

## 1918

*The Vancouver Columbian*  
Vancouver, Clarke, Washington  
Friday, December 20, 1918

### **MRS. JULIA STAFFORD DIES THIS MORNING**

Mrs. Julia Stafford, wife of R. Stafford, died this morning at the family home at thirty-third and O streets. She was born at Dayton, Wash., twenty-eight years ago. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs Frank Ehl.

Besides her husband, she leaves two small children, Franklin, aged seven years, and Florence, age five years. The body is at Limber's Funeral Parlors pending funeral arrangements.

Vancouver, Wash., Dec 20 – **Julia M. Stafford**, age 28 years of age, died at her home at thirty-third and O streets this morning at 5 o'clock of influenza. Her husband, R. Stafford, and two children, Franklin, 7 years old, and Florence, 5 years old, survive her. She was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Ehl, now living in this city. Mrs. Stafford was born at Atchison, Kan. The body is at Limber's undertaking parlors pending funeral arrangements.

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**1920**

*The Vancouver Columbian*  
Vancouver, Clarke, Washington  
Thursday, July 1, 1920

**FUNERAL SERVICES FOR  
JOE H. COLDWELL HELD**

Funeral Services for **Joe H. Coldwell** who died Sunday at St. Josephs hospital were held this afternoon at 2 o'clock from Limbers Parlors. Rev. John D. Nisewonder officiated and interment was in the Park Hill cemetery. The Knights of Pythias held services at the grave.

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*The Vancouver Columbian*  
Vancouver, Clarke, Washington  
Thursday, July 1, 1920

**FUNERAL SERVICES FOR  
JOHN HASTINGS HELD**

Funeral services for **John S. Hastings** of Moro, Oregon, were held this afternoon from Knapp's Chapel. Rev. C. C. Curtis officiated and interment was in Park Hill cemetery.

Mr. Hastings, who was 53 years of age, died at St. Vincent's hospital in Portland Saturday. He had been visiting his mother, Mrs. Sarah Callison, of 906 West 16<sup>TH</sup> street.

Mr. Hastings is survived by his wife, Mrs. Susilt Hastings and by four children, Crites Hastings, Everet Hastings, Mrs. Charles Cunningham and Louis Hastings, all of Moro, Oregon, and by his mother, Mrs. S. J. Callison, of this city, and two sisters, Mrs. Jack Walter of this city, and Mrs. Mary Moore, of San Francisco.

Mr. Hastings was a member of the Modern Woodmen lodge at Klondyke,

Oregon, and was also a member of the Christian church.

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*The Vancouver Columbian*  
Vancouver, Clarke, Washington  
Thursday, July 1, 1920

**FUNERAL SERVICES FOR  
MRS. M.E. STRO ARE HELD**

Funeral services for **Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Stro** who died suddenly Saturday evening were held yesterday from Knapp's chapel. Rev. A. H. Thompson officiated and interment was in the Park Hill cemetery.

Mrs. Stro was taken ill about six o'clock Saturday when she was on her way to her home. She was noticed by children playing nearby who called their parents and she was taken into the residence of J. C. Moore, 315 Park street, where she died shortly after.

Mrs. Stro is survived by an adopted son, Joseph Gibson, of this city.

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**1922**

*The Vancouver Columbian*  
Vancouver, Clarke, Washington  
January 1922

**Services Tomorrow**

Funeral services for George Seigel Gillis will be held tomorrow afternoon at 2 o'clock from Limber's chapel. Rev. A. W. Brown will officiate and interment will be in Park Hill cemetery.

Mr. Gillis was born 1862 and died January 2, 1922. He is survived by his wife, Lilly E. Gillis.

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*The Vancouver Evening Columbian*  
Vancouver, Clarke, Washington  
Saturday July 29, 1922

**FLORENCE (COSHOW) MCFARREN**

Mrs. Florence McFarren, aged 50 years, died last night at the family home at Mill Plain where the family have lived the last year. Mrs. McFarren was born in Arkansas in 1871 and moved with her husband to Clarke County 30 years ago. After coming to the county, they settled in Orchards where they have made their home up until a year ago when they moved to the Mill Plain district. Mrs. McFarren was president of the Women Relief Corps of Orchards and was a member of the Fishers Grange.

She is survived by her husband, David J. McFarren; three daughters, Mrs. Esta Alderson, Portland, Mrs. Edith Kersteter, Vancouver, and Miss Ethel McFarren at home, and four sons, Herbert and Charles of Portland, and George and Leslie at home.

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*The Vancouver Evening Columbian*  
Vancouver, Clarke, Washington  
Tuesday, August 1, 1922

**M. E. SIMMS**

The funeral services of M.E. Simms, late manager of the Vancouver Lumber Company who died suddenly at this home, 600 Grant, Monday Morning, will be held at 2 o'clock tomorrow afternoon from Knapp's Funeral Chapel. The Vancouver Moose and the Ladies of Mooseheart of which organization Mr. Simms was an active member, will have full charge of the services.

Interment will be in the Park Hill Cemetery.

Following his death, his five youngest children were sent to the Moose Lodge's Mooseheart facilities in Illinois, where each went to school and was trained in vocational skills.

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*The Vancouver Evening Columbian*  
Vancouver, Clarke, Washington  
Friday, December 22, 1922

Page 1

**FRED WINSOR**

Fred Winsor, aged 47 years, died yesterday at the St. Joseph hospital where he underwent an operation for appendicitis about a week ago. Two years ago Mr. Winsor and family moved to Vancouver from Alberta, Canada, and have been living at 1710 Railroad avenue. He was a member of the First Methodist Episcopal church of this city and also a member of Columbia Homestead No. 1123, Brotherhood of American Yeomen.

Funeral services will be held tomorrow afternoon at 2 o'clock in the First Methodist Episcopal church. Rev. J. P. Marlatt will officiate and interment will be made in the

Obituaries for burials in Park Hill Cemetery – Vancouver, WA

Park Hill cemetery. W. J. Knapp has charge of the funeral arrangements.

The surviving relatives include his wife, Mrs. Portia Winsor, one son, Chester A., of this city, his mother, Mrs. Marion Winsor of Wyoming, two sisters, Mrs. C. L. getman of this city, and Mrs. W. M. Smith of Appledale, B. C., and six brothers, Albert of Portland, Henry and Harry of Canada, James A. and Harvey of Wyoming, and William R., of South Dakota.

