

## NE of Seattle, WA

### Lyman was named for a country doctor and the nearby (brief) village of Heffron (Updated 2006 and February 2007)

This is the earliest known photo of Lyman and it shows the layout of the young village not long after the pig incident above. Taken circa 1890, the photo shows a view looking south to the river. The Lyman Hotel and Saloon is to at the far left and the Knights of Pythias Hall, built in 1889, is at the right. At the far back center is the Henry Cooper house, the first built in Lyman in about 1883. —Photo courtesy of the late Maxine Meyers, widow of Bud Meyers, whose grandfather was Lyman pioneer Henry Cooper.

### How did Lyman get its name? Dr. Lorenzo Lyman Discussed by Territorial Daughters club, 1949

Sedro-Woolley Courier-Times Sept. 22, 1949

Territorial Daughters held a most interesting discussion Friday when they met at the home of Mrs. F.M. Meyers of Lyman. The question arose as to the naming of that town and diligent inquiry brought out many different remembrances from the long past days. Consensus of opinion is that the name derived from a Dr. Lyman who lived near the Cockreham homestead, now occupied by Ed Cockreham. Little is known of the doctor, except that he came to the vicinity around 1880 and for several years administered to the needs of the settlers. He was a man of medium height, dark complected and wore a beard. It is thought he had seen service during the Civil War. Where or why he left, no one seems to know. At that time, boats were the only means of transportation and landings were at the Cockreham ranch, as there was no town. When established, the town was downriver from the ranch and farther from the river than it is now. Delving into the past and preserving the history of this territory is one of the chief interests of the Territorial Daughters and information pertinent to olden days is always welcome. Attending this pleasant occasion were the Mesdames Alice Robinson, Belle Seidell, Filomene Vogel, Addie McCarty, Olive Fahey, Lexie Sharpe, Nora Hastie, Anna Hoehn, Ethel Harris, Margaret Hinkle, Bertha Davison, Martha Wicker, Sophie Erickson, Eva Beebe, Ella Day, Lenore Devin, Minnie Batey, Mabel Meins, Ruby Taylor, Elizabeth Roughton, Emmilie Duffy, Susie Alverson. Visitors were: Mrs. Maxine Meyers and daughter Marilyn, Mrs. Josephine Robinson and Mrs. Maggie Moore and hostess Mrs. Ettie Meyers.

[Journal/Ed. note: That is a veritable list of the Who's Who of Sedro-Woolley and upriver ladies of that period. The late Maxine Meyers, widow of the late Bud Meyers and longtime postmaster of Lyman, told me a few years that Dr. Lyman's first name was definitely Lorenzo. She did not recall any information about where the doctor went after Lyman. Maxine and Bud lived on the bluff over the river bank just south of downtown, next door to the home that Lyman pioneer Otto Klement built and Bud inherited. Bud's mother, Mrs. F.M. Meyers, bought the house before Klement died in Oregon on Christmas Eve, 1942, at age 90. Klement came to the Skagit area in October 1873 and took over the postmaster duties from Dr. Lyman on Nov. 9, 1881. We hope that a reader will have more memories of Dr. Lyman and those early days of the town named for him.

