

Amos Fletcher Tullis

Pioneer of 1852

compiled by Stephenie Flora  
oregonpioneers.com

Amos Fletcher Tullis

b. 06 Jan 1830 Rush County, Indiana

d. 17 May 1900 Tacoma, Pierce County, Washington

buried [Tacoma Cemetery](#), Tacoma, Pierce County, Washington

s/o Isaac Tullis and Mary Ann McNutt

m. 1857 Lewis County, Washington

Catherine "Cassie" Buchanan [Pioneer of 1853]

b. 19 Apr 1841 Stark County, Illinois

d. 29 Dec 1927 Tacoma, Pierce County, Washington

buried [Tacoma Cemetery](#), Tacoma, Pierce County, Washington

d/o George W Buchanan and Catherine Hittle

1850: Stark County, Illinois, August 23, 1850; George Buchanan, 49, farmer, \$3006, IN; Catharine, 43, PA; James, 25, farmer, \$600, IN; John, 17, farmer, IL; Mary, 15, IL; George R., 11, IL; Catharine, 9, IL; Henry, 5, IL; Winfield S Z T, 3, IL

1860: Cowlitz Landing PO, Lewis County, Washington, July 12, 1860; Amos Tullis, 30, farmer, \$3000 \$2250, IN; Cathrine, 19, IL; Henry H, 2, WT; Clarence, 11/12, WT

1870: Tumwater, Thurston County, Washington, June 21, 1870; Amos F. Tullis, 40, farmer, \$7000 \$2000, IN; Catharine, 29, keeping house, IL; Henry H., 12, attending school, WT; Lewis C., 10, attending school, WT; Are, 6, at home, WT; Hattie E. Sprague, 9, attending school, CO

1880: Lewis County, Washington, June 7-8, 1880; Amos Tullis, 50, farmer, IN OH OH; Catherine, 39, wife, keeping house, IL IN PA; Harley, 22, son, merchant, WT IN IL; Clarence, 20, son, farmer, WT IN IL; Arie, 16, dau, attending school, WT IN IL

1900: Tacoma, Pierce County, Washington, June 8, 1900; Mrs. Catherine Tullis, head, Apr 1841, 59, m-44yrs, 4-3, IL IN PA; Harry H., son, Apr 1885, 15, s, WA IN IL, at school; + 5 boarders

1910; Clear Lake, Skagit County, Washington, April 24, 1910; Harry Tullis, head, 25, m-2yrs, WA IN IL, farmer-general; Sadie, wife, 22, m-2yrs, MI Eng NY; Catherine Tullis, mother, 68, wid, 4-2, IL IN OH

On the Boisfort prairie, previously settled by Pierre Chelle, a Canadian half-breed, C. F. White was the first American settler in 1852.<sup>98</sup> From 1851 to 1853 near Claquato settled H. N. Stearns, H. Buchanan, Albert Purcell, A. F. Tullis, L. A. Davis, Cyrus White, and Simeon Bush.

[History of Washington, Idaho and Montana by Hubert Humphrey Bancroft p. 36]

**HON. AMOS F. TULLIS.**—Amos F. Tullis was born January 6, 1830, at Carthage, Rush county, Indiana. Both of his parents were natives of Ohio, and, having migrated to Indiana, followed farming. At the age of five years his mother died; and five years later his father followed her to the great silent majority, leaving a family of four sons and two daughters, of whom Amos was the fourth child. He lived on the farm of his parents until 1846, when he accompanied an older sister with her husband to Iowa. He resided at Mount Pleasant, Burlington and Ottumwa in that state until March 18, 1852. On that date, with his two brothers, John, now deceased, and James, now one of the substantial farmers of Lewis county, he started with ox-teams to cross the plains for Oregon. They arrived at Portland on the 8th of August. They did not tarry at that embryo metropolis, but started for Olympia, on Puget Sound (then Oregon Territory), which they reached August 27th.

