

The Late 19th Century



This is a valentine from 1872, February 14th. Written to "mother".

one day in a fine time.
II.
4¼ acres in valley close to Kent;
fine soil, good road; 4-room house,
bath, hydrant water, lights, ga-
rage; 163 full bearing pie cherries,
acre raspberries, strawberries, tree
fruit for family; 2 chicken houses
for 700 hens, one new; 400 young
hens; \$600 Utility walking tractor,
implements, tools. Finest little
going place in the valley. Can be
bought cheap. Bargain.
III.
5 acres cleared

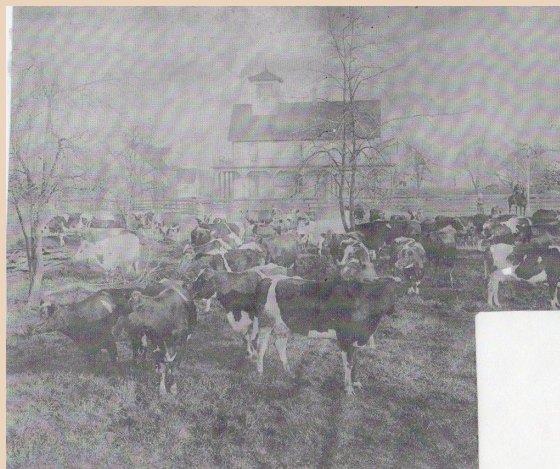


We had a lovely Swedish family Bible donated to us. There are many clippings and notes as well as this photo. We are still working on identifying the family, although a note from the donor indicated she thinks they were "valley people".

The Bible was printed in 1878 and there is a obituary inside dated June 23, 1899 for a Gustaf Wadlemar.

One of the clippings inside is an ad for a property in the Kent Valley.

Pioneer Thomas Alvord built his home in the 1880's. It was located at 78th Ave S. The faint photo, if you look close, is all of his cows in front of the house!



inventions, capitalistic businesses, farming skills, volunteer activities and social values. His leadership skills left their indelible influence throughout the White River Valley from the mid-1800s to the present.

As an agriculturalist, Alvord raised potatoes, onions, wheat, oats, cabbage, turnips, carrots, peas, hay, barley, rice, apples, pears, plums and livestock. He discovered that milk would keep cool by anchoring milk cans onto floats in the Green River.

Alvord leased a threshing machine to other farmers, even as far away as Centralia. He built a landing dock (Alvord's Landing) at his farm where goods and groceries were transported around Puget Sound. The valley's first warehouse was built on his dock to protect commodities. Because the steamboats and scows increased commerce, Alvord built more sheds, barns, silos and warehouses.

LOOKING BACK

of the first recorded sermon in the White River Valley. The road is now 78th Avenue South.

Alvord installed ethnic social values in his children by employing neighboring Indians to work on the farm, which was considered to be the largest in Thomas. Their children played with the Alvord children. When Thomas Alvord married Maria Julien Smith, their genealogy can be traced as far back as 1646; the event was one of the largest social affairs of that time.

The museum is at 918 H. S.E. Auburn.

(Looking Back, which runs weekly, is researched and written by Valley Daily News librarian Joy Scurr.)

(Readers are invited to submit historical photographs with pertinent information to the newspaper for publication. Send to Joy Scurr, Newsroom Librarian, Valley Daily



We received a lovely donation this week of a Vapo-Cresolene Lamp designed for vaporizing cresylic acid/ coal tar acid. It was used to "cure or considerably alleviate diseases of the respiratory system and throat", as well as to sanitize "sick rooms where bacteria were thought to lurk." c.1880's

To read more about these devices, check out this webpage:
http://www.thelampworks.com/lw_vapo_cresolene.htm



What a house! Mr. Alvord is here with his spouse! What a picture perfect family.

The house was built in the early 1880's. It was located on 78th Ave South. One of the family members name may be Inez Shaffer.

Can you guess the price of this house in the 1880's?

I'll give you a hint the Bereighter home at The Greater Kent Historical Society cost \$25,000 in the 1800s.

This is a glass negative of a very dignified Mr. & Mrs. Burke, who lived near O'Brien, c.1880

A parcel immediately south of the Nelson farm, the original Peter Saar Homestead, was owned by the Burke family.



