

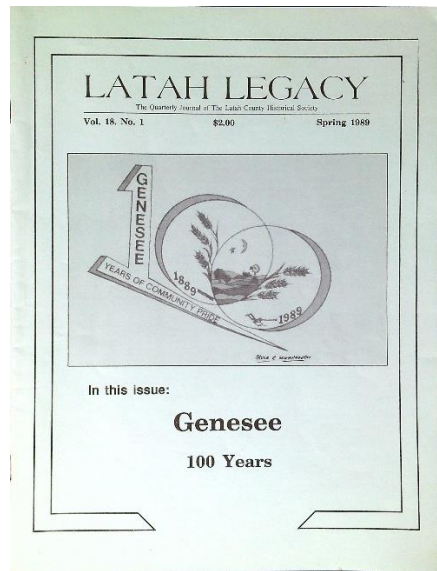
LATAH LEGACY

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In this issue:

Genesee

100 Years

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Centennial Logo

The official logo for Genesee’s Centennial was designed Bruce Scharnhorst. The Genesee High School graduate combined the artwork of elementary students – April Swenson, Amanda Grider and Cortney Grieser—in drawing the winning logo. Scharnhorst, whose two great great grandfathers, Mitchel Evits and Christian Scharnhorst, both homesteaded in the Genesee area, has degrees from the University of Idaho in Physical Education/Health and Elementary Education. His parents are Dick and Marie Scharnhorst. He and his wife Holly have two sons – Louie, 10 and Jacob, 9. They operate D. F. Scharnhorst Petroleum in Genesee

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FOREWORD

This issue of the Latah Legacy is dedicated to Genesee's Centennial, October 23, 1989.

This is not a complete history nor was it meant to be. Space prohibits that. There are books written about Genesee and some of the people who have lived there through the years. There are articles, poems, essays biographical sketches, family genealogies and historical pamphlets. A bibliography will be found elsewhere in this issue to help the researcher and historian. Oral histories are available as are photographs. And there are the memories! Memories of our older citizens and those not so old.

Yes, stories are waiting to be told and more needs to be written. Genesee's settlement and first 100 years will reveal stories of courage, fright, weakness, strength, cruelty, apathy, kindness, laziness, hard work, enterprise, mental anguish, illness, patience, drunkenness, temperance, patriotism, religion, bigotry, charity, greed, pride, hope, humor, faith, and love. The history will reveal all the attributes of man. This is as it should be. But the underlying quality we find is a caring community, exercising the freedoms granted by our constitution and preserving in bad times as well as good. This is a beginning. Let us continue to delve into the past as we build and plan for the future.

It has been my pleasure to compile and write these articles and vignettes. May it be the readers to enjoy

-Marie Hampton Scharnhorst

Dedication

To my husband, Dick, always understanding and supportive; to my father, Raleigh Hampton, a wonderful inspiration, and source of the past; and to the pioneers and early citizens of our town . . . and their progeny, I dedicate this tribute to Genesee's Centennial. Let us walk together into Genesee's second century

Marie Hampton Scharnhorst

Author – Historian

MARIE HAMPTON SCHARNHORST is a graduate of Genesee High School and the University of Idaho. She is married to Donald F. (Dick) Scharnhorst, a Genesee businessman for 42 years, farmer and former mayor of the town. Their family includes three married son – Bob, Jim and Bruce and nine grandchildren. Mrs. Scharnhorst has been media generalist for the Potlatch School District for 17 years. She belongs to several civic, professional, and service organizations. She has worked with the Genesee High School Reunion Committee for Community Day for over thirty years, is secretary of the Educational Media Division of the Idaho Library Association, on the PACE committee for the Idaho Educational Association and serves on the Latah County Historical Society Board. She contributes articles to area newspapers and authored the Genesee article in the Latah County Centennial Edition. In addition to reading and writing poetry, she enjoys history research, sports, collecting antiques and old books, and hiking. The Scharnhorst home, in which they have resided for 42 years, dates to 1895.

She may be reached by phone at 285-1317 or by mail to Box 115, 112 Tamarack Street, Genesee, Idaho 83832

Acknowledgements

I wish to thank Director Mary Reed, Historian Keith Petersen, Editor Bert Cross, and members of the Latah County Historical Society's Board of Directors for dedicating this issue of the Latah Legacy to Genesee's Centennial. A special note of appreciation to the following people who answered questions, shared memories, articles, books, newspapers, photographs, and other historical data about Genesee:

My father, Raleigh Hampton; my mother-in-law, May Scharnhorst; and my husband, D.F. (Dick) Scharnhorst.

John and Rowena Luedke, Lola Clyde, Irene Berger, Grace Jain Wicks, Audrey and Don Jain, Jay Nelson, Sanford Evans, Evlon and Betty Hampton, Roy Harris, Lucille Moser, Cletus Morken, Emmalou Johann, Jane and Bill Roth, Beverly and Tom Boyd, Sharon Steiger, Veral Peterson, Dan Lorang, Jim Odberg, Robert Borgen, Dolores Lettenmaier, Margaret Pinkerton Van, Glenda, and Dale Becker, the Connicks, Vera White and
Compilers of family histories

The pastors of Genesee's churches and authors of books, Lillian Otness, Lalia Boone, Dick Beck, Kenneth Platt, John Merrick, and the Third Grade of 1987.

