Peter Barnabas Barrow was one of many African Americans who migrated to the Pacific Northwest and made a tremendous contribution to the development of the Spokane area.

Born a slave near Petersburg, Virginia in 1840, Peter was taken to a plantation near Cosita, Alabama. He ran away when the Union Army came through the area early in 1864 and enlisted in Company A, 66th U.S. Colored Infantry on March 11, 1864 when they reach Vicksburg, Mississippi. Peter was appointed Sergeant on November 1, 1865. He served in Louisiana and Arkansas during the remainder of the war. He remained in the Union Army until March, 1866.

After the war, Peter married Julia, settled in Vicksburg and became active in politics. Peter served as member of the Mississippi House of Representatives and afterwards as a senator from the district of Vicksburg during reconstruction. Sensing that life was not going to get better in Mississippi, Peter moved his family to Deer Park in 1889. Expressing his fondness for the Northwest at a black voters’ meeting in 1890, Peter announced, “I jumped out of hell and landed in heaven on both feet.”

Peter Barrow’s political activities included founding the John Logan Colored Republican Club and being nominated for office by the Populist Party.

Peter became one of the first black landowners in Stevens County, cultivating a huge irrigated apple orchard and was a leader in Farmers Alliance movement. Under his direction, the Deer Lake Irrigated Orchards Co. was formed. It was the largest operation of its kind in the Inland Empire and employed about 100 black men. Winter apples were grown and were exported all over the country.

In 1890 Peter Barrow became one of the founders and pastors of Calvary Baptist Church, Spokane’s first black church. He served as pastor from 1895 to 1906. The church is currently located at 213 E. Third Ave.

In 1892 Rev. Barrow moved his family to a house he built at E 2417 Second in Spokane. He and his wife, Julia, had six sons and one daughter.

The Barrow family gave the black community The Citizen, a newspaper published by Charles Barrow, son of Peter, Sr., which chronicled the history of
Spokane’s black community. Charles and Olive Barrow are the parents of Eleanor Barrow Chase, wife of James Chase, Spokane’s first and only African American mayor.

Reverend Peter Barnabas Barrow was killed in a streetcar accident on July 28, 1906 while attending a church convention in Tacoma. His is one of the 12 bronze busts honoring early business and community leaders on the east side of the Spokesman-Review printing building at 1 North Monroe Street in Spokane, Washington. On the installation, “Builders and Leaders” also known as The Spokesman-Review Bronzes, Rev. Barrow is identified as a Pastor, Entrepreneur and a Publisher. I would add Politician and Civil War Veteran.

Note: This story was re-enacted at the 3rd Annual Walking with Ancestors at the Greenwood Memorial Terrace in Spokane on September 22, 2012. Walking with Ancestors is a program presented by the members of Eastern Washington Genealogical Society who tell the stories of the people buried in the cemetery. This year’s theme was “Remembering Our Civil War Ancestors.” I requested an African American man for my presentation and my “ancestor” was Peter Barnabas Barrow. I told Peter’s story as Eleanor, Peter’s granddaughter. Eleanor did not know her grandfather because he died in a tragic accident before she was born.

Sources:


Peter B. Barrow, Deposition A, April 22, 1895, Civil War Pension File, NARA, Washington, D. C., Fold 3. HistoryLink.org; Jim Kershner
Among Deer Lake’s early settlers were two Negroes, F.E. Wilson and the late Rev. P.B. Barrow, and Milton Bolan, a white man. Milton Bolan was a Missourian, who with his family, wandered out across the plains in a prairie schooner drawn by oxen into California in ’49 and later into Oregon. At both places he stopped a while but, his spirit being restless and daring caused him to break up and push farther north into Washington. One evening in the year 1887, as the reflections from the setting sun fell upon beautiful Deer Lake and the valley, he halted his team and viewed with surprise and admiration the rich panorama spread out before him. Here he decided that life was really worth living, so pitched his tent.

F. E. Wilson was born in the parish of St. Maries, Louisiana, where he received farm training. He completed his studies in the rural school and attended college in the city of New Orleans. Returning home, he became closely identified with the Negroes’ political activities during the days of reconstruction in the South. As a young man he retired from politics and came West, arriving in Spokane in 1888.

