

Linkville Walking Tour Script
July 24, 2016
Presented by Gloria Sullivan
and Carol Mattos

Stout, Henry Duain –Born: June 26, 1862

Henry, at the age of 15, came with his parents to this area in 1877. The family settled on Nuss Lake, near Olene, and ranched there for many years. Henry and Charles Lewis built Crystal Springs as a reservoir for irrigation of farms in that part of the valley.

Henry married Linnie Bell Pratt December 5, 1886. They had two children, a son Ancel and a daughter Elsie. Ancel died at age 10 from scarlet fever.

Henry's career included game warden (for 10 years), farmer, stockman and stage driver, before becoming a janitor (for 8 years) at the courthouse. While a game warden he had to drive a team and buggy; his team was named Dick and Jimmie. He covered all outlying districts making frequent trips to Keno. It's said that he planted the first fish in Diamond Lake, taking them from the old Spencer Creek hatchery. Henry was a charter member of the Klamath Falls Elks Lodge.

Henry and Linnie owned property at S. 9th and Oak Streets, where they resided for a long time. He also built two duplexes there.

In the early 1900s, some Japanese tried to buy his property. Their goal was to buy all the land from Klamath Avenue over to Spring Street and S. 6th, to use for truck gardens to ship to the bay area. He refused to sell to them as he said someday we'd have to whip them, that they would try to take over the whole country and he didn't want to give them a foothold here. When he wouldn't sell, other property owners wouldn't either.

Henry died July 28, 1936, at the age of 74, without seeing his prophecy about the Japanese come true.

Stout, Linnie Bell (Pratt)

Linnie was born November 6, 1867, in the northern California town of Fort Jones. In 1873, her family moved to a ranch near Worden on the Klamath River.

Linnie attended schools in both Linkville and Pine Grove.

Linnie's chief interests were centered in the life of her family and her work was in the home. It's said Linnie was an excellent cook and seamstress. She was extremely interested in the growth of the Klamath Pioneer Association although she could not take an active part in the activities of the group because of illness during her later years.

She died March 14, 1939, at age 71.

Note: The Stout family information gathered "Klamath Country History" and "The Evening Herald"

KENYON, David and Ruby

David Ames Kenyon was born in Illinois July 7, 1877. He left home at an early age and after completing his schooling he became engaged in teaming and freighting.

David arrived in Klamath Falls in 1904. In 1905 he established Kenyon Transfer Company at the corner of Sixth and Main, later the name of the company was changed to OK Transfer Company. A Transfer Company was what we would today call a freight company.

Ruby Lee Raybourn was born in 1892 in Missouri, arriving in Klamath Falls in 1910. David and Ruby were married November 4, 1911. The

couple had two children. A daughter, Letta and a son David Donald. Letta Goehring was a long time Museum supporter and Historical Society Member.

In 1915 Dave Kenyon sold the Transfer Company and bought a blacksmith shop at the corner of South Sixth and Plum. He changed the name to OK Blacksmith Shop. At first he was engaged in horseshoeing and wagon and implement repair. After purchasing adjacent property he expanded the business, selling Firestone Tires, White Trucks and logging equipment.

In 1935 the old building was replaced by a new structure constructed from stone blocks salvaged from the old Central School. Over the years Ruby Kenyon maintained the office and handled the bookkeeping for the business.

Don Kenyon was associated with his father in business for many years and later assumed full ownership after his father's retirement. David Kenyon died in Grants Pass on July 22, 1942. Ruby outlived him by more than 20 years, dying in Klamath Falls on January 31, 1963.

Lenz, Charles and Anna

Charles was born in Hanover, Germany, September 26, 1857. His family came to America, with his parents filing on a homestead in Missouri where they spent the rest of their lives, farming and raising their 5 children. Upon completing his schooling in Missouri, Charles came west to California and for 6 years before his advent in Klamath County in 1884, engaged in mining, and operated a stage route in Calaveras County.

Charles had charge of race horses during his first years here and was employed in Klamath Falls until his marriage to Anna Corbell on September 4, 1886, after which they established their cattle ranch and home. They were the first to settle north of Klamath Agency.

