

Bunchgrass Historian



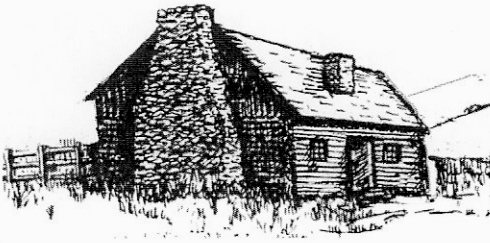
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“HILLS THAT WAVED WITH BUNCHGRASS”

**LILLY MACHIN’S MEMORIES OF EARLY DAYS IN
THE PALOUSE COUNTRY’S LITTLE VALLEY
MATLOCK DISTRICT**



Whitman County Historical Society Colfax, Washington

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Otto Machin Farmstead c. 1915

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FROM THE EDITOR

I am most happy that local historian Richard Scheuerman has submitted this primary source document involving early Palouse history to share with our readers. Ordinarily this space would be about the author Lilly Machin, but Scheuerman has so clearly introduced and annotated this source. It is my intention to use this space to remind our readers about the WCHS Archive where original sources are preserved and made available to researchers. The Archive also collects the works of scholars such as Scheuerman. Our Archive depends upon donors to submit photographs, letters, documents, and articles to build our collection for future researchers.

In the case of this enlightening memoir of early day in the Palouse country, we have the annotations of an expert scholar whose work can be found on our shelves. His body of work is probably well known to our readers, some of whom may well have had him for a teacher early in his career when he was a teacher and administrator in the Endicott-St. John Public School District, where he took students out on field trips and showed them the “hows” of research and writing of local history. Our Archive has numerous of his students publications. His later career as a professional historian, college teacher, and director of graduate students, led to the wonderful body of his still ongoing work on regional history. This work falls into four main categories.

First is Scheuerman the chronicler of the Volga German settlers of the Palouse. His *Pilgrims on the Earth* is the first of many publications about the Volga Germans of his own heritage. Second are his studies of the groups, families, and individuals who participated in the transition from the homestead era to modern times. His *Palouse Country: A Land and its People* (2003) represents this side of his work. A third area of his work is centered on Northwest Native American history that began with his *Renegade Tribe: The Palouse Indians and the Invasion of the Inland Pacific Northwest* authored with Clifford Trafzer in 1986. A fourth category of Scheuerman’s prolific career is centered on the agricultural heritage of the Palouse as revealed in his 2013 *Harvest Heritage: Agricultural Origins and Heirloom Crops of the Pacific Northwest*. He is actively investigating the original varieties of grains grown here, the development of new crops and the introduction of new farming methods. Scheuerman is currently conducting his studies and observations at his “Palouse Colony Farm” on land near Endicott.

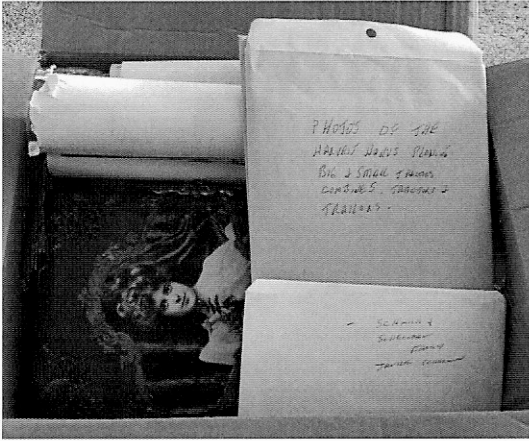


“HILLS THAT WAVED WITH BUNCHGRASS”

LILLY MACHIN’S MEMORIES OF EARLY DAYS IN THE PALOUSE COUNTRY’S LITTLE VALLEY MATLOCK DISTRICT

Introduction and Annotations by Richard D. Scheuerman (2023)

The Little Valley-Matlock district of central Whitman County might well be termed the cradle of Palouse Country settlement. The area is the northernmost stretch of the Palouse River and served as an important frontier crossroads known as Kamiak’s Crossing since it was the ancestral camp of legendary Yakama-Palouse Chief Kamiakin. The first recorded exploration of the vicinity took place in July 1859 when a Mullan Road survey team traveled along to the river en route to “Pyramid Peak” (Steptoe Butte). The foray was guided by colorful fur trade era frontiersman “Daring Donald” McKay and the group noted fertile bottomland and an abundance of tall pines, luxuriant bunchgrass, serviceberries and wild currants. In 1869 Indiana native Joseph DeLong, who crossed the Oregon Trail seven years earlier, settled three miles upstream from Kamiak’s Crossing to establish the first European-American habitation on the Palouse River. The immigrant pathfinder Repp, Litzenberger, Ochs and other Volga German families established farms in



Janice Scheuerman Kolloen Archive Box

I might have interest as they knew of my writing on family and regional history. I had remembered Eda as she would sometimes attend church in Endicott or visit on Memorial Day and speak with my father. Much later when compiling family lineages I learned that Herb was a distant cousin since his Great-Grandfather Karl Scheuerman (b. 1841) and my Great-Grandfather Henry B. Scheuerman (1853-1938) were brothers.

Two large boxes from Erik arrived at our doorstep several days later that contained numerous photographs of Janice, a 1956 graduate of St. John High School, and her parents that mostly covered the period from the 1940s to '70s. But several envelopes contained much older material—photographs, land deeds, marriage certificates, and other papers dating back to the 1880s with names familiar to anyone raised in the vicinity—Repp, Litzenberger, Lautenschlager, Kleweno,



R. D. Repp Combine on Karl Scheuerman Farm (1927)

the vicinity in the 1880s.

