



Come Visit!

Kamiah's

Historic I O O F Cemetery

Located three blocks west of Main Street from down town Kamiah.

Dedicated to the Memory of

Lolita “Cheeta” Brown

Her book “ Pioneer Profile”,

Has been a great help in

Bringing this booklet about

Researched and written by:

Reese Spicer

Copyright – 2005, Reese Spicer for Kamiah Cemetery District

Historical Gleanings

When Kamiah was in its infancy; folks readily realized the need for a permanent cemetery located somewhere near the town. The only problem was, at the time, Kamiah had no permanent location. The town sat on land leased from the Nez Perce Tribe and was subject to being moved if needed.

Chartered in 1901 when Kamiah was at the old depot site, Clearwater Lodge No 68 of the International Order of Odd Fellows took up the cause and in the spring of 1903 began to make an effort to acquire land for a cemetery. In June, fifteen acres was purchased for \$400.00 and in Oct the land was surveyed and plotted by James Carlisle and by Nov., part of it was fenced and in use. The I O O F Lodge maintained the cemetery up until the 1950's when it was turned over to the present Kamiah Cemetery District.

Originally the cemetery contained six sections or blocks, plotted into 24 plots containing four graves each, but as the cemetery filled up the need for more space became pressing and in 1925, two rows of twelve plots were added to the east end of the cemetery.

In nineteen thirty-five, three more blocks containing twenty plots each was added to the west side of the cemetery, which, in effect filled out nine blocks containing 228 plots. The need for more room was not to be addressed again until the mid-nineteen sixties

Kamiah's historical significance is readily noted in the identity of many of the people who are resting there. The founding fathers of the city and its early day business leaders lie beside Civil War Veterans, both North and South who came here to start new lives and rebuild the fortunes lost because of the war. A man who was with the U. S. Army troops that chased Geronimo into Mexico in the 1880's lies just a few rows away from the first white couple to take up residence in the Kamiah valley.

F. F. 'Dad' Pomeroy and his wife lie there in unmarked graves next to two grandchildren who died young. 'Dad' built the first hotel in Kamiah down at the mouth of Lawyers Creek. When Kamiah moved to it's present location the hotel was moved also. Lulu Pomeroy married Godfrey Jarbo, a Canadian who came here and opened a livery stable and then went in partnership with William Jewell in the first motion picture house in the valley.

George Runkle, a Prussian, came to America, married a Canadian Girl, served in the Union Army during the Civil War, worked his way west through Wisconsin, Iowa and then to Idaho where he planted apple trees south of Kamiah and sold the finest cider west of the Mississippi. From 1905 till he died in 1913 he had a standing advertisement to that effect in the Kamiah Progress.

On these pages, I will try to acquaint the reader with as many of the early pioneers, village leaders, and citizens as I can, starting with the following:

David A. Smith, Policeman, Indian Fighter, Barber, and Mayor of Stites

1857 - 1926

By: Reese Spicer

From the Kamiah Progress, Thursday, March 18, 1926.

“The funeral of the late D. A. Smith, held Friday afternoon in the Odd Fellows hall, was attended by a large number of his neighbors and friends, while many others were kept away by the inclement weather.”

We Have all been thrilled by the western movies we have watched on TV and in the theaters, how the wagon train is being attacked by howling Indians and the weary travelers are saved at almost the last minute by a troop of cavalry riding to the rescue, bugles blaring and guns a-blazing. How about the movie where the cavalry chases the Indians into Mexico? This movie usually has names like Geronimo, Santana or Cochise. We remember these names but do we remember the names of any of the troopers who so gallantly risked their lives in this endeavor, trying to make the west a better place to live?

David Smith was one of these troopers who actually lived the life of what movies are made of. He left behind, on the pages of our own Kamiah Progress, a short accounting of his days as an Indian fighter with the U.S. Army of the 1880s.

Born in Blaine Co., Pennsylvania, Nov. 7, 1857, he grew up in Pennsylvania and while a young man he served a number of years as a policeman in Harrisburg, Pa. On March 1, 1879 he enlisted in the Army, Company K, 15th U. S. Infantry, commanded by Captain W. T. Hartz. General Buell was Regimental Commander with Lieutenant-colonel P. T. Swain as Adjutant.

