University of Washington - 2021 Urban Forest Symposium

CHESHIAHUD TALKS:

Historical Union Bay Forests

A Family Generational View on Being Connected & Responsibility

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**Disclaimer – All of the photographic and timeline information assembled herein was collected from currently available digital internet sources - and thus may be inaccurate - depending upon the veracity of the sources.
CHIEF DESCENDANTS

LAKE JOHN CHESHIAHOD FAMILY TREE (B, 1820)

Prepared by: Jeffrey Thomas
Pre-1850s: Treaty Maps

- 1820 – Lake John Cheshiahud born on southern Union Bay village – this was a vital passage from the coast into the lakes and river system all the way up to Issaquah and beyond.

  ➢ Duwamish people traveling by canoe had access to waterway connections unavailable to larger Euro-American vessels.

  ➢ Lake John reported to have “…a cabin on Lake Union across from the University grounds…Lake John used to take pelts to the trading station at Steilacoom before Seattle was thought of.”
1850s: Union Bay Map 1856 & Chief Cheshiahud Village Site

• 1851 – Denny Party arrives to begin claiming Duwamish homelands – including Lake Union.

• 1853: Washington Territory established.

• 1854 – Seattle’s 1st school opens as a private/tuition school (on 1st and Madison) – then moves but continues to operate until 1861...when students were sent to classes in the new building of the Territorial University. The first year of the Territorial University, there were 37 students, of which 36 were below college level.

• 1854 – Washington Territorial Legislature outlaws Non-Native men marrying Native women (but legalizes it again in 1868).

• 1855 – Federal government surveys future University District area (e.g. T25N/R4E; Sec 16) – reserving sections 16 and 32 as public school trust lands.

• 1856 – Lake John takes refuge within blockhouse during Battle of Seattle.

• 1856 – Wm. Bell and wife Sarah Bell select acreage north of Union Bay - including lower Ravenna Creek.

• 1859 – Point Elliott Treaty is ratified.
1860s: Seattle 1860s Maps

• 1861 – Harvey Pike hand excavates “The Ditch” across the Montlake Isthmus - to connect Lake Washington and Union Bay.

• 1861 – “Territorial University of Washington” begins classes at its’ original downtown Seattle campus (Nov). The first year of the Territorial University, there were 37 students, of which 36 were below college level. Every student attends there until 1870).

• 1862 – Lyman Siddle Sr. & Mary Kless marry.

• 1862 – Lyman Siddle Jr. born (1911 census).

• 1863 – UW closed.

• 1865 – Seattle Board of Trustees passes Ordinance No. 5 calling for the removal of Indians from the town (prohibiting Indians from residing within city limits) – despite the Indians strong cultural ties to the area. It serves as one in a series of actions by Seattle’s city government and residents over many years that make it very difficult for Coast Salish people to live according the their traditional customs and to be part of the city.

• 1866 – Julia John born to So-so-quit & Lucy John (sister of Lake John Cheshiahud - father of Julias cousin Jennie John [Davis]) (1900 census).

• 1866 – Duwamish try establishing a reservation at the south end of Lake Washington…which is refused. Most of the Duwamish move to the other reservations. Practically all of the settlers (including David Denny) within King County petition the Territorial Delegate to Congress (Arthur Denny) against their having a reservation upon the Black River.

• 1867 – Christian Brownfield is first to homestead in the future University area, claiming 174 acres of Section 17 – directly west of section 16.

• 1867 – UW closed.

• 1868 – UW closed.

• 1869 – UW closed.

• 1869 – Gold discovered in Alaska - for the first time.

• 1869 – Seattle’s 1st burials occur at Seattle Cemetery – the site of future Denny Park. First burials were reinternments of earlier scattered burials; serves community until 1884. It could only be reached by a wagon trail that stretched out past the northern limits of town.
1870s:
Lake Union - Portage Bay - and Union Bay

- 1870 – Lyman Siddle Jr. is a 6 year old "Half-Breeds not otherwise counted" living on a farm along the Black River. A "Lucy John" is listed in this census record too – and is therefore likely to be the recognized mother of Julia Siddle too.

- 1870 – Lyman Siddle Sr. death.

- 1870 – Mary Kless death.

- 1870s – Early: Lake John resides at Factoria villages.

- 1870 – Seattle’s 1st public school house opens (during August; 3rd & Madison/Spring streets).

