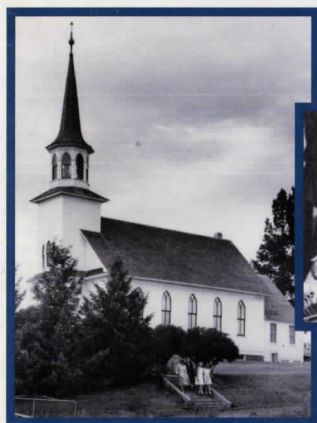


# LATAH LEGACY



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### **Contributors**

Julie R. Monroe, Editor  
Daniel Crandall, Assistant Editor  
Kymberly Dahl, Production and Design  
Bert Cross, Editorial Consultant  
Joann Jones, Oral History Research  
Maurine Finney, Photo Identification

Genesee Valley Lutheran Church photos courtesy of Dale Iverson



# History of

# Genesee Valley Lutheran Church

*By Dorothy Anderson, Church Historian*

To set the scene for the founding of Genesee Valley Lutheran Church, one must look at the history of the area and the settlement of the west. The United States government was offering land for homesteading as an enticement for settlers to come to the west. History tells us about the early pioneers in Idaho when it was still a Territory and statehood would not come until 1890. The first white person came to the Genesee area in 1870 and he came from Genesee Valley in New York. He said this area reminded him of where he came from, so he called it Genesee.

There were still skirmishes with the local Indians that continued for some years. The early settlers built a stockade to protect themselves and their families. One mile north of Genesee on the present Nordby farm, the stockade was built of logs with pointed tops and the walls were eight to ten feet high.

It is of interest to us to know how the pioneers came here and the route of their travel. Beginning about 1876, Norwegian settlers began coming in numbers. Most of the settlers came to homestead the land and most came from the Midwest by train to San Francisco, from there by steamer to Astoria and Portland and by boat on up the Columbia River, then by foot or stage coach to Walla Walla, which at that time was the nearest city, and on to present-day Lewiston. From there the most dangerous section of the route was the Lewiston grade, a seven-mile climb up 2000 feet of elevation, climbing over a very narrow, steep and rocky road. In places, the ground fell away from the road for hundreds of feet. This was quite an experience for the young men, women and families who had so recently left the flat plains of the Midwest. However, before coming to America, many of these people had emigrated from Norway and some from other parts of Scandinavia.

After climbing the grade, another few miles brought them to what is now Genesee Valley, which the new settlers called Norway because the beautiful fir-covered hills and mountains in the distance reminded them of their homeland. Wild horses, cattle and sheep roamed freely, grazing on the new land,

which was not yet under cultivation. This land looked very promising and the forests would provide wood for fuel and logs, and lumber for making their homestead huts and farm buildings.

As their families grew and more settlers moved in, they saw the urgent need for churches and schools. They were reminded that man cannot live by bread alone. Pray, give and work became their motto. When we read of their pioneer lives and hardships, truly we can say that God was with them. Faith in God was the greatest heritage they brought with them, and it enabled them to lay the foundation for building a better tomorrow.

On December 17, 1877, a group of Norwegian settlers residing in what was then part of Nez Perce County, Idaho Territory, met in a school house, one mile north of Genesee, to discuss the organization of a Lutheran Church for the Genesee Valley settlers. The group voted unanimously that there should be a Lutheran church in this area and they voted to call a pastor to come and organize a congregation. They called Pastor Emil Christensen from Astoria, Oregon.

The next meeting was called for March 17, 1878, at which time Pastor Christensen was present and he was elected chairman. At that meeting, the group officially organized a congregation. A constitution was submitted and accepted. This date, March 17, 1878, is therefore a historic date for the Lutheran church. It was the first Lutheran church officially organized in the Territory of Idaho, and subsequently, the State of Idaho. It was organized in Nez Perce County, as Latah County did not come into being until 1888.