Mr. Smith's military life was described in his own words in a Progress dated Thursday August 20 1925. “ We fought the Utes in Colorado in 1879 and '80, and for this campaign I am getting a pension of \$20 a month. I served in the Apache campaign, 1881 and 1882, with headquarters at old Ft. Cummings, New Mexico, with two troops of the 4th Cavalry, two troops of the 9th Cavalry and two companies, D and K. of the 15th U. S. Inf. My Company was ordered to Arizona for duty to guard the surveyors of the Southern Railroad they were building through to Mexico, 1881-82. About twelve miles from Ft. Cummings, Troop G, 4th U. S. Cavalry, got into a fight, several soldiers being killed and a few wounded. I was one of the detail to take the wounded to the hospital at Ft. Cummings. My company and several other companies followed the Indians for several days, but the Indians kept traveling until they reached old Mexico. In the spring my Company, K, was assigned to Ft. Selden, New Mexico. From Ft. Selden we went to Ft. Lyon, Colorado, and

we finished up at Ft. A. Lincoln, N. Dakota. I did not mention anything about the severe hardships we went through, as all soldiers who went through these campaigns know what they mean to a soldier. I certainly feel sorry for the old boys who do not get a red cent for the service they rendered to their country by giving the great Western Empire to the settler. While in the forts I learned the Barber business and I have followed it for forty years making good at it.”

David A. Smith came to Stites, Idaho in 1900 and in 1906 he married Mrs. Ada Lewis, and shortly thereafter he moved to Kamiah, engaging in the Barber business for several years. At the age of 69, on March 17 1926, while enroute from Kamiah to Kooskia for an I.O.O.F function, he slumped down in the car seat and died. He was always at the head of civic improvements and won a place for himself wherever he lived.

David and his wife Mary Ada Smith lie side by side in Kamiah's Historic I O O F Cemetery. There is a flat stone over him that reads David A. Smith, Corpl., Co. 'K', 15th Pennsylvania. As a veteran of the Indian Wars he holds an honored place in the hearts and minds of the veterans of our area.

David Smith is only one of many past civic leaders who gave a part of their lives to national and local history. Read the story of the Pierce Brothers, George, Parker and their mother Lydia, who left Maine with a husband and four sons and now lies buried with two of her sons here in Kamiah.

The Pierce Family – Lewis County Pioneers

Lydia Peirce and her three surviving sons arrived in Idaho in 1897, taking up a homestead on the newly opened Nez Perce Indian Reservation, north east of Kamiah. Strong, vigorous and used to the hardships of frontier life, they worked hard to establish what is now Lewis County and the city of Kamiah.

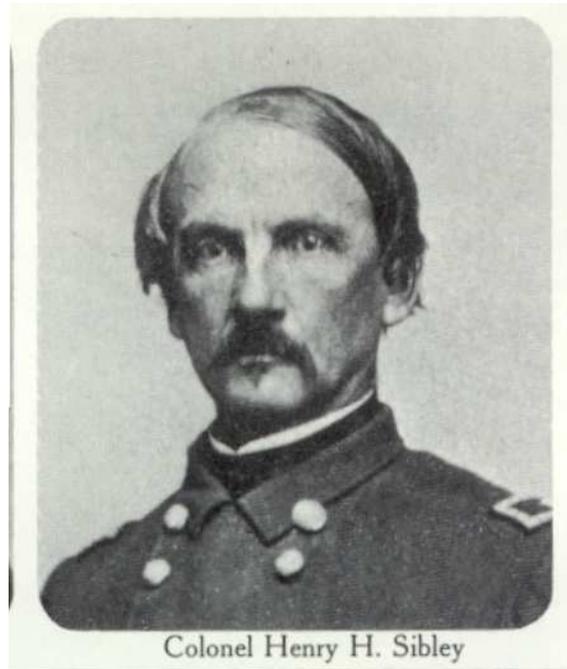
Born Lydia Jane Pratt, in Paris Maine, May 16, 1822, She was married, about 1840 to Thomas Tarbell Peirce in Paris Maine and set up housekeeping in Harrison Maine. The sons born to them in Harrison numbered four and were Henry L. b. 1842, Parker Isley b. 1844, George W. b. 1846 and Thomas T. b. 1848.

Between 1848 and 1854 the Peirce family removed to Berlin Wisconsin, where, in 1854, the youngest son, Thomas T. died. It would be twenty-one years before the family suffered another loss as great as this by the loss of the father. In the meantime the Peirce's moved on to Lynde, Lyon Co., Minnesota, where Parker & George joined the army with the hope of fighting against the South in the Civil War. Fight they did, but not against the rebellious southern forces. In stead they were pressed into service against their own neighbors, the Santee Sioux.

The four divisions of the woodland Sioux were in danger of losing their homeland and all they had, as the white settlers pushed farther and farther into their territory. During the ten years before the Civil War, over 150,000 settlers had come into Santee country. The Sioux signed two treaties with the whites and as a result, lost nine-tenths of their land, leaving them with a narrow Strip of territory along the Minnesota River.

