

WILLIAM PIERCE BONNEY.

E.T. Short, "Will Bonney and the Small pox epidemic," The Tacoma Times. After many years.

William P. Bonney had a drugstore on Pacific Avenue, opposite Eighth Street, and in a tiny rear room he fumigated the inhabitants. He cut a hole in a door, through which the patron breathed while the room was filled with the fumes of burning sulphur. For this operation a charge of 25 cents was made, and many persons took advantage of the low price.

Mr. Bonney also sold a little tin box filled with carbolic crystals, to be carried about in the pocket as a guard against contagion. Carbolic acid baths were taken by some persons two and three times daily. The old steamer Alida was used as a pesthouse.

Small pox was brought to Tacoma by the family of John Thanan, who lived on Pacific Avenue at about Tenth Street. His father-in-law died and his four children were very ill. Thanan was a waiter at the Halstead House, and there was a great commotion among the guests there when it was found that he had the disease. The proprietor sought to allay the fear by inserting in the newspapers an advertisement denouncing those who had started the report of a case of smallpox in the hotel.

In the summer of '82 Mr. Bonney moved his store to what is now 936 Pacific Avenue, and was ridiculed by many of his acquaintances for going so "far back in the woods." Five steps led to the front door of his store. Many of the stores were perched high. Some were on a level with the walks, while others were below. The walks themselves were not level. The pedestrian must have a care where he stepped; night travel was precarious, and not safe without a lantern.

E.T. Short, "Will Bonney and the small pox epidemic," The Tacoma Times.

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Most of the beer "parlors" would shame the old saloon. Scenes enacted in some of the "parlors" a few nights ago would not have been tolerated by the saloon keeper of 30 and 40 years ago, and if he had, the policeman on the beat would have interfered.

George Miller says it's going to rain. After the first hot day his wife made him get out the lawn swing and put it up. That's always a sure sign. The day after he put it up last year the rain started and lasted for a month.

It's a peaceful spot now, comparatively, but when the Tacoma city council came into being 50 years ago, the present site of The Times' building was a center around which raged one of the bitterest controversies of that period. It all started when Harry Morgan, representing the liberal element in the city, neglected to observe all the formalities prescribed in the city ordinances relating to the sale of liquor.

One of the places operated by Morgan was on the council blacklist. When he attempted to open the Eureka saloon, which subsequently **was** the Board of Trade and Theater Comique, on the present Times site, the conservative element was able to muster sufficient votes to prevent the issuance of the license. When Morgan found that he had a fight on his hands, he met the enemy head on, and in defiance of the council action opened the Eureka without a license.

Naturally, the city marshal was compelled to act and Morgan was arrested. That started a row in the community and the Morgans made another attempt to influence the council to issue a license. They threatened mandamus proceedings, pointed out that closing Morgan's place would work a hardship on his employes, and made a lot of other appeals such as we would hear today in a similar case.

About the only thing in that line they didn't do was to urge the council to issue the license to "help the president," using more discretion than did a popular movie star recently when she broadcasted a beer appeal, urging everybody to "buy a glass of beer and help the president!"

AND BONNEY SNITLED

After a few weeks the fight so embroiled the council that there was some sentiment for a compromise. Morgan really wasn't a bad sort of a fellow, personally, though his place had a bad reputation, and **some** of his influential friends undertook to bring about a cessation of hostilities.

They would have been successful, too, had it not been for W.P. Bonney, only surviving member of the first Tacoma council. Bonney in these days had that same genial smile that hasn't come off in more than 50 years, but he also had that same determined line around the jaw, and that was were the Morgan compromise was wrecked.

Bonney had made up his mind that Tacoma didn't need the Morgan saloon and he couldn't be budged and without him the votes of his friends in the council couldn't be changed.

So the fight went on and on. There was a beaten path between Morgan's office and the police court, where he was periodically fined for operating a saloon without a license. Then Bonney's term expired, and at the first meeting of the new council Morgan got his license! But Bonney still wore his smile!

E.T. Short, "Will Bonney and the Saloons," The Tacoma Times. After many years.

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WILLIAM P. BONNEY

E. T. Short, "William P. Bonney and the Naches Pass Trail," The Tacoma Times.

This is written on historic ground at the conclusion of a week's celebration put on by the city of Walla Walla in commemoration of the establishment of the Marcus Whitman mission here 100 years ago.

The celebration also marked the beginning of a revival of interest in making the Oregon trail a great national highway, one branch of which came through the Yakima valley, up the Naches river to Naches pass in the Cascade mountains, and then down the water courses by the shortest route, ending near the site where Tacoma was to be established 20 years later.