This church is the beginning and founding of what is known today as Genesee Valley Lutheran Church. However, it was a while before Genesee Valley Church, as we know it today, came into being. The church organized in 1878 was first known as "Vors Frelzers Menighet." In English—that translates to "Our Savior's Lutheran." The congregation started building a church in 1878 and completed it in 1879. They dedicated this log church building in 1880, when Pastor Christensen arrived from Astoria. This church was chartered under the Norwegian Synod. At that

*In July 1947, the church appeared much as it does today. The basement had been added, and note the small wing added behind the sanctuary for Sunday school classrooms. The arch over the drive was first built in 1934 and has been periodically improved over the years.*



time, Pastors were paid about \$100 annually and sometimes that was hard to raise.

The year 1878 also saw the first sawmill erected about six and one-half miles northeast of Moscow and this supplied the early settlers with lumber and shingles. Settlers would cut and haul their own logs and bring them to the mill to be made into lumber. But to obtain finishing lumber for doors and windows, it was still necessary to travel to Walla Walla, Washington Territory, a round trip of over 300 miles. This trip would take many days or weeks including time spent waiting for orders to be filled. Other supplies, which could not be purchased in the smaller towns, were also obtained. The first store in Genesee opened in 1880 and the railway arrived in 1888. The sawmill facilitated building of more permanent structures.

Mail was first delivered between Lewiston and what was to become Moscow in 1871. It was a pony express route and delivery was very irregular because of bad roads and weather, but it was a big help to the pioneers. Regular rural free delivery was started in 1901. In 1891, when President James Garfield was assassinated, it took two weeks for the news to reach here by a chance traveler who came through the Valley. Later, the stagecoach was put into use between Lewiston and Moscow. The driver would often stop and have a meal at the home of Detlef Smith, a pioneer who lived on the route through Genesee Valley and over Paradise Ridge. This home was located

about where the present Howard and Betty Smith farm is located north of the church. (As far as this writer knows, Howard Smith and his sister Marian Martin, are the closest living relatives of a charter member of Genesee Valley Church. They are the grandchildren of Detlef and Johanna Smith.)

The history of the Genesee Valley Lutheran Church was not without some bumps along on the way. In 1884, The Norwegian Augustana Synod sent out missionary pastor, Rev. Engebredt Thormodsgaard, who came to the Genesee Valley area to start another Lutheran church. Yes, this made two Lutheran churches just one-half mile apart. These two churches were of different Synods. The immigrants of these two churches were of differing opinions and had brought these feelings and attitudes from the old country. This second Lutheran church built a building in 1885. They adopted the name "Den Norske Lutherske Libanous Menighet." This loosely translates to the "Lebanon Lutheran Church." Later, this church was reorganized in 1892 and was also renamed "Den Skandinaviske Lutherske Trefolighed Menighet," –or Trinity Lutheran Church. Pastor Thormodsgaard solved the parsonage problem by building his own house on an 80-acre homestead. We don't know what happened to this homestead; it was presumably sold. (All the name changes of these two churches can be confusing.) However, there was later a "Preacher 40" purchased for the use of the pastor of Trinity.

# Uniting for European Relief

*Members of the five Lutheran churches in Latah County contributed approximately \$1,000 in wheat and cash for European relief at the second annual Harvest Thanksgiving service held on Sunday, October 12, 1947.*



*Above: Pastors of the participating churches from left: Reverend Earl Benston, Westdala Church, Troy; Rev. E.C. Meyer, St. John's Church, Genesee; and Rev. Neale E. Nelson, First Lutheran, Moscow.*

*Rev. Harold Masted, pastor of Moscow's Our Savior's Church and Genesee Valley Lutheran Church, was absent.*

*Right: Trucks loaded with sacks of wheat for European relief.*



*Continued from page 2*

A parsonage was built on this property. The property is now owned by Bob Roberts of Lewiston. In 1885 a schoolhouse-type church building was built for the Trinity congregation and that edifice was used until the present day Genesee Valley Lutheran Church was built in 1911. The land for the church site and cemetery was donated by Knut Larson and Sam Johnson. An additional three acres of land was purchased for \$20 per acre from Ellef Larson, the late Elmo Larson's grandfather, I believe.