Many of the white men were abusive and cruel towards the Indians, relieving of them of their annuities which had been pledged by the treaties. The Indians crops, those that tried to farm, were very poor for the second year in a row, and many of them were starving.

In August 1862, four Sioux braves went hunting off the reservation. On their way back, they put into motion, events that would ring across the western frontier for many years. The uprising, which resulted, took the lives of 450 white settlers before they were defeated by a hastily assembled force of raw recruits led by Colonel Henry Sibley. (*below*)



Four weeks after the rampage began, the Sioux were beaten by troops and local militiamen. Among the 2,000 Indian men, women and children who surrendered, 392 prisoners were quickly tried and 307 sentenced to death. President Lincoln commuted most of the sentences but kept the death penalty for proven rapists and murderers.

The day after Christmas, 1862, 38 Sioux warriors were brought to a specially built gallows and hanged simultaneously. Parker Peirce had helped build these gallows and was one of the many troopers who stood by as witnesses.

Afterwards, Parker and Brother George were sent, with their Regiment, south to Tennessee to guard prisoners during the closing years of the Civil War. In the summer of 1865, Parker was sent to Fort Laramie in Wyoming, to be a scout for Government troops. Parker wrote a book, many years later, telling of his work in and out of the service.

January 8 1875, Thomas Tarbell Peirce, perished from the cold after becoming lost in a storm. He was on a hunting trip with one of his sons and when found, was only yards from his camp.

The Peirce brothers spent many years after the war, mining in Montana and Idaho and when the Nez Perce Indian Reservation opened up, Parker came with his mother, brothers Henry and George and an adopted sister to settle permanently in Idaho.

The mother, Lydia Peirce died January 26, 1912 and shortly after Henry went back to Minnesota to make his home with a daughter. George and Parker continued to live on the Homestead and work at mining. The brothers never married and when Parker died March 14, 1930, George went to live in Seattle with his adopted sister Mrs. C. W. Ellenson. George died November 3, 1938 at the Ellenson home in Seattle. His body was brought back to Kamiah for burial in the IOOF Cemetery. Lydia Jane Peirce, Parker Isley Peirce and George W. Peirce lie side by side near a tall fir tree on the highest point of the cemetery.

The Story of Andrew Taylor and his Brother John is a tale of sorrow, hard work and a brother who was lost for over three-quarters of a century.