"Tintype photos, as the name implies, were photos with the image on a metal surface, rather than on glass or paper...



In America, tintypes were used by the traveling photographers following the armies of the civil war. Tin (or actually thin iron sheet) was cut to size by the photographers. The sheet was then coated with something like tar. This process was cheap, and the results could be mailed home without breaking." -courtesy of www.edinphoto.org.uk

Pictured are 4 men in front of a blacksmith shop on the White River in the 1880's. Edward F. Richmond is holding the square, George Read is holding the hammer & tongs, the other 2 men are Latelle Richmond Carmichael and Mr. Van Doren or Mr. Temple.



"Tintype Photographs: This inexpensive photo process was similar to the Ambrotype, but instead of using a glass plate, the tintype image was processed on a thin sheet of blackened iron – not tin. The name might come from the fact that tin shears were used to cut the iron plate...Introduced in 1856 and popular until about 1867. But tintype photo studios were still around into the early 1900s as a novelty." -<https://www.aarp.org>

Enjoy some of these early images of Kent's history!



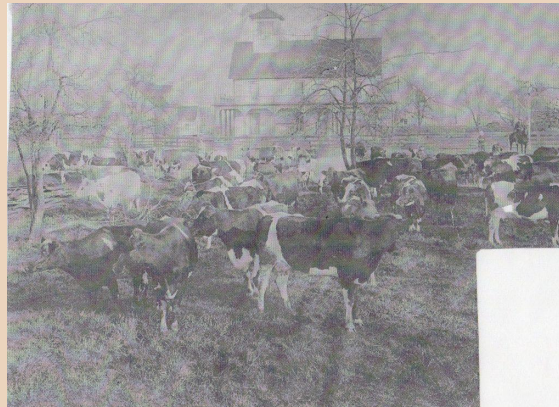
More tintype photos

Did you know that glass plates were used to make negatives in photography from 1851-1920? We have some in our archives! Here are 3 recent glass plate negative donations that we scanned and inverted in Photoshop to see the true image. The only thing we really know about these is they were related to the Shinn family in some way. The second image seems to be someone taking a photo of a woman taking a photo of her kids!



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In the top photo you can see Thomas Alvord and his wife. In the bottom left, you can see his cows.



Thomas Alvord left his mark

LOOKING BACK

Pioneer Thomas Mundy Alvord's enterprises embraced agricultural inventions, capitalistic business, farming skills, volunteer activities and social values. His leadership skills left their indelible influence throughout the White River Valley from the mid-1800s to the present.

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Did you know... the first school in area was the Titusville School. This photo was taken in 1882 & Mr. Allen was one of the teachers.. It was located on S. Central & S. 259th on the NE corner. Note the woods in the background- It was still a wild place back then!



The second photo is of the Kent Valley School in 1909. It was for grades 1-12 and the photo was labeled the Kent Valley's "only" School at the time!



Clark's Livery Stable, on
Gowe Street between 1st
and 2nd Avenues, 1889





This is the A.M. Playford General Blacksmith Shop c.1880's-1890's. The horse garage was the parts store of the time, selling things like horseshoes and other accessories. Shown left to right is : Alex Playford, (maybe) A.P. Meredith, and Sol Kunkel. Exact address unknown.



Did you know... the valley used to grow hops for beer? Pictured are a group of Native Americans who helped with the hops. Many traveled great distances to assist with the harvest, some as far as Wrangell, Alaska and British Columbia. Pickers reportedly earned around a dollar per day. In the 1890's the hop plants became infested with lice and along with the fall in the price of hops, this industry came to an end in the valley. Ezra Meeker and CM VanDoren had the largest hop farms in the valley. Meeker had 60 acres and VanDoren had 25 acres.

A Kent valley home
c.1890's.
People and exact
location unknown.





Here's a charming photo of Wesley & Hester Reed in front of their home circa 1890's. (No exact location noted)



There is something charming about this photo of Cavanaugh & Clancy Tinning & Plumbing from the 1890s. It was located on West Meeker Street. Shown is Ollie Cavanaugh.

[illegible]

A registry of Kent voters in 1892!

Kent's Mary Ann Harn Bow & James Thomas Bow. They were married on July 29th, 1885 and these portraits would've been done around the same time period.