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# 1923

*The Vancouver Evening Columbian*  
Vancouver, Clarke, Washington  
Tuesday, October 30, 1923  
page 5

## **MRS. LUCY BLAIR**

Mrs. Lucy J. Blair, aged 57 years, died at the family home last night following a stroke of paralysis. She was born in Poke county, Mo., where she lived until 1894 when she moved with her husband to Clark county and settled in the Mill Plain district, where the family has since lived.

January 16, 1888, she was married to Robert Blair, in Poke county, Mo.

During her life time Mrs. Blair was a life long member of the Baptist church and at the time of her death was a member of the Camas Baptist church. She was also a member of the Harmony W. C. T. union.

Funeral services will be held Wednesday morning at 11 o'clock in the Baptist church of Camas. The Rev. Elsie will officiate. Interment will be in the Park Hill cemetery.

The surviving relatives include her husband, Robert Blair, two sons, Otis, at home, and Walter of Vancouver, and five daughters, Mrs. George Ostenson, Port Angeles, Mrs. Jack Owen, of Mill Plain, Mrs. Archie E. Bird, Camas, and the Misses Olive and Jessie Blair at home, four grandchildren, one sister and five brothers.

W. J. Knapp is in charge of the funeral arrangements.

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**1924**

The body is at Knapps Funeral Parlors.  
No funeral arrangements have been made at present.

*The Vancouver Evening Columbian*  
Vancouver, Clarke, Washington  
Friday, January 25, 1924

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**IDA CAROLINA WARE**

Mrs. Ida C. Ware, age 38 years died at St Joseph Hospital yesterday. She was born in Alexandria, Minn., and on June 6, 1913 was married to Ben H. Ware in Brainard, Minn. The surviving relatives include her husband, Ben H. Ware, and the children, Norma, age 9 years, Myrtle, age 8 years, and Howard, age 2 years, all living at the family home at 2720 Q Street. Funeral services will be held at the Limber Funeral Home Monday afternoon at 1 o'clock. Rev. Luther B. Deck will officiate. Interment will be in the Park Hill Cemetery.

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*The Vancouver Evening Columbian*  
Vancouver, Clarke, Washington  
December 5, 1924

**JAMES R. FRADENBURG**

James R. Fradenburg 36, of Sara died this morning at the St. Joseph's hospital after a short illness. Mr. Fradenburg was a member of the IOOF of Felida. He had resided in the vicinity of Sara for 19 years. He is survived by his father, Alonzo Fradenburg; eight sisters, Mrs. May Woody, Arcadia, Neb., Mrs. Ina Wilson, Fort Collins, Colo., Mrs. Lydia Johnson, Arcadia, Neb., Mrs. C.E. Clique, Vancouver, Mrs. Ray Duback, East Mill Plain, Mrs. Anna Sergeant, Ridgefield, Mrs. Edith House, Portland and Miss Pearl Fradenburg of Portland; three brothers, A.J. Fradenburg, Hugh Fradenburg and Samuel Fradenburg, all of Clarke County.

# 1925

*The Vancouver Evening Columbian*  
Vancouver, Clarke, Washington  
July 1925

## LELIA MATTSON

Lelia Mattson, aged 23 years, beloved wife of Lloyd Mattson and daughter of Mr. And Mrs. D. W. McKay, well known residents of East Vancouver, closed her eyes in final rest, Saturday evening, July 25, 1925, after about two years illness of tuberculosis. It was believed until the last half hour that she would ultimately recover.

Mrs. Mattson was a twin sister to Mrs. Milton Harlan, reared in East Vancouver, and looking so much alike that their most intimate friends would inquire of them, "Are you Lelia or Lilia?" They were watched and loved by all in prattling childhood, through budding girlhood and into blossoming womanhood, and Mrs. Mattson's death leaves many sorrowing friends.

She was graduate of the '21 class of high school, a member of the M.E. church, and of pioneer stock, her grandfather "Grandpa Baughman" well-known "old-timer" throughout the state of Oregon, having crossed the plains by ox team and hewed out a home in the Oregon wilderness.

She was married to Lloyd Mattson an energetic, well-liked and qualified attaché of the County Treasurer's office on February 11, 1922.

Besides her husband to share in grief are her parents, Mr. And Mrs. D.W. McKay, and five sister: Agnes McKay, Alice Thompson, Lilia Harlan, and Bessie McKay, and a large number of friends.

Funeral services will be held from Limber's parlors at 3 o'clock p.m. Tuesday, July 28.

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*The Vancouver Evening Columbian*  
Vancouver, Clarke, Washington  
Monday, August 31, 1925

## THELMA SMITH GUINAN

Thelma Smith Guinan died in San Francisco, August 25 following a surgical operation performed five days previous, aged 18 years, one month and four days. The body was brought to Vancouver and funeral services were held from Knapp's chapel yesterday afternoon, Rev. Dr. LaViolette officiating. Interment was in Park Hill cemetery.

She is survived by her husband, Philip Guinan, now in Alaska, her father, J.B. Smith of Portland, and her mother, Mrs. F.S. Warner of Vancouver Route 1. She leaves one brother Wade Smith of Vancouver and one sister, Mrs. E.E. Borne of Seattle.

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*The Vancouver Evening Columbian*  
Vancouver, Clarke, Washington  
Monday, August 31, 1925

## GEORGE A. FULLERTON

Funeral services for George Alexander Fullerton, who died in Brooks, Alberta, August 23, were held from the Adventist church yesterday afternoon, Elder J.N. Shippy of Portland officiating. There was a large attendance of Mr. Fullerton's former neighbors and friends. Interment was in Park Hill cemetery. Services were in charge of Knapp's.

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*The Vancouver Evening Columbian*  
Vancouver, Clarke, Washington  
Monday, August 31, 1925

**MALCOLM WHITEGON**

Funeral services for Malcolm Whitegon, who died at his home on West 40th street, Friday night, were held from Knapp's Chapel today, Rev. C.E. Baskerville officiating. Interment was in Park Hill cemetery.

