

Gary Gaffner April 24, 2001
Alki

Decendent of William Bell + Sarah Peter(?)

Received 320 acres

Required to make improvements to land

First cabin burned down by Indians

1st + Bell st. (All but one other cabin plus David Denny's cabin were burned.)

George Bell - William Bell's son + Gary Gaffner's great, great grandfather. (Grandmother's father)

George Bell died in his 30's within a bringing year of a railroad accident. Train derailed ^{cows} + he was "crumpled up". - Train car toppled over + ^{from Canada} Illinois he was trapped for 3 days - Rescued, but seriously injured/deformed

William Bell's claim bordered Denny Way, then up to Yale - over to Pike, ~~the~~ Olive + Stewart, Virginia. Very erratic claim.

Claim in Silverdale. William Tell Gaffner + Charles Gaffner Port Orchard

William Bremer (Bremerton)

Run steamships back + forth across the bay

Steamships took settlers from Seattle (claims too expensive + picked over) to Bremerton + Port Orchard
Land ~~the~~ was about \$2/acre

William Bell went to California for a time + when he returned he sold off ^{small} parcels of his claim in the Belltown area for living income. Due to multiple owners of small platts it was difficult to commercially develop - you had to get several plotts together

Denny's would hold things together in $\frac{1}{4}$ block areas downtown + either hold them within the family or lease them out.

Belltown originally had homes + then the regrade took many out, then second series of homes, now it's more highrise.

Bell was not known as an ~~it~~ intelligent land developer. Didn't build roads or bring in electricity or sewer. He just made money based on the rising value of his land.

One of the Denny children built a large home at the end of Winermere. Many years later the Reverend Moon (Moonies) purchased the home.

Love Family was on Queen Anne + very involved with community/council. (Serious Israel, Logic Israel, Love Israel.)

~~B~~ Denny's built big houses + lived well + the Bell's scattered (didn't live "high").

William Bell's mental stability was questioned in the 1880's - Probably had Alzheimers.

Last house William Bell worked on + Western Ave. ~~set~~ Before ~~concreting~~ stairs - he placed his wheelbarrow in the form as a sort of time capsule. During construction on the site Gary Gaffner asked a worker to keep an eye out for the wheelbarrow - As stairs were being demolished Gary saw the wheel - Workers gave him the wheel.

William Bell died in 1887. son Austin ^(Sarah) died in ~~1889~~ 1889,
son George ^(Lucy) died in ~~1889~~ 1889 + Hanes Bell died in ~~1889~~ 1889

Sarah Bell 1st wife of William + Lucy 2nd wife.

Daughter, Laura (Sarah Bell) died in 1890's.

William Bell, Austin + George started Int'l Order of ~~the~~ Oddfellows. (Tied to burial plots?)

Austin Bell committed suicide before the completion of the Austin Bell Building. Bldg started before 1889. Now converted to residential.

Austin Bell was either a Type Setter or Publisher.

George Bell was working to bring cattle by railroad to the region.

Coleman family ran Newcastle RR. Came down through what is now Newcastle golf course
James Coleman built the RR to bring coal to the waterfront for ships.