Background for the close-up of a historic project was the ride over Naches pass about sun-up with Will Bonney, secretary of the Washington State Historical society, and Charles Ross of Pullman.

Bonney was born in a stockade at Steilacoom just about the time of the Indian uprising in 18SS- Charlie Ross was born in the box of a covered wagon on the Oregon trail at the summit of the Blue mountains in 1851. The train of 65 wagons was delayed an entire day when Charlie made his advent into this world.

As the car sped along over smooth highways, past the site of the first settlement at Sumner, over Elhi hill along the White River trail to Buckley, then to the plateau at Enumclaw and over the Naches highway to the summit of the Cascades at 40 miles an hour.

These two old timers commented on the great changes that have taken place since the first wagon trail came over the trail. About seven hours after we picked up Charlie Ross on the Puyallup highway just before dawn, we were at Walla Walla.

The first wagon train over Naches was about a month covering the same distance. On the way up to the pass the train was in the Naches river 68 times, crossing 6S times and coming out on the same side three times. So much for the transportation advantages which the present generation enjoys.

The last day's program of the Whitman centennial was in charge of the Oregon Trail Memorial association. This is the organization started when Ezra Meeker left his home in Puyallup nearly 25 years ago and with his ox team and covered wagon to retrace and mark the old trail. The last years of his life were devoted to impressing upon the nation the part played by the trail in bringing settlers to Puget Sound.

As Meeker neared the end of his days, he began to look about for some one to carry on the work he had started. One day he came into the historical building in Tacoma and said to his friend, Will Bonney:

"Will, I believe I have found the man to carry on the Oregon trail work."

He then introduced Howard D. Driggs, then in the history department of the University of Utah, Salt Lake. To make a long story short, Dr. Driggs took the job and has carried on where Ezra Meeker stopped when he was stricken on his last journey over the trail.

Dr. Driggs came to Walla Walla from the trail Headquarters in New York to tell the folks of the Northwest that the work is going on.

He was accompanied by Maj. Arthur W. Proctor, treasurer of the association. Representatives from seven state trail associations included W. P. Bonney of Tacoma. The group agreed that having gone this far the activities of the association must be continued until the old trail becomes a great pulic highway spanning the country from Atlantic to Pacific.

Where the old Oregon trail reached the confluence of the Snake and Columbia rivers, it divided. One branch went down the Columbia river toward the Willamette. The other turned toward the northwest and reached Puget Sound over Naches Pass.

And here is something that should interest Tacoma:

Down in Oregon there are a lot of folks greatly interested in completion of the Columbia river branch of the trail to a terminus in Portland. They realize not only the sentimental value but also the great practical value of such a highway. If the old trail is opened along the river, that will, in a measure, fulfill one of the chief objectives of the memorial association and there will not be much national backing for the Naches pass route.

Besides the historic and sentimental significance of the Naches trail, the route over which the first wagons traveled to Puget Sound is the shortest and most direct route between Tacoma and the great -agricultural and trading area in Eastern Washington, including the Columbia basin.

If Tacoma is interested in annexing this great territory by way of the Naches trail, some highly effective support could be obtained through the national association. Right now it's a take-it-or-leave-it proposition. If Tacoma isn't interested, Portland is.

E.T. Short, "William P. Bonney and the Naches Pass Trail," The Tacoma Times.

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AFTER MANY YEARS

WILLIAM P. BONNEY.

When Lee Monohan told the story the other day about the injury to his foot which sent him from the 1879 surveying crew to the camp cook shack he didn't tell the entire story. Instead of a "minor injury" it was a serious injury caused by a sharp ax which almost cut off part of his foot.

That was before the days of state laws which require employers to provide first aid equipment. When a workman sustained a serious injury it was just too bad. That was the case with Monohan. The foot was crudely wrapped to stop the bleeding and Will(W. P.

Bonney), the camp dispatch rider, was sent to Tacoma for Dr. F. B. Wing.

Going for a doctor in those days wasn't as simple as it sounds. The road from the survey camp in the Cascades to Tacoma went through a lot of rough country. With seven horses relayed along the route, Bonney could make the trip one way in a little less than 48 hours. Because of Monohan's serious condition he made a little better time on this particular occasion.

Bonney brought an extra horse, accustomed to mountain trails, for Dr. Wing, but he wouldn't have it. "If I'm going up to that camp I'll ride my own horse," said the doctor. "He knows me and I know him. I wouldn't feel safe on a strange horse."