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**1926**

*The Vancouver Evening Columbian*  
Vancouver, Clarke, Washington  
Friday, January 8, 1926  
Front Page

**Killed in a logging accident.**

**Worker Struck by Falling Tree Dies in Hospital**

**George F. McFarren of Mill Plain Meets Fatal Accident**

A fractured skull and probable injuries to his spinal column caused the death at St. Joseph's hospital at 10:30 today of George F. McFarren, 27, of Mill Plain who was injured yesterday while at work felling trees as an employee of the James McKee Saw Mill of Proebstel.

McFarren was alone when he met with his fatal accident. He was working about 100 feet from other workers. It is supposed a falling limb struck him on the head, knocking him into a gully 15 feet deep. McFarren landed on his head, it was reported by fellow workmen, who picked him up. He was later moved to St. Joseph's hospital in Vancouver and medical aid summoned.

McFarren was unconscious when picked up by fellow workmen about 4 o'clock in the afternoon. He was taken to the hospital by Knapp's ambulance and died this morning without having regained consciousness. The body is at Limbers Funeral home and no arrangements have been made.

The surviving relatives include his father D.J. McFarren of Mill Plain, three brothers, Herbert, Charles and Leslie, and three sisters, Esther, Edith and Ethel all living at home.

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*The Vancouver Evening Columbian*  
Vancouver, Clarke, Washington  
Probably Monday, January 11, 1926

**GEORGE FRANKLIN MCFARREN**

Funeral services for George F. McFarren of Mill Plain, who died Friday at St. Joseph's Hospital as the result of injuries received Thursday while at work for the James McKee Saw Mill, were held Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock at the Limber Funeral Home. A. M. Lewton, Portland, officiated and interment was in the family plot of Park Hill Cemetery.

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*Hamilton Funeral Records 1917-1929*  
page 41  
published by CCGS in 1993

**GOOD, JOHNATHON W.**

b. 4/8/1847 Missouri, d. 1/22/1926, age 78y 9m 14d, widower, retired carpenter, Methodist, lived at 1714 Kauffman Ave with Joseph McKee, died at home, no cause listed, attended by Dr. Robert D. Wiswall of Vancouver, funeral 1/23/1926 at Hamilton Chapel with Rev. Francis LaViolette, buried at Park Hill Cemetery (no marker). Ordered and charged to Joseph McKee. Parents were Joseph Good, b. Virginia and Anna Blevens, b. Tennessee.

Note: His death certificate shows **Johnathan Washington Good** and the informant was his brother Tom Good.

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*Vancouver Evening Columbian*  
Vancouver, Clarke, Washington  
Friday, January 22, 1926

**JOHNATHAN W. GOOD**

Obituaries for burials in Park Hill Cemetery – Vancouver, WA

Johnathan William Good, 78, died late last night (22 Jan 1926) at the home of his sister, Mrs. Joseph A. McKee, 1714 Kauffman avenue, following months of failing health. Mr. Good was born in Missouri April 8, 1847, and moved to Vancouver 37 years ago. Since that time he has made his home at the Kauffman avenue residence, now occupied by his sister and family. Mr. Good had been a member of the Methodist church practically all his life.

Funeral services will be held Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock at the chapel of the Hamilton & Son funeral parlors. Dr. F.A. LaViolette will officiate. Interment will be in Park Hill cemetery.

Besides his sister, he is survived by one daughter, Mrs. Fannie McCown of Colorado, and one brother, Tom Good of Vancouver.

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# 1927

*Camas Post Record*  
Camas, Clark, Washington  
Friday, March 11, 1927

## CHARLES LITZ

Charles Litz, well known and universally esteemed citizen of Camas, died at an early hour Monday morning in Good Samaritan Hospital, Portland, where he had submitted to a major surgical operation on the Friday preceding.

When the news of the death of Mr. Litz was flashed over the wires to this city, to the greater number of the extensive circle of friends of the family, it was indeed like a thunderbolt from a clear sky. Very few were aware of the seriousness of his indisposition, or that he had repaired to the hospital for operation.

The body was brought to Swank's Mortuary here and the funeral service largely attended was held from the chapel on Wednesday afternoon, Rev. E. R. D. Hollensted, a former Presbyterian pastor officiating.

Commitment was in Park Hill Cemetery, Vancouver, the lavish wealth of beautiful floral tributes speaking a volume in the tender tribute and sentiment of friends. Mr. Litz had been janitor at the high school for a continuous period of ten years, and an appropriate feature of respect was the suspension of all school sessions after 2 p.m., the funeral hour. Mr. Litz had seemed so much an indispensable part of the school system that the pupils without reserve most deeply deplore his passing.

Authentic biographical dates are lacking, but Mr. Litz was born in New York, July 23, 1856, and was aged 70 years, 7 months, and 14 days. At least 40 years of his life had been spent in Camas and vicinity. He was one of the early day livery barn operators here. He was a member of Wide West

Lodge, I.O.O.F., which order had charge of the funeral service.

Surviving is his widow Mrs. Litz. They had no children, but with the tenderness of parental affection they had raised from childhood to maturity Chas. Litz, Jr. of McCleary, Wash., and Mrs. Ida Shumway of Vancouver.

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**There are several new articles from the Columbian and other sources pertaining to the death in 1927 of murdered Sheriff Lester Marion Wood. They are all of historical value so are included here.**

Newspaper article,  
*The Columbian*,  
about May 27, 1927

### **Lester Wood Had "Hunch" of Fatality.**

Lester Wood, murdered sheriff, may have had a premonition of his death two days before the call that took him into the assassin's path, it has been learned. He is said to have made a remark to a man who spoke to him that indicated an uneasy state of mind.

The man, whose identity has not been ascertained, told of the incident while patronizing C. W. Gearhart's soda fountain at 609 W. Eleventh Street, just across from the court house. He saw Lester Friday and noticed that he seemed depressed. He asked him the reason for the apparent gloom.

"I don't think I'll be here much longer," Wood is said to have replied. "I've got a feeling that something is going to happen to me soon."

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**WOOD'S FUNERAL WILL BE  
SUNDAY –  
FOUR MEMBERS OF SHERIFF'S  
FORCE**

**INCLUDED AMONG PALLBEARERS**

Funeral services for Lester M. Wood, murdered Clark County Sheriff, will be held Sunday afternoon at 2:30 at the First Baptist Church, Twenty-seventh and Main St. Rev. C. M. Cline will officiate and interment will be in the Park Hill Cemetery.