In 1893 a disastrous harvest occurred when continuous rains fell and the grain in the stacks, and even the standing grain, molded. What little wheat there was sold for 35 cents a bushel and the farmers used burned barley as coffee.

T h i s

weather caused a great economic depression and many farmers lost their farms because of crop failure. The creditors even came into the field of one farmer and unhitched his horses from a wagon and took them as payment on their debt.

Both churches continued to grow, and in time each congregation erected a newer and larger building. Our Savior's built a new church in 1889 to replace the log church. The Lebanon/Trinity congregation built the present church in 1911 and dedicated it in 1912. The schoolhouse-type first church of Trinity's

was then used as the parish hall and was moved to a site south of the present church.

Some interesting facts about the present-day church are that the then pastor was asked to solicit funds to build the church. He wrote to Sears Roebuck and Company, because his parishioners were all good customers. Sears responded with a \$25 donation. The merchants of Genesee also donated generously and many people donated time and materials in building the church. Gullsek Grove built this church with the help of volunteer labor. He also made the altar and pulpit in his home in Lewiston and it was hauled by horse and wagon up the Lewiston grade. Material and

labor for these were \$170. Troy Lumber Company at Troy made the altar ring and pews. Cost of materials and labor was \$188.



There were 19 pews. The total cost of building the church building and fixtures, including the bell, totaled \$3346.22. It is interesting to note that a keg of 10-penny nails sold for \$4.00 per keg in 1911. In 2003, a keg costs \$44. Jacob Eikum was the janitor at the church for 15 years from 1922-1937.

In June 1917, three Lutheran bodies merged on a national level and this brought about the merger of the two Lutheran congregations in the valley. The merged congregation adopted the name of "Genesee Valley Lutheran Church" and chose the newest and

*Continued on page 6*

*Above: Young men and women at the Our Savior's Lutheran Church altar.*

“If it wasn’t for  
the Ladies’ Aid...”



Edited Excerpt,  
Oral History Transcript  
Interview with Palma Hanson Hove  
June 13, 1975



### Ladies’ Aid

“If it wasn’t for the Ladies’ Aid they wouldn’t [have] had much because people didn’t have money. And you’d pay the preacher any way you could, with potatoes or meat, and they were glad to get that even.”

When we built the new church there was a number of things to be bought, you know: carpets and hardware, and just a lot of things. They depended on the ladies to furnish most of that ...which we did.”

*“The men didn’t have any organization in the church but the ladies were real active. And they had big dinners. We had those Norwegian dinners down there, you know, in that little tiny parish hall. Honestly, you’d serve three or four hundred people, you know. They just had to stand outside and take their turn to come in and eat.” - Palma Hanson Hove*



*Top: Ladies’ Aid members enjoy the brand new kitchen in the church basement, winter 1946-47. From left: Hilme Borgen, Luella Iverson, Etta Egland, Evelyn Danielson, Agnes Danielson.*

*Bottom: Ladies’ Aid gathered in front of the Genesee Valley Lutheran Church parish hall on May 10, 1934. Luella Iverson is second from the right.*



*Early photo of Genesee Valley Lutheran Church. In the background to the right of the church building was the John Hagen house, just east of the property line. The building on the far right was the original Lebanon/Trinity church building (1885), turned into the parish hall when the new church was dedicated in 1912.*

*Continued from page 4*

and largest Trinity edifice for their church home. This is the building in which members worship today. The last building of Our Savior's Church was moved a mile north by team of horses and windlass in 1918. Standing along Highway 95, it was used as a barn for many years but was recently demolished. The old parish hall was sold in 1948 for \$250.

In the early days, all services were conducted in Norwegian, then the gradual use of English prevailed. For some years, Genesee Valley Lutheran Church shared a pastor with the Moscow Norwegian Lutheran Church, and during some of that time worship

was held only every other Sunday. Later it was every Sunday. In 1960, Genesee Valley joined with St. John's Lutheran Church in Genesee to become "The Genesee Lutheran Parish." The two churches share a pastor and Sunday School and all parish activities.