That ride, with Bonney and his trail horse in the lead, was a new experience for both the doctor and his horse. They covered some pretty tough roads in daylight and dark, in stormy weather and fair, but that mountain trail was something new.

Part of the trail wound around the edge of a steep, rocky ascent with a rough wall one side and hundreds of feet of space on the other. As they came to it, Dr. Wing pulled up his horse and dismounted but Bonney kept on going.

"Bonney! Bonney!" shouted the doctor. "Get off and lead your horse--if he stumbles, you'll go over the cliff and be killed!" "Better stay on your horse," Bonney called back. "He's got better feet for climbing than you have."

With fear and trembling Dr. Wing took Bonney's advice and they finally arrived at the camp.

Monohan's injury proved to be serious. Dr. Wing was obliged to stay there several days. He put in part of the time fishing. On one of his fishing trips he took one of the crew with him and camped overnight. Just before they left that morning they put a kettle of beans over the fire to be cooking while they were gone.

When they came back they found a bear with his head in the bean kettle. Their shout startled the animal and as he jumped the bale of the kettle caught over his head and he galloped into the brush with the kettle hanging around his neck. Dr. Wing and his man tried to follow but the bear was too swift. They lost their beans and the camp lost a good kettle.

As Bonney remembers, bears were a serious menace to the camp commissary. Every night they would get away with a side of bacon or a sack of dried fruit. A member of the crew named Yorke claimed to be a bear hunter, and Virgil Bogue, chief engineer, told Bonney to bring up a rifle for him the next time he went to town.

In due time Bonney was back with the rifle and Bogue told Yorke to take it and stand guard in the cook tent that night. Yorke's intentions were good but he got sleepy and laid down, leaving the rifle standing against the tent wall farthest from him.

That was a fatal mistake. Yorke was a sound sleeper, and when he opened his eyes in the morning there sat Mr. Bear between him and the rifle, ripping open a sack of dried peaches.

One look was enough. Yorke, the bear hunter, broke through the back wall of the tent and ran to Bogue's tent shouting:

"Mr. Bogue! Mr. Bogue! The bear's got the gun."

The camp reconnoitered but there wasn't anything to be done about it. There wasn't another gun in camp, so the boys stood around and watched the bear eat their peaches. When he had enough he ambled out of the tent and before anybody could reach the gun the animal had disappeared in the brushes.

The next night the cook, who wouldn't know anything about hunting bears, stood guard. The boys had bear meat for dinner the next day.

Yorke was kidded so much about letting the bear steal his gun that he left the camp.

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Whenever Tacoma has an unusual experience there is sure to be a period of several days when the telephone line to the State Historical building is extremely busy. From far and near the folks will be calling W.P. Bonney to ask if he remembers anything like it. That's what has been happening this week. A lot of people want to know when, if ever, Tacoma experienced a storm

comparable to the big blow of last Sunday.

As Bonney's memory is pretty good concerning events of the last 70 years, he usually is able to answer the question. And if it was something antedating the period reached by his memory, he knows, as a rule, where to look for the information.

Windstorms such as we experienced last Sunday are rare on Puget Sound but Mr. Bonney remembers one occasion when the same sort of a blow visited this section. It happened in January or February, 1881.

High winds blew down millions of feet of line timber all along the North Pacific coast. Torrential rains caused landslides and washed our part of the Northern Pacific yards along what is now the "Halfmoon." He remembers the occasion very clearly because the storm gave him a job driving several parties to Olympia to settle a contest over a land claim up the valley.

It seemed that a couple of the Woolery boys, Dan and Jasper, and, Tan Wilson had filed on the same homestead. Each claimant thought the other was wrong, and the only way to settle the dispute was to thresh it out at the land office in Olympia.

SOUND BOATS FORCED OUT OF BUSINESS

The contestants arrived in Tacoma the one morning during the severe blow expecting to go to Olympia by boat the storm had sent every vessel on the sound scurrying for shelter. The wind was too strong to make navigation of the upsound channels safe, especially for the Olympia boat, "Messenger," which was notoriously cranky" in a sea.

The contestants had to be in Olympia for the hearing, boat or no-boat, so they began to skirmish around for other transportation.

At that time young will Bonney had a good team and wagon and was doing general hauling while waiting for something else to turn up. Business wasn't very brisk that day and when the Woolery boys told him their predicament he made a deal to haul them to Olympia.

