



FEBRUARY 2012 MONTHLY MEETING

Thursday February 9th Meeting

Join us on a historic trolley ride with Diana James as our guide. Maybe this is not literally a ride on the Summit-Bellevue trolley, but it will be historic as she describes what is now the bus route #14. We will be looking out of the windows to learn about buildings that have been there since at least 1913. Her discussion of the passing scene will particularly point out the apartment houses and the small businesses that served the Summit-Bellevue neighborhood. It is the story of the back and forth between business, home and public transportation.

Diana is eminently qualified to take us on this ride; her book on Seattle's world of apartment houses, *Shared Walls*, is fresh on shelves in bookstores and libraries. A small glimpse of the story that took her seven years to complete can be found as well in a recent back issue of *Columbia* magazine. Another one of her qualifications is her interest as a Capitol Hill resident, the center of the city's apartment house universe. And yet another is her degree in Historic Preservation. She assures us our trolley ride will be "a pleasant outing." Probably will be because we won't have wait for the damn thing in the rain. Join the ride. Bring your Orca card.

We will meet on Feb. 9th, that's a Thursday, at 6:30pm at the Northeast Branch Library. For directions: <http://www.spl.org/locations/northeast-branch>. Our meetings are open to all.

February Bonus: Saturday the 18th Speaker

Also in February---Bruce McIntyre Watson will speak at a co-sponsored lecture with the Seattle Public Library's Central Library on Saturday the 18th at 2pm.

Watson is a Vancouver, BC-based historian whose research focuses on maritime as well as land-based fur trade west of the Rocky Mountains. His most recent books are *Leaving Paradise: Indigenous Hawaiians in the Pacific Northwest, 1787-1898* (co-authored with Jean Barman), and *Lives Lived West of the Divide: A Biographical Dictionary of Fur*

Traders Working West of the Rockies, 1793-1858 (3 vols.). He and Jean Barman won the Charles Gates prize for their Summer 1999 Pacific Northwest Quarterly article fur trade families and race. More recently he won the 2011 first prize book award from the British Columbia Genealogical Society for Lives Lived.

He will speak on the once vibrant fur trade west of the Rockies during the first half of the 19th century--the activities and the lives of its resilient participants from northern British Columbia to southern Oregon. The subsequent imposition of international and regional boundaries would fragment the unity of this group. The talk will look at the context of those lives at various trading posts and the adjustments to the realities of change. Of particular interest to Washingtonians will be the roles that Vancouver, Colville and Nisqually played during this time when posts were production, personnel processing, recuperation, education and commercial interaction centers. If you wish to hear what books were found in the traveling libraries or what medicines and medical instruments used during this era, please join us.

Historians Guild Calendar

The calendar for Guild events begins with a joint speaker meeting with Paula Becker and Alan Stein. They will discuss Century 21 and HistoryLink's book on the 1962 World's Fair. The date is Thursday, March 8th at the Northeast Library. Read more in the March newsletter. A program for the monthly meeting on Thursday, April 12 will be determined soon.

Saturday May 12th we have scheduled our all day spring conference at Seattle Center. The deadline for proposals is January 31th! Details on the program will be forthcoming.

To view other Guild matters and past newsletters go to our enlarged and improved website at pnwhistorians.org

Membership

Membership is easier than ever before at our website since you can now pay using PayPal. The current year began January 1, 2012 and is just \$25. If as historians you prefer paying by mail, please send a check to **PNW Historians Guild, P.O. Box 85457, Seattle WA 98145**. We send our newsletter to many non-members and you will continue receiving a copy, but members support the meetings and events of the Guild. They also receive a discount at banquets and conferences.

Other Publications & Events

The folks at HistoryLink have recently published another book. This one shares its subject with the Historians Guild's 2011 Annual Conference, the Port of Seattle. Look for the title *Rising Tides and Tailwinds*. The main authors are Kit Oldham and Peter Blecha.

If you would like to take part in History Day, namely viewing and judging student's presentations on history, please go to their website at nphistoryday.weebly.com. History Day is March 21st. The event is fun and new judges are always welcomed and provided with instructions.

Recent Doings

It is hard to keep up-to-date with members past and present, not for the normal reasons, but because they rarely speak about themselves. It is a pleasure to hear about two such old friends, the brothers O'Donnell. One of our members reports, "Jack and Larry O'Donnell, who have long been active in Guild events -- Larry is a former Board member -- have been selected by the Everett Central Lions Club to receive the Lions Club International Medal of Merit Award for their contributions to the community. They join a distinguished array of Everett leaders from previous years. The statement honoring them particularly cites their historical activities: 'Together and separately, they have been involved with the County Museum, Everett Historical Commission, Everett Public Library, historic preservation, advancement of education, neighborhood associations, service groups, Scouting, promotion and fundraising for worthwhile local causes and groups.' Both have authored several books of local history and Jack contributes 'Seems Like Yesterday,' a daily column in the *Everett Herald*. The presentation will be made at the Conference Center of the Comcast Arena in Everett on February 9." Regrettably we won't get to see them at our monthly meeting which is the same night.

We also have news about members Pauline and Chuck LeWarne who traveled across the continent to attend the annual fall conference of the Communal Studies Association at South Union Shaker Village near Bowling Green, Kentucky. Chuck discussed his history of the Love Israel Family in a "Meet the Authors" panel with three other authors of recent books on communal topics.