There is a faint stamp on the back that we believe was the name of the artist: "Edward T. Hick at 634 5th St., Seattle WASH"



BLACKSMITH AND REPAIR SHOP.



WAGONS FOR SALE.

**Repairing, Horse Shoeing and Wood
Working at Reasonable Prices.**

S. W. KUNKEL, KENT, WASH.

An ad from the White River Journal, April 4, 1896

1896
Contract
with
E. Molkie
for
delivering 75 cords
4 ft slab wood at
Light Plant from
Kent mill Co.
Oct. 12th 1896
\$25⁰⁰
J. C. Brown Mayor

Delivery to commence at once;
25 cords to be delivered on or
before Nov 1st 1896;
25 cords to be delivered on or
before December 1st 1896;
25 cords to be delivered on or
before January 1st 1897.
And in case the party of the
second part shall fail to ful-
fill the agreement of this
contract then the party of the
first part may if it so elect
declare this contract forfeited.
In witness whereof the said
party of the second part has
hereunto subscribed his name and
the said party of the first part
has caused its corporate name to
be affixed by its mayor and
attested by its clerk this year
and day first above written.
E. Molkie
Town of Kent J. C. Brown Mayor
Attest
D. C. Black Clerk

Contract
This agreement made and entered
into this 12th day of October 1896 by
and between the Town of Kent, the party
of the first part and E. Molkie of the
Town of Kent, party of the second part,
Witnesseth;
That the said party of the second part
for and in consideration of the
sum of twenty-five dollars to be
paid by a warrant drawn on the
"Current Expense" fund by the
said party of the first part, upon
the completion of the covenants
and agreements hereafter entered
into by the said party of the sec-
ond part, does agree and is hereby
bound to deliver at the electric
light power house owned by the
said party of the first part
seventy-five cords of 4 ft. slab
wood and pile the same in cord
ricks eight feet high in such
place as he may be directed
by the supt. of water and light.
Said wood to be delivered as
follows:
Delivery to commence at once;
25 cords to be delivered on or
before Nov 1st 1896;
25 cords to be delivered on or
before December 1st 1896;
25 cords to be delivered on or
before January 1st 1897.
And in case the party of the
second part shall fail to ful-

This is a contract between
the City of Kent and E.
Molkie to deliver 75 cords
of 4 ft. slab wood to the
Light Plant from the Kent
Mill on Oct. 12th, 1896, all
for \$25. Very interesting
read and what a treasure
to have the original in our
archives!

AMONG THE NEWSPAPERS.

It is now the third edition. Omaha Journal says—Various Times.

There is a great difference between taking a walk in your land and where on the lake.—Omaha Argus.

A child playing with matches is not more dangerous than a politician at play with relations.—Pioneer State.

Douglas cannot now bring forward a candidate for Attorney General on the Republican ticket.—Omaha Herald.

Spoke is still engaged in the positive contest of telling what she will do with the money.—When she captures them.—Omaha Argus.

The Chicago, New York and A. P. A. has all political attention of 1896, and either that being forgotten or denied.—Omaha Republican.

McKibben is in the lead there in the race for the Presidential nomination on the Republican ticket at St. Louis in June.—Omaha Journal.

The hard work of the candidates may be concluded, but the labor that does the business is that given by the remaining nomination.—The Evening News.

The way McKibben is picking up delegates in all the states looks as if he could be beaten only by a candidate of "the field" against him.—Pioneer State.

The risk for the double gold field has apparently nearly reached a crisis, to judge by the great crowd lined for the gold mines of silver work.—Omaha Century Journal.

A number of newspapers look at the situation of the supposed approach of the money to try to make some of their readers feel sure of their future position.—Omaha Daily Sun.

The Federal party in this state no longer assumes the proper form of a respectable objection. It is finally the divided ones are repeating their words.—Omaha Independent.

The so-called silver shovels and shovellers are "putting" through a silver shovels and shovellers on an ancient public or national, which have a check or with a party of shovellers. It is a shoveller. (Omaha Daily Journal.)

1896 Tweets

(from the White River Journal, April 4, 1896)

Bicycling by both men and women was very popular near the turn of the century. People would form "'cycling clubs" devoted to the pleasures of touring, sight-seeing and visiting.

This was taken c.1899 and one woman is named- in the upper right was Nellie Guiberson.

