

# “Tenino, Washington”

By Miss Blendine Hays

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Peggy B. Perazzo  
Email: [pbperazzo@comcast.net](mailto:pbperazzo@comcast.net)  
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# Tenino, Washington

By MISS BLENDINE HAYS,

Daughter of W. Dean Hays, Cashier Tenino State Bank.

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



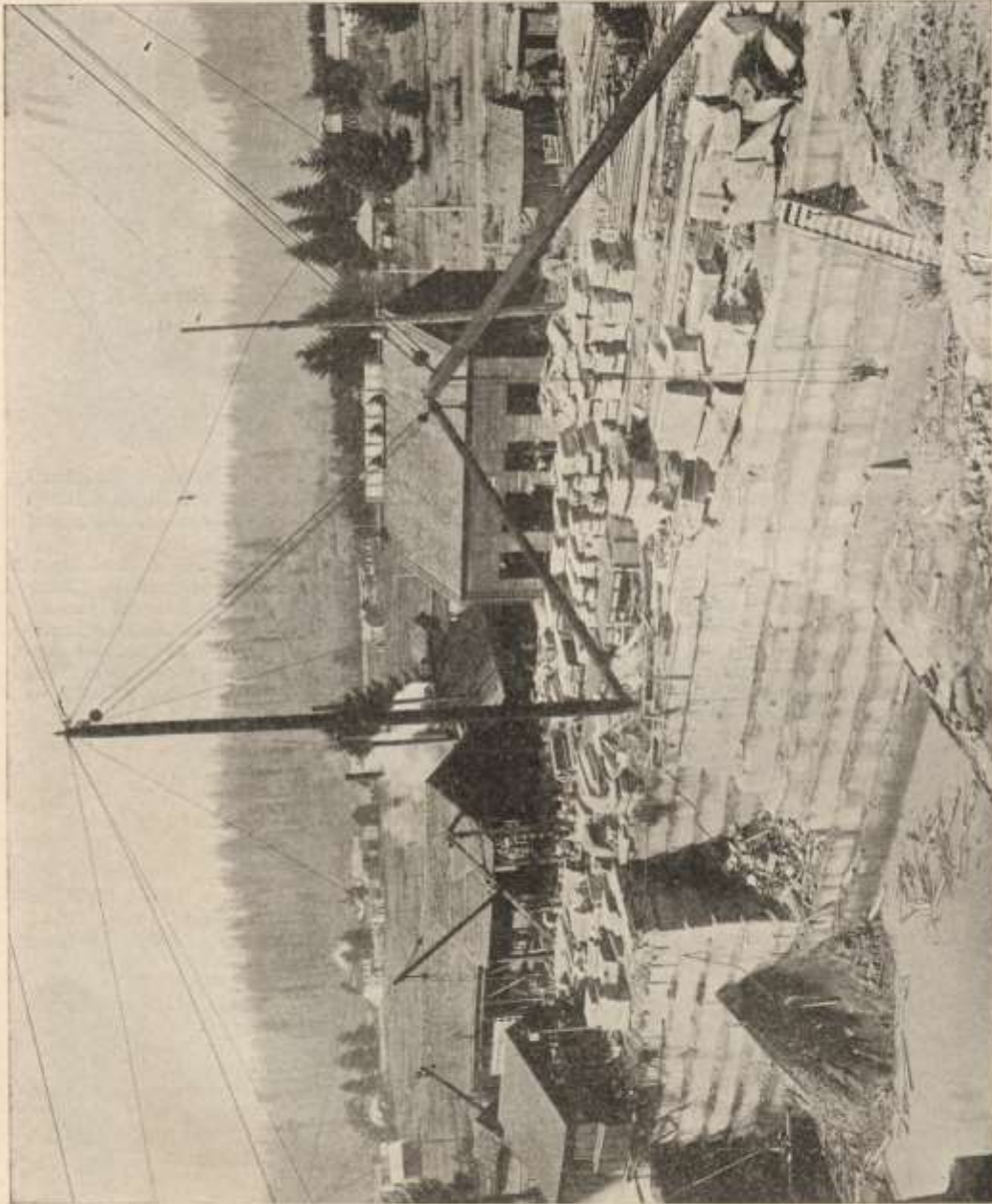
Birdseye view of Tenino, Washington.

