

Alexander Scott Yantis

Pioneer of 1854

compiled by Stephenie Flora
oregonpioneers.com

Alexander Scott J. Yantis

b. 06 Nov 1812 Garrard County, Kentucky

d. 21 Apr 1884 Thurston County, Washington

buried [Forest Grove Cemetery](#), Tenino, Thurston County, Washington

s/o John Yantis and Priscilla Catherine Lapsley

m. 23 Nov 1837 Lafayette, Missouri

Sarah Green

b. 20 Apr 1820 Sumner County, Tennessee

d. 28 Sep 1878 Thurston County, Washington

buried [Forest Grove Cemetery](#), Tenino, Thurston County, Washington

1850: Saline County, Missouri, November 8, 1850, Alexander S. Yantis, 38, farmer, KY; Sarah, 30, TN; Margaret P., 11, MO; Ann E., 10, MO; Mary J. L., 8, MO; Sarah E., 7, MO; John L., 4, MO; Catherine T., 2, MO; William F., 1, MO

1860: Olympia PO, Thurston County, Washington Territory, June 1, 1860; A.S. Yantis, 48, farmer, \$3000 \$1500, KY; S.G., 41, TN; Mary L., 18, MO; Sarah E., 16, MO; John L., 15, farm laborer, MO; C.T., 13, f, MO; W.F., 11, m, MO; A.N., 9, m, MO; S.B., 7, f, MO; B.E., 4, f, WT; M.T., 2, f, WT; J.E., 1/12, m, WT

1870: Coal Bank Pct, Thurston County, Washington, July 7, 1870; Alex S. Yantis, 58, farmer, \$2500 \$650, KY; Sarah, 50, keeping house, KY; Alex N., 19, attending school, MO; Sophia B., 17, attending school, MO; Eliza D., 14, attending school, WT; Martha M., 13, attending school, WT; Virginia T., 8, attending school, WT

1870: Coal Bank Pct, Thurston County, Washington, July 7, 1870; William F., 21, farmer, \$500 \$150, MO

1880: Thurston County, Washington, June 19, 1880; Alexander S. Yantis, 68, farmer, KY VA VA; John L., 35, son, farmer, MO KY TN; Virginia L., 17, dau, keeping house, WA KY TN; Walter W. Durgan, ward, 10, at school, WA VT IN

Children of Alexander Yantis and Sarah Green:

1. Margaret Priscilla Yantis

b. 19 Sep 1838 Lafayette County, Missouri

d. 22 Apr 1906 Buchanan County, Iowa
buried [Valley View Cemetery](#), Perry, Dallas County, Iowa

m. 03 Jul 1855

Ezra Kelly Sears

b. 23 Mar 1828 Barnstable, Massachusetts

d. 19 Oct 1878 Buchanan County, Iowa

buried [Valley View Cemetery](#), Perry, Dallas County, Iowa

1850: Saline County, Missouri, November 8, 1850, Alexander S. Yantis, 38, farmer, KY; Sarah, 30, TN; Margaret P., 11, MO; Ann E., 10, MO; Mary J. L., 8, MO; Sarah E., 7, MO; John L., 4, MO; Catherine T., 2, MO; William F., 1, MO

1860: Olympia PO, Thurston County, Washington, June 7, 1860; E.K. Sears, 32, farmer, \$2000 \$700, Mass; M.P., 22, MO; E.A., 4, f, WT; S.M., 1, f, WT

1870: Spring Valley, Dallas County, Iowa, June 7 & 8, 1870; Ezra K. Sears, 42, farmer, \$0 \$1078, Mass; Margaret P., 32, keeping house, MO; Eunice A., 14, at home, WT; Susan M., 12, at home, WT; Ezra K., 5, WT; Moody, 70, at home, \$5250 \$85, Mass; Hannah K., 67, at home, Mass; Smith Alida, 20, teacher at dis school, NY

1880: Spring Valley, Dallas County, Iowa, June 25, 1880; M.K [sic-P.]. Sears, 41, keeps house, MO KY TN; Ezra K., 14, son, attending school, WT Mass MO; Wm W., 8, son, at school, IA Mass MO; Fred A., 2, son, at home, IA Mass MO; M., 80, father in law, Mass Mass Mass; Hannah, 77, mother in law, Mass Mass Mass

1900: Spring Valley, Dallas County, Iowa, June 12, 1900; Margaret P. Sears, head, Sep 1838, wid, m-45yrs, 7-3, MO KY KY; Ezra K., son, Jul 1865, 34, s, WA Mass MO, RR employee, Daisy May Carhill, dau, Feb 1876, 24, s, IA IA WA

2. Ann Elizabeth Yantis

b. 04 Feb 1840 Missouri

d. 18 May 1920 Touchet, Walla Walla County, Washington

buried [Touchet Cemetery](#), Touchet, Walla Walla County, Washington

m. 14 Dec 1861 Lewis County, Washington

William Martin

b. 1834 Indiana

d. 09 Nov 1925 Touchet, Walla Walla County, Washington

buried [Touchet Cemetery](#), Touchet, Walla Walla County, Washington

1850: Saline County, Missouri, November 8, 1850, Alexander S. Yantis, 38, farmer, KY; Sarah, 30, TN; Margaret P., 11, MO; Ann E., 10, MO; Mary J. L., 8, MO; Sarah E., 7, MO; John L., 4, MO; Catherine T., 2, MO; William F., 1, MO

1860: Olympia PO, Thurston County, Washington Territory, June 1, 1860; William Martin, 27, farmer, \$1600 \$750, IN; Ann E., 20, MO; John F., 2, WT

1870: Coal Bank Pct, Thurston County, Washington, July 7, 1870; William Martin, 36, farmer, \$1800 \$600, IN; Ann Elizabeth, 30, keeping house, MO; John F., 17, attending school, WT; Jesse H., 9, attending school, WT; Sarah C., 6, attending school, WT; Newton Cary, 19, farm laborer, OR

1880: District 2, Walla Walla County, Washington, June 12, 1880; William Martin, 46, stock raiser, IN OH KY; Elizabeth, 40, wife, keeping house, MO KY TN; John, 22, son, stock raiser, WA IN MO; Jasper, 19, son, WA IN MO; Sarah, 11, dau, WA IN MO; William, 9, son, WA IN MO

1900: Valley Pct, Umatilla County, Oregon, June 27, 1900; William Martin, head, Sep 1833, 66, m-43yrs, IN OH KY, farmer; Anna E., wife, Feb 1840, 60, m-43yrs, 5-3, MO KY TN

1910: Hill, Walla Walla County, Washington, April 27, 1910; William Martin, head, 76, m1-54yrs, IN OH KY, farmer-alfalfa; Ann E., wife, 70, m1-54yrs, MO KY TN

1920: Hill, Walla Walla County, Washington, February 26, 1920; William Martin, head, 86, IN OH KY, farmer-hay farm; Ann E., wife, 80, MO KY TN

3. Mary Jane Lapsley Yantis

b. 25 Sep 1841 Missouri

d. 09 Jun 1904 Seattle, King County, Washington

probably buried Lake View Cemetery, Seattle, King County, Washington

m. 24 May 1863 Thurston County, Washington

Rev. John Fox Damon

b. 17 Feb 1827 Massachusetts

d. 11 Jan 1904 Seattle, King County, Washington

buried [Lake View Cemetery](#), Seattle, King County, Washington

1850: Saline County, Missouri, November 8, 1850, Alexander S. Yantis, 38, farmer, KY; Sarah, 30, TN; Margaret P., 11, MO; Ann E., 10, MO; Mary J. L., 8, MO; Sarah E., 7, MO; John L., 4, MO; Catherine T., 2, MO; William F., 1, MO

1860: Olympia PO, Thurston County, Washington Territory, June 1, 1860; A.S. Yantis, 48, farmer, \$3000 \$1500, KY; S.G., 41, TN; Mary L., 18, MO; Sarah E., 16, MO; John L., 15, farm laborer, MO; C.T., 13, f, MO; W.F., 11, m, MO; A.N., 9, m, MO; S. B., 7, f, MO; B.E., 4, f, WT; M.T., 2, f, WT; J.E., 1/12, m, WT

1870: Seattle, King County, Washington, June 21, 1870; John F. Damon, 43, minister, \$600 \$250, Mass; Mary L., 28, housewife, MO; John L., 4, OR; Edward C., 2, OR; Geo C., 7/12, WT

1880: Seattle, King County, Washington, June 10, 1880; John F. Damon, 53, minister, Mass Mass Mass; Mary L., 38, wife, keeping house, MO KY KY; John L., 14, son, at home, OR Mass MO; Edward C., 12, son, at home, OR Mass MO; Geo E., 10, son, at home, WA Mass MO; Mary, 5, dau, at home, WA Mass MO

1900: Seattle, King County, Washington, June 6, 1900; John F. Damon, head, Feb 1827, 73, m-37yrs, Mass Mass Mass, clergyman; Mary L. T. (sic-J), wife, Sep 1841, 59, m-37yrs, 5-2, MO KY TN; + 3 boarders

REV. JOHN F. DAMON, THE MARRYING PARSON VERY ILL

Aged Minister Suffering From a Gen-
eral Breakdown Due to
Old Age.