It is now nearly 22 years since the late Rev. P.B. Barrow, a missionary minister, left his home in the state of Mississippi and came west. He was born a slave in the state of Virginia, and while an infant he was taken south to Alabama and later to Mississippi, where he grew to manhood. Having experienced (Continued on page 724)
the pangs of slavery in some of its extremes, he made his escape and joined Sherman on his march to the sea. At the close of the war, he married and soon after located at Bovina, Mississippi. He prospered and during the days of reconstruction, when the Negroes ascended to political power in the South, was twice elected to the Mississippi legislature, after which time he returned to private life. Being a close observer of the changing conditions in the South and foreseeing the conditions which now prevail there, a great desire seized him to come West, where his children might grow up with the country and avail themselves of the new opportunities open to all. In the year 1889, he bid farewell to lifelong friends and relatives, came West and settled in Spokane, Washington, then a small town. Soon after his arrival he saw that Spokane was in great need of a Negro Baptist church, and he with six other old pioneers established the present Calvary Baptist church.

In the summer of 1890, a dark-skinned stranger—not an Indian but a Negro—suddenly appeared upon the scene at Deer Lake. He did not come to hunt or prospect, but in search of land, a ranch that he could call his own, with plenty of available water nearby, for he had already a vague conception of the importance of irrigation. He felt that someday water would be as valuable as the soil, water would be king, and by irrigation the Deer Lake valley would blossom as the rose. He acquired a valuable piece of land and settled down to work. This Negro was F. E. Wilson. Mr. Wilson communicated with his friend, Rev. P.B. Barrow, and soon another Negro came into the valley and homesteaded a beautiful tract of land lying between the Wilson and Bolan places.

A few years have elapsed since, in which trapping and stock raising seems to have been the principal activities. Some of the early pioneers have sold their places and pushed further back into the forest, while others have crossed the great divide. Through all the years of hardships the two Negros held on to their places, refusing every opportunity to sell. No scientists came to analyze the soil or test the varying temperature of those beautiful days and night, but they somehow felt that the fine volcanic ash soil and the water, coupled with the wonderfully varying temperature of those summer days and nights, would someday prove an Eldorado.

Recent developments have marked a new era for the Deer Lake Valley, which will soon be a solid mass of waving orchards. Mr. Wilson is setting his place to Jonathan, Rome Beauty and Wagner apples and the Barrow Estate has passed into the hands of the Deer Lake Irrigation Orchards Company.

The Deer Lake Irrigated Orchards Company
The Location
Published in The Citizen February 11, 1911

The Deer Lake Irrigated Orchards are located in the very heart of the beautiful Deer Lake Valley, Stevens county, about forty-four miles north of Spokane, the largest and most important railroad center west of St. Paul, a city of about 123,000 population, and three and one-half miles from the town of Loon Lake, which is the nearest railroad station; or, in other words, the Orchards are three and one-half miles from transportation to the markets of the world.

As will be seen from the accompanying photo-engravings (these photos not shown as illegible), the Deer Lake Valley is sheltered on three sides by mountains, giving freedom from severe storms which so often do damage in some fruit sections.

(Continued on page 725)
Arcadia Orchards Company, located south of the Deer Lake Irrigated Orchards, is developing 17,000 acres of irrigated orchards. They have at this date about 6,000 acres in trees. Their tracts are divided into five and ten acres each and are selling rapidly to home-seekers at $500 per acre. A part of Arcadia’s water supply is being taken from Deer Lake. The rapid development of Arcadia Orchards and other contiguous districts is attracting the attention of electric interurban railway promoters and there will undoubtedly be an interurban electric line in operation between Spokane and Loon and Deer Lakes soon. These lakes are very attractive summer resorts, as is readily seen from the accompanying pictures of Deer Lake with its mountainous surroundings.

The Loon Lake Irrigation Company has bought between two and three thousand acres of land in the Deer Lake Valley and are putting their entire holding under water and selling it in small tracts, so within a short time the entire valley will be fully developed.

“Probably the largest undertaking by the Black people in Spokane that was funded and run entirely by the skill and knowledge of Black people was the Deer Lake Project. On March 6, 1910 in the Spokesman Review appeared this headline. “Spokane Negroes Buy Land Tract to be Developed by Black Labor Only.” The reasoning behind this was an effort to start a colony of Black rural workers.”