I express appreciation to mayor Michael Martinez, City Clerk Mert Geltz, and members of the City Council of Genesee, Tedi Roach, and members of the Centennial Committee.

GENESEE: The Early Years

(The following article is reprinted from the book "History of North Idaho: Latah County." The publication date is not given but it is known that some of the history first came out in 1903. It is presumed that most of this was written between 1903 and 1910)

Genesee, probably the greatest wheat market in the famous Palouse Country, is located in the terminus of the Northern Pacific Railway, 113 miles south of Spokane. Built on a hill overlooking the Genesee valley, the "Garden Spot of the Palouse," it commands a view of the snowclad mountains of three states. Its location is healthful, natural drainage perfect, water abundant and of excellent quality. The population is 1,200 and it steadily growing. Most of its business blocks are substantial brick structures. It has excellent schools and churches, a city park, telephones locally and with long line connections and a franchise has been recently granted for an electric light plant. An active Chamber of Commerce looks after the material advancement of the city and under its stimulus street paving and other improvements are projected. There are excellent advantages offered for the starting of new enterprises such as fruit cannery, straw board factory, paper mill, crack factory and a starch factory.

The Genesee valley lies directly north of the Lewiston valley. Speaking of the naming of this beautiful little vale of Latah County, Idaho, John P. Vollmer, the Lewiston banker and merchant said: "During the summer of 1870, Alonzo Leland, later editor of the Lewiston teller, a man name Stone, who was the O.R. & N. agent for their steamboat line, and myself went one day for a drive over the high prairie north of the clearwater river. There was but one habitation in all that vast country then. Caldwell & Hall's cattle ranch at the summit of the clearwater bluff. As we drove along, we passed down cow creek and through a sequestered valley still in its natural state, Stone exclaimed: "This reminds me of my old home, the Genesee valley in New York State." The suggestion was made that we so name it and from that time on it bore that

name. when Leland started his newspaper, he always referred to his valley by the name of Genesee and so it became universally known by that appellation. Sometime in 1871 Jacob Cambitch took a ranch on Cow creek, so that he may be termed the pioneer of Genesee.

"Settlement was slow until 1872 and, in that year, quite an immigration to the prairie country took place and the first large settlement was made. From that on scores flocked to the 'Hog Heaven' country, as the country around Moscow was known in the early days, and soon Nez Perces county north of the clearwater numbered several hundred people. In 1875 Curtis started a town about a mile east of the present town of Genesee, which soon became a thriving village. Our company established the first general store there. Just who owned the townsite I do not remember, as it stood near the "Garden spot of the Palouse" corner of four sections, but probably R.H. Beeman, James Hansen, John H. Evans and Mr. Curtis were the men. In 1886 A. M. Cannon, A.W. Newberry, Paul F. Mohr, myself, and others organized the Spokane & Palouse Railway. That year the road was constructed to Belmont. Then it was pushed to the Marshall Junction and in 1888 we built our terminus at Genesee. About the time we decided to extend the road to Genesee that townsite fell into the hands of Jacob Rosenstein whom, we thought, asked too much for right of way privileges and grounds. We naturally objected and the result was that I purchased a tract of forty acres from J.H. Evans a mile west of the old town and laid out the new town, calling it Genesee also. When the railroad came through, it stopped one mile west of the old town. This immediately broke up the old town and Jacob Rosenstein headed the removal to the new town by moving his store over one wheel. Soon the old town was a relic of the past. Our company re-established our store in the new town, the railroad company built a roundhouse and laid out quite a yard system and the population of the town jumped to several hundred people within a comparatively short time.

Two pioneers of the old town not mentioned in the above, were A. Levi, who

established a general store in 1878, and E.T. Platt who was the pioneer attorney and was also justice of the peace.

The first business structure in the present town was put up by J.S. Larrabee, hardware dealer, and the second by W.J. Herman, general merchandise. J. J. Owen moved a 16x24 frame house there from Moscow, which was the first shingle roof house in the town. William Brown with his own labor put up a building and opened the pioneer barber shop. C.F. Burr was the pioneer real estate dealer there and George Stelz was the first building contractor. All are still residents of Genesee. The first school was established in the old town in 1879. D. Spurbeck, Mr. Markham and William Evans were the first board directors and Mr. Dent was the teacher. The latter was paid \$150 for teaching a three months' term. The town was incorporated October 23, 1889, with the following first trustees: J.C. Martin, W.C. Cox, W.J. Herman, J.J. Owen, and E.S. Cameron. The metes and bounds description of the townsite is as follows: Commencing at the northeast corner of the northeast quarter of section 14, in township 37, north of range 5 west of Boise meridian; thence running south 3,300 feet; thence west half a mile; thence north 530 feet; thence in a southwesterly direction 1520 feet; thence north 1810 feet; thence east 140 feet; thence north 140 feet; thence east 1380 feet; thence north 1110.95 feet; thence east half a mile to place of beginning. The city's finances are and have ever been in first class condition, and civic improvements have kept pace with the steady growth of the town. As a home city Genesee possess many advantages. Climate conditions are almost ideal. Its location is about 2,200 feet above sea level, but mountains in all directions keep out the storms and cold indigenous to less favored regions and at the same time render the air absolutely pure and wholesome. The population is mixed, consisting of large settlements of Germans, Scandinavians, Irish and native-born Americans.