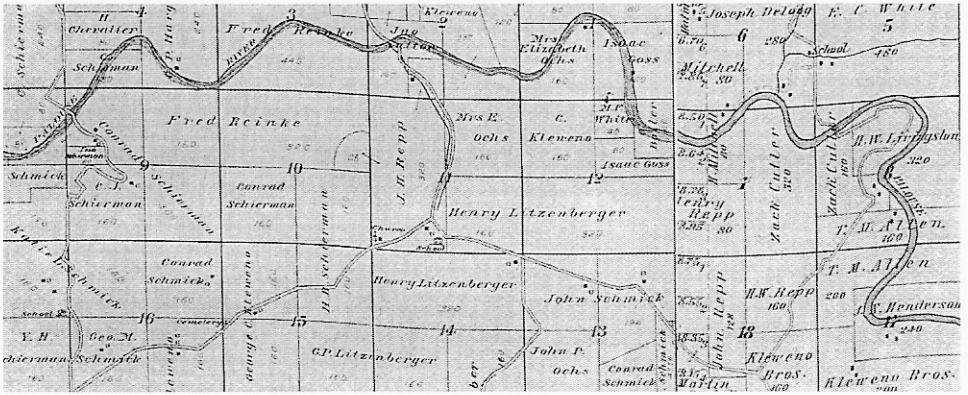
In April 2023 I received an email from Seattle area resident Erik Kolloen who wrote that his mother, Janice Scheuerman Kolloen (1938-2019), had recently passed away and that she and his Grandparents Herb (1909-1973) and Eda (1908-1996) Scheuerman had left them numerous family photographs and documents related to the Little Valley-Matlock area. Erik had no children and he and his brother had salvaged what they wanted so were going to dispose of the rest unless

Morasch, et. al. Two images of personal significance were a picture of my wife's Great-Grandmother Marie (Mrs. Martin) Schmick (1849-1933), someone I had not realized had come to the United States from our family's ancestral village of Yagodnaya Polyana.

Another remarkable image was the first one in a large black scrapbook that bore the following inscription in light pencil on reverse: "Taken August 1927 / R. D. Repp's combine / on Karl Scheuerman's field." Karl

Scheurman was my grandfather who owned the farm where I was raised in the 1950s and '60s so the picture had special meaning as one of the earliest we have of our home place. I remembered R. D. Repp very well as he lived in Endicott and was both my grandfather's nephew and brother-in-law. R. D.'s grandparents, Henry (1851-1921) and Anna Marie "Mary" (1852-1936) Repp, were among the leaders of the first group of our Volga German people who immigrated to the Palouse Country in the early 1880s. "Grandma Repp" and Marie Schmick are seen together in one of the pictures from this collection.

Among the most historically significant documents included in Erik's mailing was a six-page single-spaced article titled "Memories of Early Days in Little Valley" by longtime Palouse Country resident Lilly Machin. Little Valley is an area also known to locals as "the Matlock district" for the bridge located at the



Whitman County's Palouse River Matlock-Little Valley District (1910)

northernmost point of the Palouse River in central Whitman County between the communities of Endicott and St. John. This scenic area of imposing basaltic bluffs and fertile farmland is a haven for deer, elk, migratory waterfowl, and other creatures and is of special historical importance. Approximately two miles downstream from Matlock Bridge is where a group of Volga Germans established the "Palouse Colony" in the 1880s that served as a sanctuary for immigrant families coming from Russia to the Pacific Northwest.

Lilly Machin, who was born about 1890, was the daughter of Palouse Country pioneer Otto Machin and knew many of these families. The family lived for many years on a farm along the Endicott-St. John highway about two miles northeast of Matlock Bridge. Her matter-of-fact memoir is based on visits she had with community elders and is filled with fascinating details on topics as varied as Joe DeLong's orchard fruits and railroad acreage prices to tales of doctors and lawmen. It is not dated but from the context appears to have been written about 1940, and her use of archaic terms like "scatterbox" and "hie" beckon us to bygone days of country

labor and neighborliness. Thanks to Erik Kolleon for safeguarding these items, Carol Repp Hannas for help in identifying several names and locations, and Carol O'Callaghan for photograph scanning and file conversion.

Dell Smith, of Spokane, whose brother, Ben, homesteaded part of our place told me that in 1875, when his folks came to Endicott, the Cutlers,¹ Press Matlocks,² Joe DeLong,³ Martzells, and John Sutton⁴ were already established on the Palouse. Mrs. Hamilton told me that DeLong had a large apple, pear, peach, cherry and apricot orchard. This brought in caravans of wagon teams at harvest time from Endicott and other sections after fruit supplies and was a source of wealth to the orchardist. He was also a horse fancier and bred fine trotting stock. Being a bachelor, and a very busy man, he kept Mrs. Ferguson to do cooking and such.

In 1879, Chet Smith's grandparents came from Oregon and homesteaded the "Dell place." They were followed in 1881 by several of their sons, who all took up claims on the flat extending from Willada [Lancaster] to the old school site. Jim, who was Chet's father, and Will, located near the old school acre; Virgil, where Lester Oswald lives; Dock, on the Pennington place; and John Smith at Lautenschlagers.⁵ After St. John was established, the Sr. Smith operated a harness shop there for several years, then sold his homestead to Chet's father and moved to British Columbia. Chet was born on the "Dell."

Melvina's folks, the Jim Jennings, and her grandparents, the Pasquel Jennings, came in 1884.⁶ Her father homesteaded the land where Melvina lives, and her grandparents, the holdings now under lease to Wes Fassett. Those sites were selected because of the abundance of bunchgrass, which grew waist high in the flats. It was fenced and used only for pasturing horses and cattle for years. Their land grant documents carried the signature of President Benjamin Harrison. The old



Central Ferry bridge on the Snake River (1924)

Texas Ferry Road ran between their homes, carrying a variety of travelers between Walla Walla and Spokane Falls, including many wandering Indian bands who often stopped, wanting to sell bead work and moccasins. Chief Joseph was sometimes along, always designated by a blanket and a long eagle feather in his hat, while his followers used white man's apparel.⁷

Mrs. Pasquel Jennings served meals at her home to passing traffic for many years. After St. John began to build up, Jim Jennings conducted a meat market there and put up a slaughterhouse where the golf links are now, then moved his family to town where they built the house that Genevieve lives in. Mrs. Smith spoke of the heavy snowfall in those early winters, stating that it piled up to such a depth that fences and all landmarks were obliterated. Which brought out a tale of the night she was born, when her father had started out with his team and sleigh after Mrs. Pasquel Jennings to help. But he became lost in the snow-covered hills between their homes and had to wait for daylight to set him right. Luckily, Melvina's maternal grandmother was already at hand and all went well.