Pallbearers will include Gordon L. Rice and John Mobley, members of the Baptist Church, Roy Johnson, Thomas Kemp, Ben Miller, and William J. Andrews, from the sheriff's office.

The body will lie in state at the Knapp Mortuary parlors until time for the funeral services.

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Also a long article from Edwin Baker and others regarding the whereabouts of Luther Baker after the shooting.

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See news article for details.. repeated in the Vancouver, WA paper 21 May 1989. Also see the family of George Washington Baker in the book *Clark County Pioneers*, published by CCGS.

Also a *Columbian* article dated March 26, 2002, Section C, page 1, regarding the Ku Klux Klan and his election aided by his opponents involvement with the KKK.

**SHERIFF LESTER WOOD**

Lester M. Wood

Compiled by *Columbian* staff in 1989  
Controversy started and violent death ended the short career as sheriff of Lester M. Wood.

Wood, a lifelong resident of Vancouver, was mortally wounded Sunday morning, May 22, 1927, as he led a raiding party on a bootlegging still in the Dole Valley area of

north-central Clark County. His death came less than seven months after his election in a stormy campaign that involved the Ku Klux Klan.

Born April 12, 1894, in Vancouver, Wood attended Vancouver High School. A brilliant speaker, he had led the Vancouver High School forensic team and for three straight years was declared the debating champion of Southwest Washington.

In the autumn of 1926, Wood became the Democratic nominee for sheriff, but was not accorded much of a chance at election. First, he would be running against R.E. McCrite, popular Vancouver police chief, who had easily won the republican nomination. Second, in the mid-1920s in Clark County, a Democrat had little chance of winning any office.

However, just after the primary election, McCrite suddenly withdrew as a candidate after charges were aired that he had lost his U.S. citizenship in 1906 over desertion from the army. The county Republicans desperate to come up with an alternate candidate picked a man who had ties to the Ku Klux Klan.

As a result, on Nov. 2, 1926, Wood became the only democrat elected in the entire county, beating his Republican opponent, J.W. Adams, by 1,925 votes.

Wood's death at the hands of bootlegger Luther Baker, who was later hanged for the crime, sent the entire county into mourning. Memorial services were held at several churches. Typical was the First Christian Church in Camas, where Wood was praised as a hero and martyr.

(Photo of captured still, Sheriff Lester Wood is third from left.)

"Sheriff Wood died for the laws of our county and in fidelity to his oath of office," the speaker said.

When funeral service were held at First Baptist Church in Vancouver, where Wood had been Sunday school superintendent, an estimated 2,000 mourners crowded into the building.

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**Luther Baker**  
**compiled by *Columbian* staff in 1989**  
**It had the elements of a saga of the Old West.**

A popular sheriff was gunned down in a shootout on the trail. An armed posse captured the suspects. A grizzled mountain man went silently to the gallows after a big breakfast of ham and eggs.

The murder of Clark County Sheriff Lester Wood on May 22, 1927, was so shocking to the community that *The Columbian* hit the streets with a special edition on Sunday night, something that had never been done before.

Wood, who had grown up in Vancouver and was highly respected, had joined deputies on that Sunday afternoon in a raid on a big moonshine operation in the Dole Valley area, about nine miles southeast of Yacolt. Carrying a double-barreled shotgun, Wood was the lead man as the group walked single-file along the narrow trail.

Suddenly, a figure popped out of the brush and shot the sheriff through the abdomen with a rifle. Wood, mortally wounded, managed to fire his shotgun before he died.

The rest of the raiding party retreated to regroup. When word spread through Vancouver of the slaying, a posse was hastily formed. Among the posse members were L.E. McCurdy, Jim Thompson, William Thompson, Ira Cresap, W.W. Laws and Claude Snider.

The posse hurried to the scene and surrounded a cabin, forcing the surrender of Luther Baker, 59, and several others, including a brother and nephew. Baker was described as "a grizzled mountaineer-moonshiner."

The trial was held in Vancouver. Evidence against Baker included something brand new in criminal investigations, the use

of an X-ray. When arrested, Baker had two puncture marks just below the knee on his left leg. The suspect said they were caused by a barbed wire fence, but the X-ray disclosed two shotgun pellets, supposedly from Wood's gun, were buried in the leg.

The trial ended Aug. 5, 1927, and the jury took only four hours to bring back a verdict of guilty to first degree murder. "The man's (Baker) lined, aged face went slack," *The Columbian* reported. "His mouth drooped, a hint of utter weariness about it."

Baker went to the gallows at Walla Walla at 4:30 a.m. on March 29, 1929. He remained tight-lipped about the actual crime but thanking his jailers for "their kindness."

"Only a few yards from the gallows sat Ellis Baker, Luther's brother, who had been sentenced to life imprisonment for the same crime," according to newspaper accounts. "He was more shaken at the moment of execution than the man who climbed the 13 steps."

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**The Office Of The Sheriff**  
**Clark County, Washington**  
**An Historical Overview**  
**By Inspector David McKay**

Clark County was again to witness prohibition violence when, newly elected Sheriff, Lester Wood, was shot and killed on the afternoon of May 22, 1927. Deputies were originally sent to the foothills of Dole, southeast of Yacolt, to look for a still after arresting Douglas Lowery for transporting thirty gallons of liquor. The three officers, led by Chief Deputy Tom Kemp, proceeded up a tributary of Rock Creek, but were confronted by a rifle toting Ellis Baker who ordered them to "get out of here". The officers wisely withdrew and one of them, Roy Johnson, went down to call for additional assistance. Kemp and Deputy Hugh Jones returned to the area, and after discovering a large scale distilling operation

consisting of a 120 gallon still and three 500 gallon holding tanks, proceeded to destroyed the equipment. As they quickly left the area, they heard, in the distance, the sound of gunfire from the area of the still. What they heard was the shootout that left Sheriff Wood dead. [34]

Wood and Deputy Ben Miller had driven up to Dole Valley after they had received Johnson's call for help. Meeting Johnson, Wood leading his two deputies, proceeded back up the trail, unaware that Kemp had already struck. As Wood rounded a bend in the trail he was confronted by a man carrying a rifle. As he brought his shotgun to his shoulder, Wood yelled "Put up your hands, I'm the Sheriff!" The man instantly fired his rifle striking the Sheriff. Wood fired as he fell but was dead within minutes. Johnson fired several shots at the assailant but the latter had vanished into the woods. [35]

Additional aid was sent for, and a general posse of local lawmen rushed to the scene. On the suggestion of the county Game Warden, L.E. McCurdy, the group surrounded a small cabin about a mile from the crime scene. Inside, they found Luther Baker and his brothers Ellis and Edwin, as well as a Lester Hunting. All four men were arrested and transported back to the Sheriff's Office. In addition, Ellis Baker's son, Lewis "Ted" Baker, was also arrested as part of the bootlegging-murder investigation. Although interrogated at length, the men denied involvement in the murder.