The public schools in Genesee are among the best in Idaho. There are 376 pupils enrolled. A large schoolhouse was built in May 1891, to which an addition was made ten years later. Prof. Hattzell Cobb has been principal of the schools since 1894. His assistants are Miss

Bessie Wilson of the Grammar department; Mrs. C. Spurbeck, third grade; Mrs. Mary Cool, fourth grade; Miss Lulu French, fifth and six grades, and Miss Maud Berdick, primary department. The salaries paid are \$92.50 per month to the principal, \$55 in the grammar grade, \$50 in the primary department and \$47.50 in the grades. The total evaluation of public-school property is \$7000. A private school is also conducted by Sisters of the Catholic church. The University of Idaho and the normal school of that state and agricultural college of Washington are all within 30 miles of Genesee and readily accessible to those desiring the benefits of higher education. The Genesee schools are in charge of the following board: President, Dr. P. S. Beck; secretary, Herman Nebelsick; William Smolt, Fred Nagel, George Mochel and Paul Cann. Genesee is also favored in the matter of church privileges. It has six church organizations, each of which owns its own edifice and whose congregations are active in religious work. The pulpits are filled by able men. These churches are the catholic, Methodist episcopal church south, Christian, congregational, Norwegian Lutheran and German Lutheran. Sunday schools and the various young people's religious societies have good memberships. Fraternal and social organizations are well represented, there being prosperous lodges of the following orders: masons, old fellows, knights of Pythias, Woodmen of the World, Maccabees, Red Men, Arcanum, Rathbone sisters, Rebeccahs, Ancient order of pyramids and young men's institute. There is also a GAR post with the following officers: P.C., J.J. Owen; S. V., Pat Ryan; J. V., George Daggett and adjutant, J.E. Reed. There is also a women's relief corps. An excellent weekly newspaper, the news, had aided materially in the growth of the city. It was established in 1889. Charles powers, the present editor, took charge in 1892. From a small beginning Mr. Powers has built up an excellent paper and has a first-class equipment to handle all kinds of printing. The paper is republican in politics. Genesee derives its support from the rich agricultural and horticultural districts surrounding it. Its growth has been coincident with the development of these natural resources. The same appearance of thrift and prosperity which characterizes the town, and

its schools, churches, handsome residences and substantial business structures is apparent in a marked degree in the country. Nice farm buildings are the rule rather than the exception. The Genesee valley is embraced within the eastern part of the famous Palouse district and in extent and production easily takes first rank. The territory tributary to Genesee embraces a considerable area of the best lands of the New Perces Indian reservation. This is due to the topography of the country, a long high hill on the north and deep river canyons to the east and south acting as natural barriers. The country is rolling but nearly all is capable of cultivation and of great fertility. The lands of Latah County produce enormous crops of wheat, oats, barley and flax and almost every variety of tree and small fruits. In the production of apples, no section can excel this and few equal it. The trees bear regularly and are loaded with fruit. Size, color and flavor are perfect and make them in great demand for shipping, they find a ready demand in the markets of Montana and further east and at remunerative prices. All kinds of vegetables do equally well with the fruits and cereals. Dairying and poultry raising are sources of great revenue. Of late stock raising has been taken up and with such success that it is growing to be an important industry.

Natural rainfall is sufficient for all purposes. Little rain falls from June until September, but the spring rains have never failed to insure bountiful harvests. No crop failure has ever been known in the Genesee valley. The farmer expects 40 or more bushels of wheat to the acre as his right and is not disappointed. Sandy soil is unknown; so is wasteland. The soil is a rich black loam of volcanic origin, lava mixed with clay, a combination which 30 years of severe trial has demonstrated to be unrivalled productiveness and practically inexhaustible quality. It covers the country, a mantle of fertility from 18 inches to six feet in depth even to the tops of the highest hills. Every parcel of land for miles around can be cultivated and this without irrigation, as the great capacity of the soil for retaining moisture enables it to produce and mature enormous crops even in the driest years. For all the diversified products of the surrounding country Genesee affords an excellent market. Through it, annually,

1,500,000 bushels of wheat, large quantities of hay, fruit and vegetables are shipped. To handle these shipments there are ten grain warehouses, one hay storage and one fruit warehouse.