The fame of Washington's bunchgrass and wheat possibilities seemed to have spread fast and far. Settlers began to come in rapidly. The [Northern Pacific] railroad company had been allotted every other section of land as an inducement to run a line through here, but after the homestead sites were all taken, the railroad land, too, was quickly bought up at prices ranging from \$6.00 to \$10.00 an acre. Mr. and Mrs. John Benton Bageant, parents of Mrs. Mattingly and Mrs. Webb, came by team from Sprague to the present St. John site in 1887 and camped that summer on ground now occupied by Potlatch Lumber Company. They then homesteaded and moved to the August Smick place.⁸

At that time, they found in my district, besides the Smiths already mentioned, Henry Weldon, father of Mrs. Roy Fredrick, on the George Repp place; Abe Reynolds, on the Dallas Marcus location; a Charles Smith (no relation to the others) on part of the Repp lands; Charles Freeman where Jim Freeman is now; and James Freeman on the C. J. Schierman⁹ property; all homesteaders. Mr. Bageant helped build the P & O line¹⁰ when it came through in 1889, the year that Washington was admitted to the union. Jim Jennings made several horseback trips to Colfax after payroll money during the railroad's construction. He was once followed by a suspicious looking character about the streets of Colfax, so delayed his departure until after dark when he eluded his pursuer, secured his horse, and made the return trip without mishap, but found his wife very worried as she knew he was to bring \$2,000.00 in cash.

After the Pacific Coast Warehouse¹¹ was put up, Mr. Bageant worked there, walking home nights carrying all their supplies. Dr. Lockhart spoke of seeing him start out, often with a sack of flour on his shoulder, and other articles in his hands. Mrs. Bageant, I am told, was always present to help at births, deaths, or other times of strife. The winter of 1889-90 had exceptionally heavy snow so the Bageants



Zion Lutheran Church (c 1910)

moved to the station which had been built up on the new railroad called Willada, from Will and Ada Yokum, the section foreman who had set up a store there. The first night after the move, Mrs. Stover was born and she was named Ada, also in honor of Mrs. Yokum.

From George Repp,¹² I found that his folks landed in the Endicott country from Kansas in 1888 and would have returned on the next train if they had had the

fare. They settled first near the Litzenberger School,¹³ then moved to the Martzell place on the Palouse, which had been under lease to the late Charles Pennington, who then rented the present Kerkman ranch.¹⁴ The Kerkman land had been homesteaded by Fred Humphrey and his wife, each taking a quarter-section with their house on the dividing line.

Mrs. George Repp's parents, Rev. and Mrs. Schoknecht, came to that same Litzenberger community as newlyweds for missionary work in 1892, holding church services in the schoolhouse and parochial school at their home. Times really were "hard" then, yet during the year these missionaries were there they and the early German settlers established the Zion Lutheran Church¹⁵ which stood near the Litzenberger School until about ten years ago when it was torn down and rebuilt for a parsonage at the congregation's new location in Endicott. It had become a more popular meeting place after automobiles came into general use. Mr. Repp also spoke of Indians traveling through on horseback between the Nez Perce and Nespelem and Yakima countries. They maintained a continuous camp during summers on Beeler Creek, at the forks of the Kerkman and Machin roads where they found shade and spring water. Hummocks can still be seen where their teepees stood.¹⁶

Frank Mattingly said when his parents came to the Mockonema locality in 1890 the Indians had a big "town" at Colfax, and they found another big camp about where Ulrichs live when he and his brothers came to Pleasant Valley the next year. They rented land where the Carl Lautenschlagers¹⁷ are and started their farming operations with four horses bought on time. Asked about machinery being used then, he said walking plows broke out the sod and then gang-plows came in. Seeding was done with scatter-board, broadcast, or shotgun methods before drills came. Numerous gray squirrels, now extinct, were very destructive to the early wheat

fields. Grain was headed and stacked. Some reapers were used for hay cutting. Fred Reinke,¹⁸ with a twelve-, and Ben Manchester,¹⁹ with a twenty-horsepower rig were among the first threshers. Ted Allen, Link Ballaine, and Bodine came in later with steam rigs.

Mrs. Giles came with her parents, the William Gosneys, and her grandparents from the Dayton district in 1894, locating on the Sweeney place, now the John Blumenshein home. After several moves, Mr. Gosney purchased the land where she now resides. The family lived in a vacated house on Repp land while their home buildings were being put up. The grandparents returned to Dayton. Adam Kleweno bought his home, which had been homesteaded by a Mr. Burlingame in 1896, and batched there several years before he and Mrs. Kleweno were married. I am told the marriage was the first solemnized at the Zion Church mentioned. The next year (1897) Mr. Repp purchased the Kerkman place. His son, Henry, Jr. and family moved onto it, displacing Pennington, who then moved a couple of miles north on land which Repp, in turn, purchased in 1898. This caused Pennington to move a third time, and it seems strange that now since his passing, a Repp should again have acquired his holdings.

Mr. Kleweno said many home sites were abandoned when he came and were posted "For Sale by Goff Insurance Company" or other mortgage companies. Nearly all units had some sod broke out, shack houses and ditch fences,²⁰ some with a strand of barb wire, just then coming into use, stretched on posts placed in the ditch banks. This early barb wire was the type that Mr. Kerkman, with his customary humor, spoke of as the kind a cow walked seven miles to scratch her back on. Later I learned that many of the earliest settlers were forced out in the hard times of the early Nineties, particularly in 1893 when the exceedingly wet harvest season



Litzenberger School (c. 1921)



The Henry and Mary Repp & Henry and Anna Litzenberger Families (c. 1890)

ruined their wheat, both standing and in the sacks. Mr. Smith's father was given all the wet wheat stored in the Pacific Coast Warehouse that winter for hauling it away and made a nice sum feeding hogs.

