



# Baxter Barn's History with Mountains to Sound Greenway

By: Cory Huskinson

The following excerpt from Fall City History is a prime example of the heritage of what is now part of the Mountains to Sound Greenway:

*On September 1, 1875, Eber Herman Baxter and his wife, Sarah Robinson, and their family came into the Valley over Snoqualmie Pass. The Baxter's had come across the plains in their covered wagon, pulled by a team of oxen. Coming over the Pass was not easy. The Road, hardly more than Indian trail, was rough and often necessitated lowering the wagon over steep rock walls before going on. That year money for improvement of the road was appropriated-but not used before the Baxter's came! When they reached the Valley their wagon was broken and the feed for the animals was gone. They found the prairie a good place to rest.*

*David Thomas brought the family to his farm just east of Fall City. He had an oxen drawn wagon. The Baxters stayed with the Thomas family for a short while. There are more great stories on the Baxter's: Mr. Baxter being the first minister in Fall City, a black smith, donating land for a church, helping a large hop production in the upper valley, etc.\**

The Parkers stayed with the Baxters in 1884 for seven weeks while they got their log cabin in order on their 160 acres. There is a great four-page story on how the Parkers, who lived in Seattle, got to Fall City in 1884 through the Greenway. (See excerpt below)

Community and life were so important for survival in those days. The Thomas family welcomed strangers they had never met into their home to stay. The Baxter's, nine years later, returned the favor to my wife Lena's family, the Parkers.

Who would have thought a century later that we would have bought this little piece of land from the last of the Baxters in Fall City only to discover the full story three years later? Lena (Missy) Huskinson is named after her Great Grandmother, Lena Parker. The first contact that Lena's family had in Fall City was with the Baxters.

This echoes the importance of preserving history and its stories; the importance of community and connecting together on a larger playing field, then preserving what we have.

Baxter Barn and its history is a perfect encapsulation of the history of development and stewardship within the Mountains to Sound Greenway Heritage Designation area. We are a prime example of what research, restoration, and community stewardship can achieve through preservation of history.

## **1884 PARKERS TWO WEEK TRIP TO FALL CITY \***

- 1.) Kansas to San Francisco on train to Seattle on the old steamer "Queen of the Pacific" 3 days docked in Seattle
- 2.) Wagon team to Leschi
- 3.) Chartered a steamer to Houghton
- 4.) Two wheeled cart and one horse to Perrigo's farm at Redmond
- 5.) 4 trips in a row boat in Squak lake (Lake Sammamish) to Squak (Issaquah)
- 5.) The Fathers went to the Baxter's Place to Return with a horse and a educated mule to bring the family to the Baxters. They stayed for 7 weeks to get their 160-acre homestead ready. \*"Fall City, In the Valley of the Moon" by Margaret McKibben Corliss ~Snoqualmie Valley Historical Museum