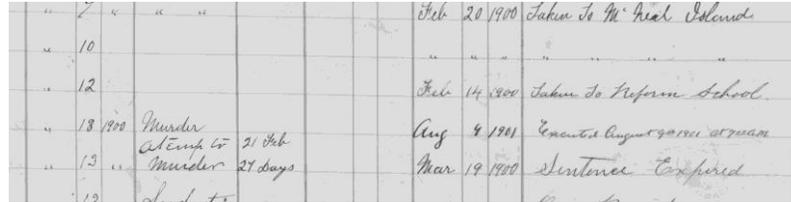


Ghosts in the Pierce County Courthouse
Contributed by Patrick Williams, Grants and Contracts Coordinator

Pierce County Sheriff, Jail Register, 1895-1904, Tacoma Public Library, Tacoma, WA
<http://www.digitalarchives.wa.gov/Collections/TitleInfo/1816>

The original Pierce County Courthouse in Tacoma, Washington had some fascinating ghost stories passed down through employees before its dismantling in the 1960's, including sightings of men who haunted the halls of the building. Two wife murderers from the early 20th Century were executed in the hangman's room of the courthouse. The Pierce County Jail Register currently online at the Digital Archives, confirm the criminal's demise and revives the legend of their spectral travels. These records held at the Tacoma Public Library were digitized through a Washington State

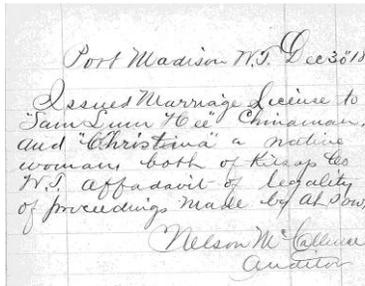


Historical Records Advisory Board grant from the NHPRC. The indexing is being accomplished through our "Scribe" portal by volunteers across the state.



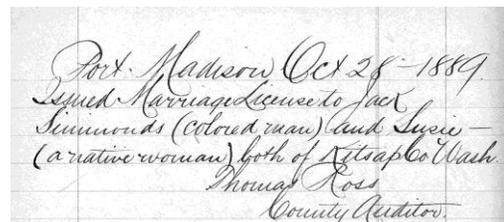
Love and Marriage in Kitsap County

Kitsap County Government, Auditor, Marriage License Register, 1868-1890, Kitsap County Historical Society, Bremerton, WA



Love knows no bounds and early settlers of the Washington Territory expressed their love by getting married. Not an uncommon occurrence even in these days of drive-in marriage chapels and underwater weddings. The marriages were then registered with the county Auditor and filed as a legally binding contract. In the early melting pot of our country, the men registering the marriage may have taken the political and social trappings of their environment and incorporated them as shown in these two marriages in Kitsap

County. The first marriage between "Sam Lum Hee" Chinaman, and "Christina" a native woman on December 30, 1880 provides us a glimpse into those early territorial years. Who are these people and do their ancestors know their story? The second marriage between Jack Simmonds (colored man) and Susie – (a native woman) on October 28, 1889; reminds us of our own history and of those in our community who may have faced adversity in sharing our love with another person.



These records held at the Kitsap Historical Society were digitized through a Washington State Historical Records Advisory Board grant from the NHPRC. The indexing is being accomplished through our "Scribe" portal by volunteers across the state.