SEATTLE, Jan. 6.—Rev. John F. Damon, one of the best known minister in Seattle, familiarly referred to as the "marrying parson," for the reason that he has married more couples than any twenty ministers in the city, is dangerously ill at his home, 910 Fifth avenue.

His illness is due to a general breaking down because of his advanced age he being 77 years old. This is aggravated by an attack of asthma which became serious ten days ago. Almost incessantly since that time the aged minister has been in a semi-conscious state and his relatives and all of his friends entertain but slight hopes of his recovery.

[Morning Olympian, Olympia, Washington, Thursday, January 7, 1904 p.1]

DEATH OF MRS. DAMON

Aged Pioneer Woman, for Many
Years a Resident of
Olympia.

Mrs. Mary Lapsley Damon, widow of the late Rev. John F. Damon, fell dead while working in her flower garden at 910 Fifth avenue, Seattle, on Thursday afternoon. Though sudden, her death was not unexpected, as she had been failing rapidly ever since the death of her husband early in January. Heart disease is assigned as the cause.

No physician had been in attendance upon Mrs. Damon although her intimate friends have noticed for several weeks that she had been failing rapidly. She was in the act of trailing some sweet pea vines when she was stricken. She was carried into her home by her housekeeper and a neighbor, but life was extinct.

News of her death was first conveyed to this city in a dispatch to her sister, Mrs. Belle Willey. Mrs. Willey and her daughter, Mrs. O. D. Shaw, left yesterday morning for Seattle to attend the funeral. John Yantis, of Bueda, and A. N. Yantis, of Tumwater, are brothers of Mrs. Damon. Mrs. Thomas Rowland, of this city, is another relative of which there are a large number in this county.

Mrs. Damon was 62 years old. She was a pioneer of the west, having crossed the plains with her parents in 1841. Her father, Judge Alexander Yantis, first settled in Oregon, although shortly after he moved with his family to a donation claim which he took up near Decoda, and it was there Mrs. Damon received her early education.

She was married to John F. Damon in 1863. He was at the time publishing a weekly paper at Port Townsend, although shortly after he entered the ministry and founded the Plymouth Congregational church in Seattle. For twenty-five years Mrs. Damon assisted in her husband's work. She was the first worthy matron of the Order of the Eastern Star in this city.

[Morning Olympian, Olympia, Washington, Saturday, June 11, 1904 p1]

4. Sarah Evalin Yantis

b. 05 Jun 1843 Missouri

d. 16 May 1874 Thurston County, Washington

buried [Forest Grove Cemetery](#), Tenino, Thurston County, Washington

m. 04 Apr 1861

Aaron Webster

b. 30 Jul 1828 Barnesville, Belmont County, Ohio

d. 13 Jul 1911 Thurston County, Washington

buried [Forest Grove Cemetery](#), Tenino, Thurston County, Washington

m2. Louisa Miles (1835-1927)

1850: Saline County, Missouri, November 8, 1850, Alexander S. Yantis, 38, farmer, KY; Sarah, 30, TN; Margaret P., 11, MO; Ann E., 10, MO; Mary J. L., 8, MO; Sarah E., 7, MO; John L., 4, MO; Catherine T., 2, MO; William F., 1, MO

1860: Olympia PO, Thurston County, Washington Territory, June 1, 1860; A.S. Yantis, 48, farmer, \$3000 \$1500, KY; S.G., 41, TN; Mary L., 18, MO; Sarah E., 16, MO; John L., 15, farm laborer, MO; C.T., 13, f, MO; W.F., 11, m, MO; A.N., 9, m, MO; S. B., 7, f, MO; B.E., 4, f, WT; M.T., 2, f, WT; J.E., 1/12, m, WT

1870: Coal Bank Pct, Thurston County, Washington, July 7, 1870; Aaron Webster, 42, farmer, \$2500 \$1000, OH; Sarah E., 27, keeping house, MO; Anna C., 8, attending school, WT; Sarah May, 6, attending school, WT

1880: Thurston County, Washington, June 19, 1880; Aaron Webster, 51, farmer, OH PA PA; Louisa M., 45, wife, keeping house, IL KY OH; Eva M., 7, dau, WA OH IL; Andrew T. Smith, 20, stepson, works on farm, IA PA IL; Emma B., 12, stepdau, at school, MO PA IL; Elmer, 14, stepson, at school, IA PA IL; Eldora E., 9, stepdau, MO PA IL; Lloyd W. Fancer, 22, boarder, teacher, KS MO IL

DAUGHTERS FAIL TO ANNUL WILL OF THEIR FATHER

**Aaron Webster in Right Mind
When He Made Will
Holds Sheeks**

Holding that the late Aaron Webster of Tenino was in his right mind when he made his will and codicil leaving all his property, aggregating a value of about \$20,000, to his widow, Louise W. Webster, to be held until her death, Judge Ben Sheeks, sitting in the Thurston county superior court, last evening decided the case against the plaintiffs. The suit to contest the validity of the will was brought by Mrs. Maud Clarkson and Mrs. May Jackson, daughters of the deceased, and his nephew, Clyde Wolfe, all of Tenino. The portion of the will objected to by the plaintiff was contained in the codicil.

The case has been before the court for the past three days, and testimony was offered on behalf of the plaintiffs to show that Mr. Webster was not in possession of all his faculties when he drew his will. The complaint contended that, in view of these alleged facts, it was just that the will be broken and that the estate be divided among the the decedent's heirs, leaving only such portion of the property to the widow as was provided by law.

The testimony of several physicians was introduced and it was the opinion that no grounds existed for annulling the will. The preponderance of evidence showed that the late Mr. Webster was in his right mind when he decided to leave his property to his wife, and that no pressure had been brought to influence him in his decision. The session of the court continued until after 8 o'clock last night as Judge Sheeks desired to dispose of all cases before he left for his home in Montesano this morning. H. S. King was appointed executor in the will. Attorneys C. D. King and Thomas M. Vance represented the defendants while Israel and O'Leary acted as counsel for the plaintiffs.

[Morning Olympian, Olympia, Washington, Friday, December 8, 1911 p.1]

5. John Lewis Yantis

b. 23 Feb 1845 Saline County, Missouri

d. 07 Jan 1922 Tenino, Thurston County, Washington

buried [Forest Grove Cemetery](#), Tenino, Thurston County, Washington

m. 17 Apr 1890 Olympia, Thurston County, Washington

Theodosia Mize

b. 22 Sep 1860 Thurston County, Washington

d. 11 Nov 1927 Tenino, Thurston County, Washington

buried [Forest Grove Cemetery](#), Tenino, Thurston County, Washington

m1. Clarence Levant Bonney (1859-1887)

1850: Saline County, Missouri, November 8, 1850, Alexander S. Yantis, 38, farmer, KY; Sarah, 30, TN; Margaret P., 11, MO; Ann E., 10, MO; Mary J. L., 8, MO; Sarah E., 7, MO; John L., 4, MO; Catherine T., 2, MO; William F., 1, MO

1860: Olympia PO, Thurston County, Washington Territory, June 1, 1860; A.S. Yantis, 48, farmer, \$3000 \$1500, KY; S.G., 41, TN; Mary L., 18, MO; Sarah E., 16, MO; John L., 15, farm laborer, MO; C.T., 13, f, MO; W.F., 11, m, MO; A.N., 9, m, MO; S. B., 7, f, MO; B.E., 4, f, WT; M.T., 2, f, WT; J.E., 1/12, m, WT

1870: Coal Bank Pct, Thurston County, Washington, July 9, 1870; John L. Yantis, 25, farmer, \$500 \$500, MO

1880: Thurston County, Washington, June 19, 1880; Alexander S. Yantis, 68, farmer, KY VA VA; John L., 35, son, farmer, MO KY TN; Virginia L., 17, dau, keeping house, WA KY TN; Walter W. Durgan, ward, 10, at school, WA VT IN

1900: Bucoda, Thurston County, Washington, June 11. 1900; John L. Yantis, head, Feb 1845, 55, m-10yrs, MO KY TN, farmer; Theodosia, wife, Sep 1860, 39, m-10yrs, 10-10, WA IN IL; Ernest Barney, wife's son, Apr 1883, 17, s, WA WA WA, farm laborer; Anna Barney, wife's dau, Jun 1884, 15, s, WA WA WA, at school; Mynette, wife's dau, Jul 1856, 13, s, WA WA WA, at school; Caddie, wife's dau, Oct 1887, 12, s, WA WA WA, at school; John L. Yantis, son, Aug 1891, 8, s, WA WA WA; Lee Edwards, son, Dec 1892, 7, s, WA WA WA; Theodosia, dau, Dec 1894, 5, s, WA WA WA; Walter, son, Jul 1896, 3, s, WA WA WA; Frank, son, Nov 1897, 2, s, WA WA WA; Charles, son, Aug 1899, 9/12, s, WA WA WA