- 1871 – Lake Washington Canal Company acquires Montlake Isthmus lands from Harvey Pike – to construct a narrow gauge trail tram over which coal was transferred to and from barges.

- 1872 – Portaging coal across the Montlake isthmus begins (until 1878).

- 1874 – UW closed.

- 1875 – So-so-quit (Father of Julia John) death.

- 1875 – UW publishes 1st “Courses of Study” Catalog.

- 1876 – UW confers very first collegiate degree to a single student.

- 1870s – Late: Lake John resides at Bryn Mawr villages.

- 1878 - Lake Washington Canal Company removes tram rails. A wooden bridge is constructed across the canal, and a small settlement was laid out.

- 1879 – Muckleshoot Reservation opens first school under Thomas Plorg – 12 students.
1880s: Montlake Isthmus

- 1880 – Lake John leaves Bryn Mawr villages.
- 1880s – Puget Mill Company logs the future Washington Park Arboretum site – select logs the large trees the remainder on site.
- 1880s – Julia’s family moved a few miles north of Georgetown to help clear the land for a future town. Several Duwamish formed an Indian settlement near Georgetown close to their work. When the Indians arrived, they put up mat houses measuring some 20’ x 30’. They also constructed a large communal house longhouse made from cedar planks they had brought with them to serve as their winter dwelling during the coldest months as well as the winter ceremonial house for spirit dancing and curing rights. The Georgetown Indian Community was composed of industrious workers whose reputation for results was known and eagerly sought by white settlers. When their work at Georgetown was completed, George Tibbetts hired them to clear his land near Issaquah. While working the hop fields near Georgetown, Julia met Lyman Siddle.
- 1882 – Lucy John death (Lake John’s sister).
- 1882 – Lake Union Lumber Company founds mill near southwest corner of Lake Union.
- 1882 – UW unfunded.
- 1883 – UW unfunded.
- 1883 – Christian Brownfield sells property.
- 1884 – UW unfunded.
- 1884 – David Denny buys Lake Union mill; renaming the Western Mill.
- 1885 – Lucy Annie Sheilsdot Cheshiahud death (Lake John’s wife).
- 1885 – Lake Washington Improvement Company/David Denny cuts a log canal through the Montlake isthmus.
- 1885 – Much of the north shore of Lake Union trees are harvested this year but not the future University District.
- 1887 – Lena Siddle born (April; 1900 census)
- 1887 – Seattle, Lake Shore and Eastern Railroad completes line from Fremont to Union Bay.
- 1887 – Yesler Mill on Elliott Bay lost to fire.
- 1887 – Wm. Bell Ravenna Creek property sold to George Dorffel – who plats it as Ravenna Springs Park (given about 40 sulfuric springs bubbling from the ground).
- 1887 – Congress passes the Dawes allotment act.
- 1888 – Yesler Coal, Wood and Lumber Company founds mill upon eastern Union Bay. Town of Yesler platted to support the mill.
- 1889 – Wm. Back acquires north Union Bay Ravenna lands - adjacent to the Seattle, Lake Shore and Eastern Railroad line. Plats future Town of Ravenna lots south of the park; and builds a large house, a Seminary, Music School, and Female College, post office, flouring company, and grocery too. The railroads’ Ravenna Station serviced the area too.
- 1885 – Lyman Siddle & Julia John marry (Jul 25). They later moved to the Snoqualmie Indian Community in Monohan along the SE shore of Lake Sammamish. Like the other members of the community, the Siddle’s belonged to the longhouse religion. Six children were born to Julia and Lyman.
- 1885 – David Siddle born (July; 1900 census)
1890s: Union Bay

- 1890 - Seattle, Lake Shore and Eastern Railroad spurs extended to the Yesler Mill on Union Bay.

- 1890 – Congress appropriates funds for surveying the Lake Washington ship canal.

- 1890 – City of Seattle begins enormous period of growth (through 1920).

- 1890 – Jms. Moore acquires former Brownfield claim lands – platting it as the Brooklyn Addition (Dec).


- 1891 – Laura Siddle born (1910 census)

- 1891 – Interlaken Campus site selected to be the new location of the University of Washington (Feb).

- 1891 – City annexes north side of Lake Union to 85th street – doubling its geographical extent.

- 1891 – Rainier Power and Railway Company/David Denny builds Latona (preliminary University) Bridge for connecting downtown Seattle electrical trolley streetcar service to Brooklyn (stopping at future 12th Ave.).