The present pastor of Genesee Valley church is Rev. David Deckard, and the membership is about 85.

Of course, a church is not a building: it is the people of God who are joined together in a common belief. We know Jesus Christ as our Savior. Our church is where the Gospel is preached and members are nurtured in the Christian faith. We believe in salvation, by faith, through the grace of God. ☞





## Sunday School and Confirmation

*Sunday school class, c. 1945, held in a small classroom located beneath the belfry. This, and many other early church photos, were taken by John Luedke. From left, clockwise around the table: Carol Hatton, Becky Howe, Kay Borgen, Dan Danielson, Robert Borgen, Maurine Luedke, Marilyn Sather, Karen Danielson, Mike Eglund, Jon Nielsen.*



*"But boy, when you went to confirmation in those days you learned every blessed word in [the catechism] by heart. And the day of your confirmation you were probably asked fifty questions out of that book and you were supposed to know every one of them. So we were drilled, believe you me. [We] just had to memorize, there was no such thing as taking notes, you know."*

*- Palma Hanson Hove, 1975*

# Replacing the Old Parish Hall

by Gordon Iverson



In 1885, the Trinity/Lebanon congregation constructed its first church, a modest building that resembled the schoolhouses of the time. It served the congregation until 1911 when the current church was built. It was then moved south of the present church, and served as a parish hall for Sunday school classes, dinners, and other church activities. In 1919 a kitchen and porch were added, and in 1929 plumbing was added.

By 1946 the Genesee Valley Lutheran Church congregation concluded that the old parish hall had outlived its usefulness. To replace it, they decided to put a basement under the church and to add a kitchen, bathrooms, and Sunday school rooms. A new well would also have to be drilled as the only water supply came from the Sam Lange farm to the south. (On February 29, 1944, the old parsonage with its forty acres from the old Our Saviour's congregation was sold to Ingvald Aas for \$4,260. This money was used to fund the basement project. Ed.)

The men of the church decided to do the main part of the project themselves. Most of the soil was removed with a scraper pulled by a small Cletrac (Cleveland Tractor Company, ed.) of Elmo Larson's. This soil was used to add more room to the parking

lot. One of the men, John Luedke, went to Spokane with his truck and brought back lengths of well casing to be used as support pillars in the basement. The kitchen, bathrooms, and furnace room were constructed at the east end of the basement. Loyce (Lloyd) Esser, a carpenter in the Genesee area, served as foreman of the group and built the cabinets in the kitchen. Rooms for Sunday school classes were added on the ground floor behind the sanctuary. The project was finished in 1947.

In 1948 the old parish hall was sold for \$250, and it was moved to another site.

These were the men who worked on the basement project:

- |                    |                 |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Joe Anderson       | Irvin Iverson   |
| Clarence Danielson | Roy Iverson     |
| Leon Danielson     | Sam Lange       |
| Victor Danielson   | Elmo Larson     |
| Harry Egland       | John Luedke     |
| John Eikum         | Ed Morken       |
| Loyce Esser        | Rudolph Nordby  |
| Norman Flamoe      | Vernon Peterson |
| Melvin Hattan      | Levi Rossebo    |
| Kermit Hove        |                 |