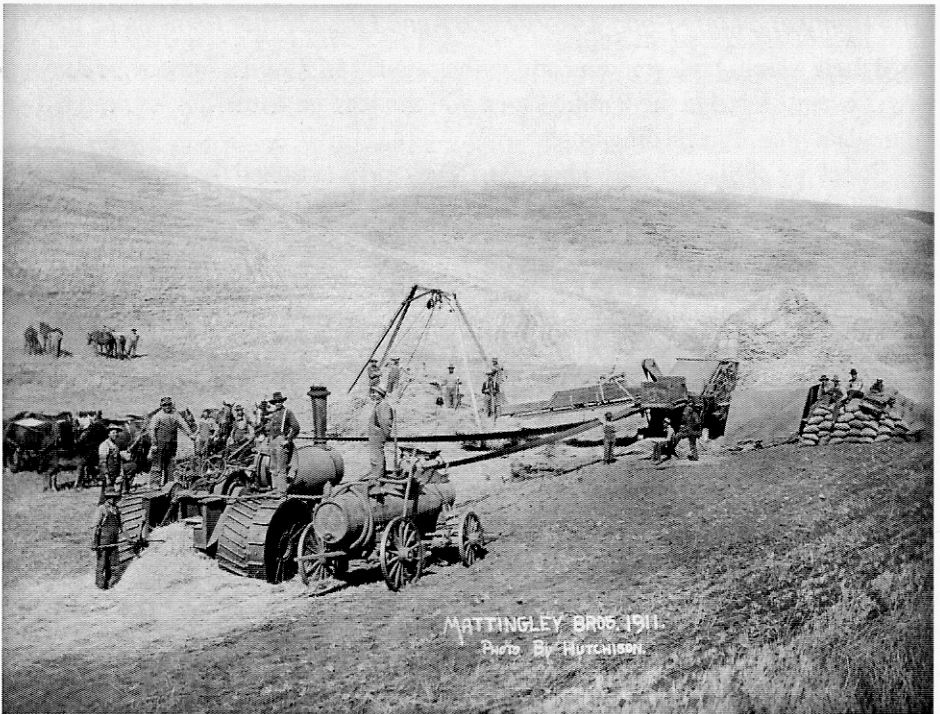
Speaking of his early neighbors, Mr. Kleweno mentioned the Sam Wheelers on the John Lautenschlager place, Jim Coopers south of Wheelers where some shade trees are the only remains, Christian Oswald, Sr. where Lester now lives Bud Bacon and sister on the George Repp place, John Echko [Eacho] who had homesteaded the Frank Miller land, Jim Dodge (father of Al and Bob) where Ed Jones lives. John Oswald was on the place known to me as McKays, with John Berger, Lee Black's and Ruarks farther along on the so-called Coyote Trail. Bill Cummins lived where Scheuermans are, with Grandpa Hamilton and Cal Cole on Miller land. Mrs. Stubbe told me her parents moved to the house where Cal Cole lived, in 1899, coming from a ranch near the Hi Miller²¹ land, between Endicott and Winona, where she was born.

The stork was hovering over their house at the time of the move so her father and mother rode ahead in their top buggy with a satchel of emergencies should he overtake them. Myrtle and the five other children followed more slowly in a spring wagon loaded with their entire household and farm equipment and driven by their hired man. A week after their arrival, the bird located them so Mr. Cummins rushed the six children to Gosney's (total strangers) took Mrs. Gosney back with him to help, then went after Dr. Lockhart. The doctor went to bed after the "blessed event"

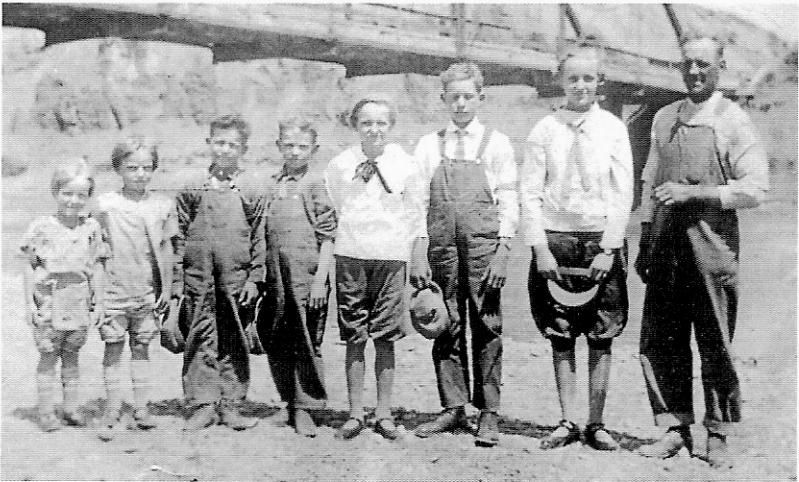
while Mr. Cummins returned Mrs. Gosney, then his children, where they were told the news. The children had, for some time, been receiving explicit instructions in housekeeping, especially to have everything clean and neat at night “because you can’t tell when someone might get sick in the night;” and had been curious also when their mother locked herself in the bedroom and sewed. However, they had not understood what it was all leading up to. In the morning, they cooked breakfast alone for Dr. Lockhart, feeling very proud indeed. Next year, they again moved, this time to the Leep Baker place.