“This new development company was headed by Peter Barrow as president, F.A. Stokes as vice president, Charles Barrow as secretary, and Charles S. Parker, editor of the Citizen, as treasurer”.

Many people felt that this type of enterprise by the Black people of Spokane was using the Booker T. Washington philosophy that preaches having economic security which leads to other advances.”

Above is the Capital Stock as published by The Citizen courtesy of the Loon Lake Historical Society.
Map of the Deer Lake Area. Notice that Peter Barrow’s land is on the East side of the lake and the Garden Spot Road is still called the Cottonwood Road.
The curiosity of a group of walkers in the early 1980’s about why the lake was named Loon Lake and just what is a loon and what does it look like, led to research and action. When people around the lake were asked if they had seen loons, most would say “oh yes, and they are such noisy things, with their long red necks.” Well, they were seeing red-necked grebes and thinking that they were loons. Only a few of the “old timers’ really knew what a loon was and remembered seeing them on the lake years ago.

The lack of knowledge about the loon, and a feeling that something needed to be done, led to the formation of the Loon Lake Loon Association in March 1984. An article about an organization called the North American Loon Fund led three members to a NALF meeting in Seattle. There they met Rawson Wood, president of NALF, and became an affiliate. With their help and guidance the group started to take the loon seriously. There are five species of loon, Common, Artic, Yellow Billed, Pacific and Red Throated. The COMMON LOON is the only one in this area, and it is becoming a rare sight in the Northwest. Most common loons are in Min., Mich., Wis., the New England states and in Canada.

The Loon Lake Loon Association was formed for the purpose of
EDUCATION, PROTECTION and PRESERVATION of the COMMON LOON
1. To educate the public about loons and their habits
2. To protect the common loon
3. To preserve existing habitat and to provide nesting area and sanctuaries

Janey Youngblood became the official representative to the North American Loon Fund, traveling to their meetings twice a year. She met scientists, writers and photographers who were dedicating their life’s work to the study of the Common Loon. The LLLA started a newsletter, built nesting beds, worked with the Washington Department of Wildlife and handed out leaflets to tell people “spread the word...do not disturb.” Loons are people shy. They need their space. That is the main reason they do not nest in this area, too much human activity. They do migrate through in the early spring, as soon as the ice is gone, and back through in the fall.

In the early 1980’s we did not know what a loon looked like, but suddenly we started seeing loon things in catalogs, and loon books and calendars with beautiful pictures. Were they always around, but we just never noticed? A Loon Gift Shop was started to help educate people about loons. The idea was if they saw a picture of a loon on a sweatshirt, a mug, a poster or in a book enough times, they might remember what a loon looked like and if they see one on the lake they would respect its need for privacy and space. The Loon Gift Shop is now located in the Old Schoolhouse in Loon Lake, but to start with we had tailgate sales, setup up at the four corners, selling loon items from

(Continued on page 729)
Loss of habitat and wet lands on all lakes in the Northwest is one of the main reasons for the loss of numbers for the loons. The Loon Lake Loon Association has actively worked to protect and preserve the few remaining wet-land shore lands remaining in the area. They have obtained leases with private individuals and the railroad.

The Loon Lake Loon Association also sponsors loon banding. Volunteers, along with a biologist, go out in the dark of night in a small boat with a light and a net and catch loons. They put bands on their legs to track them and take blood and feather samples to check their health. By banding they can tell where the loons spend their winters, and which lakes they come back to in the spring. This happens on wilderness lakes in Washington where loons nest.

