

30 Meadow Park Drive
Stanningley
PUDSEY, W. Yorks
LS28 7TH
ENGLAND

5 August 1997

The Editor
Skamania County Heritage
P.O.Box 396
STEVEBSON, Wa 98648 USA

Dear Editor

I have, in my possession a copy of an extract of an article published in Vo1.9 No.2 Skamania County Heritage dated October 1980.

Before my marriage my surname was BUTLER. I am interested in finding out about my grandfather, GEORGE BUTLER, who I understand also emigrated to your County immediately after getting married here in England in January 1892 (he is registered on the marriage certificate as a fisherman and I believe was in the USA prior to his marriage but came back to England to get married). As far as I know 2 of my aunts Lilian Butler (dob not known) and Florence Ethel dob June 1894 were born whilst he was living at Butler, Wash.

My information is that he returned to England after his house was flooded due to the river bursting its banks sometime after June 1894 (I have in my possession a Churchman's Family Register for my aunt Florence which states she was baptised in England) so it would appear that George Butler left your area soon after June 1894. I have also been told of a family legend that when the river flooded the surrounding territory the family piano floated down the river never to be seen again. His youngest son (George's from his 2nd marriage and who is still alive) told me that his father told him many tales about living in the USA in those days - one particular incident about walking many miles to get treatment for wounds connected with fishing and also about taking his wife Hannah Bailey nee GROVES (which is the sister? of William Butler's wife Sarah Ann mentioned in your article) down the river in a "canoe" when expecting their second child.

I am writing to you in the hope that you will be able to help me. I am interested in Family History and endeavouring to compile a history of the life of GEORGE BUTLER, so wonder if you or your Society have any information about when George arrived and when he left Butler Wash and any of the activities with which he may

have been connected. What I cannot understand is why John Butler does not mention George? - perhaps there had been a family estrangement!

I enclose an International Reply Coupon and look forward to hearing from you.

I notice the petition for a Court House includes a C Butler as well as Wm. and Joseph Butler. I am wondering if this could have been a "G"? although as it is dated March 6 1903 I believe my grandfather was back in England by that time. (Could the petition have been stated earlier?)

If you have any success in tracing any of this for me perhaps I might ask two questions to which you may be able to give me answers:

1. Is it possible to obtain a copy of Wm Butler and Sarah Ann Groves marriage certificate - according to the article they were married on Aug. 10 1892 (this would fit in with George's & Hannah's and Sarah Ann's departure from England if they left immediately after the wedding of George & Hannah in January 1892)
2. The second paragraph on page 4 mentions the nearest doctor being at Cascade Locks - this would tie up with what I know about George and the birth of his second child Florence Ethel - is there any way of checking this?

I might add that I have an indential photograph of the one printed in your article on page 7 of Butler Wash - this originally belonged to my father John Oliver Butler born at Lowfields, Poplar Farm, Coleby in January 1900 - so it does appear that there is some connection somewhere!!

Thanking you in anticipation of a reply.
Yours faithfully

Audrey J Pidgeon (Mrs)

SKAMANIA
COUNTY
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

—and the—

COLUMBIA
GORGE
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CENTER

*The living
past is
always
present*

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September 25, 1997
Audrey J. Pidgeon
30 Meadow Park Drive
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LS28 7th
England

Dear Audrey,

We are in receipt of your letter dated August 5; 1997. We do not have an editor at this time nor are we able to continue to publish the quarterly, *The Heritage*. However, we were fortunate to find a volunteer who is working on researching the George Butler mentioned in your inquiry.

This much we do know. John W. Butler is now deceased. The only members of the Butler family left is his widow, LaRena Butler "and her grandchildren. Her address is:
Mrs. LaRena Butler
2038 "E" Street
Washougal, WA. 98671

I have forwarded your address to her also. She tells me she is unaware of a George. The family does not have a copy of the marriage certificate. The marriage took place in Portland, Oregon. I assume you could get a copy of the marriage certificate by writing to:
Office of Vital Records
Multnomah County
P. O Box 14050
Portland, Oregon 97293

There is a fee of \$15.00 US dollars payable by money order or private check. You are to include your relationship to the married couple, date of marriage, full names of both parties, and the fact they were married in the Congregational Church in Portland, Oregon.
Allow at least six weeks for a response.

Our volunteer is encouraged by the first piece of information she has found, and wants to continue researching for you. At the moment, we are enclosing what has been discovered, which is not much. It does prove a George Butler was here in Skamania County and that his primary interest was the fishing industry. We hope this is of some help. We will keep in touch.

Sincerely

SHAREN TIFFANY
Executive Director

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