- 1892 - Rainier Power and Railway Company extends line to 14th Ave, then northerly to 45th Street. Line extended to Ravenna Park too…?

- 1892 – UW Interlaken Campus site clearing/grading begins. 70-90 workers clear and burn 56 acres, underbrush and clean 76 acres, and stump and grub 12 acres; e.g., using a stump puller – “This machine... is anchored by a back cable to the foot of large stump and from this one set up all the stumps within a circle of seven or eight acres can be pulled without a change of location...Experiments have shown that stumps of ten foot firs are readily pulled. The largest stump pulled on the ground had a spread of the roots of 42 feet and required 20 minutes to pull.”

- 1893 – Hogan Siddle born (1910 census).

- 1893 - Rainier Power and Railway Company collapses during national economic crash. The Female School at Ravenna is shuttered; but Wm. Beck remains committed to 60 acre Ravenna Park (improving the properties trails, etc.).

- 1893 – Last Duwamish longhouse within West Seattle – winter village Herring’s House” - is lost to fire.

- 1894 – UW Interlaken Campus cornerstone (future Denny Hall) laid [July 4]. “It is confidently asserted that the new site of the University has not an equal in the world. 350 acres between two lakes, near an arm of the Pacific Ocean, these acres covered with a luxuriant vegetation and broken by beautiful contours...with the added advantage of being surrounded by a scientific arboretum and botanical garden...is most admirably situated...”

- 1895 – Clara Siddle born (1911 census).

- 1895 - Yesler Coal, Wood and Lumber Company on eastern Union Bay lost to fire.

- 1895 - Rainier Power and Railway Company trolley streetcar line is reorganized as the Third Street and Suburban Railway. Their streetcar stop is renamed Brooklyn Station – and Ravenna Station is established too. The line passes through logged and largely uninhabited terrain until it turned back southward at the Ravenna Station...the unspoiled nature of the ravine being the main attraction.

- 1895 – University of Washington opens their new Interlaken Campus (Sep 4).

- 1896 – Gold discovered upon Klondike River, Alaska.

- 1897 – Herbert Courville born (1933 census).

- 1898 – Montlake Isthmus assumes ownership of the old Montlake Isthmus portage route.

- 1898 – Last band of Duwamish (under Chief William Rogers) moves away from Cedar River site - after the Chief dies in 1896.

- 1899 – University Heights Addition extends commercial core to 55th Street.
1900s: Washington Park Arboretum

- 1900 – UW students = 614; Brooklyn Addition population = 400.
- 1900 – Puget Mill Company donates 62 logged acres to City for the Washington Park Arboretum site. The Puget Mill Company had not clear-cut the tract. Instead, it had removed the large trees while leaving a significant amount of the native flora.
- 1900 – Middle Ravenna Creek adjacent to Ravenna Park portion of the stream purchased by Charles Cowan.
- 1901 – Ravenna Park bestows the title of Roosevelt Tree (aka Big Stick) to its' most girthsome tree
- 1902 – University Station becomes official post office.
- 1902 – Ravenna Park visitors = 10,000 (@ .25 cents each). Visitors were awestruck by the outsized flora and the fish.
- 1903 – Olmsted Parks Plan promotes city-wide park locations - linked through a system of boulevards. The report recommended extending the roadway through the Washington Park Arboretum to the University grounds – e.g., “...should be extended about 300-500 feet from the shoreline to the proposed government canal, and thence to the State University grounds, and all the land between it and Union Bay, together with all rights to land under the water in front of it should be secured.”
- 1904 – Olmsted's recommend Washington Park Arboretum designers preserve trees and minimize grading – e.g., “...accomplish the best results not only at reasonable expense, but with the least possible destruction of the beauty of the park.”
- 1905 – Lake John Cheshiahud warms Seattle Times that he could no longer catch trout in Lake Union because “Too much house now – they all gone.”
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- 1906 – Lyman & Julia sell their Tukwila property.
- 1906 – UW Historian E.S. Meany creates inventory of Ravenna Park flora
- 1906 – University Park Addition north of campus = 20 blocks.
- 1907: Charles Cowan donates middle Ravenna Creek property to the City as a complementary joining park.
- 1907 – Seattle annexes Town of Ravenna.
- 1908 - Wm. Beck proposes City purchase Ravenna Park, but City declines. “I have in Ravenna Park things that will entertain Seattle’s visitors more than all the things the fair management can possibly assemble in hot, crowded buildings”.
- 1908 – UW Historian E.S. Meany creates inventory of Ravenna Park flora – in preparation for the upcoming Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition, being hosted by the UW in 1909.
- 1909 – UW hosts Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition. Campus grows from 3 to 20 buildings for the event. Many hotels and commercial structures were built to serve the visitors of the fair. Seattle’s 1st World’s Fair - where PNW Indian tribes got to attend
- 1909 – Future “University Way” first paved – and sidewalks added (before the Fair).
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- 1910s (end) – Madeline Cheshiahud moves away from Lake Union, to the Suquamish Res
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1910s: University of Washington – New “Interlaken” Campus