They left "New Tacoma" in the middle of the forenoon and just outside town found the road blocked by fallen trees. Between here and what is now South Tacoma they had to unhitch the horses a dozen times and lift the wagon over logs two and three feet thick. By the time they got out onto the prairie the wind had again become a gale and kept blowing the wagon up against the horses.

They reached Olympia that night and spent the next day at the land hearing. The third was spent getting back to Tacoma.

That blow, which lasted three or four days, was one of the few bad storms which have come from the east. It did little damage in Tacoma because there wasn't much here, but the loss in standing timber and shipping on the coast ran into millions.

A few months later when Mr. Bonney went to work for the Northern Pacific as dispatch rider, he found a straight swath of fallen timber on the mountain side where the wind had swooped over the crest down the west side.

As a rule the heavy winds over the Puget Sound region come from the Southwest or Northwest, but the blow of 1881 seemed to be one of the freaks which go contrary to all meteorological theories and precedents.

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WILLIAM PIERCE BONNEY

William P. Bonney. History of Pierce County, Washington Chicago: Pioneer Historical Publishing Company, 1927

William Pierce Bonney, an honored native son of Pierce county and one of Tacoma's most highly esteemed citizens, has served as secretary of the Washington State Historical Society during the past decade and is also curator of the Ferry Museum. His birth occurred in Steilacoom, Washington, on the 24th of April, 1856, and thus he has passed the seventy-first milestone on life's journey. His parents, Sherwood and Lydia Ann (Wright) Bonney, crossed the plains with ox teams in 1852, becoming early pioneer residents of the northwest.

Mrs. Bonney taught school in Steilacoom in 1854. Sherwood Bonney was justice of the peace for Pierce county that year and as such performed the marriage ceremony for many of the pioneer couples.

In tracing back the ancestry it is learned that Thomas Bonney was the progenitor of the family in the new world. He was born in Dover, England, in 1604, wedded Mary Hunt and in 1634 or 1635 they crossed the Atlantic on the Hercules.

During the long years of his residence in Tacoma, Mr. Bonney has been actively identified with its Public interests and in 1884 and 1885 served as a member of the city Council. He has served as chairman on the board of curators of the Washington State Historical Society and has been its secretary for the past ten

Years or more. He has been an interested witness of the progress and development of Pierce county from pioneer times to the present, and in the historical portion of this work has given to present and future generations a splendid record of advancement.

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WILLIAM PIERCE BONNEY

Lancaster Pollard. A history of the State of Washington New York: American Historical Society, 1937., IV, p. 518.

A well-known figure in Tacoma business life for many years, William Pierce Bonney, since his retirement, has devoted his principal attention to his various civic and scholarly interests. He is now secretary of the Washington State Historical Society and curator of the Ferry Museum at Tacoma.

Mr. Bonney was born in Steilacoom, Pierce County, on April 24, 1856, a son of Sherwood and Lydia Ann (Wright) Bonney and a descendant of an old Colonial family. The American progenitor was Thomas Bonney, born at Dover, England, in 1604, married Mary Hunt and in 1634-35 crossed the Atlantic on the ship "Hercules."

Their son, Thomas, married Dorcas Samson, and from him the line of descent is traced through John Bonney, who married Elizabeth Bishop; Perez Bonney, who married Ruth Snow; Titus Bonney, who married Anna Pierce; John Bonney, who married Orilla Sherwood; and Sherwood Bonney, father of William Pierce Bonney, who married Lydia Ann Wright.

Sherwood and Lydia Ann (Wright) Bonney were pioneer Washington settlers, crossing the plains by ox-cart in 1852. In 1854, the mother became the teacher of the Steilacoom public school and in the same year the father was chosen justice of the peace for Pierce County, in which capacity he married many pioneer couples of the district.

William Pierce Bonney was educated in the public schools and at the age of twelve entered the employ of Gardner and Kellogg, early pharmacists at Seattle, with whom he learned the drug business, and in July, 1881, having reached his twenty-fifth year, established an independent business at Tacoma in partnership with L. E. Samson.

This enterprise, under the name of Samson and Bonney, grew to large proportions with the development of the city, and at the time of his retirement Mr. Bonney was not only one of the oldest Tacoma druggists but one of the best known business men in the

municipality.

In 1884-85 Mr. Bonney served as a member of the Tacoma City Council, and while this is the only public office he ever held he has been active in many civic enterprises and in the support of various Tacoma institutions. He has found his present duties as curator of the Ferry Museum highly congenial and has administered them with fidelity and distinction.