Henry Repp²² erected the buildings where his son Dave lives, in 1900, Abe Young and John Griddle doing the carpenter work with lumber shipped from Oregon. Dock Boggs put up the big house on the school section (Blumensheins) about the same time, then sold his lease to Osie Conover who was followed by Frank Hamilton’s. The Repps, Gosneys, and Cummins made application in 1901 to form a school district, and school was held that winter season in an abandoned building on Repp’s land. The first Willada school building stood near the Lautenschlagers and from all reports was a bone of contention as to its location. It finally burned and was rebuilt on the present site.

The Little Valley schoolhouse was put up in 1903. Prior to that time, this section went under the name of Downing Gulch. I have found no one who could account for the



Mattingly Brothers Harvest (1911) R. R. Hutchison Photograph



Albert Schultz Family (possibly at the Torrence Bridge, c 1915)

change. It seems that it should have been called Smith Valley. Charles Slocum, who lived then on the McKay place, Dexter Morris, and Jim Giles did the foundation work on the school. A rock dropped on Mr. Morris's foot causing injuries which are still painful. Dexter's father, Elhanan Morris, purchased their present location in 1900 and some member of the family has farmed it almost continually since. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Mattingly, who you will recall from her report, were married in August Smick's woodshed, purchased the present Schneider place in 1902 from the Goff Insurance Company, moved and lived there in Schneider's woodshed until 1910 when they put up the big house. Jake Stover, who is now over 90 years old, did the carpenter work. Mr. Delevan, who bought the home of Mrs. Schneider's parents at Winona, worked for Mattinglys when they first moved to this home.

Telephone lines began coming in here in 1902 and 1903 with some strung on trees and fenceposts. George Repp recalled that Bud Bacon had heard over his phone, just lately installed that John Berger had shot and killed John Oswald, and Bacon stopped to tell Repps while passing on horseback to the scene of the tragedy. Mrs. Mattingly heard the news from Mrs. Ruark on the Bolton place, as she was returning home from St. John. Jim and Frank left at once to join the Ruark men at the Berger cabin where the shooting occurred, there to wait and watch till the Colfax coroner arrived. Oswald had been shot from outside as he opened the door to throw out dishwater and had fallen so that the door could not be closed without moving him. Along in the night it grew so cold that they swung his legs over so they could shut the door and warm up. Meanwhile, Mrs. Mattingly, who had been told that Berger was still at large with a gun, was home alone and had the scare of her life when something or someone rattled at her screen door that night. Berger had, however, gone to St. John and given himself up. He was later sentenced to serve time.

Not long before this in Garfield, Mrs. Lee Black's brother, Ed Hill, stabbed a



*Eda (Repp Scheuerman) and
Emma Repp (Schmick)*

Mr. [Langford] Summers, who later died from the wound, while drunk and resisting arrest. A mob of about forty men broke into the jail one night during the course of his trial, when it began to appear that his attorney might win the case and hung him (also one other prisoner) from the Colfax Courthouse window.²³

The mail route was also established in 1902 or 1903, with Elmer Chandler the first carrier, followed by Art Hastings, Pete Johnson, and Jess Harwood; then Lockhart. Mustard, which Jim Hill [of the Great Northern Railroad] had so unfortunately sown in the lower country to hold blow sand, reached this section at the turn of the century. Mr. Repp was acquainted with the weed in Russia and took particular notice of it when he found a stalk on the Pennington place. Just a few years later some fields were so rank with the weed that cattle tunneled through it and men had to be stationed high on hillsides, where they

could see any slight disturbance of the bushy tops, to motion riders directions taken by animals, when rounding up.



Otto Machin Farmstead (c. 1915)

A new home was built in 1904 at the old school site, and there Eda Scheuerman's parents, Conrad Repp and Emma Schultz were married and lived until tragedy overtook them in the death of Mr. Repp while Eda was but a small child.²⁴ These buildings were moved a few years ago to their present location where Eda and her family now occupy them. Listening to Fred Kerkman, Otto, and Dick Lewis talking over old times, I learned that Kerkman's people came to Washington in 1903 from Iowa and leased the Torrence place near Diamond.

With a chuckle, Mr. Kerkman related that soon after their arrival, Mr. Torrence came in one day and asked if they were not going to the wedding. In complete surprise, Mr. Kerkman explained that they had no friends there and of course no invitations, whereat Mr. Torrence laughed remarked that no special invitations were needed for a "Dutch" wedding. The affair was special since it was to be the triple wedding of Christian Kleweno, Jr. and Molly Ochs,²⁵ Pete Green and Mary Kleweno,²⁶ and Marie Poffenroth and George Boetz.²⁷ Christian Kleweno, Sr. at that time owned the Sweeney ranch and the Company ranch, so his sons, Christian, Jr. and bride, Phillip and family, and John and family moved to those holdings.

By 1905 the sod was nearly all replaced by wheat fields. The small gray squirrels which had been such a scourge to the early wheat growers, practically eradicated. In fact, St. John in 1904 was the third largest wheat shipping point in the world with over a million bushels. Cream cans began to make their appearance on depot platforms, gang-plows came into general use. Mattinglys, Gosneys, and Freemans each started up custom threshers about this time. Mr. Kerkman came to work for Repps in 1907 and the next year he and Mary Repp were married. They lived one year on Godfrey land near Feenan's²⁸ and then moved to his present location. Dick Lewis did his first ranch work in this section in 1907 right where he is now hauling wheat for Bert Sharp on the Machin place and plowing for Phillip Kleweno on the Company Ranch, now under lease to Machin. His uncle Dave Lewis had married Bertha Smeltzer of St. John two years previously and were living up the canyon beyond Matlock Bridge but moved in 1907 to Walla Walla.

Otto [Machin] came to Endicott in 1904 from Missouri and started farming two years later on Crees and Huntley land near Willada. He had only a saddle horse and a few dollars of his own with the backing of Sid Huntley²⁹ at the Endicott Bank. He moved into his present holdings in 1910 when Bert Sharp sold out. Sharps had a sad tragedy in their family when a young daughter found a small bottle of carbolic acid and drank the contents while visiting friends near Eccles. Ada Lockhart had been told that Lawrence Johnson had taken his suicidal draft from the same bottle when disappointed in a love affair with Minnie Renshaw. Later, Sharp's father-in-law came near dying after drinking horse medicine by mistake. The Sharps live now in Pullman. The Dallas Marcus place remained in sod and was used for pasture until 1909 when Mr. Sutton had it broke-out.³⁰ Lonnie Sisk farmed it the next year, then George Wilson leased the property and put up the buildings.