Genesee has many business institutions, all of which have a prosperous and growing trade. Its two banks are among the leading financial institutions of the state. The first bank, of which John P. Vollmer is president and P.W. McRoberts is cashier, has resources of \$1,000,000 and was established in 1892. The exchange national bank, capital \$25,000 and with \$9,000 undivided profits, was organized in 1897. It has branches in Troy and Nez Perce, Idaho. E. J. Dyer, president of the Exchange National Bank of Spokane, is president of the institution and Thos. H. Brewer is the cashier. It owns the best safe in the state, a Corliss burglar proof, fitted with a Greenleaf time lock. Among the pay roll institutions of Genesee are two flour mills, a creamery, and the Genesee brewery. Follett & Knapp run one of the flour mills and report an excellent trade. The other mill, which has an elevator and two warehouses in connection, is owned by C. P. Porter and is conducted with ever increasing profit by E.C. Wood. The creamery, since it was established a few years ago, has enjoyed a profitable growth. There is a ready market for the product at good prices. The output is being gradually increased. The brewery is also most prosperous.

In addition to his interest in the First Bank and his ownership of several large warehouses at Genesee, John P. Vollmer is the owner of the largest general merchandise store of the town the store has kept pace with the growth of Genesee. The stock carried is a mammoth one. A local manager is in charge, Mr. Vollmer's residence being in Lewiston. He is [one] of the wealthiest and most progressive citizens of Idaho and has diversified interests all over the state. W.J. Herman, the pioneer hardware and furniture dealer, in June 1903, disposed of the hardware stock to H. A. Morgan, who is continuing the business as the Cash Hardware store. Mr. Herman retained his furniture business and carries a large and complete stock. Mr. Herman has always been prominently identified with the growth and development of the town since its incorporation and served one term as mayor. He recently erected a \$5,000 business

structure for use by his store. Another former mayor and pioneer businessman is Jacob Rosenstein. He was postmaster of the old town in 1884-5 and moved to the new town when it was started. He has increased his stock steadily to keep up with growing business until today he has one of the largest stocks of general merchandise in Latah County. Alexander & Co. also have a large general merchandise stock. The business was established in 1892 with Joseph Alexander, of Lewiston, J.H. Gaffney, and Edwin London as partners. They built a large iron store building which they occupied until 1890, when they were compelled to erect their present large two-story brick building to accommodate their increased business. The iron building is used by the firm for storage purposes. In 1890 George H. Hobson bought out the business of the Genesee Mercantile Company, which he has since been conducting with much profit as the Beehive store. George Stelz, who started first in 1888 as a building contractor, has been conducting a large general merchandise store since 1893 on Main Street. R.E. Follet, the pioneer harness maker, is still in business. He carries a large stock and still makes and repairs harness. There are two excellent drug stores. In one of the handsomest buildings in the town, Conant & Conant have a store which would be a credit to a city many times the size of Genesee. The other, the Pioneer Drug Store, was an institution of the old town, established by Cox & Hodgins, from whom T Kennedy, the present manager, bought the business in 1888. The store carries a complete line of drugs and druggist sundries. Follet Bros., who have been in business many years, carry a complete line of groceries, confectionery, and stationery. Driscoll & Thomas opened in business in 1898, buying out the Bressler and Scroggins hardware stock and have met with great success. George Jamieson, who built the first blacksmith shop in the old town, is in the same business in the new city. Another prisoner is Henry Nebelsieck, a tailor who is still in business. He is secretary of the school board. The leading hotels of the city are the Genesee house, conducted by Q. F. Surby, which caters particularly to the traveling trade and the Grand Central hotel, run by F.A. Robinson. Both supply comfortable lodging and excellent meals. Other prosperous business enterprises include the following: the

fair, F. A. Marquardsen, proprietor; Cash Bargain store, Quillen & co, proprietors; John Meyer, dealer in farm implements; T. Driscoll, dealer in barbed wire, etc.; city meat market, Fred Nagel, proprietor; miss E. E. Borg & co. millinery; William Smolt, cigar factory and dealer in cigars and tobacco; W. L. Birman, drayman; William Hickman, livery barn; George Stelz, undertaker; George L. Mochel, livery barn; home bakery; Kemp and Stadler, blacksmith; Rees Pickering, real estate and insurance; Genesee bakery and restaurant; William Brown, barber shop; Clarence Jain, barber; Star and Monarch saloons. The professional field is well represented. Among the physicians are Dr. R.S. Beck, the former mayor; Dr. H.J. Smith, Dr. W. H. Ehlen, Dr. J.L. Conant, Jr., and Dr. J.L. Hayes. The dentists include Dr. C.A. Follet and Dr. J.L. Hayes. Among the attorneys are Hans Bugge, who makes a specialty of land office practice and who is secretary of the chamber of commerce and P.W. McRoberts.

The present town board consists of the following: Mayor, Dr. J.L. Conant; J.K. Bell; C.E. Wood; W.M. Thompson; D Scharnhorst; clerk, C.F. Burr, who is also justice of the peace; and treasurer, F.A. Bressler, who is vice president of the Exchange National Bank. Among the postmaster of the town have been E.R. Wiswell, who was succeeded in 1897 by J.J. Owen who held the office until recently. Mrs. Owen is now postmistress.

The future of Genesee appears bright. Conditions which have brought it up from a small village to a thriving prosperous town will continue to all [add] to its growth and importance. With the greater development of its tributary territory will come corresponding increase in its size, its business, and its importance.