# Chronology of Genesee Valley Lutheran Church

- 1878 First Lutheran congregation in Idaho organized in Genesee Valley (Our Savior's).
- 1879 Log church building built for Our Savior's.
- 1880 Log Church dedicated.
- 1884 Second and different Lutheran Congregation started in Genesee Valley – Lebanon/Trinity.
- 1885 Lebanon/Trinity builds building.
- 1889 Our Savior's builds second building to replace log church.
- 1901 Rural Free Delivery comes to the area by horseback.
- 1911 Lebanon/Trinity builds new church – it is the present-day house of worship.
- 1912 Trinity Church dedicated.
- 1917 National merger of 3 Lutheran bodies and the 2 Norwegian churches in Genesee Valley merge and become Genesee Valley Lutheran Church.
- 1919 Kitchen and porch built onto Parish Hall.
- 1923 Evergreens planted by Ben Sather and Ellef Larson.
- 1927 All services in English as pastors no longer preached in Norwegian.
- 1929 Water was piped from Sam Lange's to the Parish Hall. Before that it was all carried by hand to the Hall. Ladies' Aid paid for gravel for driveway; men did the work.
- 1934 Archway leading into the parking lot built by Mr. Loncosty for \$75.00. The Luther League raised the money.
- 1934 Women given right to vote in church business.
- 1936 Wired for electricity and put into use.
- 1940 Painting of church done by Esser for \$100.00.
- 1944 "Preacher 40" sold to Ingvald Aas for \$4260.00.
- 1946 145-foot-deep well drilled at the church and work began to dig a basement under present church. Esser was contractor and members volunteered in helping.
- 1947 Work completed on basement and Sunday School rooms – occupied May 1947. Now a suitable place for entertaining was had.
- 1948 Water system and pump installed.
- 1953 John Eikum donated \$232.00 labor painting church.
- 1956 First electric organ purchased in Spokane. It cost \$1289.12 and was paid for by donations.
- 1959 Steeple re-shingled by Esser--\$736.90 labor and material.
- 1989 Steel siding added to the church exterior.
- 1990 Metal roof installed on roof – cost of \$6277.00.
- 1992 10 stained glass windows added to church replacing former windows. Work done by glass artist, Mark Gulsrud of Tacoma.
- 1993 New recessed lighting installed in sanctuary.
- 1994 New carpeting in sanctuary.
- 2002 Inside of sanctuary painted when roof leak caused damage.

compiled by Dorothy Anderson

# True to Their School for Seven Decades

*By Julie R. Monroe*

Upon their graduation from Potlatch High School, class prophet Donald Garner predicted his classmates would “form a unique little community,” never separating from each other and dwelling in a sort of “modern Utopia.” Written tongue-in-cheek in 1937 for the high school yearbook, Donald prophesied that he and the other members of his class would found the community of Logonia City on a small island in the Pacific Ocean...and live happily ever after.

Of course, the members of the Potlatch High School Class of 1937 did separate, following their own paths to such non-utopian communities as

Spokane and Moscow. However, for the past seven decades, since 1947, the classmates have determinedly reunited each year, forming “unique little” communities, if only for the duration of the reunion. While the first reunions were held in Potlatch (the Potlatch Inn was a favorite gathering place) they eventually moved to Moscow. That’s where the final reunion was held. On June 23, 2007, eight members of the Potlatch High School Class of 1937 met once last time to recall good times (both curricular and otherwise) and reminisce about classmates now passed away. ☺



**2007 group photo:** Eight members of the Potlatch High School Class of 1937, in the company of former teacher June Armor, celebrate their 70<sup>th</sup> – and final – reunion on June 23, 2007, in Moscow at the Mark IV restaurant. Standing, left to right: Frank Montani, Gordon Johnson, Ellis Bull, Mabel Bye. Seated, left to right: Ada Thrasher, Ruth Carscallen, June Armor, Alice Stalsberg, Dorwin Anderson. Also attending were friends, family, and special guests, including Mrs. Armour’s good friend Carol Renfrew and her husband Malcolm Renfrew, University of Idaho professor emeritus and a 1928 graduate of Potlatch High School. Other guests included Corolee Smith and her son, Larry Smith, the daughter and grandson of Class of 1937 graduate Lewie Spelgatti, who passed away in 1989.