LOON FACTS
Loons are 25” tall and weigh between 8 and 12 pounds
Loons have a 5’ wingspan
Male and female loons look identical
Loons may live for 20 years or more
Loons migrate to the ocean for the winter
Loons have a salt gland which allows them to change their body physiology from a fresh water to a salt water Environment
Loons are territorial, usually one pair per 100-300 acres of water
Loons are powerful flyers
Loons can dive to 200 feet for 5 to 10 minutes
Loons have trouble walking because their legs are position behind the balance point
Loons generally lay only 2 eggs at a time

The Common Loon is now a protected sensitive species in the State of Washington

And how did the lake get its name? Surveyors, who were deciding on the route for the Spokane Falls and Northern Railroad being built from Spokane to Kettle Falls in 1889, camped in the area and saw many loons on the lake during the day and heard the loons calling at night. Loons have four distinct sounds: Wails – Yodels – Tremolos – Hoots. At night they sound lonesome and eerie. Check out their website, Loons.org to hear each of the four calls, and to learn more about loons and the Loon Lake Loon Association.
Notes from the Editor

I was innocently attending the January meeting of the Eastern Washington Genealogy Society at the Golden Corral Restaurant in Spokane when Pat Johnson began giving a report on her “Walking with Ancestors” project last fall. This is a precept where actors act out who their selected ancestor is for visitors to the cemetery. EWGS has been doing this for awhile.

My ears perked up when she said her Black ancestor, “Peter B Barrows moved his family to Deer Park in 1889.” “and then expressing his fondness for the Northwest at a black voters’ meeting in 1890, Peter announced, “I jumped out of hell and landed in heaven on both feet.” I heard someone yell out: “Deer Park.” Maybe it was me.

Anyway Pat and I exchanged information at a break in the meeting. We kept playing telephone tag until I received one message that she was going on vacation. We finally got together March 2nd. So you see her story on page 721 through 723.

I did further research at the Northwest Room in the Spokane Public Library and Karen Meyer gave me access to a notebook that the Loon Lake History Society has on Peter Barrows which detailed the start up of the Deer Lake Irrigated Orchard Company.

I am not sure how long the Company lasted but it failed because of lack of transportation to market. It was much smaller than Arcadia Orchards or the Loon Lake Irrigation Company. It occurred in our area but I for one had never heard it mentioned. I do remember Barrow Beach. See it on the enclosed map at the top straight stretch before the narrows.

Clayton/ Deer Park Historical Society Minutes —— February 9, 2013

In attendance: Mary Jo Reiter, Don Reiter, Mike Reiter, Roberta Reiter, Mark Wagner, Bill Sebright, Sharon Clark, Penny Hutton, Marilyn Reilly, Warren Nord, Lorraine Nord, Bob Gibson, Lynn Fackenthall Wells, Pete Coffin, Judy Coffin, Karen Meyer, Allan Fackenthall, Kay Parkin, Sue Rehms, Ella Jenkins, Lonnie Jenkins, Howard Richards, Marie Morrill, and Duane Costa.

Society President, Bill Sebright called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM. He reported: 1) The area where our Winterfest Booth was double booked, and set up time was moved to 9:45 AM. We decided this didn't give us enough time, so we cancelled having a booth this year. Winterfest refunded the $15 booth fee. 2) Patricia Church contacted us. She is the daughter of Margaret (Bockemuehl) Tiesse. She wants to donate a DPHS annual and other memorabilia to the CDPHS. Penny had been in contact with Margaret and will (Continued on page 731)
arrange with Patricia to get the material. 3) The Arcadia Orchard piece on KSPS really turned out well. Pete Coffin did a great job! 4) Howard Richards has purchased the Peer barn just north of the Clayton Drive-In. He plans to open it in March as the Terra Cotta Mercantile. He is renting business space inside the barn. He would like the CDPHS to rent space for a museum. The Ex. Board will look into it. 4) We received an insurance bill from Liberty Northwest. Mark sent them a check. The policy should be arriving shortly. 5) He received a call from Stacia at the Clayton Campus of Home Link (Clayton School). They are running out of room to store the model of Clayton School that Terry Lindh made many years ago. Marilyn Reilly said the Society could store the large model at the Deer Park Auto Freight. 6) He received a phone call from Alexander Pope from Mount Lake Terrace inquiring into the family of Brayton Hopkins. Pete Coffin already has info for him. Pete said, "Brayton Hopkins was William Hopkins Short's brother-in-law and Evan Enoch's brother-in-law." 7) He got a phone call from Dan Huffman at DPHS. His media class is putting together an 8 to 10 minutes audio-visual presentation for the 100th DPHS graduation in June. He wants our input for the presentation. He will also run material by us to make sure it is historically correct.