Vale of Genesee
By Bert Gamble

Down the bunch grass trail of memory,
Where sunflowers nod and away,
To the wheatland vale of Genesee,
In dreams I ride away
Back through my golden boyhood,
There with the pioneers,
Through waving fielding of long ago,
Those glorious yesteryears
Over the friendly prairies,
Where first wildflower sprung
When all the world were wonderous
And life's long years were young
Would I could dream forever
Of scenes so dear to me

Do not wake me! I am dreaming,
Of the vale of Genesee

From "Song of the Palouse"

Nearly everyone in Genesee attended

COMMUNITY DAY 1936

In May 1936 Genesee held a community day. The program was as follows:

9:30 am	Flag raising and band concert
9:15	Grade school program
10:15	Mavericks roll call and program
10:30	Alums roll call and program
11:15	Address by Lt. Gov. G.P.
11:45	Community Dinner in the park
1:15 pm	Band concert
1:30	Folk dances
1:40	German band
1:50	Old Fiddlers
2:15	Pioneer roll call
2:30	Address by Dr. Chenoweth
4:00	Sports and field events
8:00	Pioneer dance
8:30	Pioneer grand march
9:30	Alum grand march
10:30	Mavericks grand march

Governor Ross who was summoned to Helena, Montana, wrote that he will be unable to be here. During the afternoon there will be full program of races for children, three-legged race for women and for men, with a 100-yard dash free for all. The sports program will close with a softball game between country and town.

In 1936 the Genesee News published a special edition commemorating community day held in conjunction with the school. Several interesting articles appeared. Mrs. Walter Jain compiled a Pioneer History of the Genesee Community. She was the mother of the late Lew, Ben and Gladys Jain Magee, and of the Don of Genesee and Grace Jain Wicks, long time Moscow resident active in civic and political affairs and a weekly columnist for the Moscow Idahonian. The following paragraphs include experts from Mrs. Jain's article:

"It seems that this particular valley where Genesee now stands was not settled until after the Thorn Creek neighborhood. Michael Evits, Jacob Kambitsch, Thomas Tierney, and others taking claims there is 1870-72. James Hanson, a brother-in-law of Mr. Tierney, arriving in 1872, filed on the

place now owned by William Hickman. Selling this place to E.T. Platt, father of Mrs. William Hickman, in the early 80s, he purchased and spend the remainder of his life on the farm now owned by Mrs. Anna Hanson, his daughter in law and in part by John Luedke, the husband of Mr. Hanson's granddaughter, Rowena (Mrs. John) Luedke."

Who Named the Town?

Henry Deacon (note: possibly should be Deason) was living on his quarter section now occupied by John Broemeling in 1873, when his brother-in-law, H.B. Hodgins, and family arrived. The homesteaded the place now owned by D. Scharnhorst. (Later the Henry Koster-Phil Greenwell place.) William Hodgins, son of H.B. Filed and resided on the Hugo Manderfeld place. Rufus Beeman arrived in 1874 and settled on the ranch now owned by Rudolph Nordby, Beeman's pioneer home sheltered a large family. A general store and the first post office of which Mr. Beeman was postmaster, were on the site, the office being called "Thorn creek P.O., Idaho Territory."

(Editor's note: There seems to be some dispute about who actually named the Genesee Valley. The "History of North Idaho" gives credit to Alonzo Leland, a man named Stone, and John P. Vollmer, who name the area in 1870, as they reached it from the Lewiston valley, from whence they rode in their buggy. Vollmer wrote that the area reminded Stone of his old home in Genesee, New York. From then on Leland's newspaper, the Lewiston Teller, always referred to the area as Genesee. Mrs. Jain agrees with the naming because of its resemblance to Genesee Valley of New York, but she writes that a Mr. Walsh, husband of Beeman's daughter, Mr. Beeman and Tannis E. Miller succeeded in having the name officially adopted. Mrs. Lola Clyde, Moscow, had another story about that naming of Genesee. "As the men rode through the deep brunch grass, it reached the stirrups of their horses" she said. "One of the fellows said, "this is God's country. Just like God made it in the beginning. Well, call it Genesis'. Genesis or Genesee, the name was adopted, and it's been Genesee for 100 years.")

Mrs. Jain's article tells us that Miss Viola Arant, Lewiston, taught a term of school in the locality to the south, in a cabin on Joe

Bronte's claim near Cornwall. Miss Arant became the wife of Captain E. McConville, sent from Portland to aid the settlers during the Nez Perce Indian War of 1977. As a major, McConville was killed in battle in the Philippines in the Spanish American War. Cornwall was north of Genesee, between Moscow and Troy at the head of the Little Potlatch Creek. This later became a stopping place and shelter for people hauling lumber from Troy for homes and firewood.

Speculation about Fort

There is much speculation about the Genesee Fort. Mrs. Jain's article puts it "where the road then crossed Cowcreek, about a half mile north of Old Town, on a line north from what would now be a continuance the road to the city cemetery." Lalia Boone's book "From A to Z in Latah County, Idaho" gives this description: "T37N R5W sec 12. On Cow Creek on land belonging to Mr. Beeman, later to James Nesbit (Nesbitt), Dr. C.E. Toumy, and a Mr. Erickson." John Platt's book "whispers from Old Genesee" gives further details.