The Lenz ranch was located at the Big Springs on Klamath Marsh. They started with 160 acres, 8 cows, and 14 horses; the ranch eventually grew to 1,700 acres. The Lenz ranch was the last and only stop north of Fort Klamath at that time. The other stops to the north were in Deschutes County, until about 1900, when Charles Graves settled at the present site of Crescent.

The Lenzes endured many hardships during the early years of homesteading. Especially in the severe winter of 1889-1890 when they lost nearly all of their cattle from freezing and starvation. That spring they had to move the herds as far away as Diamond Lake where there was green pasture.

When the Southern Pacific decided to build a railroad north from Chiloquin, Charles accompanied the surveyors, showing them the road they eventually followed. This route closely follows the Old Emigrant Road. A Station was built near the ranch and named "Lenz Station".

Charles was a member of the German Lutheran Church. He passed away December 1, 1939, at the age of 83.

Anna was born November 20, 1868, near Linkville. Near the site once occupied by the Lakeshore Inn, on Lakeshore Drive, which traverses the southern shoreline of Upper Klamath Lake. Her family lived at Ft. Klamath, Olene, and later Sprague River. Anna went to school in the old Linkville one room schoolhouse.

Anna married Charles Lenz in Linkville. They had 3 children, Amy, Charles Jr., and Mildred. When the children were old enough to attend school they kept a house in town. They divided their time between the ranch and town.

A few of Anna's memories:

They put up hundreds of tons of hay to feed their cattle through the long winters. Their beef had to be driven to Gazelle, California, for shipment by rail to market in San Francisco. It was not unusual for the Lenz family to drive to Gazelle and take the train for a visit to the outside world.

During their time at the ranch there were few deer in the Klamath Marsh region, but there were thousands of antelope. In time the antelope disappeared and the mule deer took their place. Countless thousands of waterfowl frequented the marshlands. Any time she felt so inclined she could go out with a shotgun and bring in a mess of geese or ducks!

The long winters were often very lonely with snow coming to the eaves of the house making it impossible to visit friends as most were some distance away.

In 1920 they retired from business, renting out most of the ranch, but continued to spend summers there. Anna finally sold their large holdings to JP McAuliffe in 1947.

Anna lived a long life. At the age of 100 she was still living independently on land that was once occupied by a portion of the old fort. Anna died on January 4, 1969. She was truly a lifelong native of Klamath County.

Obenchain, Silas & Emma

Silas Obenchain was born September 18, 1863, in Central Point (Jackson County), the son of Bartlett and Nancy Obenchain. His mother was a cousin of Samuel F.B. Morse, famed inventor.

On the Jackson County farm our subject was reared, receiving a common school education in the public schools of this vicinity. Silas came first to Klamath County in 1885, driving cattle over the mountains. He returned to Central Point that year, but the next year came back and took up a homestead in Langell Valley. Silas continued to work for wages, while at the same time sagaciously improving his ranch. For many years he worked for the Gerber brothers and for Swanston and Son of Sacramento, buying cattle for them in this area.

On June 14, 1904, Silas married Emma Grohs, a native of Placer County, California, where she was raised and educated.

Silas was elected sheriff of Klamath County, on the Republican ticket, and served in that capacity for 8 years. He also operated a grocery store, for a time in partnership with George Chastain. Chastain later sold his interest to Frank Ward, who continued in the business until 1918.

Silas was elected county commissioner in 1932 and served four years. For many years he was a director of the First National Bank. Fraternally he was a member of the A.O.U.W., an enterprising and progressive citizen and one highly esteemed by his numerous friends and acquaintances.

Mr. Obenchain's health had been failing for several years. His condition became critical and he died quietly July 20, 1940.

Emma was born April 1, 1867, at Dutch Flat, California. She came to Klamath County with her parents when a young girl and spent her summers on the Grohs ranch in Langell Valley. Then moving to Auburn, California, with her family during the winter months.

As mentioned earlier, she and Silas Obenchain were married June 15, 1904, in Montague, CA, and from that time made their home in Klamath Falls.

Emma devoted her life to her husband and home interests. Up until 1935 when she suffered a paralytic stroke, Emma was identified with social, civic, church, and club life of Klamath Falls.