Mr. Tullis found immediate employment in the sawmill of Ward & Hays at Tumwater, and shortly afterwards leased the mill for six months. He

loaded the ship *Leonesa* with the entire result of his occupancy, and accompanied her to San Francisco, intrusting the sale of the same to a commission merchant in San Francisco; but not a dollar was ever realized by him for that six months' labor. It was Mr. Tullis' intention with the proceeds of that cargo to have returned to his home in Iowa; but his scheme was defeated by his bad luck. Without means, he returned to Olympia, which he reached in March, 1854, and then followed different employments until the breaking out of the Indian war in the fall of 1855. He was then appointed captain by Acting-Governor Mason, and with a small command guarded the transportation of the mails between Monticello, near the mouth of the Cowlitz river, and Olympia. Through the continuance of the Indian war, from October, 1855, till nearly that date in the following year, he patiently and faithfully performed that hazardous service, much of which required travel at night-time through sections within short distances of the haunts of the hostile Indians.

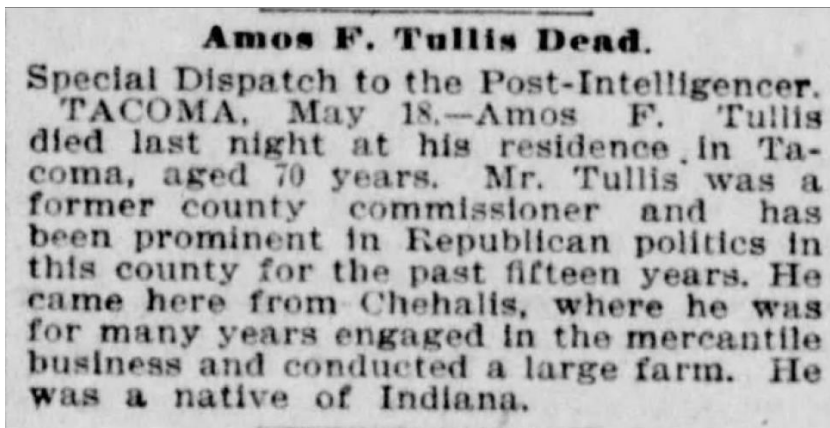
At the termination of Indian hostilities, in October, 1856, he purchased a farm in Lewis county, where he engaged successfully in farming, dairying and stock-raising. In later years, after the Fraser river excitement had filled the mining regions of British Columbia, and the cities of Victoria and New Westminster, with a numerous population, he became an extensive dealer in stock. He engaged in buying in Lewis and the neighboring counties, as also in Oregon, all the stock he could secure, and shipped it to Victoria. In that occupation he realized a handsome fortune. He continued to reside upon his farm in Lewis county until 1885, when he sold it and came to Tacoma, Washington Territory, where he has since resided. He invested early and wisely in real estate in that growing city, and is now among its wealthiest citizens.

During his residence in Lewis county he was generally in official life. He held the several positions of sheriff, county commissioner and also as a member for the counties of Lewis and Thurston in the council, the upper house of the legislative assembly, a body which corresponds with the state senate. In 1880 he was appointed by Governor Newell one of the territorial board of commissioners to build the insane asylum of the territory of Washington, on the old site of Fort Steilacoom, which had been donated to the territory by the general government for that purpose. The building itself, not to refer to the success of that magnificent charity to those of God's poor who have been bereft of reason, is Mr. Tullis' best testimonial for efficiency of service and faithfulness to public duty, as also to his broad humanity and utilitarian views. He served in that labor of love for seven years. Let it be remembered, as an evidence of his financiering ability, his economy and strictness of business, that the great structure received entire completion out of the first appropriation that was made. But Mr. Tullis would be offended were not an equal meed of credit awarded to his able, efficient and ever-attentive colleague on the board, George Shannon, the liberal and whole-souled banker of Olympia. To the benevolent labors of those two men, the citizens of the territory must greatly attribute the suc-

cessful erection of the asylum building, and the prosperous condition and enlarged usefulness of one of the noblest of the people's charities.

In 1887 he became one of the county commissioners of the county of Pierce, and is now the chairman of that board. Though in affluent circumstances, Mr. Tullis' active life must be engaged in business. His leisure from official duties finds employment in looking after his interests as a stockholder in the Alaska Mercantile & Packing Company. Numerous other enterprises enlist his attention. He is never idle; and all his energies are devoted to elevating the community of which he is an honored member. A successful farmer, an able financier, a business man of sagacity and spotless integrity,—such is very briefly a sketch of the life service of one of the most reliable and substantial solid men of Tacoma.