- **1910** – Lyman & Julia join the Muckleshoot receiving allotment No. 43 (138.75 acres), a tract of timber along both sides of the White River.

- **1910** – Lake John Cheshiahud death - at Suquamish.

- **1910** – All Duwamish longhouses within Seattle have been destroyed by arson by the non-Natives.

- **1910** – Entire University District is platted…a city within a city!

- **1910** – UW students = 2,200.

- **1910** – Seattle annexes the Town of Yesler, and the Town of Ravenna.

- **1910** – Wm. Beck loses still his surviving old-growth Ravenna Park to the City of Seattle who confiscates it via condemnation. Ravenna Park - Possesses full old-growth timber rising nearly 400 feet. The trees remained through the AYP Exposition – at which they were featured exhibitions.

- **1910** – Lake John Cheshiahud death in Suquamish. Body brought back to Seattle aboard the steamer Monticello. The Captain “held down the whistle cord for a long, drawn, carefully reverent wail, and then a short final salute”. Buried in Evergreen-Washelli cemetery – the influence of the Denny family earned him a place right next to Mayor Hiram Gill. His magnificent tombstone stands as he stood in life: defiant, proud, and alone in the midst of a strange and difficult people he found the courage and character to befriend.

- **1915** – Tulalip Indian Agent Buchanan appeals to State Legislature about the desperate condition of Puget Sound Natives.

- **1915** – Duwamish Chief Satiacum expresses that “I don’t like to have my people all of them driven from one place to another and then told them that they don’t own the land and must move off. Give them a place where they can live and fish or hunt a little...”.

- **1916** – Laura Siddle & Herbert Courville marry (Dec 6).

- **1916** – June Courville born (Dec 31).

- **1916** – Montlake Isthmus canal coffer dam fails (deliberately breached?) - dropping Lake Washington water levels by 9 feet, exposing new shore lands...this resulted in an expansion of shoreline properties. When the lake was lowered, the shoreline properties then owned by the University of Washington - north of Washington Park Arboretum, along the west shoreline of Union Bay were expanded also. The lowering of the lake causes the flow to push northwards and dries up the flow into the Black at the south end of the lake (entirely drying the Black River and fish runs - out). As for the eastern Union Bay “Yesler Mill” site – “the lake waters receded, they left the mill wharf high and somewhat dry and the mill pond only slightly damp”.

- **1916** – Arthur Ballard collects information from Duwamish tribal informants (through 1918).

- **1916** – Lake Washington Ship Canal is completed.

- **1916** – Smith Tower constructed as the highest skyscraper west of the Mississippi.

- **1919** – University Bridge replaces the Latona Bridge.
1920s: Tribal Peoples – Pushing Back

- **1920s** – Julia Siddle carries on trade over the mountains with the use of small car-like trucks.
- **1920** – Leslie Spier marries Erna Gunther; and then establishes the UW Department of Anthropology.
- **1920** – UW Husky Stadium constructed.
- **1921** – Neptune Theatre opens.
- **1920s** – Union Bay log mills close down; with the University of Washington acquiring the newly exposed wetlands, and former mill site. Seattle has a major construction boom as a whole.
- **1924** – Laura Siddle resides in Tacoma as laundress.
- **1925** – Montlake Bridge opens.
- **1926** – Seattle Parks contracts the logging of Ravenna Park’s mature trees – and within a few years all the old-growth giants were gone. Yet, even without its most majestic trees, Ravenna Park is a welcoming green amenity.
- **1928** – Hec Edmundson Pavilion constructed.
Local Urban Forests – Basic Regulatory Framework
Political Scale/Theoretical vs Applied & Tribes
Thomas Eco-Centric Subsistence Model (1992)