**1937 group photo:** Potlatch High School Class of 1937, described in the 1937 yearbook, *Loggers' Log*, as "an exceptionally fine and worthwhile group." From the top, left to right: Ada Mae Thrasher, Arthur Dwight Strong, Alice Johanna Stalsberg, Margaret Mary Gushliak, Robert Winifred Baker, Juanita Rose Parker, Vernon Lewis Young, Ruth Carscallen, Bertha Adeline Clark, Dorwin Leonard Anderson, Beatrice Dobberthien, Wilbur Gustof Osterlund, Sylvia May Hansen, Audrian A. Mowlds, Mary Ann Gilder, Ellis Everett Bull, George Lewis Adair, Lewie Spelgatti, Norma Virginia Mowlds, Stanley Gilbert Smith, John Ray Scott, Ruth E. King, Philip James Hearn, A. Jane Sundstrom, Donald Eugene Garber, Bernice Verna Bircher, Ann Marie Petrogallo, Leslie T. Lande, Mabel Irene Bye, Newell Ernest Lavoy, Evelyn O. Boyer. Not pictured: Lyle E. Fenner, William Gordon Johnson, John Kantjas, Frank Felix Michael Montani.



*Above: From PHS's annual, the Logger's Log, the 1937 girls' basketball team.*

*Back: Eunice Poston, Dorothy Pankey, Bernadine May, Ruth Carscallen, Janis Andrew; Center: Mildred Post, Marianne Johnson, Thelma May; Bottom: Laura Fenner, Joyce D. Anderson, Leona Stark. Not pictured: Carol Anderson.*

*When writing her senior class will, Ruth Carscallen bequeathed her "height, very useful for basketball" to junior Carol Anderson.*



*Carol Renfrew, June Armor and Malcolm Renfrew attending the 2007 class reunion.*

# Tracing the

# Old Nez Perces Trails

By Julie R. Monroe

Helen Halverson in *An Impressionistic Memory of An Historic Ride* describes the “high-light” of her 1937 University of Idaho Summer School Session and one of her “fondest Moscow memories:”

“Under the leadership of Mr. George M. Tomer, our pioneer guide, a long auto train and a large group of American History students in Dr. C. J. Brosnan’s classes left the green lawn in front of the Engineering Building [University of Idaho campus] and departed through the down town street to our first destination, the Chris Deesten Spring near the Isaac Ingalls Stevens’ Marker, five miles south of town, to begin tracing the famous “Nez Perces Indian Trail.”

By day’s end, Helen and the other members of the auto train had explored six sites deemed significant in the history of Moscow and its environs by a committee of citizens dedicated to identifying and marking Moscow’s historical landmarks.

As early as 1931, citizens had commemorated Moscow’s history with a marker three miles south of town on what was then called the North and South Highway. According to an article in the May 26, 1931, edition of the Moscow newspaper, *The Daily Star-Mirror*, the Moscow Chamber of Commerce and the Moscow Historical Club had erected a marker to commemorate the “coming of the white man to Moscow and the Palouse territory.” The 12 x 8 feet marker marked the site where Washington Territorial Governor Isaac Stevens and his party camped on June 20, 1855.



“This picture shows the auto train, consisting of a large number of cars and students from every section of Idaho and from many parts of the United States, as it was leaving the campus [University of Idaho] in front of the Engineering Building to undertake the portion of their journey which led them to the temporary marker near the Chris Deesten place, the first historic site to be studied” (From Brosnan’s *The Nez Perces Trail in the Environs of Moscow*). The Nicolls Home Economics Building now sits on the site of the Engineering Building, which was razed in 1951.



The expedition at the temporary marker erected by the Moscow Chamber of Commerce and the Moscow Historical Club in May 1931. "At this place on June 20, 1855, the Governor I.I. Stevens party, consisting of 22 persons and a good-sized pack train, camped for the night, after it left Red Wolf's camp near the site of Lewiston, passed near the modern Uniontown, and headed in a Northeast direction to the Deesten spring. This picture shows the trail descending the ridge and swinging in a northeastward direction to meet the "Great Nez Perce's Trail" at the head of the old camping ground, along which lies the Tinet-pan-up, or South Palouse River" (From Brosnan's *The Nez Perces Trail in the Environs of Moscow*).



