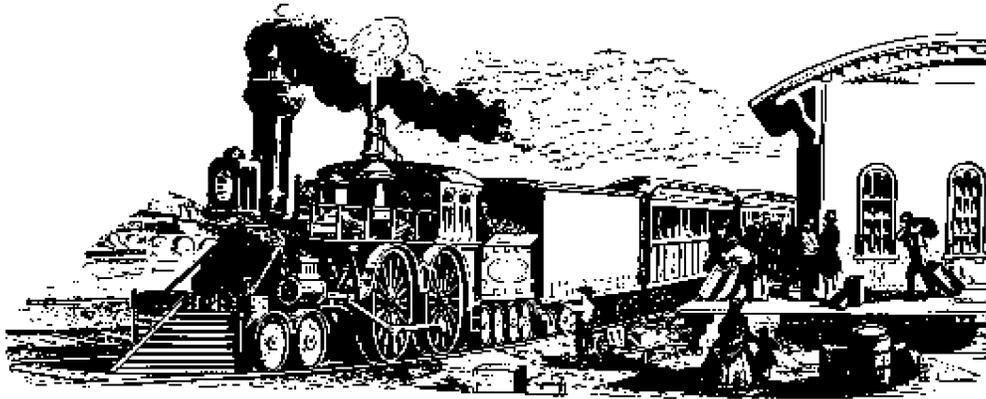


**Compiled by Henry Lorang,
White Spring Ranch, Genesee, Idaho**

John Lorang and Mary Gesellchen were married in the Catholic Church of Calvary Fond-du-Lac County Wisconsin, at 11 AM. February 19, 1884, shortly thereafter, they embarked for the west in company with Mr. and Mrs. Sebastian Dahm, who had some idea of where they were headed for, because Mr. Dahm had come to Uniontown, Washington in 1883 and then went back to Wisconsin to get his family, because he was so well pleased with what he saw in the Washington Prairie.

Mother and dad didn't have any definite plans in Wisconsin except working for wages and they were enthused by the promising story of Mr. Dahm that they decided to go along with them. They landed by rail at Riparia, Washington, the end of the line



and thence by river boat to Lewiston Idaho, where they landed on about the middle of March, as it seems to me I remember, Mrs. Dahm relating, that they picked flowers on the river bank on March 15.



Photo of steamboat Lewiston, built after 1884

Just how their next move was accomplished, I don't know, but they rode up the steep Grade of the Lewiston hill, in a lumber wagon,



Charlie Whalen in 1884 lumber wagon with spring seat

with a Mr. George Jacobs of Uniontown Washington, who took them to Colton, Washington, where the two couples rented a two room, two-story cabin from

Mr. Becker. Our parents lived in the top story, it was here that Peter Lorang was born, on December 21, 1884. Mr. and Mrs. Dahm also had a daughter Rose here, date not known.

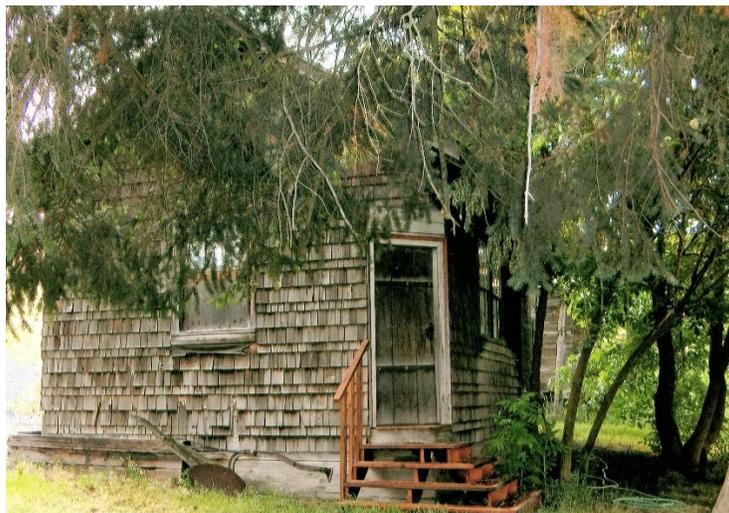


Dad, John Lorang bought a team of big horses, and a wagon, and as soon as possible in the following spring, he engaged in driving to the forest near Moscow Idaho, where he cut trees, and made rails, which he took to them to Colton, Washington and sold them for family support. In driving to and from the mountains as they called it, the road to let him through this valley and east of the creek, that entered one corner of an 80 acre tract which was homesteaded by Wm. White and emptied out of the opposite corner of the 80 acre tract. Where there were thorn bushes and a running Spring which was known, and still is as White Spring, where he often camped, on the way back, with his load of rails, before continuing on to Colton and home. Since there were many more who were hauling wood products, from the woods and lumber mills, dad made many new acquaintances, and one of his friends was Oscar M. Collins, with whom he was camped many times at White Springs, and Dad will look toward the farm home here about a quarter mile from the road, and remarked he would like to own this place,



Homestead on land in 1884, built by William Dillingham, 1890 photo

and so it happen then he got word-rumors-that a Mr. Jameson who on the farm of 160 acres, was discouraged, and wanted to go to town and follow his trade of blacksmithing. That must have been late in 1885, because Mr. Jameson was trying to plow sod with two horses and a breaking plow. The sunflower roots were so tough, that it was really a hard job to keep the walking flow, upright and turn the tufted soil over, that he got disgusted, unhitched and left the plow right there and here it was when dad took over.



Jameson Plow in front of Curio cabin

Barney was the first one born here June 28,1886.

It appears dad and mother moved to the ranch late in 1885, and rented same, but bought a year or so later. by now dad was busy, and improving the place. First he fenced in the house yard, from the open prairie, to keep the wild cows out. Mother often mention being alone with Peter and Barney before the fence was built, the cows would come and rub on the corner of the house. Peter in wild eyed queries, would say “Vas dat?!”

This has no bearing, but I was just thinking, that the first transcontinental train came through in 1883 and anyone who came all the way west, before that, had to come by Prairie Scooner.

Returned original letter to Henry,

Rewritten by---May 5th, 1962

B.T. Lorang (Barney)