His interest in the Washington State Historical Society also dates back many years. He first became secretary of the organization in 1915 and subsequently assumed additional responsibilities in its work as curator. His services constitute a real contribution to its development.

On August 17, 1882, at Olympia, William Pierce Bonney married Eva Bigelow, daughter of Daniel R. Bigelow and Ann Elizabeth (White) Bigelow, who crossed the plains to the Washington Territory in 1851. Mr. and Mrs. Bonney became the parents of four children: i. Zaidee Elizabeth, now a teacher in the Washington schools. 2. Ruth, deceased. 3. Victor Bigelow, a chemist associated with the Good Food and Drug Laboratories in Washington, District of Columbia. He married Rose Cook. 4. William Sherwood, deceased.

Lancaster Pollard. A history of the State of Washington New York: American Historical Society, 1937., IV, p. 518.

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WILLIAM PIERCE BONNEY.

Herbert Hunt. Washington West of the Cascades. Chicago: S. J. Clarke Company, 1917., III, p. 238-239.

William Pierce Bonney, widely known as one of the pioneers of Washington, is the secretary of the State Historical Society and has a very wide acquaintance among the early settlers as well as later arrivals in Washington. His present business connection is that of manager of the Hesperian Chemical Association, a manufacturing concern making and selling family remedies. This was preceded by several years experience in the drug business.

Mr. Bonney was born at Steilacoom, Pierce county, Washington, April, 24, 1856. He traces his ancestry back to Thomas Bonney, who was born in Dover, England, in 1604, and in 1634 or 1635 wedded Miss Mary Hunt. They crossed the Atlantic on the Hercules, becoming the founders of the family in the new world.

Their son, Thomas Bonney, Married Dorcas Sampson, and the line of descent is traced down through John Bonney, who married Elizabeth Bishop; Perez, who married Ruth Snow; Titus Bonney, who married Anna Pierce; John Bonney, who married Orilla Sherwood; and Sherwood Bonney, who married Lydia Ann Wright.

The last couple became the parents of William Pierce Bonney of his review. The father was born in Cornwall, Connecticut, February 28, 1812, and in 1852 he crossed the plains with his family making the journey with ox-teams. Sherwood Bonney was the first man elected to the office of justice of the peace in Pierce county, Washington, and as such performed many marriage ceremonies for the pioneers.

Mrs. Bonney was the first school teacher of Pierce county, teaching in Steilacoom in July August and September of 1854. William Pierce Bonney acquired a common school education and in 1868 secured a position in the drug store of Gardner Kellogg of Seattle. He was afterward employed by various other drug houses until 1881 when he entered into partnership with L. E. Sampson, under the firm name of Sampson & Bonney and purchased a drug store in Tacoma, where he continued active in the retail drug business for eleven years, or until 1892.

He then became a member of the Hesperian Chemical Association, engaging in the manufacture and sale of family remedies, and has continued active in the business for a quarter of a century.

On the 17th of August, 1882, in Olympia, Mr. Bonney was married to Miss Eva Bigelow, a daughter of Daniel and Elizabeth Bigelow. Her father crossed the plains in 1851 and from Portland, Oregon, made his way to Olympia, on the schooner Exact, reaching his destination on the 15th of November.

On the 4th of July, of the following year he was chosen orator of the day and during his address he advocated the separation of the northern portion of Oregon into a new territory. The idea took immediate root and steps were taken for calling a convention at Monticello, where resolutions were adopted asking Congress to organize a new territory.

He was thus active in the forming of the present state. His daughter who became Mrs. Bonney was a teacher for eight years in various districts in western Washington. By her marriage she has become the mother of four children: Zaidee Elizabeth, a teacher in the home economics department of the Stadium high school, Tacoma; Ruth L., who died when five years of age; Victor Bigelow, a chemist in the government employ at San Francisco with the bureau of standards; and William Sherwood, who died in early life.

In politics Mr. Bonney is a republican; he served as councilman from the second ward of Tacoma in 1884-5. His military experience covers service as hospital steward of the Cavalry

Battalion of the national guard, of Washington, from 1890-94. In 1905 he joined the Washington State Historical Society and in 1906 was elected a member of the board of curators.

The following year he was made chairman of the board to which position he was reelected every year until 1915 when he was elected secretary. Three score years of residence in this commonwealth have made Mr. Bonney familiar with much of the history of the state and a well known and popular official of the Historical Society.

Herbert Hunt. Washington West of the Cascades. Chicago: S. J. Clarke Company, 1917., III, p. 238-239.

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