1910: Bucoda, Thurston County, Washington, April 29 & 30, 1910, John Yantis, head, 64, m1-19yrs, MO KY TN, farmer-general farm; Theodocia, wife, 49, m2-19yrs, 12-12, WA TN IN; Lewis, son, 18, s, WA MO WA, farm laborer-home farm; Lee, son, 17, s, WA MO WA; Theodocia, dau, 15, s, WA MO WA; Walter, son, 14, s, WA MO WA; Frank, son, 12, s, WA MO WA; Charles, son, 10, s, WA MO WA; George, son, 9, s, WA MO WA; Catharine, dau, 8, s, WA MO WA; Ernest Bonney, step son, 29, s, WA WA WA, foreman-creamery; Caddie, step dau, 22, s, WA WA WA

1920: Skookumchuck, Thurston County, Washington, 1920, John L. Yantis, head, 74, MO KY TN, farmer; Theodosia, wife, 59, WA TN US; George, son, 19, s, WA MO WA, farm laborer; Charles, son, 20, s, WA MO WA, farm laborer; Katherine, dau, 17, s, WA MO WA; Ralph Ivester, son in law, 24, WA GA CA, farmer-home farm; Theodosia Ivester, dau, 25, m, WA MO WA; Ralph Ivester Jr., grandson, 4, WA WA WA; Nora M. Martin, 35, wd, WA WA WA; Velina Martin, grand dau, 15, s, WA WA WA

TENINO PIONEER DIES

John Yantis of Tenino, aged 79, died at his home Saturday morning at 7 o'clock. He is survived by a widow and eight children and several brothers and sisters. Mr. Yantis had been in feeble health for several years. An uncle, Samuel C. Willey is a resident of Olympia. Funeral arrangements will be announced later.

[Morning Olympian, Olympia, Washington, Sunday, January 8, 1922 p.1]

6. Catherine Taylor Yantis

b. 01 Apr 1847 Missouri

d. 22 Jul 1926 Grays Harbor County, Washington

m. 07 Jul 1863

Jesse Martin

b. Apr 1836 Illinois

d. after 1900

1850: Saline County, Missouri, November 8, 1850, Alexander S. Yantis, 38, farmer, KY; Sarah, 30, TN; Margaret P., 11, MO; Ann E., 10, MO; Mary J. L., 8, MO; Sarah E., 7, MO; John L., 4, MO; Catherine T., 2, MO; William F., 1, MO

1860: Olympia PO, Thurston County, Washington Territory, June 1, 1860; A.S. Yantis, 48, farmer, \$3000 \$1500, KY; S.G., 41, TN; Mary L., 18, MO; Sarah E., 16, MO; John L., 15, farm laborer, MO; C.T., 13, f, MO; W.F., 11, m, MO; A.N., 9, m, MO; S. B., 7, f, MO; B.E., 4, f, WT; M.T., 2, f, WT; J.E., 1/12, m, WT

1870: Coal Bank Pct, Thurston County, Washington, July 9, 1870; Jesse Martin Jr., 34, farmer, \$500 \$150, IL; Kate T., 23, keeping house, MO; Martha M., 6, at home, WT; George C., 3, at home, OR

1880: Thurston County, Washington, June 21, 1880; Jesse Martin, 44, farmer, IL OH KY; Kate T., 33, wife, keeping house, MO KY TN; Martha M., 16, dau, at home, WA IL MO; George O., 13, son, at school, WA IL MO; William N., 8, son, WA IL MO; Sarah E., 6, dau, WA IL MO; Alexander S., 3, son, WA IL MO; Catherine, 68, mother, keeping house, KY VA VA

1900: Clark Pct, Lewis County, Washington, June 11, 1900; Jesse Martin, head, Apr 1836, 64, m-37yrs, IL OH KY, farm laborer; Catharine T., wife, Apr 1847, 53, m-37yrs, 6-5, MO KY TN; William N., son, May 1872, 28, s, WA IL MO, shingle mill weaver; Eva S., dau, Mar 1874, 26, s, WA IL MO, school teacher; Frank J., son, Apr 1881, 19, s, WA IL MO, shingle mill weaver

7. William Franklin Yantis

b. 21 Jan 1849 Missouri

d. 23 Apr 1910 Santa Cruz County, California

m. 24 Dec 1871 Thurston County, Washington

Ella Christina Hanaford

b. 1853 Wisconsin

d. 09 Oct 1930 Santa Clara County, California

1850: Saline County, Missouri, November 8, 1850, Alexander S. Yantis, 38, farmer, KY; Sarah, 30, TN; Margaret P., 11, MO; Ann E., 10, MO; Mary J. L., 8, MO; Sarah E., 7, MO; John L., 4, MO; Catherine T., 2, MO; William F., 1, MO

1860: Olympia PO, Thurston County, Washington Territory, June 1, 1860; A.S. Yantis, 48, farmer, \$3000 \$1500, KY; S.G., 41, TN; Mary L., 18, MO; Sarah E., 16, MO; John L., 15, farm laborer, MO; C.T., 13, f, MO; W.F., 11, m, MO; A.N., 9, m, MO; S. B., 7, f, MO; B.E., 4, f, WT; M.T., 2, f, WT; J.E., 1/12, m, WT

1870: Coal Bank Pct, Thurston County, Washington, July 7, 1870; William F. Yantis, 21, farmer, \$500 \$150, MO

1880: Thurston County, Washington, June 17, 1880; William F. Yantis, 31, coal miner, MO KY TN; Ella C., 27, wife, keeping house, WI VT VT; Willis G., 7, son, WA MO WI; Elvin, 6, son, WA MO WI; Lucy M., 3, dau, WA MO WI; Fannie E., b. May, dau, WA MO WI

1900: Gold Hill, Jackson County, Oregon, June 4, 1900; William F. Yantis, head, Jan 1849, 51, m-28yrs, MO VA VA, day laborer; Ella C., wife, Oct 1862, 47, m-28yrs, 6-3, MO VT VT, Edwin, son, Apr 1874, 26, s, WA MO WI, day laborer; Lucy M., dau, Feb 1878, 22, s, WA MO WI; Minnie, dau, Apr 1887, 13, s, WA MO WI, at school

1910: Santa Cruz Ward 1, Santa Cruz County, California, April 23, 1910; William F. Yantis, 61, m1-38yrs, MO VA KY, gold miner; Ella C., wife, 57, m1-38yrs, m 6-3, WA MO WA; Lucy, dau, 30, s, WA MO WA, dressmaker-home; Minnie B., dau, 23, s, WA MO WA, milliner-store

1920: Ella living in Alameda County, California with Will F. and Minnie B. Judson, son-in-law and daughter

8. Alexander Nathaniel Yantis

b. 30 Nov 1850 Saline County, Missouri

d. 05 Jun 1930 Tenino, Thurston County, Washington
buried [Forest Grove Cemetery](#), Tenino, Thurston County, Washington

m. 26 Jun 1873 Grand Mound, Washington

Eva Jane Swain

b. 04 Mar 1857

d. 10 May 1917 Tenino, Thurston County, Washington

buried [Forest Grove Cemetery](#), Tenino, Thurston County, Washington

1860: Olympia PO, Thurston County, Washington Territory, June 1, 1860; A.S. Yantis, 48, farmer, \$3000 \$1500, KY; S.G., 41, TN; Mary L., 18, MO; Sarah E., 16, MO; John L., 15, farm laborer, MO; C.T., 13, f, MO; W.F., 11, m, MO; A.N., 9, m, MO; S. B., 7, f, MO; B.E., 4, f, WT; M.T., 2, f, WT; J.E., 1/12, m, WT

1870: Coal Bank Pct, Thurston County, Washington, July 7, 1870; Alex S. Yantis, 58, farmer, \$2500 \$650, KY; Sarah, 50, keeping house, KY; Alex N., 19, attending school, MO; Sophia B., 17, attending school, MO; Eliza D., 14, attending school, WT; Martha M., 13, attending school, WT; Virginia T., 8, attending school, WT

Married—at Grand Mound, June
26th, by Reece Brewer, Justice of the
Peace, Mr. Alexander N. Yantis to
Miss Eva J. Swain, both of Thurs-
ton County.