The Great Depression sideswiped additional efforts to establish markers at Moscow's landmarks until 1937. That year, Dr. Charles J. Brosnan, University of Idaho American History professor, explains in *The Nez Perces Trail in the Environs of Moscow*, "a historical markers committee, with the cooperation of the membership of the Summer Session American History classes, and with the assistance of Dr. C. J. Brosnan, Head of the Department of American History, inaugurated an intensive study of Moscow's historical landmarks."

Professor Brosnan goes on to report that early in the summer session, the committee "discovered that an ancient Indian Trail girdled the environs of the city of Moscow...this Indian Trail is about one thousand years old and was used as a highway of travel by the Nez Perces, the Coeur d'Alenes, and by many other tribes in their ceaseless journeyings between the present Lapwai and Lewiston and Coeur d'Alene Lake regions."

This discovery inspired, not only the 1937 automobile expedition that Helen Halverson describes so vividly in *An Impressionistic Memory of An Historic Ride*, but the installation of an additional historical marker in 1938 by the members of one of Moscow's venerable women's clubs, the Worthwhile Club. On July 17, 1938, a large boulder was placed in what was then the front yard of the Mt. Tomer School to mark the intersection of two Indian trails - the Greater Nez Perce Trail and the Red Wolf Trail (also known as the Stevens Trail). This monument, located about one mile south of Moscow at the intersection of Lenville and Mill roads, remains in place today.

Recalling the "feel" of the Greater Nez Perce Trail beneath her feet, the expedition of July 1937 was the "red-letter day" of Helen Halvorson's university career. "The past lived again. We saw the living settings of a region's past...To me this trip symbolizes the Spirit of Tat-kin-mah - of Moscow." ❧



"This is the pioneer home of the Cameron sisters, consisting of Annie, Margaret, and Alexandria Cameron, who are shown standing to the right of the entrance. These sisters have lived here continuously for the past fifty years... About a half-mile down the valley from the Cameron home, running in a general East and West direction, is the famous Camas Grounds of the Nez Perces. The Indians gathered for the annual camas harvest here every year about June 15" (From Brosnan's *The Nez Perces Trail in the Environs of Moscow*).

At the Cameron home, Helen Halvorson recalled the "gay welcome of hollyhocks perched so jauntily on the hill."



According to Professor Brosnan, the sign shown in this photograph was “located 2½ miles east of S. Main at the junction of Hy. 8 and a north south county road.” Professor Brosnan is the fellow standing at the far right in tie and suspenders, with his hat in hand.

“This is the venerable silver poplar tree planted on May 6, 1871, by Mr. George W. Tomer, who established a squatter’s claim earlier that year near the foot of Tomer’s Butte, to which he gave his name... This species, *Populus albus*, appears to be one of the earliest of foreign ornamental trees to be distributed in this region... This is now a monument, and should be protected” (From Brosnan’s *The Nez Perces Trail in the Environs of Moscow*).

Helen Halvorson wondered if the “silver poplar, from then till now, had ever seen such a varied group of admirers... Everywhere were students, the young women in gay, cool print dresses of green, blue, red, white; the men in summer suits... Mingled in the group were pioneers, lovers of the trails, and six sisters representing the Ursuline, Benedictine, and Providence Orders...”



This photograph was taken at what was then the home of the Carl Grendahl family, situated near what is now Lenville Road and the junction of the Greater Nez Perce and Red Wolf trails. “From this attractive residence, near the windmill, a few feet to the right of this picture, can be seen the old spring used by Father Cataldo and countless other horseback travelers over the trail... Recently, a granite pestle used by the Indians in grinding their camas food was found near the scene of this picture, and also a large flint arrowhead and other Indian tools” (From Brosnan’s *The Nez Perces Trail in the Environs of Moscow*).