Treasurer, Mark Wagner reported that there is $4,342.31 in the main checking account. Deposits: $270.00. Checks written were $10.00 for incorporation filing, $15 Winterfest booth rental and a $3.00 check imaging fee. Maintenance Web hosting account had $151.86 in funds with a $10.95 in activity monthly hosting fee. (Since the main checking account is above $3,000 there is no service charge from the bank).

Grace Hubal, Secretary had no report. Grace missed the meeting due to taking Jason to the Holy Family ER. Jason was having an irregular heartbeat. As it turned out Jason's pace maker needs to be adjusted. They will do that on Monday afternoon. Vice President, Pete Coffin had no report.

Print Editor, Sharon Clark: 1) The February 2013 Mortarboard #58 was distributed. Articles include: The Blue Grouse Mountain Tungsten Mining Area, and Hugh B. Walton and His Family. The new collected newsletters #15 are available for a $4.00 donation.

Website Director, Penny Hutten reported:
1) That she corrected some spelling errors on the Website and updated the home page with the correct dates of the 2013 events. 2) Announced the February speaker for the Westerners Spokane Corral. Peter Coffin will speak about the Arcadia Orchard. 3) Bob Schlein of the group Deer Park in Progress, has given us the back side of the Kiosk in front of the Deer Park City Hall to display information about our society.

Howard Richards discussed options for renting part of the barn north of the drive in. Rent would be around 100.00 a month. Other businesses are planned for the barn. The mercantile would include activities for youth and live music is planned as well. Several enterprises have expressed interest in renting spaces in the barn. The exec committee will discuss further. Concerns about electrical system and fire protection were expressed. Howard said the building passed electrical inspection.

Having a booth at next year's Winterfest was discussed. The new benches installed in the Civic Center took up a lot of room. It did not make a good area for our display. Pete noticed that last year mostly younger people were in the Civic Center and they are not as apt to be interested in our display. The council chambers had the art display this year and that may be a better place for our display (if it is an option). The senior center is also a possibility for our display. The quilts were shown in the senior center this year - they are always a good draw for visitors.

Don and Mary Jo Reiter brought an envelope of pictures. Many including members of the Spring Creek Home Ec. Club and the Lost Creek School.
Loonsday walk is the first Saturday in June at 7 am. All money raised goes back into the community.

Next meeting: Saturday, March 9, 9 AM at the Clayton Drive-In.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 AM. The meeting minutes submitted by Mark Wagner, Treasurer and acting Secretary

---

**Editorial Policy Regarding Correcting Errors and/or Omissions**

Information published here is compiled from many sources, including personal memories. It is often difficult or impossible to verify such recollections through outside documentation. Our editorial policy toward the veracity of personal recollections tends toward the casual – since little harm is normally done by such errors. But our editorial process also invites public review and input regarding the accuracy of the information we publish, and when such review either suggests or reveals errors or items open to dispute our “Letters” department will act as a forum allowing the airing of such disagreements in an effort to ascertain the truth and correct any probable or demonstrated errors. We also believe it’s important that such disagreements be recorded, even if they can’t be settled to the satisfaction of all parties.

We encourage everyone to submit any arguments as to fact to the editor in writing — since the written form reduces the chance of further misunderstandings. As is standard policy, all letters will be edited for spelling, word usage, clarity, and — if necessary — contents. If advisable, the editor will confer directly with the letter writers to insure that everyone’s comments and corrections are submitted in a literate, polite, and compelling manner — as best suits the editorial image of this Society’s publications.

---

**Society Want Ads**

| WANTED: Information and photos regarding the history of the Brickyard/Ramble In Tavern |
| WANTED: Any stories and photos of your family’s history in connection with their occupations and settlement in the Clayton/Deer Park Area |
| WANTED: Any stories and photos from Williams Valley #452 and Gardenspot Grange78 Contact: Ann Fackenthall, WVG |

---

**Society Contacts**

C/DPHS, Box 293, Clayton, WA 99110

Bill Sebright, president — (sebrightba@wildblue.net) 276-2693

Peter Coffin, vice president — (pcffn@q.com)

Sharon Clark, editor — (sharonclark@centurytel.net)

Grace Hubal, secretary — (hubals@msn.com)

Visit our New Web Site: cdphs.org