[Sunday Olympian, Olympia, Washington, September 27, 1936 p.8 Mainly About
People, History article]

1880: Lewis County, Washington, June 3 & 4, 1880; Alexander M. (sic-N) Yantis, 29, farmer, MO KY VA; Eva J., 23, wife, keeping house, IL IL IL; Rosa L., 4, dau, WT MO IL; Harry E., 3, son, WT MO IL; John Alexander, 2/12 (Mar) WT MO IL

1900: Bucoda, Thurston County, Washington, June 15, 1900; Alexander Yantis, head, Nov 1850, 49, m-26yrs, MO WA WA, contractor; Eva, wife, Mar 1857, 33, m-26yrs, 5-5, IL IL IL; Harvey, son, Mar 1877, 22, s, WA MO IL, laborer in laying comp?; John, son, Mar 1880, 20, s, WA MO IL, contractor in laying comp?; Clarence, son, Apr 1884, s, WA MO IL, at school; Eva L., dau, Sep 1888, 11, s, WA MO IL, at school; Sadie Cary, niece, Dec 1878, 21, s, WA KS WA

1910: Tenino, Thurston County, Washington, April 19 & 20, 1910, Alexander N. Yantis, 59, m1-37yrs, MO KY WV, hotel proprietor; Eva J., wife, 53, m1-37yrs, 5-4, IL IN IN; + numerous boarders

1930: Ellensburg, Kittitas County, Washington, 1930, Alexander N. Yantis, roomer, 79, wid, m-age 24yrs, MO KY VA, clerk-furniture

9. Sophia Belle Yantis

b. 24 Dec 1853 Missouri

d. 02 Dec 1916 Thurston County, Washington

buried [Odd Fellows Memorial Park](#), Tumwater, Thurston County, Washington

m. 01 Nov 1874

Lafayette Willey

b. 1854

d. 1902 Thurston County, Washington

buried [Odd Fellows Memorial Park](#), Tumwater, Thurston County, Washington

1860: Olympia PO, Thurston County, Washington Territory, June 1, 1860; A.S. Yantis, 48, farmer, \$3000 \$1500, KY; S.G., 41, TN; Mary L., 18, MO; Sarah E., 16, MO; John L., 15, farm laborer, MO; C.T., 13, f, MO; W.F., 11, m, MO; A.N., 9, m, MO; S. B., 7, f, MO; B.E., 4, f, WT; M.T., 2, f, WT; J.E., 1/12, m, WT

1870: Coal Bank Pct, Thurston County, Washington, July 7, 1870; Alex S. Yantis, 58, farmer, \$2500 \$650, KY; Sarah, 50, keeping house, KY; Alex N., 19, attending school, MO; Sophia B., 17, attending school, MO; Eliza D., 14, attending school, WT; Martha M., 13, attending school, WT; Virginia T., 8, attending school, WT

1880: Mason County, Washington, June 10, 1880; Lafayette Willey, 26, farmer, ME ME ME; Sophia B., 26, wife, keeping house, WT KY KY; Clara, 3, dau, WT ME KY (sic); Samuel, 1, son, WT ME KY (sic)

1900: Olympia, Thurston County, Washington, June 6, 1900; Lafayette Willey, head, Apr 1845, 46, m-26yrs, ME ME ME, capitalist; Belle S., wife, Dec 1853, 46, m-26yrs, 4-4, MO KY TN; Samuel C., son, Oct 1878, 21, s, WA ME MO, N P Freight clerk; Chester A., son, Nov 1881, 18, s, WA ME MO, deliveryman; George, son, Oct 1884, 15, s, WA ME MO, at school

MRS. S. B. WILLEY.

The funeral of Mrs. S. B. Willey who died suddenly Saturday afternoon will be held tomorrow at 2:30 o'clock from the First Presbyterian church. Dr. R. M. Hayes will preach the sermon. Interment will be made in the I. O. O. F. cemetery with Jesse T. Mills in charge.

Mrs. S. B. Willey, who had lived in Olympia 33 years, died very suddenly at her home Eighth and Franklin streets Saturday afternoon. A

small grand-daughter found her dead and called other members of the family, who had been with her only 30 minutes before.

Mrs. Willey was 63 years old. She was born in Missouri in 1853, crossed the plains with her family when she was but three months old and with her family settled in Washington. Mrs. Willey married Captain Lafayette Willey in 1874. She leaves a daughter, Mrs. O. D. Shaw, two sons, S. V. Willey and George Willey of Olympia, and a son, C. A. Willey of Bush Prairie.

LAFAYETTE WILLEY EXPIRED YESTERDAY

One of the Founders of the S. Willey
Navigation Company--32
Years in Olympia

Lafayette Willey, son of the late Samuel Willey of the Sound transportation company bearing the same name, died at the residence of his daughter, Mrs. Ollie Shaw, last night, aged 48. Bright's disease was the immediate cause of death.

In the passing of Capt. Willey Olympia loses one of its most honored and substantial citizens, the Willey family having always been closely identified with the best interests of the city since their advent here 32 years ago, during which time the name has been synonymous with Sound steamboat traffic. About four years ago Captain Willey, president of the S. S. Willey Navigation company, died. Lafayette Willey, who had acted in the capacity of manager of the concern, sold out his interests and retired from business, his health having failed him some time previous thereto.

The family of the late Samuel Willey came to Olympia from Cherry-

Held, Mo., in 1870, one of whom was Lafayette Williams, then a boy of 16 years. He was very popular as a young man and retained the respect of the people up to the time of his death. He leaves a widow, three sons, Samuel, Chester and George, and one daughter, Mrs. Ollie Shaw, two brothers, Capt. P. L. Willey of San Francisco and George R. Willey of Seattle, and one sister, Mrs. Leighton of Olympia. Deceased was a member of the local lodges of Odd Fellows and Foresters, and the funeral, which takes place tomorrow, will be held under the auspices of the former, Rev. Dr. Hayes officiating. Interment will be at Odd Fellows' cemetery, and the funeral will be held from the residence at 2 o'clock.

GROWTH OF COMPANY.

Captain Lafayette Willey used to tell of the growth of the company of which he was a member, and the evolution of the line from a row boat to the handsome steamers Multnomah and Capital City. Years ago the "Cap." and his brother, P. L. Willey, had the contract for carrying Uncle Sam's mails, beating through storms and rain in a row boat over a 25-mile stretch of water and thence along a dreary country road. That was over 22 years ago, but the brothers, through energy, grit and perseverance saw the row boat carrier company grow into a lucrative steamboat business with the Multnomah and City of Aberdeen its principal

carriers. "Cap." was at the wheel of the Multnomah himself those days, and many a time has he guided the vessel up and down the hurrying narrows, past the patriarchal village of Stellacoom, McNeil's island, into Budd's Inlet, then back over the course to Point Bellanca and Tacoma, racing for dear life against the fastest and best steamers that ever turned a paddle on the upper Sound in boom days.

STEAMERS PURCHASED.

After braving the open stretch of water for two years in a row boat the energetic boys got hold of the steamer Hornet and the steamer Susie, the latter was formerly on the Tacoma-North Bay run. The Susie was subsequently sold and the Willie purchased, which traveled the Shelton run. In 1889 the Multnomah was purchased, followed by the purchase a few years later of the City of Aberdeen. Capt. Fred Wilson, who is at present master of the Multnomah held that position when she became the property of the Willey company. The City of Aberdeen embraced her native element at Aberdeen, Gray's harbor, in 1891. Capt. T. S. Tew, whom everybody in Olympia knows, was her first master. At the time the Willey brothers went into the steamboat business their father was engaged in logging in Mason county, but he soon after sold out his interests in the logging camp and became associated with his sons. Captain Lafayette Willey used to tell how he

and his brothers and sisters came to the Sound from Maine in 1870, coming overland by rail to San Francisco, then to Portland by steamer, then by river boat to Olqua on the Cowlitz, and to Olympia on a stage.

The Willey Family

Capt. Lafayette Willey was sixteen years of age when he came with his two brothers and a sister to San Francisco over the plains, and thence by steamer to Portland, Oregon, and by river boat to Olequa, on the Cowlitz River, and then by stage to this city, arriving here in 1870. Soon after their arrival here, the brothers obtained a contract for carrying the mails to Oakland, in Mason County, a distance of 25 miles in a row-boat and 12 miles by land over a dreary country road. This service continued two years, when the brothers purchased the little steamer Hornet, and later the Susie, which was somewhat larger, and this boat was succeeded in the same service by the Willey, 65 feet in length. In 1889 they purchased the Multnomah, which had been brought over from the Columbia, and placed her on a run between this city and Seattle. She was a fast steamer and as well adapted for the service as any "short-legged" steamer could be, 150 feet in length, allowed 150 passengers and had good accommodations for them and was also well adapted for freight. Growth of business required an extension of facilities and the brothers bought the City of Aberdeen, 135 feet long, and placed her on the same route. They were the captains and managers of their own ships, and took much pride in them.

The firm name was the S. Willey Navigation Company, the father being admitted to it, who came here in 1880, his death occurring in 1897. A third son, George, was purser on the Multnomah. The sister became by marriage Mrs. Lucretia Leighton.

Capt. Lafayette Willey was married in November, 1874, to Miss Belle Yantis, a native of Missouri, and daughter of Alexander Yantis, who crossed the plains in 1854, when Mrs. Willey was but three months old, and became residents of this county.

