

Immigrants

Though many family groups came to Grandview from other countries and from other parts of America—for example, the large Charvet-Meneger clan who came originally from France and then from Canada-- most of those who came here seeking a new life were individuals or families. Some of them became leaders in the community and some of them more quietly made their mark on Grandview and the surrounding area.

I found the individual stories of great interest.

In 1910, a colored man by the name of Richard Payne who was a widower, sold his property on Hillcrest Road—I understand it went east as far as Judd Hill—to Dave and Hellena (Helena) McLellan. It was understood that Mr. Payne had previously worked in the coal mines in Cle Elum. My research on those times in Cle Elum indicates that the miners were striking and the owners brought in Negroes to work the mines. Eventually, the Negroes and other miners many of whom were Irish-American, worked side by side but both sides were armed and there were several shootings that occurred. Mr. Payne's obituary indicated that he had been confined to Medical Lake (Eastern Washington Hospital) several days previously after he developed religious mania and that he passed away there on March 28, 1928. However, the probate papers for his estate show that he died March 28, 1929. Mr. Payne had married February 24, 1926. He was 60 years of age and his bride Edmonia was 26. Listed in probate were two lots in Block 36 of the City of Sunnyside upon which there is a building known as the Globe Hotel. In Volume 1 of the Pictorial History of Sunnyside, Washington, I found a photo of the hotel located at Franklin & 7th Streets circa 1915.

Another black family--the Ole Washington family—father of Vivien Sears who was born March 14, 1904 moved to the Sunnyside-Grandview area in 1891 and donated the land for the Waneta School in April 1901. Mrs. Washington served on the school board for over 15 years. They were members of the Baptist Church and Mr. Washington was a Republican. They homesteaded in May, 1892 raising corn, hay, potatoes and operated a small dairy business. They lived in a shanty until a permanent home was built in Grandview in 1903. Their home was a hospitable haven for friends and relatives and new comers. Vivien graduated as an honor student in 1919 and married Philip Sears on April 20, 1920. They owned and operated the first gas and grocery store between Yakima and Prosser in 1925 located on the Sunnyside-Mabton Hiway which the only state hiway was running north and south to the Columbia. They opened and operated a New & Used Exchange in 1942 and later switched to new pianos and organ rolls. The site was bought from Martin Malloy of Ann Harbor, Michigan, who was a trained black landscaper. Vivien Sears made civil rights a daily practice ceasing to do business with firms and suppliers who made derogatory remarks about blacks. Horseback riding to school a daily happening and she became a good horsewoman adept in animal husbandry. After the death of her husband, she began raising cattle. She had six children: Dona Sears Clash who taught for many years in Grandview, Mark Sears who worked at Tea Garden Plant/Safeway Plant, Lucia Sears Newborn, and Paul who resides in Grandview and graduated with the Class of 1959, Wayne and Veath. Paul is the only surviving member of the family.

Lee Pollard family came to Roslyn coal mines in 1900 from Virginia where Lee had been born. In 1901 he homesteaded 80 acres were Grandview now stands producing corn, potatoes and hay and engaged in raising hog and conducting a dairy business. Worked for Dr. P.B. Wing on ranch property edging his own.

Several German-Russian families came to Grandview in the 20's and 30's. The majority of the families had settled in the Toppenish-Wapato area where they have a strong community today. The railroad stop at Toppenish was a big drawing point for families coming to the Valley. In 1920, the population of Grandview was 1, 011 and was served by 6 passenger trains daily. Grandview was the fourth largest fruit shipping center in the northwest states of Washington, Oregon and Idaho in the mid-20s. The Heintz family of which John and Joe were members settled in our area.

David Ehert who was born in Russia February 17, 1853. His wife Lucy was born December 11, 1852. David died March 3, 1935 and is buried at Grandview Cemetery. Lucy died December 5, 1932 and is buried at Sunnyside Cemetery.

Adam Fischer who was born in Strasberg, Russia located near Odessa on March 28, 1884 to Anton Fischer and Barbara Schartenberg moved to Grandview in 1936 forced out of South Dakota by a severe drought. He remained here only one year.