[History of the Pacific Northwest-Oregon and Washington, Vol ii p. 609-10]



[The Seattle Post Intelligencer, Seattle, Washington, Saturday, May 19, 1900 p.3]

Children of Amos Tullis and Catherine Buchanan:

1. Henry Harley Tullis
  - b. Apr 1858 Lewis County, Washington
  - d. 05 Jun 1900 Chehalis, Lewis County, Washington  
buried [Tacoma Cemetery](#), Tacoma, Pierce County, Washington
    - m. 1883 Washington  
Frances Davis
    - b. 05 May 1859
    - d. 01 Jun 1941 Los Angeles County, California  
buried [Claquato Cemetery](#), Chehalis, Lewis County, Washington

1860: Cowlitz Landing PO, Lewis County, Washington, July 12, 1860; Amos Tullis, 30, farmer, \$3000 \$2250, IN; Cathrine, 19, IL; Henry H, 2, WT; Clarence, 11/12, WT

1870: Tumwater, Thurston County, Washington, June 21, 1870; Amos F. Tullis, 40, farmer, \$7000 \$2000, IN; Catharine, 29, keeping house, IL; Henry H., 12, attending school, WT; Lewis C., 10, attending school, WT; Are, 6, at home, WT; Hattie E. Sprague, 9, attending school, CO

1880: Lewis County, Washington, June 7-8, 1880; Amos Tullis, 50, farmer, IN OH OH; Catherine, 39, wife, keeping house, IL IN PA; Harley, 22, son, merchant, WT IN IL; Clarence, 20, son, farmer, WT IN IL; Arie, 16, dau, attending school, WT IN IL

1900: Chehalis, Lewis County, Washington, June 8, 1900; H.H. Tullis, head, Apr 1858, 42, m-17yrs, WA IN IA, salesman; Annie, wife, May 1859, 44, m-17yrs, 2-2, WA IN Can; Catherine M., dau, Jul 1884, 15, s, WA WA WA, at school; Harley A., son, Mar 1859 (sic-1892), 8, s, WA WA WA, at school

**VERDICT OF CORONER'S JURY.**

**Found Railroad Not Responsible for  
Tullis' Death.**

Special Dispatch to the Post-Intelligencer.  
CHEHALIS, June 7.—Yesterday a coroner's jury investigated the death of Harley Tullis, which occurred here Tuesday night. A post mortem examination showed that his liver had been badly lacerated by his being crushed between the cars and that this was the cause of his death. A further examination showed that the report that his neck was broken by falling was incorrect. No testimony tending to show the railroad company guilty of negligence was brought out at the inquest and the verdict of the jury was that Mr. Tullis came to his death by being accidentally crushed between two cars. The body will be taken to Tacoma, probably tomorrow, for interment. Mr. Tullis' father, one of the pioneers of the state, was buried in Tacoma about two weeks ago.

[The Seattle Post-Intelligencer, Friday, June 8, 1900, p.7]

**H. H. Tullis, a hardware clerk and old resident of Chehalis was killed Tuesday evening by falling between two cars in such a manner as to break his neck.**

[The Washington Standard, Olympia, Washington, Friday, June 15, 1900 p.3]

2. Lewis Clarence Tullis

b. Jun 1859 Washington

d. 25 Jan 1888 Tacoma, Pierce County, Washington

buried [Tacoma Cemetery](#), Tacoma, Pierce County, Washington

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3. Arie Tullis

b. Jan 1864 Washington

d. 29 Jun 1943 Riverside County, California

buried [Tacoma Cemetery](#), Tacoma, Pierce County, Washington

m. 06 Mar 1882

William Birmingham

b. 18 Apr 1847 Ontario, Canada

d. 11 Oct 1925 Tacoma, Pierce County, Washington

buried [Tacoma Cemetery](#), Tacoma, Pierce County, Washington

1870: Tumwater, Thurston County, Washington, June 21, 1870; Amos F. Tullis, 40, farmer, \$7000 \$2000, IN; Catharine, 29, keeping house, IL; Henry H., 12, attending school, WT; Lewis C., 10, attending school, WT; Are, 6, at home, WT; Hattie E. Sprague, 9, attending school, CO