Capt. Lafayette Willey and wife were the parents of four children—Samuel, Chester, George and Mrs. Ollie Shaw. By reason of ill-health the captain had retired from active business four years before his death. He was a worthy citizen, a devoted husband and parent, and an honored member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Improved Order of Foresters. In politics he was a Democrat and in all the walks of life he and his family merited the high regard in which they were held by all who knew them in social and business life.

[Morning Olympian, Olympia, Washington, Sunday, October 5, 1913 p.2]

10. Eliza Benetta "Etta" Yantis

b. 02 Jan 1856 Thurston County, Washington

d. 05 Dec 1937 Centralia, Lewis County, Washington

buried [Forest Grove Cemetery](#), Tenino, Thurston County, Washington

m. 09 Nov 1872

Sidney Barlow Hanaford

b. 1842 Vermont

d. 24 Dec 1895 Thurston County, Washington

buried [Forest Grove Cemetery](#), Tenino, Thurston County, Washington

1860: Olympia PO, Thurston County, Washington Territory, June 1, 1860; A.S. Yantis, 48, farmer, \$3000 \$1500, KY; S.G., 41, TN; Mary L., 18, MO; Sarah E., 16, MO; John L., 15, farm laborer, MO; C.T., 13, f, MO; W.F., 11, m, MO; A.N., 9, m, MO; S. B., 7, f, MO; B.E., 4, f, WT; M.T., 2, f, WT; J.E., 1/12, m, WT

1870: Coal Bank Pct, Thurston County, Washington, July 7, 1870; Alex S. Yantis, 58, farmer, \$2500 \$650, KY; Sarah, 50, keeping house, KY; Alex N., 19, attending school,

MO; Sophia B., 17, attending school, MO; Eliza D., 14, attending school, WT; Martha M., 13, attending school, WT; Virginia T., 8, attending school, WT

1880: Lewis County, Washington Territory, June 3 & 4, 1880; Sidney Hanaford, 37, farmer, VT VT VT; Etta, 34, wife, keeping house, WT KY VA; Grace, 3, dau, WT VT WT; Mattie Swain, 1, WT VT WT

1900: Pasco, Franklin County, Washington, June 4, 1900; Jesse A. Martin, head, Dec 1860, 39, m-10yrs, WA IL MO, county assessor; Effie E., wife, Jun 1871, 28, m-10yrs, 4-3, OR MO IL; Eva C., dau, Oct 1891, 8, s, WA WA OR, at school; Dora E., dau, May 1896, 4, s, WA WA OR; William F., son, May 1900, 0/12, s, WA WA OR; Eliza B. Hanniford, aunt, Jan 1856, 48, wid, WA KY TN, nurse; Lewis C., cousin, Sep 1882, 17, s, WA VT WA, locomotive engineer wiper

DEATH OF MR. HANAFORD.

**An Old Settler of Bucoda Passed Away
Tuesday.**

Died at Bucoda, of consumption, on Tuesday, December 24, 1895, Sydney Barlow Hanaford, aged 48 years.

Sydney Barlow Hanaford was born in Christendon county, Vermont. His father was Theophilus Hanaford, who moved to Oregon in 1861, and to Washington in 1865, settling on Frost prairie. In 1867 he made the first settlement on a branch of the Skookumchuck river, which bears his name today—Hanaford Valley. Deceased after becoming of age took up a claim near his father's, and in 1872 married Miss Eliza B. Yantis, daughter of Alexander S. Yantis, who is known as a California miner of '49, and a pioneer of Washington territory, settling in 1854 on a donation claim on Frost prairie, near the present town of Bucoda.

Mr. Hanaford leaves a wife and three children, Grace, aged 19, Lewis, aged 13, and Mary, aged 11.

The family is well known and has the sympathy of this entire community. Skookumchuck Lodge No. 129, I. O. O. F., will take charge of the remains and bury them at 11 a. m. today.

[Morning Olympian, Olympia, Washington, Thursday, December 26, 1895 p.1]

11. Martha Missouri Yantis

b. 31 May 1858 Thurston County, Washington

d. 20 Oct 1886

m. 16 Dec 1877

Newton Cary

b. 1850 Oregon

d. 1924 Olympia, Thurston County, Washington

1860: Olympia PO, Thurston County, Washington Territory, June 1, 1860; A.S. Yantis, 48, farmer, \$3000 \$1500, KY; S.G., 41, TN; Mary L., 18, MO; Sarah E., 16, MO; John L., 15, farm laborer, MO; C.T., 13, f, MO; W.F., 11, m, MO; A.N., 9, m, MO; S. B., 7, f, MO; B.E., 4, f, WT; M.T., 2, f, WT; J.E., 1/12, m, WT

1870: Coal Bank Pct, Thurston County, Washington, July 7, 1870; Alex S. Yantis, 58, farmer, \$2500 \$650, KY; Sarah, 50, keeping house, KY; Alex N., 19, attending school, MO; Sophia B., 17, attending school, MO; Eliza D., 14, attending school, WT; Martha M., 13, attending school, WT; Virginia T., 8, attending school, WT

1880: Klickitat County, Washington, June 17, 18, 19, 1880; Newton Cary, 30, farmer, IA unk unk; Martha, 22, wife, WT MO TN; Sarah E., 2, dau, WT IA WT

12. James Edward Yantis

b. 22 May 1860 Thurston County, Washington

d. 10 Feb 1865 Thurston County, Washington

1860: Olympia PO, Thurston County, Washington Territory, June 1, 1860; A.S. Yantis, 48, farmer, \$3000 \$1500, KY; S.G., 41, TN; Mary L., 18, MO; Sarah E., 16, MO; John L., 15, farm laborer, MO; C.T., 13, f, MO; W.F., 11, m, MO; A.N., 9, m, MO; S. B., 7, f, MO; B.E., 4, f, WT; M.T., 2, f, WT; J.E., 1/12, m, WT

13. Virginia "Jennie" Theresa Yantis

b. 10 Nov 1863 Thurston County, Washington

d. 23 Jun 1926 Centralia, Lewis County, Washington

buried [Washington Lawn Cemetery](#), Centralia, Lewis County, Washington

m. 18 Dec 1881 Thurston County, Washington

Herbert Albertus Davis

b. 28 Apr 1859 Indiana

d. 1936 Lewis County, Washington

buried [Washington Lawn Cemetery](#), Centralia, Lewis County, Washington

1870: Coal Bank Pct, Thurston County, Washington, July 7, 1870; Alex S. Yantis, 58, farmer, \$2500 \$650, KY; Sarah, 50, keeping house, KY; Alex N., 19, attending school, MO; Sophia B., 17, attending school, MO; Eliza D., 14, attending school, WT; Martha M., 13, attending school, WT; Virginia T., 8, attending school, WT

1880: Thurston County, Washington, June 19, 1880; Alexander S. Yantis, 68, farmer, KY VA VA; John L., 35, son, farmer, MO KY TN; Virginia L., 17, dau, keeping house, WA KY TN; Walter W. Durgan, ward, 10, at school, WA VT IN

1900: Skookumchuck, Lewis County, Washington, June 4, 1900; Herbert A. Davis, head, Apr 1859, 41, m-18yrs, IN NY OH, farmer; Virginia T., wife, Nov 1862, 37, m-18yrs, 5-5, WA KY TN; Archie L., son, Oct 1882, 17, s, WA IN WA, farm laborer; Ralph G., son, Nov 1884, 15, s, WA IN WA, farm laborer; Schuyer S., son, Feb 1887, 13, s, WA IN WA, at school; Amy A., dau, Mar 1893, 7, s, WA IN WA, at school; Evalyn B., dau, Mar 1897, 3, s, WA IN WA; Albert Mitchell, boarder, Jul 1869, 31, s, MO Can Can, teamster

1910: Skookumchuck, Lewis County, Washington, April 21, 1910; Herbert A. Davis, head, 50, m1-28yrs, IN NY OH, farmer; Jennie T., wife, 47, m1-28yrs, 5-5, WA TN KY; Amy A., dau, 17, s, WA IN WA; Evalon G., dau, 13, s, WA IN WA

14. Fanny Green Yantis

b. 23 Sep 1866 Thurston County, Washington

d. 04 Nov 1866 Thurston County, Washington

INTERVIEW OF SARAH CATHERINE KOONTZ

Franklin County

My parents both crossed the plains in wagon trains in 1852. My father was William Martin and mother's name was Ann Yantis, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Scott Yantis.

Mother was 14 years old when she came. She rode a mule and helped herd the extra stock during most of the trip. My father and mother were married in 1854 and lived in Thurston County until 1872. We came directly from Thurston County to Walla Walla County.

One of the most tragic experiences of crossing the plains was that of the Ward families who were in the train which my father, Alexander Scott Yantis, commanded. When they reached what was called "the desert," the three Ward families chose a trail which would go through a little timber. It was not the main-traveled road and Captain Yantis, who had been over the road before, begged them to keep with the train as the Indians more frequently attacked from the cover of brush. The Wards rode on saying they would meet them where the trails crossed.

