

A short history of the Maple family and their involvement with
the early development of Seattle

Jacob Maple (4th son of William Maple) Born - May 9, 1798 Green Co. Penn.
Died - Sept. 2, 1884 King Co. Wash.

In 1800, when Jacob was two years old, his family moved from Green County Penn, to Jefferson County, Ohio. On Oct. 25, 1820 he married Catherine Jane Adams. They had eleven children. In 1850 Jacob started west accompanied by his son Samuel. In California they met Luther Collins and Henry VanAsselt. Together they proceeded north to Puget Sound - first arriving at Olympia and thence by Indian boat to the Duwamish river, arriving in 1851. Another son of Jacob (Eli B.) came to the Duwamish in 1853. Jacob's wife, Catherine, remained in Ohio.

John Wesley Maple (6th son of Jacob Maple) Born- Jan. 1, 1838
Died- Mar. 1, 1902

On May 5, 1862 John Wesley started from Iowa for the Duwamish accompanied by his sisters Catherine J., Mary A. and Lucinda E. They crossed the plains by ox drawn wagon and arrived Nov. 15, 1862. John Wesley married Eliza Jane Snyder on Sept. 12, 1868. They had six children. Eliza Jane died Aug. 5, 1882 and John Wesley married Minnie Borella in June 1883. They had three children. John Wesley's sister, Catherine J., married Henry VanAsselt. His sister, Mary A., married Luther Cavanaugh. John Wesley engaged in many varied activities. Among other things he was persuaded to teach school and on Mar. 11, 1895 he was installed as King County Treasurer. He was killed by a falling tree on Mar. 1, 1902.

Charles Sumner Maple (1st son of John Wesley Maple) Born- July 22, 1869
Died- Dec. 19, 1963

Charles Sumner was born at Duwamish near, what is now, Boeing Field.

On Feb. 13, 1892 he married Emma Coleman (who had recently come to the Duwamish area from Ellensburg) and they had five children. He grew up with mostly Indian children as playmates and he spoke the Chinook language fluently. He attended the Territorial University (4th and University) in Seattle. He farmed, owned rental property in Georgetown, owned and operated a dairy, built houses and worked in the County Treasurer's office. He was 94 years old when he died at which time he resided at his home on south Beacon Hill.

Charles Sumner is the son of Charles Sumner Maple.



King County
Cultural Resources Division

Parks, Planning and
Resources Department

1115 Smith Tower
306 Second Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98104
Arts Commission 344-7380
Landmarks Commission 507-4858

June 16, 1987

Information Press
Post Office Box 1422
Eugene, OR 97440-1422

RE: Washington State Yearbook

Dear Editor:

In the chapter on counties in your 1987 Washington State Yearbook you have a brief section describing King County (p.94) which could benefit from some factual revision.

According to the historical sketch for King County, you describe the first settlement of Seattle as having been that of David Denny and Leander Terry at Alki Point in 1851. The facts of the matter are different. The Denny-Terry party arrived in November 1851. There was another, and more permanent, settlement which preceded them.

According to federal, state, and county records, all of which are readily verifiable, the first permanent settlement in what was to become Seattle and King County were the donation land claims of Luther Collins, Henry Van Asselt, and Jacob Maple. Their settlement was established in the Duwamish Valley area of Seattle in September 1851. History records that the farming capabilities of the Duwamish Valley pioneers played a role in feeding the Denny-Terry party and their unsuccessful settlement at Alki Point through the winter of 1851-1852.

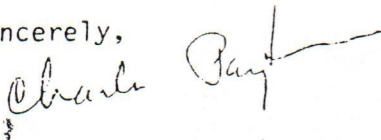
Since the descendants of the Denny-Terry party became the wealthier and more influential of the two pioneer groups, it is understandable that they would have more history books written about them. They were decidedly more influential in the affairs of Seattle museum circles. Unfortunately some of the information which has been available about the pioneer period in King County has borne the mark of historical error. I am sorry that you did not have better information to work with.

It is time, however, to set the record straight. King County has a proud and involved heritage. It deserves better interpretation than it has received over the years.

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June 16, 1987
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Again, the documentary material necessary to illustrate the statements made in this letter in regard to the Duwamish pioneers is readily available. Please let me know how I may be of service in presenting a more factual image of King County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Charles Payton", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Charles Payton
Community Museum Advisor

CP:ol
.1.K.31

cc: Ralph Munro, Secretary of State
Kjris Lund, Manager, Cultural Resources Division
ATTN: Cheryl Cronander, Acting Deputy Preservation Officer
Elizabeth Losee

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT 1998-99

Interview Subject: STANLEY MAPLES
 Archival Acession Number: _____

Contents of this envelope:

Copy - Signed Release Form	P. J. J. J.	3/20/00
Copy - Audio Interview I (7/29/98)	P. J. J. J.	3/20/00
Copy - Audio Interview II ()	none	—
Copy - Audio Transcript I	P. J. J. J.	3/20/00
Copy - Audio Taped Transcript II	none	—
Copy - Video Taped Transcript	none	—
Interview Research Material	history of Maples family	3/20/00
Photos, Documents, etc.	none	—
DISC w/ transcript	P. J. J. J.	—

SWSHS/LHM representative

Date

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