Other early settlers Mrs. Jain mentions are Mrs. Johanna Christensen, Benjamin Thompson and his brother Herman, T.E. Miller and family, Patrick Cunningham, George Michael, Stephen, and Joe Driscoll from Bathurst, New Brunswick, and Mrs. Mary Cunningham and seven small children.

She also writes of Mrs. Herman Nebelseick, who accompanied her parents and brothers and sisters, the Christian and Fredricka Scharnhorst family, west in 1874. This family emigrated from Iowa (Christian and Fredricka had been German immigrants originally). Mrs. Nebelseick recalled the large train of wagons, mules and oxen that had brought them across the plains. Many families began the trek westward, but the ones with the best financial backing and the best animals were the ones to reach their goal. When they

reached Eugene, Oregon, four months after their journey began, only Mr. Scharnhorst's two teams, a Mr. Barringer and a bachelor were left. Mr. Barringer and a bachelor were left. Mr. Scharnhorst farmed one year in Oregon, but its rain forced him to look farther, and the family came to Genesee. They homesteaded here in 1874.

Another pioneer family was that of Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Sampson and sons Glenn and Virgil (later our barbers). They settled on the farm owned by E. M. Becker. Their tales of the hardships they faced – the ever-present threat of Indians, lack of all but the barest necessities of life, sickness, no trails to follow, unknown rivers to cross and high mountains to climb – make us realize the resource and fortitude these people exemplified. "No wonder the new country prospered" writes Mrs. Jain. "It was people by sturdy, courageous and energetic race"

Another interesting note: Thomas Mason, who lived in the willow grove on the road south of Genesee near the William Baumgartner home, owned a station and operated a stage line at Mason Creek on Craig Mountain from 1866 to 1877. His brother Harry and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Osbourne, Mason's sister, Mrs. Walsh, and another settler were surrounded at Mason's store. The men were killed, and three women taken captive and brutally treated. Thomas Mason and the Walsh's later settled near Genesee. They resided on the place known as the William Ingle farm.

Other early settlers mentioned in the Jain article are: Tannis E. Miller, Goswin Seivert, Lewis Jain and family, Calwell brothers, Hollister's Ingles, Spurbecks, Petersons, Christenson's, Joseph Geiger, Eli Johnsons, Andersons, Bowmans, smiths, Jones, Grays, Swenson's, John Magee, Follet's, Davis',

Ebels, Sanford Evans, Bottjers, Markams, Wahls, Jim and Tim Keene, W. J. Herman, H. J. C. Tweedt and others. I much echo Mrs. Jain's sentiments, "there are no doubt many others to whom we extended sincere apologies for omitting, assuring it was due to poor memory rather than will."

Genesee gets recognition in the 1910 **Idaho State Gazetteer**

The following information was collected by John Luedke and is from a 1910-1911 newspaper, listing towns and areas of Idaho. Among them is:

GENESEEE: Population 1200; Latah County; an incorporated village on the Northern Pacific Railway; 38 miles by rail Congregational, German and Norwegian Lutheran churches; 2 banks; 3 hotels; an opera house; brick factory; flour mill and electric light plant. A weekly newspaper, THE NEWS, is published. Exp. Northern. Tel. W. U.

ARMSTRONG, Chas. G., well driller.
BELL & EMMETT (Jas. I. Bell, Robert

Emmett), general store.

BLILLAU, Rev. Alfred M., Catholic
BRANNER, Paul, well driller
BRUNE, Howard W., publisher, GENESEEE

NEWS.

BURR, Chas. F., Justice and insurance
CANN, Paul, printer
CASEBOLT, Fred, harness.
CLARK, Grant, drugstore
CLARK, Percy J., Proprietor, THE

TOGGERY Percy J. Clark, Prop.

Clothes for Well Dressed People
Cleaning, Pressing and Repairing
Phone 331
Jain Building, Genesee, Idaho

COMMERCIAL CREAM CO.
DEITINGER, Andrew, brick manufacturer
DICUS, Fred, drugs

EHLEN, William H. Physicians
FIRST BANK OF GENESEEE (Capital

\$25,000) J.P. Vollmer, President; T. N. Nelson, Cashier.

FOLLET BROS., Leon and Fred, general store.

FRED ALB. Shoemaker
GENESEEE BAND
GENESEEE ELECTRIC LIGHT CO.
GENESEEE EXCHANGE BANK (Capital

\$25,00) J.P. Vollmer, President; T.N. Nelson, Cashier.
GENESEEE HOUSE, Mrs. Mollie Swenson, proprietor. Nicely furnished rooms for transients' special rates by week or month

GENESEEE NEWS
GENESEEE OPERA HOUSE, Jas. K Bell,

manager

GRAND CENTRAL HOUSE, Chas. M Robbin, proprietor
HALL, Peter J., up to date photography in all its branches. We also do finishing for amateurs
HANSON & ACREA, Henry L. Hardy, John L. Acrea. Conf. and pool hall

HARRIS, Adelaide S. music teacher
HASBROUK, Fred D., dentist
HASFURTHER, Joseph N., hardware
HAZELWOOD CO., cream station
HELLICKSON, Oscar C., Norwegian

Lutheran pastor

HERMAN, William J., hardware
HERMAN, W. J. & Co., William J. and

William M., furniture

HICKMAN, William R. livery
JAIN, Clarence L, barber
KEMPF, John, blacksmith
KENNEDY, Kate, milliner
LAMBERT & OYLEAR, Fred E. Lambert,

Elmer E. Oylear, furniture and hardware

LARRABEE, John, general store
LINEHAN, Thomas, lodgings
MEYER & FLOMER, John Meyer, Henry

Flomer, farm implements

MILLER, Ernst E., farm implements
MOCHEL BROS., George and Ben,

carpenters

MURPHY, Alonzo, blacksmith
OLSON, Ole, jeweler.
PICKERING, Rees, real estate
POTLATCH LUMBER CO.