Arthur Kramer, son of John and husband of Sophie Weber was born March 23, 1905 in Ritzville, WA. His wife Sophie was born August 17, 1900 in Hanover, Germany. They married in Spokane and farmed to the north at the bottom of Wing Hill. Arthur died October 17, 1944 and Sophie died August 4, 1968. They were the parents of Henry (Hank) Kramer and the grandparents of Anita Kramer Palacios of Grandview.

Charles Mehrer was born in Bessarabia, Russia in 1900 and came to the US at age 6. He moved to Grandview in 1955 and married Emma McLean.

Alex Merk was born in Russia in 1909. Married Rita Brisbois in 1931 and later moved to Grandview.

John Meyer was born in Russia in 1908. Following his military service, he moved to Grandview where he farmed. He was a veteran of World War 11 and a member of the American Legion. He died October 13, 1979.

Ernest C. Puterbaugh built a home on 80-acres what would become Puterbaugh Road. He cleared the land of sagebrush and converted into fertile, productive fields. He came to Grandview in 1901 from Carroll, Illinois where he was born on December 6, 1871 the son of Henry and Ruth Puterbaugh, the former was born in Pennsylvania and the latter in Ohio. On April 6, 1903, Ernest was married to Anna Shiley a native of Carrol County, Illinois and a daughter of B. F. and Hannah (Lenker) Shiley. They had four children. Mr. Puterbaugh was an Odd Fellow. He does not vote with any politic but casts an independent ballot. Descendents of Ernest Puterbaugh still own the land and a member of the family is currently residing there.

Samuel B. Ragsdale was born at Shoal, Indiana on February 7, 1876, a son of Silas and Romaine Salyards Ragsdale. He was left an orphan at age 5 until he began to provide for his own support at the age of fourteen. In 1903, he purchased land near Grandview clearing it of sagebrush. He raised fruit, hay and grain and also rents 160 acres of land which he devotes to the raising of hay and gray. He was a director of the Grandview Irrigation Ditch. On October 31, 1897, he was united in marriage to M. Brown, a native of Indiana. Mr. Ragsdale votes with the Democratic Party and keeps well informed on questions and issues of the day.

John H. Ramsey was born in Tennessee on March 29, 1868. IN 1905, he came to Grandview purchasing 40 acres of land. In 1918, he purchased an additional 20 acres raising hay, corn and other crops adapted to the soil and climate in Grandview. He married Miss Minnie Mills on November 16, 1894. Mr. Ramsey was a democrat and a member of the Presbyterian Church. He served on the school board and was a strong supporter of education.

Frank S. Van De Wall was born at Lancaster, Grant County Wisconsin on August 14, 1852. In 1910 he came to Grandview and bought 20 acres near the town and also purchased a three-acre tract nearer the town for a home. He primarily raised alfalfa. On October 30, 1878, he wed Elizabeth Ivey in Michigan. Mr. Van De Wall was a republican. He belonged to the Foresters and his religious faith was with the Methodist Church.

Edwin Weber was born in Illinois in Dixon in March, 1866. In 1908, he came to Grandview and purchased a 20-acre tract clearing it of sagebrush and planted 5 acres in apples. He was united in

marriage on May 1, 1889 to Miss Johana Abrahams who was born in Germany. Mr. Weber is a republican.

Emory J. Haasze was born in Madison Wisconsin on January 20, 1861. He came to the Grandview area in 1918 where he came engaged in real estate and insurance businesses. He owned a large warehouse in Grandview. On October 26, 1887 he married Myrtie A. Milne, a native of Iowa. Mr. Haasze was very prominent in the Masonic order and also belonged to the Shrine and to the Scottish bodies at Aberdeen, South Dakota. He was an active member of the Odd Fellows. He is a republican.

Charles P. Babcock was born near LaSalle, Illinois in August, 1862. He was an orchardist and a machinist. In 1909, he purchased 6 acres near Grandview. He married Leoline Booth on April 2, 1891. The family attends the Presbyterian Church. He was a democrat but Mrs. Babcock exercises her right of franchise independent of political ties. She is active in the social life and affairs of the community being a member of Sagebrush Sisters and also of the Neighborhood Club.