Kentuck Trail Diagonal Hillside Scar, Cutler Ranch

I have found that many of these residents were married in the early 1900s. Floy McNeil and Dexter Morris in 1905. They lived here from 1908 to 1919, then came back in 1931. Grover Morris and Mernie Parmer were married in 1907, Elizabeth Gosney and Jim Giles in 1906, Ella Gosney and Dell Smith in 1907, Frank Oswald and Leona Shaw in 1910. Clara Repp came to her present home as a bride in 1913. One of her first callers was Grace Wilson, now Smick. Oscar Hamilton and Addie Cummins, both now deceased, were married in 1906, Ben Smith and Mary Cummins, 1904.

Many changes have been made in these fifty years. The hills that waved with bunchgrass are bare or sown to wheat. The horses that traveled the roads and roamed in that grass have given way to cars and tractors. Each man's walking plow, replaced with a bank-breaking core of machinery, and harvesting is a mere routine instead of a season of soul-stirring excitement. Who shall say whether the change was for better or worse? The wheat prices which boomed for years have receded to the early day levels. The soil after fifty seasons of wheat cropping are washing away, and the farmers hieing²⁹ back to the sod. Who can foretell what the turn of this century may bring?

ENDNOTES

¹Iowa native Zackariah Steve (1849-1938) crossed the Plains with his parents in 1856 and lived in Wyoming for twenty years before relocating to Walla Walla. He married Emma Hinkley (1863-1943) and the couple settled on the Palouse River in 1879 northeast of Endicott at the crossing of the Kentuck Trail.

²Preston (1867-1931) and Kerlista Matlock were natives of Missouri who set-

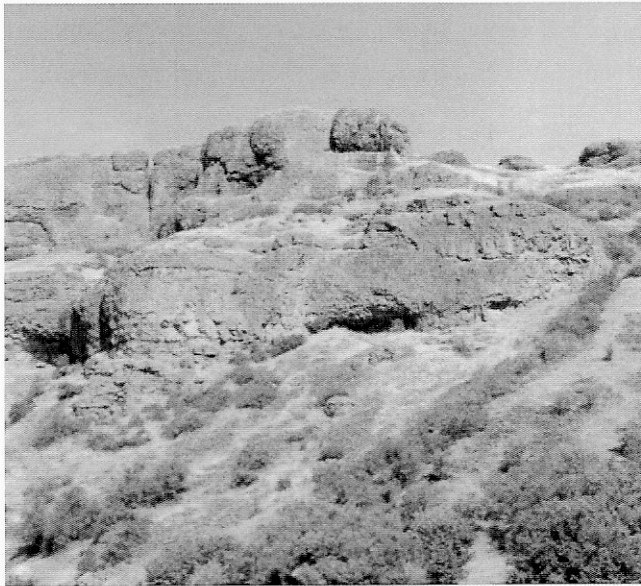
tled on the northernmost point of the Palouse River Matlock in 1871 where Matlock Bridge is located today. (Other early accounts list 1875 as the family's settlement date.) The place was called "Palouse Bridge" in early issues of the *Palouse [Colfax] Gazette* and the rural post stop there was known as Kuntux, a Chinook Indian word for "Place of Understanding." The Matlocks had eleven children and remained on their homestead until Preston was killed after an accident with runaway horses in 1890. Kerlista and the family then relocated to Thornton area.

³A native of Indiana, Joseph DeLong (1839-1910) crossed the Plains in 1861 to Umatilla County, Oregon, and in 1863 relocated to the lower Tucannon River. In 1867 he joined George Pangburn (1835-1901) on Union Flat south of present Endicott to become the first two settlers in Whitman County, and in 1869 settled on the Palouse River near the Kentuck Trail ford between Endicott and St. John. Additional information on his life is in *Palouse Country: A Land and Its People* (Color Press, 2003), pp. 66-67.

⁴John Sutton (1830-1917) was a reclusive bachelor who settled near Matlock Bridge and member of the Jenkins family.

⁵The Lautenschlagers were from a large extended Volga German family whose members had several farms in the area from Lancaster to Pleasant Valley. The family referenced here may be that of Adam Lautenschlager (1886-1977) who married (1st) Anna Helm (1896-1955) and (2nd) Matilda Schierman (1894-1938). Also see Carl Lautenschlager, endnote 16 below.

⁶Melvina Jennings (1887-1942) Smith was the wife of Andrew Jackson Smith (1857-1931) and the daughter of St. John pioneers James (1863-1922) and Luella



Palouse River Rockshelter

Edwards (1868-1938) Jennings. Texas Ferry Road was named for the Snake River-Palouse Indian village of *Téksaspa*, which was located near the mouth of the Tucannon River and an important fording site on the lower Snake River. On regional pioneer trails and Snake River ferry sites see *Palouse Country* (2003): pp. 56-57.

⁷Numerous references to Chief Joseph (1840-1904) are found in regional pioneer accounts and Lilly here is repeating what she

had likely been told by community elders. It is highly unlikely that the renown Nez Perce leader ever traveled through Whitman County. A member of the Wallowa Band on northeastern Oregon, Joseph played a leading role in the 1877 Nez Perce Indian War that caused considerable fear throughout the Palouse including the Matlock-Little Valley district. Families fled for protection to Colfax while Joseph DeLong relocated to a rockshelter overlooking his Palouse River home. But Chief Joseph's people fled east across the Rocky Mountains in a vain effort to avoid conflict with the army and were captured near the Canadian border in Montana. The "warring Nez Perce" including Joseph were then exiled to Indian Territory (Oklahoma) until congressional action authorized their return to the Northwest in 1885. However, Joseph's band was sent to the Colville Indian Reservation where he was confined to an area near the Indian Agency at Nespelem area for the rest of his life.