Suspicion soon centered on Luther Baker as the man who fired the fatal shot. This was based on eyewitness statements from the two deputies present as well as from wounds found on Baker's leg, which were suspected as coming from Wood's shotgun blast. In addition, bloodhounds followed a scent that went from the murder scene to the cabin, a fisherman had identified Luther Baker as the one who he observed carrying a rifle as he passed by shortly after the shooting, and Edwin Baker

had stated to the investigators that Luther had arrived at the cabin carrying a rifle approximately a half hour after he had heard the shooting. [36]

This was not the first time that the Bakers had run afoul of the law. Records of the Sheriff's Office show that thirty-three years earlier, in November, 1894, Luther had been found guilty of Assault and Battery. Luther, Edwin and Ellis Baker had also been arrested in January, 1916, and later sentenced for poaching violations. Ellis was arrested again in December, 1919, and found guilty of 2nd Degree Assault. [37]

While a vigorous defense was conducted, Luther, Ellis and Ted Baker were quickly convicted of murder. The obligatory appeals commenced immediately with the case eventually coming before the Washington State Supreme Court. In a 5-4 decision the court ruled that Ellis Baker was to be sentenced to life in prison. The death sentence on Luther Baker was confirmed. With his appeals exhausted and a refusal by Governor Hartley to commute his sentence, Luther Baker, prisoner #12401, was led to the gallows at the State Penitentiary in Walla Walla and hung before dawn on March 29, 1929. [38]

The same court determined that there was insufficient evidence to convict Ted Baker of murder. The court concluded that transporting firearms to the still site did not prove premeditation for murder and they ordered the charge of murder dismissed. While this was good news for Ted, he had little time left to enjoy it. Racked with tuberculosis, Ted Baker died on September 30, 1929. [39]

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*A Century of Clark County (WA) News*  
**THE MOONSHINE ERA**

The advent of Prohibition (1920-1933) meant that the entire country was supposedly alcohol free. Here, like everywhere else, the effect was the same: booze production went underground.

But Pat Jollota, Clark County Historical Museum curator, finds added impact in another consequence of prohibition: The brewery closed. We were desperate for the jobs.

Throughout the decade came reports of raids on moonshine stills. In July 1921, Sheriff Will Thompson told a Women's Christian Temperance Union convention that "law officers had found enough stills here to equip a distillery."

An August 1922 shootout near Stevenson killed a deputy sheriff from Vancouver and a still operator.

When a moonshiner killed Sheriff Lester Wood on May 22, 1927, just six months after his election, justice was quicker than white lightning: Luther Baker was hanged in Walla Walla in March 1929. His brother and son received life sentences in connection with the shooting.

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*The Columbian*  
May 22, 1927

**SHERIFF WOOD SLAIN WHILE  
RAIDING STILL  
UNKNOWN ASSAILANT MURDERS  
OFFICER IN WILDS NEAR YACOLT**

Lester Wood, (son of Jane Higdon and Scott Wood), sheriff of Clark County, was almost instantly killed at about 4:30 this afternoon when shot through the body by an unknown assailant in the foothills near Dole, four and one-half miles southeast of Yacolt.

Ted Baker, said to be the owner of the still which Wood and his deputies were attempting to raid, is being sought by a force

of a dozen men in connection with the slaying. Game Commissioner McCurdy, who with other men summoned to the scene of the murder asserts he saw Baker fleeing through the woods. Wood was shot through the body just above the hips and died within a few minutes after being struck. Tom Kemp, Hugh Jones, Roy Johnson, and Ben Miller were with the sheriff when the tragedy occurred and although several shots were exchanged with the murderer, the gunfire was futile as far as is now known.

The scene of the murder was in the roughest and wildest part of Clark County. Mountains and foothills surround Dole which will add to the difficulty of the capture of the assailant. Tom Kemp, Hugh Jones and Roy Johnson, sheriff deputies, left for Dole early this morning, following the capture last night of Douglas I. Lowery, 22, with a truck-load of booze, manufactured, according to William Andrews, deputy, at the still in the wilds of the Dole country. Approaching the still, the three deputies, armed only with revolvers, were subjected to a fusillade of bullets, fired they said from a high-powered rifle. The deputies returned to the nearest farm house, about three and one half miles from where they were fired upon and summoned assistance. Wood, in company with Ben Miller, went to the deputies assistance. While going up the trail in the direction of the still, Wood was killed. The deputies returned the fire, but as far as is known, they did not see the assailant. Additional assistance was ordered. Those who answered the call were, W. J. Knapp, Clyde Wood, Ira Cresap, Jim Thompson, Barry Raguse, L. E. McCurdy, Bill Thompson, Henry Ulrich, Dale McMullen, and W. W. Laws. Most of the men are armed with high-powered rifles, and together with the deputies who were with Wood at the time of the killing are scouring the wood for the murderer.

Lester Wood, 34, was the son of W. Scott Wood, pioneer furniture dealer and auctioneer. He was born in Vancouver and

graduated from Vancouver High School. Prior to his election as Sheriff on the democratic ticket last fall, after the counties most exciting election in years, he was associated with his father in the furniture business. He is survived by a widow and four children.