Joseph M. Fleming was born on June 2, 1874 to John W. and Jane E. Fleming in Belleville, Pennsylvania. In 1906, he came to Grandview opening the first store of the town and erecting the second building. Seven years later, he disposed of his commercial interests and bought ten acres of orchard near Grandview and later added seven more acres. He built two residences in Grandview. On June 5, 1906, Joseph married Ethel E. Morse, a native of Iowa. Their children were Ralph, the first white child born in Grandview, Isabel (Stump) and Lester—all of whom would make their mark on Grandview. Mr. Fleming was a Mason and a member of Odd Fellows. He was a charter member of Eastern Star. Politically, he was a republican. He was an active member of the Presbyterian Church. One granddaughter currently resides in Grandview —Lori Fleming Swynenburg—and another granddaughter Corky Stump Mattingly who is the Auditor for Yakima County.

Arthur E. Lowe—born June 12, 1878 in DeKalb County, Illinois. In 1904, he came to the Sunnyside-Grandview area purchasing 160 acres that adjoined what is now Grandview. He was married on October 28, 1901 to Cora M. Glenn a native of Illinois. The family was Methodists and Mr. Lowe was a republican.

Archie B. Marshall was born June 27, 1858 in Indiana. He came to Grandview in 1907 purchasing 20 acres of orchard land. He sold this land and returned to the east in 1908 but returned to Grandview after a year. He had the largest grocery store in town then purchased another grocery store. In 1887, he married Emma Diven of Pennsylvania. Mr. and Mrs. Marshall were members of the Presbyterian Church and give his allegiance to the Republican Party. He was a member of the Grandview town council and also belonged to the Business Men's Association.

Edward L. Mains was born December 11, 1891 at Roslyn, Washington. He married Elizabeth Martyn, a native of England on February 26, 1916. Mr. Mains graduated in 1910 with the first graduating class of Grandview High School. He raised hay and corn on his 78 acres not far from Grandview. Mrs. Mains attended the Presbyterian Church and identifies with The Foresters while her husband's political allegiance is given to the Republican Party.

William H. Purbaugh—was born January 26, 1859 in Pennsylvania. In 1899, he was united in marriage to Jessie Moore. In 1905, they arrived in Grandview purchasing 33 acres east of town where he raised cattle. He votes an independent ballot.

Judith Horner Durand relates "my mother's family was from Poland. Her grandmother Anna was from the north farmlands. She left Poland because the North was claimed by Russia and the Cosacks would come down and rain and burn their barns. My grandfather Harry worked on the railroads in Poland. They came to Chicago from New York then to Granger and finally to settle in Grandview. Harry was a foreman on the Northern Pacific Railroad and was provided a section

house near the railways. During the depression of 1939, they never were without because they had a milking cow, goat, chickens and garden. Judith and her sister along with her parents would walk to the grandparent's section house for Sunday dinner. Grandmother Anna would go out and kill the chicken, drop it in boiling water, pluck the feathers, cut up the chicken and fry it all in one day."

Minnie and Elmer Horner moved to Grandview in 1910. Elmer operated a dray service and hay mill in Grandview and later operated a service station and garage. "Concerning the Horner's during Prohibition, the oldest son had a brew going in the cellar. One day, he got into it too much and my Grandfather Elmer got mad and took an ax and broke the brew up. The wine went down the cellar drain out into the other drains in the town and the whole town smelled like a brewery!"

Lisetta Purdy Horner & Michael I. Horner came from Canada sometime between 1910 and 1920 to Grandview where Michael became manager of a hay mill.

Edith and T. B. Bridges arrive in Mabton in 1902 from Ontario, Canada settling in Sunnyside, Washington. I think they are the parents of Ted Bridges who was a long-time resident of the Cherry Lane area south and west of Grandview.