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WT IN IL; Clarence, 20, son, farmer, WT IN IL; Arie, 16, dau, attending school, WT IN IL

1900: Tacoma Ward 2, Pierce County, Washington, June 2, 1900; Wm Birmingham, head, Apr 1859, 51, m-18yrs, Can Eng Ire, emigrated 1880, comm merchant; Arie, wife, Jan 1864, 36, m-18yrs, 3-2, WA IN IL; William T., son, Jul 1893, 7, s, WA Can WA, at school; Arie G., dau, Sep 1895, 4, s, WA Can WA; Emma Hucek, servant, May 1875, 25, s, WI ME ME, servant

1910: Tacoma Ward 2, Pierce County, Washington, April 21, 1910; William Birmingham, head, 62, m1-27yrs, Can Eng Ire; emigrated 1880, dealer-hay & grain; Arie, wife, 46, m1-27yrs, 3-2, WA IN IL; William T., son, 17, s, WA Can WA, student; Geniveve A., dau, 15, s, WA Can WA, student

1920: Tacoma Ward 2, Pierce County, Washington, January 6, 1920 William Birmingham, head, 76,, emigrated 1880, Can Ire Ire; Arie, wife, 56, WA IN IL; W. T., son, 27, WA Can WA; Judith Norgren, maid, 17, s, WA Sweden Sweden

1930: Parkman Hotel, Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, California, April 7, 1930 Arie T. Birmingham, lodger, 63, wid, WA IN IL

1940: Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz County, California, April 8-9, 1940; James M. Calmer, head, 48, MN; A. Genevieve, wife, 46, WA; Genevieve E., dau, 20, s, WA, stenographer-office; Arie T. Birmingham, mother in law, 76, wid, WA

#### **William Birmingham.**

William Birmingham, who lived in Lewis county in the eighties, died at his home in Tacoma Sunday, October 11, aged 78 years. He was well known to Chehalis and other pioneers, having resided here prior to moving to Tacoma 40 years ago and having visited here occasionally since that time. Mr. Birmingham became one of Tacoma's earliest merchants, engaging in the feed and grain business. For many years the firm was known as Birmingham & Tullis and was located on lower Pacific avenue. Of later years the business was conducted under his own name alone. Deceased was born in Ontario, Canada. He was active in the Masonic orders. He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Arie T. Birmingham; a son, William T. Birmingham of Kelso, and by a daughter, Mrs. J. M. Palmer of Phoenix, Ariz.

[The Chehalis Bee-Nugget, Chehalis, Washington, Friday, October 16, 1925 p.13]



4. Harry Bascom Tullis

b. 09 Apr 1885 Tacoma, Pierce County, Washington

d. 08 Feb 1953 Tacoma, Pierce County, Washington

buried [Tacoma Cemetery](#), Tacoma, Pierce County, Washington

m1. 1908

Sarah "Sadie" E Braund

b. Aug 1887 Michigan

d.

m2. 02 Jun 1928 Skagit County, Washington

Lora Amelia White

b. 1897 Utah

d. 18 May 1953 Tacoma, Pierce County, Washington

buried [Tacoma Cemetery](#), Tacoma, Pierce County, Washington

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1910; Clear Lake, Skagit County, Washington, April 24, 1910; Harry Tullis, head, 25, m-2yrs, WA IN IL, farmer-general; Sadie, wife, 22, m-2yrs, MI Eng NY; Catherine Tullis, mother, 68, wid, 4-2, IL IN OH

1920: Tacoma, Pierce County, Washington, January 15, 1920; Harry B. Tullis, head, 34, WA IL IN, engineer-shipyard; Sadie, wife, 37, MI Eng NY; Mahon, son, 8, s, WA WA MI; John L., son, 6, s, WA WA MI

1930: Tacoma, Pierce County, Washington, April 14-15, 1930, Harry B. Tullis, head, 42, married first age 21, WA IL IN, crane engineer-city dock; Lora A, wife, married first age 30, UT WI IA

1940: Tacoma, Pierce County, Washington, April 5-6, 1940; Harry B. Tullis, 51, b. WA, checker-freight docks at terminal; Lora A., wife, 42, b. UT, living in same house as 1935