This panoramic view of Moscow, with the University of Idaho campus in the foreground, shows Mt. Tomer in the upper right background, c. 1926. (University of Idaho Special Collections & Archives Historic Photographs collection, 5-001-14yy)

Pioneers in front of the Tomer poplar tree. Left to right: Maude Barton Hunter, Ruth Naylor Perkins, Margaret Mills, George Northrup, Mrs. Emma Clyde, Mrs. Daniel Gamble, Nellie Summerfield, Gainford P. (Gub) Mix, Walter McClintic, Belle Estes Carsow, Charles J. Munson, L.G. Peterson, George M. Tomer.





Professor Brosnan with members of his History of the Americas class, c. 1940, Science Hall (now Life Sciences South), University of Idaho.

According to Moscow and University of Idaho longtimer Jean Rudolph, Brosnan was the stereotypical absentminded professor, given to asking, "Which way was I going?" after stopping to chat on campus with students and friends. He and wife Anne moved to Idaho in 1912, settling first in Nampa where he was superintendent of schools. Later, Brosnan became head of the history department of Boise High School. From 1920-21, he was an Austin Scholar at Harvard University, and after receiving his M.A. from Harvard, Brosnan returned to Idaho, joining the history faculty of the University of Idaho. On a leave of absence during the 1928-29 school year, he earned his Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley. In 1930, Brosnan became head of the University's Department of American History in 1930; he retired in 1952. Following a stroke, Professor Brosnan died on January 18, 1962. He was buried in Moscow later that month. (University of Idaho Special Collections & Archives Historic Photographs collection, 1-233-2)



Professor Brosnan beside the Indian Trails monument installed by the Worthwhile Club in 1938. The inscription reads: "This marks the junction of Stevens Trail with the Greater Nez Perce Indian Trail used over 1,000 yrs. Arriving here June 21, 1855, Gov. I.I. Stevens recorded the first history of Moscow area." The monument was dedicated on July 17, 1938; the dedication ceremony, sponsored by the Worthwhile Club, included special music written by Charles McConnell and addresses by Professor Brosnan and Mrs. Burton L. French. (University of Idaho Special Collections & Archives Historic Photographs collection, 6-25-1)

According to an order form found in one of the Worthwhile Club scrapbooks at the Historical Society, the cost of the "bronze tablet" that was affixed to the boulder was \$47. It was ordered from the Northwestern Marble and Granite Co., a Moscow monument business opened by George Moody in 1892 (Lillian Otness, *A Great Good Country*).

# The Nez Perce Trail

The Worthwhile Club will have its fun  
And work for every member  
We try to do some useful deeds  
From New Year through December

We wished to mark the Indian Trail  
And place a stone right near it  
The men came forth to give their help  
As soon as they did hear it.

Now men, we do appreciate  
The true and willing spirit,  
To help along with some good work  
That really has some merit.

The Oleson boys went up the hill  
To bring a great big boulder  
With caterpillar and a truck  
It took some skill to hold her.

George Miller brought his loads of sand  
Will Tweitmeyer found the lumber  
He made the form to fit the base  
With nails you could not number.

Carl Grendahl with his spade in hand  
And purpose undefeated  
He made the dirt fly right and left  
The pit was soon completed

The Johnsons brought cement and rocks  
To make a strong foundation  
And worked to make it all complete  
In time for dedication.

A monument was quickly raised  
With willing hands so clever  
A thing of beauty and of worth  
It shall not fade, no never.

To every one we wish to say  
A thank you all most hearty  
We hope you will with us today  
Enjoy our Christmas party.

by Mrs. C.A. Lundquist  
December 20, 1938  
Worthwhile Club

(From one of the Worthwhile Club's scrapbooks that  
were donated to the Historical Society last year.)



*Dressed in antique dresses and hats, members of the Worthwhile club celebrate at a birthday party on April 1, 1946. From left to right: Mrs. Pope's sister, Mrs. Miller, poet Mrs. Hulda Lundquist, Mrs. Hippe, Mrs. Schoerder, Mrs. Kennedy, T. Flomer, Mrs. Pope, Mrs. Smith.*



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HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
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