“Tenino, Washington”

By Miss Blendine Hays

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Tenino, Washington

By MISS BLENDINE HAYS,
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Tenino, the second largest city in Thurston County, is located about 16 miles from the State Capital and 79 miles from Seattle. It has a population of about 1000 people. It is rather an odd-looking town, being about two miles long. The first dwelling

(photo caption) “Birdseye view of Tenino, Washington.”
The oldest settlers in Tenino are Stephen Hodges, Mr. Bryant, Mr. Colden, A. N. Yantis and Isaac Blumauer. Up the Skookumchuck are Northerns, Davises, Ticknor and Trollers.

The people when they first came here had no way of getting to Olympia except driving, so they all helped to build what was then called the Olympia and Chehalis Valley R. R. Everyone assisted—some men helped to lay the ties, some furnished money and all the men that were interested in the general welfare of the town and surround-
General view of the quarries of the Tenino Stone Co., at Tenino, Washington.

(photo caption) “General view of the quarries of the Tenino Stone Co., at Tenino, Washington.”
Scene at the quarry of the Hercules Sandstone Company, Tenino, Washington, showing the wonderful tensile strength of the Hercules ledge stone which is beautiful in color and especially desirable for building operations in the Pacific Northwest.

The Russell Stone Quarry had the first pay roll. It is now called the Tenino Stone Company. There was no school house there, and the nearest one was at the Webster ranch.

The reason the depot is so far from the main part of town is from the fact that fifteen or twenty years ago, it was in town, a little north of the Tenino Hotel, but it was on the west side of the track. The real estate owners asked such a high price for the grounds that it had to be moved to its present location. The original town was a little north of where the Tenino Hotel is now located. Mr. Bryant, one of the oldest settlers, is now living in the original town.

Mr. Wakeman had the first store and after a few years sold it to Mr. F. R. Brown; he was the postmaster and only stenographer for a number of years; after about ten or twelve years he sold it to Isaac Blumauer; this was about twenty-six years ago.

The town was incorporated in 1906. The petition was filed with the Board of County Commissioners June 23, 1906, by T. F. Mentzer and others, and set forth the limits of the proposed incorporation, and such other acts as required by law. The petition was signed by eighty-nine persons, forty-three of whom were reputed to be real estate owners.

Scene at the quarry of the Hercules Sandstone Company, Tenino, Washington, showing the wonderful tensile strength of the Hercules ledge stone which is beautiful in color and especially desirable for building operations in the Pacific Northwest.

Scene in a sandstone quarry near Tenino.
Planer at work in the cut stone department of the Tenino Stone Company’s plant at Tenino, Washington.

Baker may be seen and other such natural scenery.

The leading industries at Tenino are lumbering, mining and quarrying. There are now three sawmills, Mentzer Bros., the Tenino Lumber Co., and Blumauer Lumber Co.; two stone quarries, The Tenino Stone Co., employing from thirty-five to forty men, and the Hercules Sandstone Co., which was formerly called the Tenino Sandstone Company, employing from twenty to thirty men. There are two coal mines, Keystone, formerly the Great Western Coal & Development Co., and the Blackbear coal mine. The Blackbear was discontinued in the territory days. Governor Solomon was interested in the opening of the mine. It was idle for twenty odd years and then opened by the Tenino Coal & Iron Co.

A remonstrance was filed with the Board on the same day, signed by thirty-five persons and set forth various reasons against the incorporation, chiefly matters of taxation, and the charge that many petitioners were not residents of Tenino.

On June 27th the Board granted the petition and directed that an election should be held July 19th, 1906, for the purpose of determining whether such territory should be incorporated and further directed that notice of the same should be given by publication in “The Tenino News” for two weeks prior to the date of the election.

On the 23d of July the Board, after considering all papers and files in the matter, passed an order setting forth various facts and decrees chiefly the facts of the election.

Liberty so well that they planned to resist, and when war came they did so. The result of the wars was that the Indians were put in reservations and since then there has been no more trouble with them.

Indian Louis, who fought in the wars, is now living in Tenino.

There is some dispute as to how the town was named. Some say it is an Indian name meaning “Meeting of the ways.” Others say that in the early days it was a railroad terminal and designated by the number 1906, called by railroad men “ten ninety.” It afterwards was called what it is now, “Tenino.”

The surrounding country is very beautiful, there being many pretty rivers, falls and natural parks. Mt. Rainier and Mt.
Among the new industries of the city are
The Tenino Lumber & Manufacturing Co.,
employing a large number of men, making
porch columns and general turned work;
Mentzer Bros., manufacturers of lumber, hav-
ing just completed a mill costing $100,000,
who give employment in camps and plant
to 100 men, and operate four miles of rail-
road; one locomotive and three donkey en-
gines; the Clarkson Pump and Cylinder Co.,
manufacturers of iron pumps; the Clarkson
Washer and Nutlock Co., manufacturers of
conveyor buckets, swivels, etc.; the Tenino
Creamery, H. J. Keithahn, proprietor, which
pays out annually between $18,000 and $25,-
000 for cream; a steam laundry, and a ma-
chine shop.

Tenino is located upon the main line of
the Seattle-Portland division of the Northern
Pacific railroad at the junction of the Port
works, an electric light plant and a local
telephone exchange with long distance con-
nections over the Pacific States (Sunset)
system. It has a brass band and first-class
baseball park. A new $10,000 opera house
has just been built.

The people of Tenino are proud of their
public schools. A high school building cost-
ing about $25,000 has lately been erected,
equipped with modern appliances and an ex-
cellent course of study is provided. Com-
petent teachers are employed. The city has
good churches, lodges and secret orders and
a clean social life is enjoyed.

The city is becoming quite a business cen-
ter, its growth being principally during the
past five or ten years. It has a strong
state bank, two general merchandise stores,
two hardware and furniture stores, three
groceries, drug store, jewelry store, milli-

(photocaption) “The Campbell & Campbell Store, Tenino, Washington, built of Tenino sandstone –
the largest general store in Thurston County. – Photo by Jeffers Studio.”
Bringing out coal from one of the coal mines in Thurston County near Tenino, Washington.

was quite an inconvenience. The buildings were rebuilt in brick and Tenino sandstone.

New business blocks lately completed here are the Tenino Bank building, Campbell and Campbell building, the Wolf building, the Columbia building, all substantial and practically fireproof. New stone buildings projected to be built this year which will cost together over $50,000, are a sandstone building for the water company, telephone exchange and other stores; the Mentzer & Copping Block (stone), and modern, fireproof, stone hotel building.

There is a lively Boosters’ Club in Tenino, which is doing a great deal of good in encouraging local improvement and advancing the general interests and welfare of the city and surrounding country. Every one living in Tenino is a booster and loyal to the best interests of the place and vicinity.

*(photo caption)* “Bringing out coal from one of the coal mines in Thurston County Near Tenino, Washington.”