⁸Harvey (1879-1951) and Lena Bageant (1883-1968) Mattingly were married in Ewan in 1903 and farmed at several locations in the area. Harvey's parents, Jacob and Mary Mattingly, had immigrated from Missouri to the Mockonema area in 1890. Harvey and Lena had a large family including son J. Arthur "Art" Mattingly (1907-1984) who farmed a short distance upstream from Matlock Bridge. August Smick (1896-1992), the father of Brennan and Bryant Smick of St. John, farmed near Lancaster.

⁹Conrad "C. J." (1881-1966) Schierman was the son "Dob" Conrad Schierman (1854-1924), a principal founder of the Volga German Palouse Colony on the Palouse River north of Endicott. C. J. married Katherine Ochs (1885-1963) and the couple had eight children including Frances (Mrs. Peter) Konschu who lived near Lancaster. Conrad "C. S." Schierman (1887-1973) immigrated to the United States from Yagodnaya, Polyana, Russia in 1907 and settled nearby in the Lancaster area where he and his wife, Lydia (1892-1929) raised eight children. Following Lydia's death, Conrad married Mary Bafus (1894-1992).

¹⁰Although reference to a "P & O" line is not seen in other period documents, the Northern Pacific's Columbia & Palouse line was completed through St. John in 1888 and then connected with the route's main line to Lancaster and Winona. Until the Union Pacific later built competitive Palouse Country feeder lines the Columbia & Palouse was region's principal railroad and connected with the main Northern Pacific transcontinental line at Connell (Palouse Junction).

¹¹The Pacific Coast Elevator Company was one of the most influential grain trading enterprises in Northwest history and operated substantial facilities in St. John and Endicott. As a young Portland flour mill manager, Theodore B. Wilcox realized the incredible economic potential represented by East Asia's half-billion inhabitants and began a series of acquisitions to build additional elevators and flour mills in eastern Washington. In 1886 he formed Pacific Elevator Company to handle bulk storage and delivery to his mills just when the first Northwest exporters began testing Asian markets. Two years later he established Puget Sound Warehouse Company

to bring his network of grain handling facilities to 350 locations for shipping bulk wheat to England and flour to China. In the famed “Million Dollar Deal” of 1898, the 256 warehouses owned by his largest competitor, Frank Peavey, were transferred to Wilcox’s control. In 1896 Tyrah “T. H.” Logsdon of Endicott was appointed to manage Pacific Coast Elevator Company operations in the area.

¹²George (1887-1954) and Clara (1893-1959) Repp. Many Volga Germans including members of the Repp, Litzenberger, Kleweno, and Ochs families first resided in Kansas. On the origins of Volga German settlement in Russia and immigration to the Midwest and the Palouse Country, see *Hardship to Homeland: Pacific Northwest Volga Germans* (WSU Press, 2018).

¹³The Litzenberger School (District No. 95) consolidated with the Endicott district in the 1930s and was named for the family of Henry (1849-1928) and Anna Barth (1850-1929) Litzenberger who were members of the 1882 trek of German immigrants from Russia to the Palouse. Irrepressible Anna served as a midwife to many area pioneer families and in Russia had sometimes traveled about by camel. Located near the present Steve Gerlitz residence, the one-room country school was attended by members of the Litzenberger, Lautenschlager, Marcus, Repp, Smick, Scheuerman families. Teachers in the 1920s and ‘30s included Vera Longwell, Bertha Wagner, Edith Mills, Bonnie Oliver, Hannah Fisher, Irene Kleweno, and Ruth Lust. When Little Valley School (No. 162) consolidated with the St. John District in 1929 students attended from the Blumenschein, Freeman, Giles, Reese, Repp, and Vooris families. See Neita Curtis, ed., *Education in the Rough with Memoirs of Early Teachers and Schools* (1976).

¹⁴Fred (1884-1968) and Mary Repp (1888-1936) Kerkman. Fred’s parents, Johann and Emily Kerkman, were German immigrants who had first settled in Iowa before relocating to the Pacific Northwest.



Snake River-Palouse Tribal Matriarch Carrie Jim Schuster at Kamiak’s Crossing

¹⁵Zion Lutheran Church of the Missouri Synod was founded in 1891 and a building and parsonage erected adjacent to the Karl Scheuerman farm near the Litzenberger School. For several years a parochial school operated on the premises.

¹⁶George Repp’s recollection of a “continuous [Indian] camp during summers” at the junction of Kerkman (Repp) and Machin roads near Matlock Bridge refers to an ancient



Ditch Fence Remnant on the Bill McNeilly Farm near Union Center

seasonal camp and ancestral home of Yakama-Palouse Chief Kamiakin (c. 1800-1877). A principal figure in the 1850s Columbia Plateau Indian wars, Kamiakin and other tribal leaders were forced into submission following the brutal 1858 George Wright campaign. Following a period of exile in the northern Rockies, Kamiakin returned with his family to his homeland about 1860 and resided at this location and at Rock Lake until his death in 1877. Several of Kamiakin's children relocated to the Colville Indian Reservation in the 1880s but periodically made trips back to visit their old home on the Palouse River as late as 1941. See *Finding Chief Kamiakin: The Life and Legacy of a Northwest Patriot* (WSU Press, 2008), pp. 173-175.

¹⁷Carl (1886-1966) and Mary

Heinz (1887-1959) Lautenschlager.

¹⁸Frederich (1853-1920) and Sophia Maas (1855-1932) Reinke were natives of Arkansas who settled in the Palouse in 1889. Their son John married Christina Repp, daughter of Henry and Anna Repp, who relocated in 1909 to Snohomish County where they established a berry farm and were later joined by other members of the family.