Emma died December 3, 1937.

Prior to their deaths, Silas and Emma had been living with a niece, Mrs. J. Fred Flock at 201 Jefferson St.

NYHART, MARTIN J. & LILLIE M.

Martin Nyhart was born in Missouri in 1873. After completing grammar school he worked on the family farm for a short time. His first move was to Greeley, Colorado where he worked as a day laborer. He then migrated to Washington State and next to Eugene, Oregon.

On October 1, 1893 Martin and Lillie Frederick were united in marriage in Butler County Missouri. Lillie was born in Ohio on December 7, 1873.

The couple moved to Klamath County for his wife's health in 1916, first settling in Klamath Falls. From 1917 until 1921 Martin had a livery stable business at the corner of Eighth and Main. After selling that business he took up highway construction and built 18 miles of the Greensprings Highway. He also graded 20 miles of roadbed for the Southern Pacific cutoff near Kirk.

In 1931 Martin purchased 120 acres of sagebrush land near Malin which he put under cultivation, raising potatoes and alfalfa. He also had

a small dairy herd. At one time he invested in about 1000 acres of land in the Shasta View (Malin) district which he later sold. He was assisted by his son Clyde in working the farm, which is considered one of the best parcels of land in the Malin area.

Lillie died in June of 1948. Martin outlived her by a number of years passing away on July 15, 1966.

GLENN E. NYHART

Glenn was born in September of 1902, one of four sons of Martin and Lillie.

On July 9th 1923 a headline in THE EVENING HERALD announced PICK STRIKES DYNAMITE LOAD, 2 MEN INJURED. Glenn Nyhart and J.B. Day were seriously injured when a load of dynamite hidden among the rocks on the Greensprings Highway was struck by Glenn's pick and exploded. According to Martin Nyhart, who had several contracts on the road, his son Glenn had been working with him since the previous fall.

Blasting was done by means of a compressor with the capacity of 50 blasts at a time. As a safety precaution the number was kept down to 20, but even with the greatest care it was not possible to see where the loads landed, and to determine which ones have exploded. The load struck by Glenn had probably been in the road for several months with teams passing over the place every day.

The accident occurred near the Spencer Ranch where Nyhart, Day and a man by the name of Blanchard were removing rocks from the highway and leveling high points. Day and Nyhart were working together and Blanchard some distance away when the explosion took place. Glenn

received the full force of the blast in his face and Day's injuries were largely in the lower part of his body. Blanchard escaped injury.

Glenn Nyhart died the day of the incident and J.B. Day the following day.

Nyback, Alfred & Alexandra

Alfred was born September 6, 1886 in Wasa, Finland and immigrated to America when he was nineteen years of age. After 3 years, he returned to Wasa and married Alexandra Kronman on August 6, 1909. They both were Lutherans. They had two children, a son Alrick born May 8, 1910, and a daughter Svea born July 25, 1911.

Together they purchased an apartment house of 22 units. He was a policeman and she was a school teacher. Alfred decided more money and opportunity could be had in America, He returned to the United States alone to find employment, establish a home, and earn enough money to send for his family. On July 29, 1913, Alexandra, Alrick and Svea departed Liverpool. It took courage to leave your family and friends, with one child three years old and another only two years of age, to cross the ocean and live in a new land.

The family settled in Eureka, Utah, moving on from there to Winlock, Washington. Alfred knew he had silver and lead dust in his lungs and thought farming would be a better life. They purchased a 40 acre farm and built a new house on it. They attended a Lutheran church, public schools, dances every Saturday night, visited neighbors and went to town. Transportation was by horse and wagon. In Winlock, Washington, another daughter, Gertrude, was born March 16, 1920.

A hard case of influenza left Alfred so he could no longer do the heavy work on the farm. The doctor advised a high dry climate, so the family

moved to Ashland, Oregon. Alfred did carpenter work on the Ashland Normal School and the local high school. The contractor wanted Alfred to move to Klamath Falls to work on the Pelican Theater building, which he did and the family joined him.

In 1926 the family now owned their first “Ford”.