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*The Columbian*  
May 23, 1927

**NAB SLAYER SUSPECTS  
Suspicion Centers on Luther Baker,  
Seven Taken by Deputies. Members of  
Alleged Moonshining Gang Identified as  
Man Who Shot Bullet That Killed Sheriff  
Lester Wood, Although He Denies  
Connection With Slaying; Wounds Lead  
Officers to Believe Him Guilty.**

Luther Baker, 59, is the man suspected as the murderer of Sheriff Wood. Lester Wood was born in Vancouver April 12, 1894, and lived his entire life in this city. On January 18, 1915 he was married to Miss Aeneid Duggan of this city in Steveson. Surviving relatives include his wife, Mrs. Aeneid D. Wood, four sons, Roy age 11, Paul age 9, Hughie age 5, and William Lester age 3, his parents Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Wood, two sisters, Mrs. M Joy, and Mrs. Clifford Ewing and three brothers, Clyde, Willis and Walter of Vancouver.

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*The Columbian*  
May 24, 1927

**Shots in Baker's Leg - X-Ray Picture  
Shows Two Pellets Thought From  
Sheriff's Gun.**

Link of evidence slowly tightening around Luther, eldest of suspects, blood hounds lead directly from scene of murder

to cabin in which alleged moonshiners were caught; May file charges soon.

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**May 27, 1927**

Luther, Ellis, Ted are Charged with First Degree Slaying  
Two brothers and son accused of slaying Lester Wood.

**June 3, 1927** - Pleas are postponed by motion.

**June 13, 1927** - Arraignment of Baker Tuesday.

**June 14, 1927** - Postponed to Friday.

**June 27, 1927** - Not guilty is plea of Baker. Trial to be July 25.

**Luther Baker, was hung eight months later.**

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*Knapp Mortuary Funerals 1926-1940*  
Published by CCGS 1992

**WOOD, Lester Marion**

May 22, 1927, age 33Y 1M 10D, married to Hazel Aenid Duggan, Sheriff of Clark Co., WA, killed by bootleggers during a raid at Yacolt, WA when he was shot through the left hip and lower abdomen attended by Clark Coroner Dale McM of Vancouver. Funeral May 29, 1927 2 p.m. at the Vancouver First Baptist Church with Rev. C.M. Cline, buried at Park Hill Cemetery B 65-2 (has marker). Ordered by wife and brother Clyde Wood. Charged to Mrs. Hazel Wood, Industrial Insurance, Clyde Wood and William Duggan.

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*The Columbian*  
November 18, 1927

**JAMES M. JOY**

Funeral services for James M. Joy, 42, who was killed in a railroad accident Armistice Day at Whitefish, Mont., will be held Thursday afternoon at 2 o'clock at the mortuary parlors of Hamilton & Son. Rev. J. L. Garrett will officiate at the services, which will be in charge of the Masonic Lodge. Interment will be in Park Hill cemetery. The body was to arrive at the local funeral parlors today from Whitefish, Mont.

Mr. Joy, who is a brother of Sidney and T.H. Joy of this city, was born in Vancouver September 28, 1885.

*(Per Park Hill Cemetery records he died in Whitefish MT from an accident. Buried in B8-2, then moved to C 173 next to his sister Iva L. Zimmerman. Hamilton Funeral Home.)*

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# 1928

*The Columbian*  
Thursday, March 1, 1928

## **GEORGE HILEMAN**

George Hileman, 81, died last night at his home on Route 6, Vancouver, following several months of poor health. He came to the coast in 1884 and has lived almost continuously since in Clark County. He came west from Nebraska.

Surviving relatives include his wife Lucy Joy Hileman, a son, Earl J. Hileman, Riverside, Cal.; a daughter, Miss Ethel Hileman, San Francisco and three brothers, Lewis Hileman, Portland, Harvey Hileman, North Dakota, and Levi Hileman, Michigan City, Ind.

He was a member of the Church of God.

The body is at the Knapp Funeral chapel. Funeral arrangements will be made after word from the children in California can be received.

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*The Columbian*  
Vancouver, Clark, Washington  
May 1928

## **FLOWERS BEDECK GRAVE OF MISS BESSIE MCKAY**

Miss Bessie McKay , aged 19 years, 1 month and 3 days, beloved youngest daughter of Mr And Mrs. D. W. McKay, 2308 East 10th street; died Monday morning, May 7, 1928, after an illness of but three days. She was born in Vancouver. Funeral services were held from Limber’s chapel Wednesday at 2:30 p.m. Rev. Chas. Baskerville gave the funeral address, calling to mind the promises and blessed reward held out to those who die, as this young lady

did, a firm and faithful believer in the reward given by the Redeemer of Mankind.

Miss Bessie was a most lovable young lady, bringing joy and happiness to all with whom she came in contact. She was a graduate of the class of '27 Vancouver high school and many of her classmates were present, with hosts of others, to offer their sympathy to the living and to help consign “this blooming mortal rose,” plucked so soon, to its final resting place, in Park Hill cemetery. She sleeps beside her sister. Her grave was banked with the beautiful flowers she so loved and typified.

She leaves, besides her parents, three sisters to miss her cheerful presence: Mrs. Wm. Summerville, Mrs. Lou Thompson and Mrs. Milton Harlan, besides many relations and friends.

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*The Columbian*  
Vancouver WA  
December 5, 1928

## **J. J. BODEY**

Jacob J. Bodey, 80, died last night at 6:30 at the family home, 1908 E. Street from pneumonia after nearly 10 days of illness. Although Mr. Bodey had been in falling health for some time he was not seriously ill until stricken with pneumonia nearly 10 days ago. He was born in Ohio, November 25, 1848 and come to Clark County thirty-three years ago (1895) from Newcastle Wyo. Mr. Bodey first settled in Homan where he operated a general merchandise store until nine years ago (1926) when he came to Vancouver to live.

Funeral services will be held Thursday afternoon at 1pm at the Hamilton mortuary parlors. Interment will be in the family plot of the Park Hill cemetery.

Surviving relative include his wife Ella L. Bodey, and five children. Mrs. Charles Hill, San Diego; Arthur E. Bodey, Portland;

Florence Steinhoff, Yacolt; and Walter E. Bodey, Vancouver. (no mention of Ralph)

Mr. & Mrs. Bodey celebrated their 59th wedding anniversary recently at their home in this city.