## The brief history of the village of Heffron and the William Heffron family Updated 2007 with descendant news

Deanna Ammons, the Clearlake historian, has discovered the details of a little known and very short-lived town of Heffron, near Lyman on the Skagit River. Like the village of Bessemer, which Harrison Clothier spawned during the Hamilton iron boom and shortly later melded into the village of Birdsvie, Heffron was born during that same boom. She discovered in the fine reference book, Postmarked Washington, 1850-1960, by Guy Reed Ramsey, that a post office opened there on May 7, 1891, and was discontinued on September 12, 1891. "In fact," Ammons notes, "the record has a notation 'Never in operation.' "When we updated the last time, we added Heffron genealogy that we found on the Internet that delineated his English family. At that site, Diana Ford, who is descended from the Skagit Heffrons, noted that William's father, Thomas Heffron, moved from Ireland to England as a young boy and he eventually married Margaret O'Connor, who also moved to England from Ireland, probably during the potato famine. Their son William was born January 29, 1853, in Leeds, England. We have now met Diana, but we will get to that in a minute. Diana found Thomas's will, which confirmed for us the connection to our William. "Grandma told me of her grandmother Margaret delivering a baby out by a wood pile and just picking it up and walking home to clean the baby. She supposedly had 11 children according to my grandmother, the census, and her obituary. Thomas Heffron died during an epidemic in Danville, Illinois and Margaret remarried in 1880 to Henry Johnson, a Swede from Danville who had been a sea captain. The Johnson's moved to Hamilton, WA in 1885," Diana wrote, and "William Heffron came to America with his parent's right after he was born. The census reports of two other of [Thomas and Margaret's] children state that they were born in Pennsylvania. After Mathew was born, the family moved to Kingston Mines, IL. and purchased land from the Kingston Coal Co. in 1865, of which I have the document. They later moved to Danville, IL. Thomas was a farmer in Illinois." Diana also cited family stories that include a run-in with Missouri's most famous outlaw: "It is said that Margaret had a run in with Jesse James when he stole all her cows and bedding and that she chased him with a broom. This must have been when she was living in IL. Thomas and Margaret's son William was the first to move to Washington and their son Matthew later settled in Colorado and then California. William had gold fever and joined the Alaska Gold Rush. He was in Alaska long enough to make a fairly good living and make for a good start with a career in Hamilton and later Seattle. Margaret had 2 brothers, James, who had a seat in Parliament, and Michael, who was a clog dancer and banjo player." In February 2007 we met Diana while researching genealogy of Hamilton families. She has a gold mine of documents, letters and photos, which we will share after we study her collection. Diana Schafer Ford did not grow up here but she has the distinction of being a descendant of three pioneer families. Besides the Heffrons, she descends from Charles McDowell, who migrated to Hamilton from Tarheel in 1886, one of the first from North Carolina to settle near the Skagit. And she descends from Augustus W. Schafer, an early banker in Hamilton, who later lived in Anacortes. One thing we know for sure, from Diana's records, is that William Heffron moved his family across the Skagit River sometime after the Heffron town dream fizzled. Deanna Ammons also confirmed that move when she found William Heffron in the 1900 federal census, listed along with the Tingleys, J.J. Conner, and other families living in Happy Valley ——— the area later known as Day Creek, named for the Day Brothers logging company. He was 46, married 11 years, and was listed as a gold miner, so he may have been freshly back from the Klondike. His wife's name was listed as Sarah, 43, born Illinois and they had three daughters, Catherine, 10; Margarite 8; and Anna Helen 3. All the girls were born in Skagit County. He was earlier listed in the Wm. Heffron is listed in the 1885 Washington Territorial Census, age 31, farmer, single, born England. He was again listed in the 1887 Territorial Census as age 34. In 1889 he was 35 and married. In the 1892 Skagit County Census he was 39, married, farmer. Diana's records noted that "One of Margaret's daughters, Margaret Ellen, had mental problems and

died at the early age of 16 and is buried on homestead in Day Creek across the Skagit River from Hamilton, Washington." We found this small item in the April 29, 1903, issue of the *The Weekly Blade*, Whatcom, Washington: "Elizabeth Heffron, aged 15 years, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Heffron, Donovan avenue and Tenth street, Fairhaven, died from pulmonary hemorrhage on Saturday. Funeral services were conducted at the Catholic church yesterday, Rev. Father Boulet officiating." That indicates that the family was living in Whatcom County at the time. Another equally small article that month, in the April 4, 1903, issue of the *Fairhaven Times*, reported that "Miss Ethelyn Luce spent this week in Seattle, the guest of Mrs. Heffron, formerly of this city." We do not know which Heffron that refers to. By the way, Father Boulet was the visiting priest to the early Catholic church in Sedro-Woolley and other valley towns.

### William's original property and townsite

Ammons found records at the Skagit County Courthouse that Heffron purchased a site on March 26, 1889, that was about three and a half miles southeast of Lyman: parts of Section 28 and Section 17, Township 35 North, Range 6 East. She also found a 1950 *Courier-Times* article headlined: "River Frozen Over Several Times in 1880's, 90's, Oldtimers Here Report," that quoted Mrs. Alice Robinson, at Hamilton (daughter of town founder William Hamilton), saying that in 1890, "Billie Heffron [William?] tied rails on his feet like skis and crossed (the river) near the Cockreham place." In the 1930 Federal Census, William was living with his two daughters in Seattle. He was then a janitor at a public school and both daughters, Margarite and Anna Helen, were single. We hope that a reader will know more about the village of Heffron. We will update this story after we have a chance to review Diana's records.