The main train reached the rendezvous, but there was no sign of the other wagons. A cow had strayed and father and another man rode back. They came to the spot where a terrible tragedy had been enacted. The men lay dead, wagons and equipment were in flames and the women were being driven away. Father sent for help while he looked for signs of life among them. One boy of 9 called to him, "Is that you, Mr. Yantis?" Father went over and the boy, whose name was Newton Ward, begged him to take him with him. By the time help arrived, the Indians had taken more lives. Newton's brother, William, made his escape with an arrow in his side. The two boys were the only survivors. William finally reached Boise, crawling on his hands and knees the last of the journey. The brothers did not find each other for thirty years.

A grave in the old cemetery at Touchet marks the spot where one of Washington's oldest settlers was laid at rest.

When William Martin was fifteen years old he hired out to work for a neighbor in Missouri. Covered wagons were continuously passing by and the talk was all of Oregon. William wanted to go west but his parents discouraged him on the occasions when he visited them and expressed his desires. In 1852, at the age of eighteen, he was employed to drive an ox-team in one of the westbound caravans.

When William went to say "goodbye" to his parents they begged and protested, but his mind was filled with tales he had heard and he remained obdurate. His father gave him \$5.00. He was to receive \$1.00 a month and board from his employer.

After the usual experiences and long toilsome journey, the party arrived at Oregon City, where William and another lad contracted to cut cord wood. After working three months each had 75 cents and his axe. William still had the \$5.00 given him by his father, and each boy had a blanket brought from Missouri. They bought a little food and set out on foot for the country adjacent to Puget Sound. They came by way of Snoqualmie Pass, which was then little better than a deer trail; then down through the jungle on the west side until they came to the open country and the settlement near what is now Olympia. There they found work in a sawmill.

William later took up land near Tenino, building a log cabin of two rooms. A family named Yantis had meanwhile arrived in the neighborhood and William fell in love with Ann, the second daughter. During the Indian troubles, Will Martin became a lieutenant. In 1856 he and Ann were married at Fort Hennes on Mound Prairie, where the Yantis family had taken refuge.

The wedding of the dashing young soldier and his beautiful bride was one of the greatest events to take place at the fort.

Ann Yantis had spent four months in the saddle crossing the plains when she was fourteen years old. The older sister, whose duty it was to ride Jinny, the little mule, and herd the cattle along with the train, met with a serious accident, so Ann, despite her age and inexperience, assumed the task, driving the cattle nearly all the way across.

Amid the hardships of pioneer life in the little frontier settlement in Thurston county, the Martins struggled with the other settlers, cutting down forest trees and clearing the land, planting and harvesting. In all of the development the Martins took an active part. Their children were born in the little log cabin among the pines.

William Martin made the furniture for their home, and his daugh-

ter speaks lovingly today of his skillful work in fashioning chairs and tables, bedsteads, a clothes press and everything in use about the cabin. "How I wish I had one of those chairs," she said. "They are still in existence, and were beautifully made."

In 1872 the Martins, desiring to go into the stock business, loaded their possessions into a lumber wagon, the only way of freighting in those days, and with their family headed for Snoqualmie Pass and the country east of the mountains.

They drove through the Yakima Valley, reached the Columbia, and were ferried across. They camped at Old Fort Walla Walla, and there, on the banks of the Columbia, this pioneer family again set up the family altar and created another frontier home.

The old blockhouse at Fort Walla Walla was the children's playhouse. One of the old buildings inside the fort was used for church and Sunday school. General Howard, who was stationed near the old fort with his soldiers during an Indian outbreak when the Columbia river was patrolled, preached every Sunday and conducted the Sunday school.

The old wharf, which was really the hull of an old steamer, was commandeered in case the settlers would have to leave their homes in a hurry. Mothers and children slept on this wharf for ten successive nights, while the soldiers stood guard. One woman refused to leave her comfortable bed, but the soldiers went into her home and escorted her to the wharf. A wedding took place during the exciting period of waiting for an Indian attack.

The old steamer Frederick K. Billings plied up and down the Columbia and Mrs. Koontz recalls that she often rowed a boat out to the steamer, taking butter and eggs for shipment to the Portland market. The boat was run by Captain William Gray, son of the pioneer, Captain Gray.

The Baker railroad was built in 1872. The children of Wallula had many a free ride on the flat cars when this road was first built.

Six generations of this pioneer family have made their homes in the land chosen in the '50s by the stout-hearted men and loyal women who braved the dangers of the plains and the wilderness beyond the Rocky Mountains.

Yantis Family Active In Territory

The history of this pioneer is inextricably interwoven with the history of the territory in all its color, its peril, its dreams and its hardships.

Elected captain of the emigration train that left Missouri in the early '50's, Alexander Yantis made the tedious journey across Indian infested plains without incident despite the terrors the old Oregon Trail held for the hardiest. The nearest brush with tragedy came when the Ward family of their party, impatient with the longer route that led through reportedly safer country, left the Yantis train only to meet a bloody fate from the scalping knives of Indians who waylaid and massacred them. When Snake river fort was reached, it was learned the two wagons whose drivers had taken the short cut, had not arrived. Mr. Yantis and several others retraced the trail their friends should have taken, and at length arrived at the scene of tragedy, their worst fears confirmed.

Reaching the Puget Sound country, Mr. Yantis located on 320 acres of fine timber land on the Skookumchuck, a few miles from Tenino. The first home was the typical settler's log cabin which was built in the winter of 1854. Soon after moving into the new house, the entire country was startled by the Indian outbreak of 1855-56. The stories that came pouring in of homes devastated, men, women and children killed and general havoc, filled the settlers with alarm. A tract of land on Grand Mound Prairie was donated and the men assembled and built a stockade which was known as Fort Henness. Here with the other settlers of the region, lived the Yantis family for a year, Mr. Yantis and his sons going out to their fields in the morning and returning to the protection of the fort at night.

Pioneer and statesman, he was elected as territorial rep-

Yantis Family Active Pioneers



(Continued from page eleven)

representative from 1859 to 1863, held office as county commissioner several terms, and was justice of the peace until his death which occurred when he was 72 years of age.

[The Daily Olympian, Olympia, Washington, Wednesday, November 8, 1939 p. 11 & 13]

M-A.-P.

MAINLY
ABOUT
PEOPLE

By Isabel M. Campbell,
Staff Writer, American Guide
(An article on an Indian massacre)

FRIEND Barney:

The post arrived a few days ago, bringing your welcome letter, along with several week-old papers and communications from dad and brother Benjamin, telling of their plans, and your's, to come to Washington Territory. Ordinarily, I'd have shouted for joy. But as things look, I can only groan with dread and beg you, Barney, don't. Don't come. Not yet, anyway. Oh, I know, after my enthusiastic epistles imploring you to sell that sterile rock-heap in Maine and start fresh, you and Bess, on the claim adjoining me, where virgin loam is ax-handle deep, and cattle graze all winter on native hay so high it hides the tallest steer on the prairie—my begging you now, NOT to come, must sound crazy and cockeyed.

BUT Barney, Washington Territory won't be a safe place to bring children and old folks to, for a while. Trouble is in the air—Indian trouble aplenty. Although Olympia refuses to become over anxious as yet, Gov. Stevens is out, trying to do all he can to juggle white man maneuvers against redskin intrigue. But while those filthy coyotes are signing treaties with one hand, they're slicing off our scalps with the other! After all, its only been seven years since Dr. Whitman and his wife were clubbed to death and left to welter in their own blood. And seven years, to an Indian's ruthless vengeance, is only time to whet his savage lust for more. Arm? Certainly. At Ft. Vancouver, some friendly breeds but yesterday, warned "the Bostons" to fill our forts at the Dalles, Vancouver and Steilacoom with soldiers. Even the old hellbags, living with some white men here, bring lurid tales into the settlement from their brown brothers, and caution us against them. But too well we know it will only fan to life the smouldering fires of warfare such as none of us have ever seen. And leave behind such fiendish trails of ghastly ravage as I myself witnessed in August, and shall never forget.

BARNEY, Alex Ward and practically his entire family, relatives, and those others of his five-wagon train, were wiped out in a brutal, hellish death at the hands of some sixty Snake Indians about twenty-five or thirty miles from Ft. Boise. With them was Dr. Adams—you remember him of course—also a young chap from Massachusetts named Babcock, and a German fellow whom I did not know. Only two of the twenty-one persons survived; young Billy Ward and his kid brother Newton. Three of the women folk and several children were taken captive . . . would to God they had been tortured outright and slain on the spot!