Alfred’s lung condition got progressively worse and was diagnosed as “Miner’s Thesis”. He was then admitted as a patient in the hospital at The Dalles. During this time, he started proceedings to obtain his citizenship papers which automatically would make himself and Alrick and Svea naturalized citizens. Alfred obtained his citizenship papers on September 22, 1930. He died in 1934.

Alexandra sought and received her citizenship papers on October 2, 1939. Nothing is mentioned regarding the 9 year difference between Alfred’s and Alexandra’s citizenships.

Alexandra was always very close to her family. She was “Grandma Nyback” to many people in the community. She persistently taught her children and her grandchildren to adhere to the old values, and kept Swedish traditions alive by teaching Swedish prayers and Swedish cooking. The whole family spoke Swedish and also some Finnish. Alexandra attended Hope Lutheran Church. She loved her flowers in the greenhouse and visiting her many friends.

Alexandra was born June 13, 1883, and died January 16, 1976, at the age of 92.

**SPINK,
Alice Leona Eveland
Robert Claude**

Robert Claude Spink was born in August 1873, and was raised on the family plantation on the banks of the Chattahoochee River in Georgia. At the age of 15 he was sent to Military School in Atlanta where he never fit in. As a result he ran away when he was 17.

He first worked for Wells Fargo and dreamed of owning and operating the concession counter of a large beautiful hotel that was then under construction. Although he had been saving to finance the venture and selling a wagon and team he was far from having enough money. He requested an interview with the hotel operators in the hopes he would be given the opportunity he so longed for. It was not until many years later that he learned his father had guaranteed him to the hotel owner and the bank.

After three years Robert's health began to fail and it was soon discovered that he had contracted tuberculosis. It was necessary for him move to a higher drier climate as soon as possible. He reluctantly sold his business and applied for a position out west in the Indian Service of the Department of the Interior.

He was first sent to Phoenix, Arizona where it was thought the hot dry climate would be beneficial. However the weather was unusually wet and foggy that year, making his T.B. worse. At that time he thought he would have to resign from the Indian Service. He was then offered a position in the Commissary at the Klamath Agency. The family always believed he had not been told of the snow.

He arrived at Klamath Agency in early 1895. His lungs healed through the summer and long mild fall and he survived the winter. By the next summer he was cured and there was never a recurrence of the disease.

Robert was hoping that something exciting would come his way. It did. Alice Leona Eveland, born in California in November 1876, alighted from the stage to be the new teacher in the Indian School. During

Alice's time with the Indian Service she also served as seamstress, laundress, little boy's matron and clerk.

Despite the non-arrival of wedding finery and grave concern over the almost transparent seat of the groom's trousers, Robert and Alice were married at Klamath Agency on February 15, 1897. A daughter, Claudia, was born in April 1898.

During 20 years with the Indian Service the couple were transferred many times. Realizing that their daughter needed proper schooling Mr. and Mrs. Spink returned to Klamath County where Robert opened a General Store at Yainax. He soon prospered and opened a second store at Klamath Agency, building up a prosperous trade with settlers, stockmen and Native Americans at both locations.

In 1912 the two stores were sold and a move was made to Klamath Falls. A home was purchased and a jewelry store was established. Town living evidently didn't appeal to the Spink's and in time the jewelry store was sold. Robert and Alice's next venture was a ranch on Spring Creek. There they built cabins and established, Idlerest, a resort for fishermen. 200 acres of the Spring Creek Ranch later became part of Collier Park. After about 8 years they moved to Chiloquin where they built tourist cottages, a gas station and a General Store.

Robert and Alice were always ready to assist their friends and neighbors, and took great delight in being part of the community.

Robert died on July 24, 1934. Alice continued to run their business for the next six years until ill health forced her retirement. Alice and her daughter Claudia went to Phoenix in hopes that the mild climate might be of some benefit. Alice passed away in that city on March 23, 1941.

LORENZ

Claudia Leo

William Monroe

William Lorenz was born in California in June of 1896. After completing his education in the public schools he apprenticed in the plumbing trade when he was 15 years old.

As a journeyman plumber William moved to Klamath Falls in 1916, and was employed by his brother who owned and operated a plumbing and heating company.