*(photo caption)* "Birdseye view of Tenino, Washington."

house in the town is situated on Sussex street and occupied by Mr. Richards as a residence. It was formerly Mrs. Tilley's. The first business house was where the Tenino Hotel is now located. It was called

chuck are Northcrafts, Davises, Ticknors 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



General view of the quarries of the Tenino Stone Co., at Tenino, Washington.

the Old Home Boarding House, built in 1871 by C. E. Huston.

The oldest settlers in Tenino are Stephen Hodgen, Mr. Bryant, Mr. Coldin, A. N. Yantis and Isaac Blumauer. Up the Skookum-

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.

ing country helped with it. In a few years the Northern Pacific Railway Company purchased it and called it the Port Townsend Southern R. R., its present name.

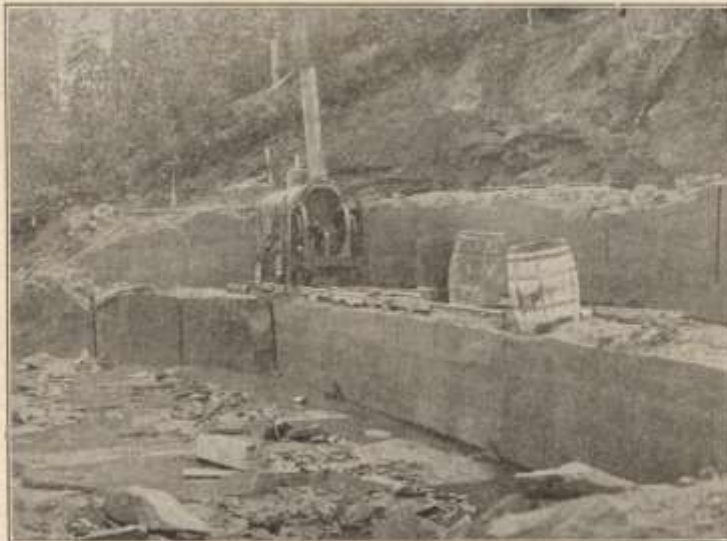
The Russell Stone Quarry had the first pay roll. It is now called the Tenino Stone Company. There was no school house there, and the nearest one was at the Webster ranch.

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 storekeeper 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 29, 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 in a sandstone quarry near Tenino.

(photo captions) (top) "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." (bottom) "Scene in a sandstone quarry near Tenino."

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.

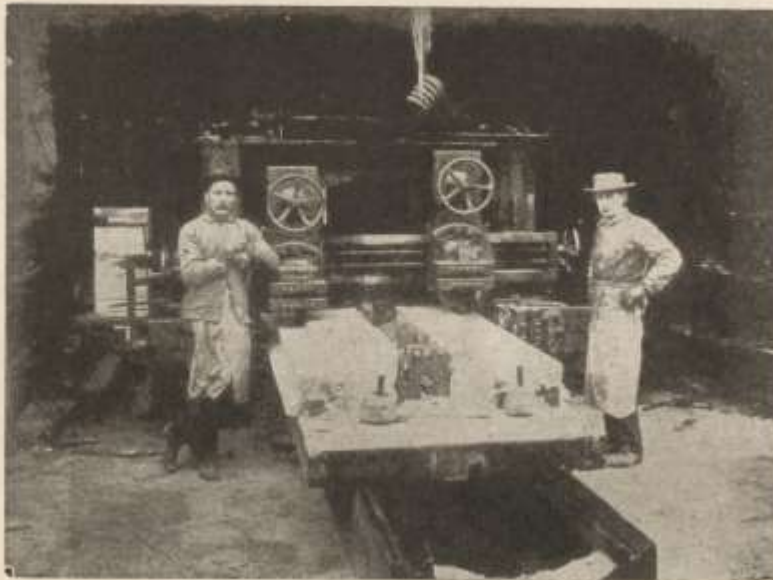
On the 23d of July the Board, after considering all papers and files in the matter, passed an order setting forth various facts and decrees chiefly the facts of the election,

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 1090, 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.