RADER & WESTENSEE, John Rader, Chas.

Westensee, meats

REILLY, John T., dentist
ROBBINS, Chas. M., proprietor, Grand Central Hotel. 1912 ad: "Sample rooms, large and well lighted, bedrooms, easy and neat. Special attention paid to the traveling public. Home for everybody."

ROSENSTEIN, Jacob, general store
SAMPSON, Glenn, barber
SHULL, Gilbert L., Congregational pastor.
SMOLT, William, confectionary
SMITH, William, R. R. exp. and tel. agt.
STANDARD LUMBER CO., Edw. Abernathy,

mgr.

STELTZ, Christ, painter.
SWENSON, Mrs. Mollie, proprietor, Genesee

House.

THOMPSON, William E., grain
TOGGERY (See Adv.)

TRACY, John, livery
TOUMY, Clark F., physician. Dr. Toumy owned and operated Toumy Hospital; later became the Masonic Hall and has since been rated to make way for the new building.

WELLS & LEWIS, Jos. R. Wells, Jas. Lewis, draymen.

WOLFF, rev. A. F., German Lutheran pastor
WOOD, C.E. CO., grain and flour mill.

Genesee: 1912-1913

The following information, collected by John Luedke, is listed on page 83 of RL Polk & Co s. LATAH COUNTY DIRECTORY. Under Genesee, it states, "Population 1,000. An incorporated town, first settled in 1888, on the NP Ry., 35 miles south of Moscow, the county seat. It is located in the famous Genesee Valley and is part of the far-farmed Palouse Country, 35,000 to 40,000 tons of grain and hay are shipped annually. It contains several warehouses; 2 banks and all branches of business are well represented."

CITY OFFICERS: Mayor – R.E. Oylear.
Clerk and Ex-officio Police Judge – C.F. Burr
Treasurer – E.O. Cathcart.
Engineer – D. C. Burr.
Supt. of Water Works – C.F. Burr.
Fire Chief – F. E. Dicus
Board of Health – Dr. W.H.

Ehlen, J.D. Adams, Henry Martinson, John Meyer.

Marshall, Street Com. & Ex-Officio Chief of Police – G.I. Mochel
Councilmen – 1st ward H.

Martinson, C. R. Spurbeck; 2nd ward, J.T. Nelson, John Meyer. Regular council meeting on the 1st Monday of each month at 7:30 pm.

CHURCHES: Churches included First Christian, no pastor; First Congregational, Rev. G.L. Shull, pastor; Norwegian Lutheran, Rev. O.C. Hellickson, pastor; St. John's German Lutheran, Rev. A. Wolff, pastor; Methodist Episcopal South, Rev. Jonathan G. Garrick, pastor; Roman Catholic, St. Mary's Rev. Father Haegy, pastor, Rev. Father Nicholas Hahn, asst. pastor.

POST OFFICE: Postmaster, D.C. Burr; Asst. Dora B. Burr; Carrier 1, C.E. Vandenburg; Carrier 2, John Vandenburg.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS: M.B. Dunkle, principal; L.T. Babcock, Spt.; Leta E. Snyder, Asst. Prin.; teachers, Maggie J. Nesbit, Clara T. Kuester, Anna E. Bond, Carol Byrnes, Olive Larrabee.

Genesee has always had many clubs and societies. The following are listed as:

SECRET AMD BENEVOLENT SOCIETIES

Independent Order of Oddfellows, Genesee Lodge #30, Latah Encampment #9. Rebekah's (Auxiliary to IOOF), Golden Rule Lodge #11. Knights of Pythias, Star Lodge #5. Pythian Sisters, Evening star Temple #15. Masonic, Unity Lodge #32, F&AM. Order of Eastern Star, Lily Chapter #27. Modern Woodman of America, Genesee Camp #6703 Woodmen of the World, Grenadier Camp #249

Many ads probably paid for the directory. Among them are The Genesee News, the First Bank of Genesee with capital listed as \$30,000 and surplus as \$10,000; Genesee Veterinary Hospital, Dr. J.D. Adams, Prop.: Grand Central Hotel, C.M. Robbins, Prop.; and W.A. Lauder of Moscow, selling concrete blocks, drain tile building material hay, grain and feed and sewer pipe. This directory lists four pages of names of residents of Genesee including students, merchants, doctors, dentists, teachers, farmers, pastors, bankers, utilities managers, etc.