In 1923 William and his brother Glenn with a partner formed Lorenz & Company. In 1929 William sold his interest and operated his own firm until 1940 when he moved to Chiloquin and operated a grocery and meat market. He sold that business in 1960, retaining his property interests in and near Chiloquin. He built some homes in addition to re-entering the plumbing business in the area.

William was Mayor of Chiloquin for 12 years and served on the City Budget Committee and Park Board for many years. He was one of the organizers of the Chiloquin Recreation Area Council which stimulated his great interest in youth activities. He donated 15 acres in West Chiloquin to the city for a park and playground for youth activities.

William was active in his work until the early summer of 1962 when he was stricken with the illness that would claim his life.

Claudia Spink Lorenz

Claudia born in 1898 was the only child of Robert and Alice Spink. In 1925 William Lorenz and Claudia Spink were married.

Claudia was active in the Klamath County Historical Society and the Klamath County Museum for many years. She was an entertaining writer and left a legacy of stories from her childhood.

As a young child she was in awe of her mother, who she was sure was the most beautiful of women. She remembered a family friend commenting that Alice had been a beautiful bride and was one of the prettiest girls in Klamath County. Then going on to say “But you are going to look just like your father.”

When the family first moved to Yainax the store was still under construction. They lived in a large upstairs room of the old boarding school, and the store was located in the government jail.

As in many small rural communities of the time the general store also sold caskets. In addition Robert Spink also performed some of the duties of an undertaker. Claudia was morbidly attracted to the small children’s caskets. She would sneak upstairs to lie down in one of them for a nap, picturing how serene and beautiful she must appear with her eyes closed and her hands crossed. One day her father found her up there pretending to be asleep. He was not impressed, it must have been horrifying to find his daughter in such a pose. He plucked her out with one hand and applied the other hand where it did the most good, along with the harsh warning “Never let me catch you play acting up here again.”

Around the same time, in 1908, Claudia remembered a 4th of July celebration on the banks of the Wood River, near Fort Klamath. It was a grand event with everything we would expect today on the 4th. One thing that is much different is the attire. Claudia dressed in her new silk dress with a large Milan straw hat trimmed with a blue bow by Miss Maude Baldwin, Klamath Falls leading milliner. She had a new purse with a shiny five dollar gold piece, quite a sum of money for a child of that time. A new coat was thrown over her arm as she climbed in the wagon for the trip to the July Grounds.

The event went on far into the night, with both white and Native Americans celebrating. O.C. Applegate spoke for hours about the Modoc War, pausing occasionally for a drink of water, as people drifted

in and out of the area, some even taking a short nap as he droned on. Reverend Jesse Kirk spoke eloquently, and for a much shorter time.

White Cindy, one of the strangest characters on the Reservation was also there. Some said she was a man in woman's clothing, and she certainly looked it. She had no grace and walked with a long loose stride which made her skirts seem ridiculous. Others said she was a powerful medicine doctor and could make such bad medicine that many were afraid of her. Late in her life Claudia remembered that nothing could frighten small children into doing the right thing as much as the mention of White Cindy.

Claudia started school at the Sacred Heart Academy in Salem at the age of six, coming home during the summer. When she was 10 she came home to stay.

She attended Central School on Main Street until Riverside School was built. She was among the first pupils to be transferred. Sixth Street was the dividing line that split the town in half. Students living on the east side toward Seventh Street remained at Central School. In Claudia's words those living on the west side of Sixth Street were banished to Riverside.

Each summer the family moved to Spring Creek to open the resort for the season. Claudia had very little responsibility apart from helping with dishes and occasionally waiting tables, which left plenty of time each day for leisure.

Often in the afternoon, the young people would divide in two row boats and row to the head of Spring Creek where they would load up on the largest gooiest Mare's eggs they could find.

Mare's eggs are a form of algae which resembles rocks when seen in the water. They have a firm outer coating covering a slimy inside.

They would then float downstream, always keeping in firing range as they bombarded each other with the gelatinous ammunition. By the time they got back to camp they were covered with mare's egg jelly from head to foot. After a jump into the water to wash off as much of the goo as possible a trip to the bath house was in order.