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*Vancouver Evening Columbian.*

Thursday, December 6, 1928

page 7

**JACOB J. BODEY**

Funeral services: Thursday afternoon at 1 o'clock at the Hamilton mortuary parlors funeral services for Jacob J. Bodey who died Tuesday at the family home, 1908 E. street were to be held. Rev. Mr. Montgomery, Portland, will officiate. Interment in the Park Hill Cemetery.

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**1929**

*The Vancouver Evening Columbian*  
Vancouver, Clark, Washington  
March 2, 1929

**GERALD E. THOMPSON**

Funeral services for Gerald E. Thompson, infant son of Mr. And Mrs. Luther L. Thompson who died yesterday, March 1, 1929, at the family home, 1104 W Street, from pneumonia were held this afternoon at 2 o'clock in the chapel of the Hamilton Mortuary parlors. Dr. Charles E. Baskerville officiated and interment was in Park Hill cemetery.

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*The Vancouver Evening Columbian*  
Saturday, July 20, 1929  
Page 2

**ELIZA J. BATES**

After several weeks' illness, Mrs. Eliza J. Bates, 76, died yesterday morning at St. Joseph's hospital. Mrs. Bates has lived in Vancouver for 7 years and in the state of Washington for the last 39 years. She was a long time member of the Christian church and of the Women of the Woodcraft in South Bend.

Members of the family are her husband, Ralph Bates of 2909 T street; three sons, Floyd Lewis of Raymond, Ira Lewis of Vancouver, and Boyd Lewis of Beaverton; one sister, Mrs. Ollis Severns of Lawrenceville, Ida., and four grandchildren.

Funeral services are to be held at 10 o'clock Tuesday in Knapp's Chapel. Reverend Herbert F. Jones will be in charge and interment will be in the Park Hill cemetery.

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*The Vancouver Evening Columbian*  
Thursday, August 1, 1929  
Page 7

**AUGUST H.E. PETERSON**

August H. E. Peterson, 70, died last night at St. Joseph's hospital following several months of failing health. He was moved to the hospital from his home at 1710 Railroad avenue, July 16. Mr. Peterson has been employed as a car repair man in this local S. P. & S. shops for a number of years.

He is survived by a sister living in California and a brother living somewhere in the east.

The body is at Limber's Funeral Home and no funeral arrangements have as yet been completed.

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*The Vancouver Evening Columbian*  
Friday, August 2, 1929  
Page 9

**AUGUST H.E. PETERSON**

Funeral services for August H. E. Peterson of 1710 Railroad avenue, who died Wednesday, July 31, at St. Joseph's hospital, will be held Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock at Limber's Funeral Home. Interment will be in Park Hill cemetery and Dr. Herbert F. Jones will officiate at the services.

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*The Vancouver Evening Columbian*  
Friday, August 2, 1929  
Page 9

**MRS. ADALA T. HAGBERG**

Funeral services for Mrs. Adala Theresa Hagberg, who died Wednesday, July 31, at the family home at 610 West Sixteenth street, will be held Saturday afternoon in the

chapel of the Knapp Funeral parlors. Dr. George W. Frame will officiate and interment will be in Park Hill cemetery. Members of Vancouver circle, Neighbors of Woodcraft, assisted by members of the Vasa Orden of Portland, will be in charge of the committal services at the grave. Music during the services will be furnished by the Jorgenson quartet of Portland.

Mrs. Hagberg was a member of Vancouver circle, Neighbors of Woodcraft and the W. C. T. U.

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*The Vancouver Evening Columbian*  
Saturday, August 17, 1929  
Page 9

**W. A. SANDERS**

W. A. Sanders, 82, died last night at his home, 209 East Thirty-ninth street. He was born in Missouri and had made his home in Vancouver since 1924 when he moved here from his home in Spokane county, Washington.

Relatives surviving include three daughters, Mrs. S. C. McCready, Lake Shore; Mrs. H. H. Grant and Mrs. S. J. McEldowner, both of Vancouver, and ten grandchildren.

The body is at Hamilton's Mortuary Parlors and funeral announcements will be made later.

Funeral services will be held Monday afternoon at 2 o'clock in the chapel of the Hamilton Mortuary parlors. Interment will be in the Park Hill cemetery.

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*The Vancouver Evening Columbian*  
Wednesday, August 21, 1929  
Page 7

**W. A. SANDERS**

Funeral services for W. A. Sanders, 83, who died Friday at his home, 209 East Thirty-ninth street, were held Monday afternoon at 2 o'clock in the chapel of the Hamilton mortuary parlors. Interment was in the family plot of the Park Hill cemetery.

Mr. Sanders was born in Missouri and when a small boy moved with his parents to Oregon where he grew to manhood. In 1866 he moved to Montana and in 1875 moved from that state to Washington and for the next few years lived in and around Spangle, Wash., where he conducted a mercantile store and also farmed on an extensive scale.

About 1892 Mr. Sanders moved to Wenatchee where he lived until 1922 when he moved to Spokane. Two years later he come to Vancouver to make his home.

Relatives surviving include three daughters. Mrs. Ella McEldowney, and Mrs. H. H. Grant, both of Vancouver, and Mrs. S. C. McCready, Lake Shore, and nine grandchildren.

Mr. Sanders was a man who always took an active interest in public life. When he was a young man he acted as deputy sheriff in Spokane county, and was one of the county commissioners in Stevens county and Chelan county, Wash. He was a man that first made up his mind on a matter, in either private or public life, and when he came to that conclusion it was that motive that always prompted his actions. He was a man far sighted and very successful in business. He exerted his influence in building the road from Wenatchee to Methow, Okanogan county. It can be said of Mr. Sanders that he was a fine citizen, a true friend, and an indulgent father.

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*The Vancouver Evening Columbian*  
Tuesday, August 20, 1929  
Front page

10:30. Dr. Charles E. Baskerville officiated and interment was in Park Hill cemetery.

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**RAILROAD MAN TAKES OWN LIFE**

**W. L. Keefer, Despondent Over Family Troubles, Turns on Gas and Dies**

Despondent apparently over ill health and family troubles, W. L. Keefer, 35, of 2025 Home avenue, committed suicide some time Wednesday or thereafter by turning on the gas in his kitchen, it was discovered Saturday night.