"The Great War"

The 1920 census shows a population of 1241. The "Great World War" was over, and the boys had returned home. A 1917 Draft List of

Latah County lists Bear Creek, Boulder Creek, Cora, Cornwall, east Genesee, east Moscow, Four-mile, gold creek, Gold Hill, Harvard, Helmer, Julietta, Kendrick, Little Potlatch, Mountain Meadow, North Moscow, North Troy, Palouse, Pine creek, Potlatch, Southeast Moscow, South Troy, Southwest Moscow, Texas Ridge, Thorn Creek, West Genesee, West Moscow and White Pine. Under these captions men were issued an "Order of Draft" and a chronological number.

The order in which the number of Latah County's 1,672 registrants were drawn are shown in the 1917 Draft List. The names of the registrants are given by precincts which are alphabetically listed, as stated earlier. The names were given in the numerical order of their draft numbers with order in which their number was drawn from the bowl. I will not list all of the Genesee men, but will list the first six. The "Order of the draft" is the first number, and the person's "numerical number" is the second:

EAST GENESEE:

1617- 120 – D.L. Bressler
299 -121 – Andrew Kern
260 – 122 – J. W. Brigham
1416 -123 – L.L. Larrabee
593 – 124 – R.F. King
1557 – 125 – A. O. Halverson

There were 81 men registered from East Genesee, 32 from West Genesee, 13 Genesee men from Little Potlatch Precinct and 20 from Thorn Creek. This writer does not have statistics as to how many registered actually served, but these figures are available through Bielenberg-Schooler Post #58 of the American Legion, headquartered in Genesee. Many men and boys served their country in every war that the United States has ever been a part of. These men, and later women, who served are held in the highest

esteem by their descendants and the people of Genesee and Latah County. America's farmers raised crops to feed the allies and her then "vast" industrial machine was expected and did produce vast quantities of munitions, aero planes and guns. The paragraph from the Draft List that ends the "History of the War First Three Years," states, "America has already begun her titanic task. Some of her soldiers are in France. At home the nation has started raising her selective draft army. Her greatest businessmen, inventors and manufacturers have lent aid. The farmers have responded. The plain people have contributed \$2 million to a liberty loan" Of course, the men of Latah County and the people on the home front rallied round to help end that, until that time, "greatest war."

Following World War I the American Legion was formed. Wilson Archibald, now of Clarkston and the oldest living member of Genesee's Bielenberg-Schooler Post, was among those patriots who returned to France to help organize this worthy organization.

Two charters hang today on the wall of the Genesee Legion Memorial Building. One is dated May 1, 1921, and signed at Boise, Idaho. Thirty-four members' names appear. A second charter roll call adds the names of 14 more members. The post was named for two young Genesee men who were killed in action: Corporal Henry Joseph Bielenberg, USMC, 78th Co., 6th Regiment; and Private Irvin John Schooler, Co. F, 161st Infantry, USA.

American Legion Post Active

The American Legion Bielenberg-Schooler Post # 58 of Genesee became an active civic and social part of the community. Membership remained constant, and many worthwhile activities were sponsored throughout

the years. A women's auxiliary was chartered on March 3, 1925, but lack of interest caused it to be dropped. However, on November 23, 1928, the group reorganized. The first meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Millie Whalen with 26 eligible members present. Mrs. Duella Harland, Lewis-Clark Post, Unit #13, assisting. Mrs. Carl Harris, Lewiston, Department Secretary and Treasurer, and Mrs. Emmett Spiker assisted. First president of the Genesee Unit was Mrs. William Mervyn. Mrs. Don Bressler (now Mrs. Irene Berger) was secretary-treasurer and Mrs. George Post, historian. Of the 34 charter members of 60 years ago, three remain, and all are Lewiston residents. They are Mrs. Berger, Mrs. Mahlon (Ruth) Follett and Mrs. Antone (Ethel) Kambitsch.

Through the years Legion and Auxiliary members, their wives, and husbands, have shared fun and tragedy. Following World War II, the men and women returning home became members of the Post and Unit. A large brick building was built in the late 40s replacing a smaller "Legion Club" which stood near the old Farmers' Exchange Bank. Slot machines were in and monies from the slots as well as memorial donations financed the new building. It has had a bowling alley in the basement, a roller-skating rink, a restraint, and lounge. Presently it is a lovely community building maintained by the men and women. Fred and Emma Shirrod left funds to the Auxiliary to help with maintenance and upkeep, and the building is rented out. It is used by the Genesee Senior Citizens as well as for meetings, quilt and craft shows, historical displays, etc. on Community Day.

Present membership now includes veterans from world war I, World War II, Korean War and the war

in Vietnam. Fifty-one members belong to the Post as of July 1989. The Auxiliary has 53 members with junior members making the total 74. Many excellent programs are sponsored by the organizations, including Boys' and Girls' State, scholarships, Americanism, veteran's affairs, rehabilitation, public relations and other programs for children and youth. The groups work very hard locally, in the state and nationally for the veterans of America. The Bielenberg-Schooler Post #58, and its Auxiliary Unit #58, have been a constant and integral part of the Genesee community for the past 60 some years.