley Record obituaries which are available from Snoqualmie Valley Historical Museum. As is seen in the obituaries at left and below, these important articles often give us a brief summary of the decedent's life and important information about the remaining family.

### ORIN BAXTER, VALLEY PIONEER, DIES SATURDAY

Orin Baxter, pioneer Snoqualmie valley resident, passed away Saturday, Feb. 19, at Nelems Memorial hospital following an extended illness. Masonic services were held at 2 p.m. Feb. 23 in the Masonic hall at Fall City where he had served his lodge as tyler for many years.

Mr. Baxter was born in Iowa on June 16, 1867, and came to the valley in 1875. He made his home near Fall City on a farm which he had operated during most of his adult life.

He was a member for 60 years and a past noble grand of Fall City Lodge 59, I.O.O.F., and was a member of Lone Star Rebekah lodge 141. He held membership in Palm Chapter 155, O.E.S.; Fall City chapter 54, Royal Arch Masons; and was a past master of Fall City Lodge 66, F. & A. M. Surviving are four daughters. Mrs. W. C. Hibbs of Monroe, Ore., Mrs. Eva Reed of Fall City, Mrs. Earl Totten of Port Angeles and Mrs. Margaret McLaughlin of Longview; one son, Hugh Baxter of Fall City; 20 grand children and 26 great grandchildren.

Interment was in Fall City cemetery beside his wife, Violet, who passed away in May, 1946. Funeral arrangements were in charge of Issaquah Funeral Home. Feb. 24/49

#### THE ISSAQUAH INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

**WILLIAM CARMICHAEL DIES (1908)** *William Carmichael of Patter-son Creek died about 9:45 Wednesday evening after an illness of about two weeks. The funeral occurs today at the residence at two o'clock Rev. Eisenmenger officiating, interment taking place at Fall City.*

*Deceased was aged about seventy years and leaves a wife and eleven grown children. Mr. Carmichael and family settled in this region about fifteen years ago coming from Maryland. He was a highly respected member of the community and the bereaved family has the sympathy of a large circle of friends.*

**AGED PIONEER PASSES (July 15, 1910)** *Robert H. Reed died at the family homestead near Fall City July 12<sup>th</sup> of heart failure after an illness of about six months. The funeral took place yesterday at 2:30 p.m. from the M. E. church of Fall City where Rev. Owens of Issaquah officiated. Internment was made in the Fall City cemetery. Mr. Reed who was born in Pennsylvania July 16<sup>th</sup>, 1839, was among the earliest pioneers in the Snoqualmie Valley having settled there in 1875 and was for a time a resi-dent of Issaquah some twenty-two years ago. He leaves two sons and two daughters to mourn his departure.*

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