¹⁹Benjamin Manchester (1856-1947), son of Albert (1825-1905) and Lydia (1825-1897) Manchester, were natives of Rhode Island who settled first in California and then in the Endicott area in 1881. Ben relocated to Colfax about 1888 and was active in area civic affairs and the Stockmen's Protective Association that sought to prevent livestock rustling in the 1890s.

²⁰Ditch fences were a crude if affordable means of confining livestock in the early days of Palouse Country



R. R. Hutchison and Camera (1936)

settlement before availability of wood and wire. Dirt excavated from the ditch was thrown on the uphill side of a slope to form a barrier to wandering cattle and as mentioned here posts could be placed in the mound with at least a single strand of wire. Such affairs were in constant need of repair and left hillside scars that can still be seen in some unfarmed locations.

²¹Hiram “Hi” (1857-1935) and Carrie Stanfield (1865-1960) Miller were prominent members of the Endicott-Winona community. Their son, H. Earl “Bally” Miller (1895-1973), was a local historian who had a substantial collection of R. R. Hutchison photographs taken in the Endicott-St. John area from about 1910 to 1940. Bally was a familiar figure at community sporting events where he kept detailed records for many years on players and games. Many photographs in the Kolloen-Scheuerman archive were taken by Hutchison (1887-1967) whose family donated his extensive collection of some 100,000 images to the Washington State University Archives.

²²Two “Henry Repp” families were prominent among early Palouse Country Volga German families. The one referenced here is that of Henry “Palouse” (1853-1937) and Maria Catherine Kleweno (1855-1936) Repp who as stated here arrived from Kansas in 1888. Henry (1851-1921) and Anna Marie “Mary” Barth (1852-1936) Repp had come with Mary’s sister, Anna, and her husband, Henry Litzenberger, in 1882. See endnote 12 and *Hardship to Homeland: Pacific Northwest Volga Germans* (WSU Press), pp. 91 ff.

²³Ed Hill vigilante hanging’s took place in June 1884. A lurid account of area lawlessness in the 1880s and ‘90s is recounted by Joe Smith (1872-1959), son of “Wheat King” pioneer Lillis Smith, who wrote *Bunch Grass Pioneer* (Fairfield: Ye Galleon Press, 1986) based on diary entries he made as a young man in the Endicott area: “The ranges were being broken and fenced and what was left of them overstocked with horses and cattle and overrun with sheep. The range riders of the

free, open range days found their occupation gone except for a few weeks each year.... Some... turned their attention to recruiting their own herds by branding the young horses or cattle of their neighbors. ...‘Big Bill Masterson’ was a Wild West bad man of an appearance and disposition to warm the heart of a moving picture director. He was about six-feet-four, very dark complexion, wore a heavy mustache, was uncouth, profane, vulgar, insolent and overbearing. He was a master



Western Palouse Cowboys (c. 1900)

horseman, reputed to be a crack shot, and a heavy drinker.” Manchester, who ranched along the Palouse River north of Winona, was killed in a Spokane gunfight with local vigilantes in 1892 (pp. 63-71).

²⁴Eda Scheuerman, daughter of Conrad (1881-1911) and Emma Schultz (1886-1977) Repp. Conrad died in from a fall while building a barn and Emma remarried George M. Schmick (1872-1959) of Endicott whose wife, Mary Elizabeth, had also died in 1911. Eda married Herb Scheuerman, son of Henry K. Scheuerman (c. 1890-1967) of Endicott.

²⁵Christian (1883-1959) and Mollie Ochs (1887-1959) Kleweno. Christian was the son of Christian Kleweno, Sr. while Mollie the daughter of Conrad Ochs, both members of the original group of Volga German immigrant farmers to the Palouse in the 1880s.

²⁶Peter Green (1880-1927), son of Phillip (1859-1914) and Anna Rothe (c. 1859-1947) Green. Phillip Green and Peter Ochs were the two scouts of the Volga German “Kansas Colony” that immigrated from the Portland area to the Palouse in the fall of 1882. The Green, Ochs, Litzenberger, Repp, Kleweno, and other families emigrated from Russia in the 1870s and had first settled in Kansas. The Greens spent their first weeks living in a crude *zemlyanka* “earth home” dug in a hillside and covered with boards that was located near the junction of Ochs Road with the Endicott-Colfax Highway.

²⁷The name “Boetz” is not found in any other records of the area but may be a misprint for “Goetz [Getz],” which was a local Volga German name. The couple may have been George (1877-1939) and Marie (1876-1919) Getz.

²⁸Peter Feenan (1848-1898), a native of County Cork, Ireland, journeyed to Palouse in 1877 from San Francisco after hearing about the area from a fellow Irishman. He homesteaded a quarter-section near the Palouse River north of Diamond in 1880. Feenan’s first wife, Anna McSweeney (1844-1888), died in childbirth and Peter remarried Margaret Morrell (1847-1927).

²⁹Sidney (1863-1916) and Amanda Brimer (1874-1972) Huntley farmed in Missouri before moving to the Endicott area in the 1890s. Their sons Ben Huntley (1892-1952) and Hugh Huntley (1905-1987) expanded the family’s holdings and Hugh became a prime mover in establishing the Palouse Empire Fairgrounds and Mockonema Downs in 1948. He and his wife, Amy, relocated to Madera, California, in 1957 where Hugh became prominent in the American Quarter Horse Association. They became the only winners of three AQHA All-American Championship trophies (1959, 1961, 1963).

³⁰“Broke-out” refers to plowing virgin land, usually with a single-shear plow.

³⁰“Hie” is an archaic word term for returning.



*Palouse Empire Fairgrounds Threshing Bee
John Clement Photograph*



The Christian Kleweno Family

1. John R. 2. Johann Adam 3. Johann Peter 4. Christian, Jr. 5. Maria (Mary Green) 6. Johann Heinrich (Rev. J.H.) 7. Johann Phillip 8. Johann George (Daughter Maria [Appel] not present.)



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