ACCORDING to Alexander Yantis, captain of the main wagon train, they had come to a signpost at a fork of the trail, telling of a short cut through country the boys feared too wild to risk. All but Ward. Taking counsel, most of them said emphatically, "thumbs down!" All but Ward. Anxious to push through to the fort, he was—what with cattle playing out, and Mrs. Ward needing care. Indians! He laughed at the others for their petticoat courage. Not even knowledge the redskins were close and ugly daunted him—the craziest, pluckiest, stubbornest, dam' mule in all Kentucky, bless his honest soul! I'll always feel, if I could have reached him then, I might have persuaded him to stay with the main train. He'd have listened to me, Barney—he always did, from little shavers together . . . and he might have been alive today . . . But my mare split a hoof, which delayed me the night at Ft. Boise, reaching Yantis' outfit middle of next morning.

* * *

* * *

YANTIS was right glad for an extra trigger finger and the good supply of ammunition I'd brought along. Then, he told me of the Ward train's obstinate yank to hurry on through alone, and that all last night, down in a bottom land close to camp, his own people had sat in tense and white-faced foreboding, watching a hideous war dance in the moonlight. "Then, I reckon the Ward's will need some of this," I told him, strapping most of the ammunition back onto my saddle again, and swinging up. Just then, a young lad they called Amen came bristling with the news some of their cattle were stolen during the night. There was a hurried counsel, and five or six of the boys who had clustered around us, grabbed their horses, and we were off, to recover if possible, the immigrant's stock, and overtake the Ward train. We didn't find the stock. But we did find the most of what remained of Alex Ward and his gallant, foolhardy, little band of five wagons.

* * *

* * *

NINE white men and seven Indians lay where they had fallen among the charred wagons. Our ponies trembled as we drew rein, their shrill snorts piercing the ghastly quiet. The party had evidently been surprised at dinner, and had no time to resist, although Dr. Adams and Sam Mullagin showed evidence of hard shooting. Babcock, still warm

Beyond, a wagon burned, and in the ruin, a family of suckling puppies crisped as they lay. Some rods on, someone hailed me, they'd found Mrs. White's body, stripped like the others, scalped and mutilated.

HALF a mile away the fifth wagon was discovered, overturned in a deep ravine, pillaged. I was the first to come upon Mrs. Ward. Her captives had dragged her off to their encampment on the river. Shortly to become a mother, she had been staked on a log before the fire to witness the slow torture and death of her three children, while those gore-gluffed demons yelled their mad death dance and a baby died aborning in that hell. A final slash had released her soul at last.

I WAS standing there, wiping away cold sweat and tears and dirt on my buckskin sleeve, swearing vengeance on the first dam' savage who crossed my path, when Yantis gave a shout and sent a shot in the direction of the river. We followed. And through the din of firing on the band that outnumbered us ten to one, we could hear the soul-twisting cries of those captive women imploring us to save them. . . . God! Nights, I wake, numb and sick, still hearing those agonizing calls for help. . . . and we had to turn back.

Gathering together in our horse blankets, what the wolves and buzzards had left, and digging out a sort of grave, we did what we could. We buried the massacred victims.

IT WAS Yantis who heard young Newton whimpering in the brush where he had been left for dead. All his nine-year-old courage was glowing through the glitter of pain in his eyes, as we carried him to the horses, but^a there, he pled piteously to be left to die . . . The doctor thinks he has a chance. A week later, Billy, his elder brother, crawled in Ft. Boise, more dead than living, an arrow lodged through his lung, and splintering out before and aft where he'd broken off both ends. No one knows how he escaped the Ward massacre alive, or how he lived on roots and berries, to inch along those long, torturous miles to the fort. If he survives, those two youngsters are alone, of the twenty-one persons, alive to tell the tale.

* * *

WHEN news of the bloody affair reached the Dalles, Major Haller was dispatched to the Snake

country hoping to prove to the Indians the Boston men's words wouldn't remain passing. Immigrants were subjected to wanton ravages. His company joined by others, regulars and volunteers, along the way. For so many hadn't been on, and the supply wagon went down stream and smashed in rapids, so the small army ate smoked salmon and Indian captured and quartered. Belts were buckled tighter, continued our relentless march the guilty murders. By sunset the fourth day, four gaunt men were swaying slightly by their lean necks, over the grave of charred and mangled victims four. The others retreated their trails in shallow stream, hiding, finally, in the fastness of the mountains. Haller, feeling season grown too late to reach Blue Mountains, turned us to Ft. Dalles.

BARNEY, that massacre is only beginning. Mark me—as territory, east and west, will be a battle ground within the next months, and we'll all be huddling our families behind stockades, setting out to send the Indians back to hell. You can't do now. I've given you these details that you may know the terrible picture as it is. Not as and Benjamin and you and hope—out of your safety and ignorance . . . There are some wagons coming in the trail, according to the express rider. Thank you are not among them. You'll swell husband to my sister Ben and a great daddy to those kids, their sake, Barney—scratch a longer in Maine's secure and less existence, and I'll promise hold that claim for you.

Sincerely,

David

[Morning Olympian, Olympia, Washington, Sunday, October 4, 1936]

Yantis Family Has Family Reunion At Charles Jackson Home

Six generations of native sons and daughters of the Yantis family held a reunion recently at the home of Mrs. Charles Jackson, near Tenino, with about 150 persons participating. Of this number four persons present crossed the plains in a covered wagon.

The remainder of the company were natives of the Pacific Northwest, which is now but 85 years old, calculated from the date of the invasion of the first white settlers. All present were direct descendants of Judge B. F. Yantis, A. S. Yantis and James L. Yantis. The first two settled in Lewis county before the petition of Thurston county and then a part of Oregon, and James L. made his home in the Willamette Valley. A fourth brother, Lapsley L., accompanied the party across the plains and organized the First Presbyterian church of Portland. After serving as pastor a short time he returned to the former family home in Sweet Springs, Saline county, Missouri, where the family established themselves after leaving the original home in Kentucky. B. F. and A. S. Yantis were prominently identified with the early history of Thurston county, the former being a member of the first legislative council convened in Washington territory, and the two brothers served in several subsequent sessions of the territorial legislature. Both were called upon to endure the hardships of pioneer life.

During the afternoon a 'baseball game was played, one nine composed of the sons and sons-in-law of John L. Yantis, now deceased, defeating a nine composed of cousins in the family, by a score of 11 to 13.

Many Are Present

Those present were: A. N. Yantis of Ellensburg, Washington; Etta B. Yantis and daughter, Grace of Centralia; Theodosia Yantist, with 12 children and their families, of Tenino; H. A. Davis; Archie Davis and family; Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Davis; S. S. Davis and family; Ralph Pearsall and family; Mr. and Mrs. A. T. Thompson; Mrs. Pearl Renfree and

children, of Centralia; Geo. O. Martin; Mr. and Mrs. Talmadge Roberts and children of McCleary; Mr. and Mrs. George Blankenship of Olympia; Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Metter and family of Tenino; Mr. and Mrs. Don W. Yantis and son of The Dalles, Oregon; Mr. and Mrs. A. V. Abel and children of Seattle; Mr. and Mrs. Hugh White and family; and Mr. and Mrs. Jessie Firth of Yakima; Warren Yokum and family of Stanwood, Washington; Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Yokum of Sumner, Washington; Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Jones; Mr. and Mrs. John Case, of Tenino; Mrs. E. M. Whitaker of Olympia; Mrs. Flora Turvey, O. R. Gibson and Rudolph Morsbach; Henry Mize and family of Buxton; Mrs. Carrie Van Norman of Tacoma; Mr. and Mrs. Cliff Turvey; Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Turvey of Pe Ell; Mr. and Mrs. Leon Rector and children of Hanaford Valley; James Wolfe of Montesano; Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Yantis and children of Patterson; Mr. and Mrs. Lee Yantis and children of Hood River, Oregon; Mr. and Mrs. Walter Yantis and children; Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Ivester and children; Mr. and Mrs. Frank Yantis and children; Mr. and Mrs. Dewey Calvin and children; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Yantis and daughter of Tenino; Dr. and Mrs. George Yantis of Elma, and the host and hostess, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Jackson.

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[Sunday Morning Olympian Recorder, Olympia, Washington, Sunday, August 7, 1927 p.3]

ALEXANDER YANTIS

The history of Alex Yantis and his family, while, perhaps, not more filled with adventure and trials than that of contemporaneous pioneer settlers, is so characteristic and vivid, as related by the sons and daughters still living, that their experiences merit a prominent place in this collection of reminiscences.

Hailing from Brownsville, Missouri, the Yantis family, consisting of Mr. and Mrs. Yantis and nine sturdy sons and daughters, joined a train of ox teams for the overland trip to California. Mr. Yantis was elected captain of the train and the trip was made without any direct disturbance from the Indians, the attacks of whom was the emigrants' constant dread and terror all through the long, hot, dusty journey over the old Oregon Trail. Although the trip was unavoidably tedious, as the oxen were tired and footsore, still many of the remembrances of the younger ones of that trainload are pleasant and full of interest. The big camp fires at night, when all gathered around telling and listening to tales of home and adventure, the novel experiences each day would bring forth, the laying by for one day's rest each week to allow the women to wash the clothes and bake up a supply of bread, while the children played around the wagons and picked the many-hued flowers which grew by the side of the road. These were among the simple pleasures which made the trip endurable and almost enjoyable. The Yantis sons and daughters still tell with glee of the fun and play of the trip, whenever a family reunion is held. They were a happy family, with the family ties tender and close to this day, among the children who survive.