Keefer was last seen Wednesday afternoon. The gas is believed to have been flowing for three days, and the home was so saturated with it that when the discovery was made the gas jets were reached with difficulty. J. W. Flynn of 2010 Grant street and Leo Works of 2039 Home avenue found the body. Works was the last person known to have seen him, and had become alarmed when Keefer failed to appear for duty during the closing days of the week.

Keefer was born in Pennsylvania, and had lived in Vancouver seven years. He was a brakeman for the S. P. & S. railroad. He and his wife, Winona, had become separated. She was living at Alsea, Ore., with their two small sons, John and Harold. He left an incoherent note declaring his love for her. The funeral is to be held tomorrow, with final arrangements yet to be completed. The remains are at Hamilton's

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*The Vancouver Evening Columbian*  
Wednesday, August 21, 1929  
Page 7

**WILLIAM L. KEEFER**

Funeral services for William L. Keefer, who killed himself by taking gas at his home at 2025 Home ave., were held in the chapel of the Hamilton Mortuary parlors today at

*The Vancouver Evening Columbian*  
Saturday August 24, 1929  
Front page

**COUNTY GAME WARDEN DROPS DEAD**

**LOSSON McCURDY STRICKEN; DEATH COMES SUDDENLY  
End Comes When Recovery From Operation Seemed Complete**

His once stout heart failing just when it appeared he had virtually recovered from a major operation, Looson E. McCurdy, Clark county game warden, dropped dead in the Clark hotel at Sixth and Washington streets last night.

The warden's death came without warning. Occurring as it did when those who had been most closely in touch with him during his convalescence felt that danger was past, it shocked hundreds of people who had come to know him during his many years of public service.

**Idleness Irks**

McCurdy had been idle for weeks, first while doctors ordered him to bed to rest in preparation for the operation, and then during the slow period of convalescence. Apparently his energetic nature could not brook the enforced idleness, and he began to roam about the city before he was fully recovered. He walked with a suggestion of discomfort in his stride, but said that he felt he would be all right soon.

Days of this sort of activity seemingly did not hurt him, and many of his friends lost their earlier apprehension. Then last night he came back to the hotel where he has stayed since the death of his wife in July, saying that he felt extremely ill. He sat

down in his room for a moment. A few minutes later the heart that had enabled him to drive tirelessly hour after hour through the toughest wilderness ended its work. He died at 7 p.m.

**Respected by all**

“Mac” as he was best known to sportsmen in every section of the county, had won the respect and friendship of residents throughout the region. He had served for seven years as game warden, and during that time his seemingly inhuman capacity for traveling through astonishing distances of forest at a pace too swift for most men as well as his devotion to his work had become widely noted. Evidence that his work in the game field during the seven years was outstanding is found in the fact that he was offered an important position at the higher salary this year with the state commission. He declined, it was said, because he preferred to stay here.

He was 48 years old, and had lived in Clark county for 30 years. He was born in Lost River, Oregon, July 6, 1881. He had worked first for what is now the Pioneer Auto Truck company. Later he had been for a long time while in the Vancouver fire department. From that department he transferred to the police department, where he rose to be chief from 1917 to 1920 inclusive. He had spent 30 years in the public employ.

**Rears Four Children**

Surviving relatives include three sisters, Mrs. Emma Short, Mrs. Mildred Gay and Mrs. Jane Wood, all of Vancouver, and two brothers, Walter and Clarence both of Portland. Four “children” of the McCurdys also survive. Although they had no sons or daughters themselves, they reared four children who are now grown. They are Mrs. Marie Sharpe, Kenton; Mrs. Helen Body, Mt. Hood, Ore., Miss Thelma Trombley, California, and Harold Trombley, Protland.

Funeral services will be held Monday afternoon at 2:30 in Memorial hall, Thirteenth and Broadway. Interment will be in Park Hill cemetery. The body will be at Limber’s Funeral Home until time for the funeral service.

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*Vancouver Columbian*

December 10, 1929

**MARY ALICE HARDY**

After 41 Years of residence in Clark county, Mrs. Mary Alice Hardy died at the home of her son, Ralph Hardy, Route 2, Vancouver, yesterday at 12:15 p.m. She had been ill for about three and one-half months. Mrs. Hardy was born in Portland in 1854. She lived there until 1889, until she moved to Amboy, living there for 39 years. Two years ago, she moved to the home of her son, east of Vancouver, and with her husband, had made her home there up to the time of her death.

Mr. and Mrs. Hardy were married in Portland just prior to coming to Clarke county to reside. (*This is incorrect . . . they were married in Clarke county while still living in Oregon.*) They had seven children, five sons, one of whom died in infancy, and two daughters. She was a lifelong Methodist and was a charter and honorary member of Lilly Rebekah Lodge at Amboy. Besides her husband, Robert, and son, Ralph, Vancouver, she is survived by three other sons, Robert L. and Grover of Vancouver, and Thomas of Seattle; two daughters, Mrs. Nellie Dimick, Portland and Mrs. Alice McKee, Amboy; two sisters, Mrs. Elizabeth Levins, Mrs. Fannie Washburn, Goldendale, Wash.; eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. The body is at Limber's Mortuary. No funeral arrangements have been announced.

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*Vancouver Columbian*  
Vancouver, Clark, Washington  
December 11, 1929

**MARY ALICE HARDY**

Funeral services will be held for Mary Alice Hardy tomorrow afternoon at 1 o'clock at Limber's funeral chapel. Interment will be made in Park Hill cemetery. Mrs. Hardy died Monday at the home of her son, Ralph Hardy, Route 2, Vancouver. She had lived in Clark county for 42 years.

The Rev. Raymond Rees will officiate.

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*Vancouver Columbian*  
Vancouver, Clark, Washington  
Unknown date  
Death date: 12-28-1929

**ELEANOR MAY KERSTETER**

Eleanore May Kersteter, age one year, died at the family home on the Orchards road, Route 2, Saturday afternoon at 5 o'clock. She had been ailing for a few days only. The little girl is survived by her parents, Mr. & Mrs. Francis K. Kersteter; two sisters, Mildred Elaine, seven years old, Pauline Virginia, three, and one brother, Kenneth, five. Funeral arrangements have not been announced. The body is at Limber's Mortuary.

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