Fortune Seeking Brothers Finish Journey

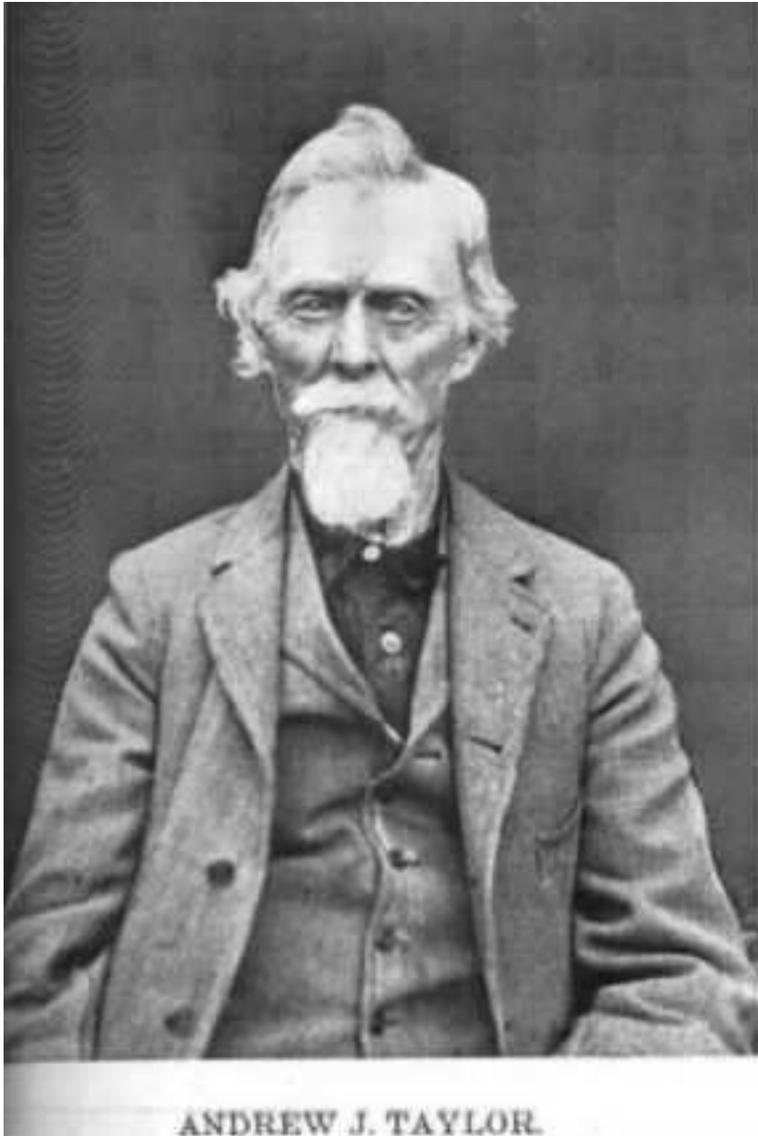
By: Reese Spicer

Getting from one side of the continent to the other in the 19th century wasn't easy by far. The waterways were extremely limited to the banks of the river, the railroads, in their infancy during the first half of the century, only extended to the most heavily populated areas until after the Civil War.

With Lewis and Clark leading the way, very few men ventured much farther than the mighty Mississippi and for some, the route of choice was by sea down around South America and back up to San Francisco. This was an arduous voyage to say the least and more than one man perished in route. This is a story of three men, a father and two sons, who braved the stormy seas to go from Massachusetts to California in search of riches. For one, it is a short tragic story ending in a watery grave.

Andrew Taylor was born May 22, 1801, to Oliver Taylor, a Minuteman during the Revolutionary War and a descendant of Massachusetts pioneers, and his wife, Lucy "White" Taylor. Andrew was raised and educated in and around South Hadley, Massachusetts and about 1830 was married to Laura Ellsworth. She was born about 1806 in New York State, where the couple lived until after 1833. Over the years they were blessed with five children, the first three were born in New York and the last two in Springfield, Hampden County, Massachusetts.

In 1855, Andrew, with two of his three sons, boarded the steamer, Sierra Nevada, leaving behind the safety and security of their home for the gold fields of California. Many men, thinking to go to the Promised Land where gold could be picked up by the handfuls, had died on the way and so it was with Andrew. It was not recorded how Andrew died, whether he fell ill and perished, or was killed in an accident but he did die and his sons had the unhappy task of burying their father at sea. Undaunted, and with no other choice but to carry on, the two young men made it to California.



Andrew J. Taylor
May 17, 1832 – Dec. 31, 1912

Andrew J. Taylor, born in Brighton, New York, was only 28 years old when he buried his father at sea, Brother John P. was only 24. They had left behind in Massachusetts their mother, Laura "Ellsworth" Taylor, their older brother Varnum M. and sisters Mary E. and Laura Almira. They would never see them again.

Arriving in California, the brothers went to Shasta County where they mined together until 1859 when John left the gold fields for Sacramento to go into the freighting business. Andrew remained in mining through out the area until 1865 when he went north to Boise, Idaho and thence to Warren. In partnership with a Mr. Watson he located some

fine placers on Allison Creek in the Florence area and later with three other men he located and developed the Dixie mine. Andrew spent much of his time developing mines through out the area from Elk City to Warrens.

In 1879, Andrew came to the Clearwater area and located a homestead east of Tahoe Ridge in Idaho County. He built a successful ranch there while still keeping his hand in at mining. It was here that he was once more reunited with his brother John.

John Porter Taylor
June 15, 1836 – May 7, 1921

When John left the minefields for Sacramento, he began a career in freighting in which he would excel in until 1883. He hauled freight to Virginia City until the Union Pacific Railroad was completed in 1870, His was one of the handiest and most complete outfits on the road, consisting of eighteen mules and six wagons. This was the size of outfit to best pay in this kind of work and John used it to haul from railheads to southern Nevada and points inland until 1883.

John spent some time in Arizona pursuing a living and then in March 1886 he landed in Idaho County. Joining his brother Andrew in mining and ranching operations, he secured a homestead and a pre-emption which he later sold. In January 1903, he sold off 80 acres of his homestead and then in 1912 he and his brother sold their ranches and moved into Kamiah.

Although Andrew never married, John decided late in life to take the plunge and in 1911 he married Mrs. Alice Dillard, a lady he had known for several years while living in Nevada. There were no children from this marriage and so when the brothers passed on to their final reward the only ones to mourn them were past friends and surviving acquaintances and Alice.

Andrew died in Kamiah on December 29, 1912, and was laid to rest in the Kamiah I O O F Cemetery, John died May 7, 1921 and was laid to rest beside his brother. The location of John's grave was unknown for many years and it was not until research was made into the newspaper archives was the location brought to light. John has lain all these many years without a stone, which will be remedied soon.