The nearest to a tragedy encountered was when the Snake River country was reached. At a certain point in the trail the road diverged and a sign post was set up by some previous traveller indicating that by following one of the roads a nearer cut-off would be found, although through a wilder

country. One family decided to take this nearer trail although earnestly remonstrated with by Mr. Yantis and other men of the train, whose counsel was that all should stick together. But the man was obstinate and by this time had grown careless of the danger from Indians, so persisted in following the short trail. The rest of the party proceeded on to Snake River fort, where there were a small company of soldiers to protect the emigrants. It was known that the Indians were near and acting ugly. Indeed, the night before the fort was reached, the emigrants of Mr. Yantis' party could see a band of the enemy dancing a war dance in a bottom of land close to the camp. Their horrid yells and vehement brandishing of their guns and bows filled the whites with terror, which was not abated when an Indian buck came dashing up to Mr. Yantis' wagon and asked him to sell his little daughter, Sarah, to him. The Indian offered his horse for the child, and when refused by the parents, rode off in a rage. The night was spent in anxious watchfulness, but the Indians evidently concluded that the party was too strong for them to risk an attack on, so left them unmolested.

When Snake River fort was reached and it was learned that the two wagons, whose drivers had taken the short cut, had not arrived, it was known that they had met with disaster. Mr. Yantis and several men of the train went back over the trail their friends should have arrived from. Before they reached the wagons they heard shots and screams. Dashing up, their worst fears were confirmed. The Indians had raided the wagons, shot and killed the man and his wife, and all the rest of the party, with the exception of two boys. One of these boys was lying on his face when the relief party came up, his body shot with a number of Indian arrows. He was not dead, however, and upon hearing Mr. Yantis' exclamations of horror over the fate of the rest of the family, called: "Is that you, Uncle Alex." The other boy was carried off by the Indians, when they stampeded, upon hearing the relief party charging up. The lad was afterwards brought back to the train by a Nez Perce Indian, another tribe than the one which had committed the massacre of the rest of the party. With a redskin's customary reticence, the deliverer refused to

give particulars of how he came to have the lad in his possession.

Two years before the Yantis family, which is the subject of these reminiscences, decided to leave their home, a brother of Mr. Yantis, B. F. Yantis, and sister of these men, Mrs. N. Ostrander, had preceded them, coming to the Cowlitz country, and a little later Mr. Yantis coming on to Olympia. The prospects in the undeveloped Northwest looked so good to this advance guard that they wished their brother's family to come West also and locate near them. Alex Yantis had written his brother and sister that he intended going to California that summer, starting at a certain time. B. F. Yantis thought his brother would miss a golden opportunity if he failed to locate in this section of the country, so hired a man to ride horse-back back along the trail his brother must come, to intercept him with a letter setting forth the advantages of Thurston County. The man rode along the trail to where it branched off and led to California. Learning from other emigrants that the ones sought for had probably not reached this intersection yet, the courier waited till the brother's train arrived.

When Mr. Yantis read his brother's message, a longing to see his kinsfolks came over him, and as all places in the West were alike to the adventurers, they decided to come on to Oregon—now Washington.

After carefully considering the two trails then commonly followed by emigrant trains, the Natchez Pass, or to The Dalles and on down the Columbia River, Mr. Yantis decided on the Natchez Pass. With almost incredible hardship and danger, the cattle were driven through this pass, and the wagons frequently having to be lowered down declivities with ropes, but finally the train got out on the White River plains and so on to the Sound country. Soon after their arrival on Bush Prairie Mr. Yantis located on 320 acres of fine timber land on the Skookumchuck, four miles from where Tenino now stands, the eldest son, John Yantis, residing on this homestead after the death of his father and mother.

The first home was the typical settlers' log cabin, which was built during the winter of 1854. During the building of this cabin, the Yantis family lived with Wm. and Phillip Northcraft, bachelors, and the nearest neighbors. Soon after

moving into the new house, the entire country was startled by the Indian outbreak. The stories that came pouring in of homes devastated, men and women and children killed and general havoc, filled the settlers with alarm. A tract of land on Grand Mound Prairie was donated and there the men assembled and built a stockade, or fort, which was known as Fort Henness. This enclosure was twelve feet high, built of solid lumber and so arranged that each family could have their little house within the safe precincts. In the center of the enclosure stood the guard house, where the men who were not on picket duty would assemble to warm themselves, swap stories and gossip. At two of the corners were block houses built with special reference to defense, in the event of an attack. These houses were only a few feet square at the base with steps leading to the upper part. Here the logs were longer and the upper story extended out several feet. There were port holes through the log wall, to shoot through, and these houses were of sufficient size to hold all the people in the event of the natives rushing the stockade.

The Yantis family lived in this way for a year, Mr. Yantis and his sons going forth mornings to cultivate their fields, and returning to their cabin in the enclosure at night.

While Fort Henness was never attacked by the Indians, the elder of the Yantis brothers are enabled to recall one exciting incident which occurred during their occupancy of the fort. One day an Indian woman came dashing up on her cayuse, with her face streaming with blood. She was closely pursued by an Indian buck, the latter wild with drink. When the fort was reached, the woman threw herself from her horse and ran into one of the cabins, crawling under the bed. The Indian, who proved to be her husband, stopped when within the enclosure and Mr. Yantis stepped up to his pony and demanded to know what was the trouble. The Indian reached behind him, as Mr. Yantis thought to get a gun, when the white man pulled him off his horse by the hair of his head. It afterward transpired that the Indian was reaching for a bottle of whiskey he had in the holster, with the intention of treating.

The woman in the meantime made her escape and rode off across the clearing. When the husband was a little sobered

down he started after his wife, threatening dire acts when he should overtake her. He had not gone far from the stockade when a shot was heard and, upon the men going out to investigate, the Indian was found lying beside the trail with a bullet hole in his head. The men took a wagon box and covered the body until the Indian agent could be notified. It was commonly reported that the band, of which the dead Indian was a member, tortured the unfortunate wife to death, as an example to the other squaws of the tribe never to thwart their lords. It was never known definitely who fired the shot which made at least one good Indian, but at this late day it is shrewdly suspected that the man's name could be recalled by the surviving inhabitants of the fort.

Before the Indian war Mr. Yantis had accumulated a large band of cattle, but he was obliged to sell and dispose of nearly all the animals to support his family during these hard times.

The wheat which Mr. Yantis raised on his place was taken to the mill in Tumwater, then a two days' journey over rough, muddy roads, from the home place on the Skookumchuck. The grain was then ground into flour, paying the miller a toll of one-eighth for the milling. The farmer was allowed to keep the bran and shorts.

With a family of fourteen children to sew for, a number of whom were girls, it was an eventful day in the Yantis family when the mother had her first sewing machine, one of those little affairs which are screwed onto the table and run by hand. The elder girls can not remember when they first learned to knit. Their mother would spin the yarn and the girls knit mittens and socks, which they had no trouble in disposing of to the bachelors living on ranches in the vicinity. Sometimes a pair of hand-made mittens would bring a dollar, and the girls were enabled to add quite a little to the family finances in this way.

Mr. Yantis was a member of the legislatures of 1860-63, county commissioner several terms, and was justice of the peace for his neighborhood for many years, holding the latter office at the time of his death, which occurred when he was 72 years of age. The wife and mother, who had endured with unparalleled cheerfulness and fortitude, trials and vicissitudes

enough to appall one less strong and brave of heart, ceased her labors in the year of 1877.

The sons and daughters of this branch of the Yantis family were: Margaret, afterwards Mrs. E. K. Sears; Ann E., afterwards Mrs. Wm. Martin; Mary L., afterwards Mrs. John F. Damon, of Seattle; Sarah E., afterwards Mrs. A. Webster; John L.; Katherine T., afterwards Mrs. Jesse Martin; William F.; Alexander M.; Sophia Belle, now Mrs. L. Willey, of Olympia; Eliza B., afterwards Mrs. S. Hanaford, of Hanaford Valley; Martha M., afterwards Mrs. N. Cary, of Tenino; James E.; Virginia T., afterwards Mrs. H. A. Davis, of Centralia, and Fannie G.

James E. and Fanny G. died in infancy.

The donation claim on the Skookumchuck, started in an unbroken wilderness, has become one of the finest and most valuable farms in Thurston County. It has always been owned by a Yantis, Mr. John Yantis succeeding his father as owner and manager. Here, surrounded by an interesting family of sons and daughters, in company of his wife, who has done her share towards building up the home, Mr. Yantis loves to recall once again the strenuous and exciting experiences of his boyhood days.

[Early History of Thurston County by Mrs. George Blankenship 1904 p. 189-94]