Planer at work in the cut stone department of the Tenino Stone Company's plant at Tenino, Washington.

to-wit: That seventy-six votes had been cast for incorporation and thirty-six against.

The officers declared elected were: Mayor, H. G. Kelthahn; Treasurer, L. G. Miller; Councilmen, Spencer, Sumption, Ogle, Waddell and Richards; officers to hold office up to and including the next general municipal election, next following; said action also set forth the boundaries of corporate limits and directed the clerk of the board to file with state a certified copy of the election.

The Old Oregon Trail runs through Tenino. Ezra Meeker passed over it in 1845. In 1855 the Indian wars started in this part of the country. The cause of these wars was the whites coming in here and starting missionaries. The Indians were such a wild tribe of people and liked their

Baker may be seen and other such natural scenery.

The leading industries at Tenino are lumbering, mining and quarrying. There are now three saw mills, 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.

(photo caption) "Planer at work in the cut stone department of the Tenino Stone Company's plant at Tenino, Washington."

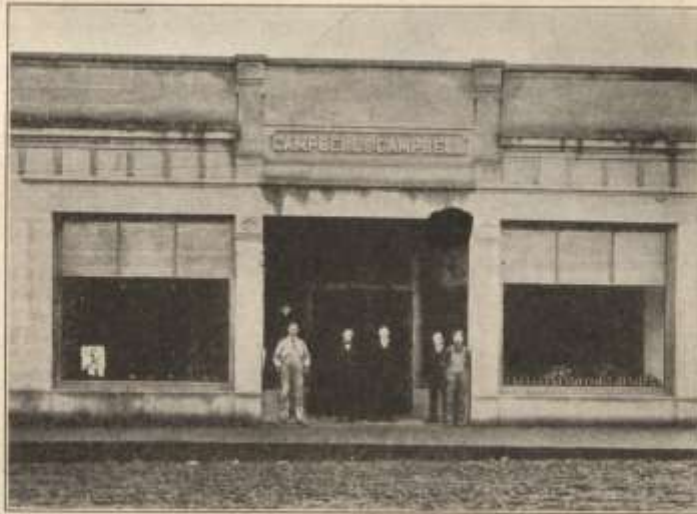
Among the new industries of the city are The Tenino Lumber & Manufacturing Co., employing a large number of men, making porch columns and general turned work; Mentzer Bros., manufacturers of lumber, having just completed a mill costing \$100,000, who give employment in camps and plant to 100 men, and operate four miles of railroad, one locomotive and three donkey engines; 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 machine 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 connections 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 costing about \$25,000 has lately been erected, equipped with modern appliances and an excellent course of study is provided. Competent 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 center, 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, mill-



The Campbell & Campbell Store, Tenino, Washington, built of Tenino sandstone—the largest general store in Thurston County.—Photo by Jeffers Studio.

Townsend Southern railroad running between Olympia and Tenino. President Howard Elliot of the Northern Pacific says that as soon as the rights of way can be secured the Port Townsend Southern, now operated by the Northern Pacific, will be built at a water grade on through Olympia to Tacoma.

The Tenino and Point Defiance Railroad is a surveyed line proposed to be built by the Harriman system. Land for roundhouses and machine shops has already been purchased at Tenino by this company.

The Blumauer Logging Co. operates a line of railway between Tenino and the Black Bear coal mines, connecting with the Northern Pacific.

The Keystone coal mine operates a railroad of their own connecting their mines with the Northern Pacific.

Tenino has an excellent system of water-

nery store, two confectionery stores, two barber shops, meat market, three hotels, restaurant, two livery barns, blacksmith shop, bicycle shop, law offices, doctors, real estate dealers, a good weekly newspaper, "The News," and other places of business, besides the industries previously mentioned.

Tenino has good roads leading into the country in various directions, which aids materially in the growth of its business interests. The country surrounding is rich and productive and those who engage in farming are doing well. The people in the town and surrounding it are all very progressive and interested in the development and welfare of Tenino and vicinity.

In 1906, on September 26th, a great fire occurred in Tenino, which resulted in a great loss to several people. The city was without a grocery store for some time, which

(photo caption) "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 ex-

change 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."