Sources: Obituary, Kamiah Progress, May 13 1921; Obituary, Lewiston Morning Tribune, Jan. 2, 1913; An Illustrated History of North Idaho (1903); Ancestry.com Census Images; Rootsweb World Connect Project

The Taylor brothers were not the only set of siblings to leave their homes in the east and eventually end up in Idaho. The story of John Irvine, a Virginia scholar and his brothers gives only a small clue as to the devastating effects of war on what was once a rich plantation family. Go West, Young Men, Go West.

Go West , Young Men, Go West.

By: Reese Spicer

Among the hardy pioneers that came west after the Civil War, were three men from Virginia, brothers, whose lives had been turned upside down and their family fortunes destroyed. Sons of a gentleman farmer and successful merchant, they had answered the call of the Confederacy at the outbreak of war, serving with honor, distinction and probably absolute dismay at the realization that it had all been for naught.

Samuel Irvine, the grandfather, an immigrant from Dublin, Ireland, had settled in Amherst County, Virginia before the founding of Lynchburg, a town named for William Lynch. He had married Mary Rose who was born in Amherst County and a descendant of Scottish immigrants. An Irvin tradition says that, Samuel, a contemporary to Mr. Lynch, had advised him to open a store but Lynch failed to do so and Samuel opened one himself, therefore becoming the actual founder of Lynchburg. Samuel is also said to have advised his 13 year old son, John to be ready to enlist when the War of 1812 broke out.

Samuel's son, John R. Irvin, following in father's footsteps, kept the family fortunes intact and upon marrying Miss Lucy Hobsons in 1835, began raising crops, a family and improving on the mercantile business started by his father. Life was good and John's family prospered and grew. First, there was Frances, born in 1836, then John H. in 1838, Robert in 1840 and Landon in 1842. By 1850 the family seemed complete, although there is evidence that two more children existed, no proof has been found.

In 1861, John is away at school, The University of Virginia at Charlottesville, attending to studies in preparation for a life hopefully as successful as his father and grandfather had been when tragedy struck. Southern slave states began seceding from the union and raising armies in defense of their ideals and beliefs. When Federal troops at Fort Sumpter were fired upon and the fort taken by Confederate forces, John and his brothers enlisted. Rushing home to Lynchburg, John signed up in Co I of the 28th Virginia Infantry. The 28th fought in places whose names read like a Who's Who of famous Civil War battles. There was First Manassas, Cold Harbor, Petersburg, Williamsburg and Seven Pines. The Regiment lost 12 killed and 52 wounded at Second Manassas. Of the 333 men engaged at Gettysburg, half were disabled and many were captured at Saylor's Creek. On April 9, 1865, 3 officers and 51 men surrendered to Union forces at Appomattox, ending the military career of our young scholar.

Returning home to desolation and destruction, for the war had taken its toll on both the farm and the family, John, with brothers Robert and Landon, began a westward move that would take two of them to Idaho and one to Montana.

The brother's first stop was Pike County Missouri in 1867, a place they apparently cared little for as by September 1869 Landon was in San Francisco California and John was in Marin Co. By 1870 John was Captain of the Guard at San Quentin Prison, which position he maintained until 1877.

In 1872, brother Landon took a trip to Puget Sound Washington and not caring much for the area prepared to return to California. Instead he took a detour and came to what is now Latah Co. and here he remained until moving to Oregon after 1903. His liking for the area convinced his brother John to join him in 1877. John took out a homestead in the Pine Creek area and in the early 80's was elected county assessor for Nez Perce County, which job he efficiently filled for two years.

In 1880, John and Landon were living on farms that adjoined each other in what is now Latah County, then it was Nez Perce County and their farms were located on Camas Creek. But John, who amassed a fortune in excess of \$100,000 was found in a boarding house in 1900 ran by Charlie Boots. Although John, who had traveled extensively, had made Lewiston his home for several years before his death, he went back to live at Charlie Boot's boarding house just before his death in January 1910. John had never married and at his death his only survivors were his brothers Robert of Stevensville, Montana and Landon of Rock, Oregon.

John, Landon and Robert Irvine are splendid examples of the type of pioneer that formed our great nation and made Idaho what it is today. Their fortitude, courage and ambition will forever remain as testimony to the people who came after them and carried on where only death could make them stop.

Sources: Lewiston Tribune Obituary Jan 5, 1910; Ancestry. Com census images (internet); Civil War Soldiers & Sailors System Search, (internet); An Illustrated History of North Idaho, 1903. For more information on John Irvine or others, contact Reese Spicer, spicerv@camasnet.com or call 208-926-4835.