During 1909, a thirty-year old man Frank Fetterolf and his brother-in-law George Thomas came to Grandview by way of Virginia and Delaware and in George's case Michigan and after looking at several parcels of land, each purchased adjoining 5-acre parcels on what is now Wilson Highway, north of Stover Road and Grandview. They returned the following year to take the land out of sagebrush, level the land, put in a stack of sagebrush firewood for cooking and heating (their tent houses), construct cisterns and build their barns and homes. The two would buy the entire supply of milled cedar from a sawmill on the coast that was going out of business. They would then ship the lumber to Mabton by rail where they would unload it and haul it to their farmsteads north of Grandview. Much of the lumber was 2 x 4 so the floors of the homes bounced when one walked across them and the barn roofs would wave many years later when one walked across them (or jumped up and down on them as Gary Fetterolf did as a kid, much to his mother's horror). The walls of the Fetterolf barn are constructed of clear cedar 2 x 4's 16 to 20 feet in length. Family legend has Frank coming to Seattle to work on the lighting of the Seattle Pacific Yukon Exposition. He moved his family to Grandview when his health dictated a dryer climate. He married Dorothy "May" Fine following the death of his first wife. He passed away in 1955.

Albert Swynenburg was born January 26, 1873 and his wife Adriana deKrey was born June 1, 1876. They came to America from Papendrecht, Holland. Albert died April 19, 1936 and Adriana died November 12, 1941. Albert, Adriana along with son Arie and daughter Annie came to Sunnyside in 1917 from Brunenthal, Russia. Son Jacob had come to Sunnyside in 1915 when he was 17 years old. On July 12, 1923, Jacob married Eva Pappenheim who was born in Russia and came to the US when she was 9 years old. In 1925, the Swynenburg families moved to the farm on Puterbaugh Road southwest of Grandview farming and starting a dairy herd on the 160 acres. Eva and Jacob had three girls and four boys. Jacob and Air continued the farming and dairy business until 1950 along with cattle feeding. In 1955, the four brothers—Jack, Albert, Donald and Arthur--bought their parent's interest of the holding and proceeded to feed more cattle and in 1958 were the Washington State Cattle feeders of the Year. Bert Dykstra was one of the early Dutchmen as was Nick Klein. The Arie Blaak family came in 1941. Most Dutch families stayed by Sunnyside, Outlook and Zillah because the Christian Reformed and Netherland Reformed Churches were there. Eva Swynenburg passed away January 20, 1971. Jacob died February 14, 1975. Don Swynenburg and his wife Lori Fleming Swynenburg still reside in the area on Griffin Road.

The Charvet-Meneger-Garrison Connection

The exodus to Mabton, Washington. The Meneger family had come to Mabton area then sent a wire to the Charvet's in Saskatchewan "Here I am in a country of milk and honey. The sun is shining so brightly I have to use my umbrella to keep from getting sunstroke. Sell all your furs and raincoats and come quickly this is just the place for you."

They decided to follow his advice and all started packing up and within four weeks they were on their way to Mabton in the Yakima Valley, a country of wild sagebrush where irrigation had been started a few years before by the U. S. Reclamation service. Mabton was a little frontier town of about 200 people. It was the main railroad center of this part of the Yakima Valley. The town was made up of a large and spacious main street where one could see a large general merchandise store where they sold everything; groceries, dry goods, and machinery. There was also a good-sized hotel, a barber shop, 2 bars, a notary public office, a few homes; all frame buildings and that is about all. They went to the local restaurant and had a good meal; at that time, you could get a real banquet for twenty-five cents.

They settled on their farm at Belma. Later, they packed up everything at Mabton and traveled the three miles to their new home. The older boys with their axes and mattocks got busy from morning till night uprooting the sagebrush. By the end of April, all the sagebrush was cleared from the ground. They then ploughed and leveled it and made furrows to take care of the irrigation. They grew a very good garden, sowed some alfalfa, planted some young fruit trees from a local nursery in Sunnyside and had quite an orchard.

Water was plentiful as the irrigation ditch was always full in the spring and summer. There was, of course, no running water in the house but on each farm there was a large concrete cistern large enough to contain about 4000 gallons.