Claudia continued to enjoy this idyllic life until the summer of 1917 after graduating from Klamath County High School. She had been doing some vague planning about college, or preparing for a career in music. She had assumed that her father would provide all of the necessary funds.

Robert had also been thinking about his daughter's future. He had very different ideas. He made several trips to the Klamath Agency to talk to the Superintendent and one evening he informed Claudia that he had secured her a position in the Agency office. He went on to add that it was time she learned some of the facts of life, like how to earn some money and help pay for her education. She was to start work the following morning as a clerk for \$50.00 a month. Claudia was very unqualified for the position. She later recalled that during World War I the Indian Service was hard pressed for clerks. If that had not been the case, she surely would not have lasted for 24 hours.

Claudia went on to San Francisco and Berkley to study for a serious career in music. That was not to be however. She came home and worked in the grocery business in Chiloquin for 28 years.

She passed away in Klamath Falls in November 1975.

The information about Claudia and her parents have been drawn from *The Time of My Life* written by Claudia in 1969 and an article in the *Klamath Echoes* #1. While *The Time of My Life* is long out of print, the *Echoes* is available at the Klamath County Museum.

Davis, Robert

This is the “Evening Herald” article dated August 13, 1923:

Attempting to stage a scene from a novel of the early west in which hangings played a prominent part, Robert Davis, 13, died by accidental hanging Sunday morning on the Ft. Klamath Meadows Company ranch where he had been staying with his mother during her vacation.

Robert and his younger brother, Rex, early in forenoon had taken horses and gone for a ride. Rex returned home before noon but Robert went to an Indian camp about a half mile from the ranch to ask the return of a book, Zane Grey’s “Heritage of the Desert”, which had been loaned at the ranch to one of the Indians. The book was a favorite and he wanted to read it again.

The Indians were haying, and when they left camp Robert was seated on a wagon seat absorbed in the book. When the Indian who returned the book came back to camp at 3 o’clock he caught a glimpse of the boy within a small shed nearby, and called, “Well, did you read the book?”

Receiving no answer, the Indian looked within the shed. He saw the body of the boy hanging from a beam.

Running to the ranch, the Indian reported what he had seen to John Johnson, a ranch employee, and a Mrs. Bratton who was a guest of Mrs. Davis. Mrs. Davis was not there at the time. Johnson was first to arrive and was holding the boy’s body from the floor of the shed when Mrs. Bratton arrived. Mrs. Bratton reached up to the beam and untied the rope, releasing the body.

Careful investigation revealed that the boy, probably staging the hanging scene from the book, had fastened one end of the rope to an overhead beam and the other round his neck, wrapping around 3 times. He then stood on a sill about 14 inches from the floor. It was believed he lost his

balance while standing there, visualizing the scene which had appealed to his boyish fancy, and swung from the sill. As the beam was several feet outward from the sill, the boy swung that distance. His feet were just touching the floor. He had been dead two or three hours, examination showed.

The investigators found that the rope was loosely tied to the beam and the end would have pulled through but for a small knot at the very end of the rope. (end of EH article)

Robert was born in Grants Pass in 1910. His mother, a public accountant and stenographer, and father, who is connected with the Johnstone Furniture Company are grief stricken. Mrs. Davis was secretary for the Ft. Klamath Meadows Company and was spending her vacation on the Weed ranch. Mr. Davis was greeted with the sad news upon his return from Portland.

Friends of the family say Robert was an athletic youth with the lively imagination of a healthy boy of his age. His chief amusement was to act "wild west" and similar scenes. Playing, swimming and horseback riding with his younger brother, his stay on the ranch had been very happy.

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Walker, Samuel

Little information is available about Samuel Walker. Early records show that he was a miner in Siskiyou County in 1866 & 1868. The 1880 Census indicates the he is a ranch hand in the Lost River area.

Linkville was a new cemetery when he died in 1885. The stone marking his grave is not from that time, but was placed sometime later. The marker is upside down, we can only wonder why. It does not appear to have been reset.

The inscription says Samuel D. Walker, 1823- 2/20/1885. Long neglected but not forgotten.