We had no electricity in those days, but we had oxyacetylene units in every room for light. A local company would send a man to fill our tank which was buried in the ground close to the house and the man filled the tank with enough oxyacetylene gas under pressure to last for a month. This arrangement was quite satisfactory, but the smell of the gas was rather unpleasant.

The hay and the 25 acres of alfalfa were growing very fast. They had three crops a year. It was wonderful hay. At that time, the alfalfa sold for about 15 dollars a ton. The potatoes, too, grew very fast and got very large. They averaged ten tons to the acre. Their farm at Belma was a real success.

The hunting, too, was very fine. There were jack rabbits by the hundreds and also smaller rabbits, partridges, ducks and geese in season. Those rabbits were diseased in the summer but in the fall and spring they were very healthy and made fine eating. Mrs. Menager and her daughters made excellent rabbit pies which they all enjoyed very much.

The Charvet Exodus: Fired with enthusiasm by the great climate and possibility of the Yakima Valley, they wrote glowing letters to the Charvets telling them they should sell all their holdings in Saskatchewan and should come to Belma. Truly a land of milk and honey. So the Charvets sold their three or four homesteads, their cattle and farm implements coming to the valley in the spring of 1904. Mr. Charvet sold his land for close to 100,000 dollars and he was well prepared to acquire good properties. Soon they arrived, Mr. and Mrs. Charvet and their seven boys. The two oldest Emilo and Eugene married on November 21, 1904 in Canada. Mr. Charvet paid about \$20,000 for his farm and gave each of his two married sons a farm worth \$10,000 each.

The Charvets at Grandview; Yakima Valley, Washington. All the Charvet's did very well on their farms as they were all good workers. They raised a great deal of hay and had fine orchards. But, they soon realized that it was not easy to make money on fruit. So as they heard that one could make a good living raising hops, they cut down their trees and planted hops in all their farms. But, just as they had made fine contracts with different breweries, the law of prohibition was passed and all their contracts were broken. For many years, they hardly made a living on their farms raising melons and turkeys and sheep. Finally, probatation was repealed. They borrowed money and started hops again. They soon were able to make advantageous contracts and they all made good money. They built a fine church in Grandview and also in Mabton and they have had fine secular priests in those parishes. Father Maurice Mulcahy said one day "I never have to

worry about my congregation for the Charvets' fill the church. They run a good choir with one of them playing the organ and directing and I always have plenty of altar boys. Whenever there is a drive or a bazaar for the good of the church, they all pitch in and help very expertly."

The Garrison connection: Benjamin Leon Charvet married Mary Alice Garrison, daughter of Arthur M. and Loyola "Loye" Mae Kell. Benjamin and Mary Alice are the parents of our Police Chief David Charvet. Arthur M. Garrison was born October 4, 1898 in Sidney Texas. He came to the Yakima Valley shortly after his discharge from the Navy. He became engaged in 1925 in the business of buying, selling, packing and shipping fruit at Grandview first with a co-partner and then individually after the dissolution of the partnership. In the fall of 1927, Art bought 1/3 of the stock of the corporation called C. F. Shafer Company and later exchanged this for the company warehouse, packing equipment and other properties. He began as a bookkeeper for the Roche Fruit Company and during that period met Loyola. He was sent to Grandview to manage the Shafer Fruit Company in 1925. His early partnership was with Roland D. Inman and they purchased the C. F. Shaker plant in Grandview at the location on the highway where Bleyhl Farm Services was formerly located (between Ash and Birch Streets on what is now Wine Country Road). He became one of the largest independent fruit packers in the Lowe Valley by the time he was 38 years old. In the mid-30's, the warehouse burned to the ground. He then acquired a building on the other side of town at a location where Kenyon Zero Storage building now stands. Art was a Democrat, Texas style. He was a big supporter of Roosevelt and there were only about three businessmen in the entire community of Grandview who were Democrats. The remainder were hard shell, far right, conservatives who supported Landon, Wilkey and Hoover. He was a very active member of the American Legion which was a focal point of social life in Grandview during the 1930's.