

Settlers From Albert Lea, Minn., Among Earliest at Gig Harbor

The Burnham Family: Building a Town

Images from the Harbor History Museum collection



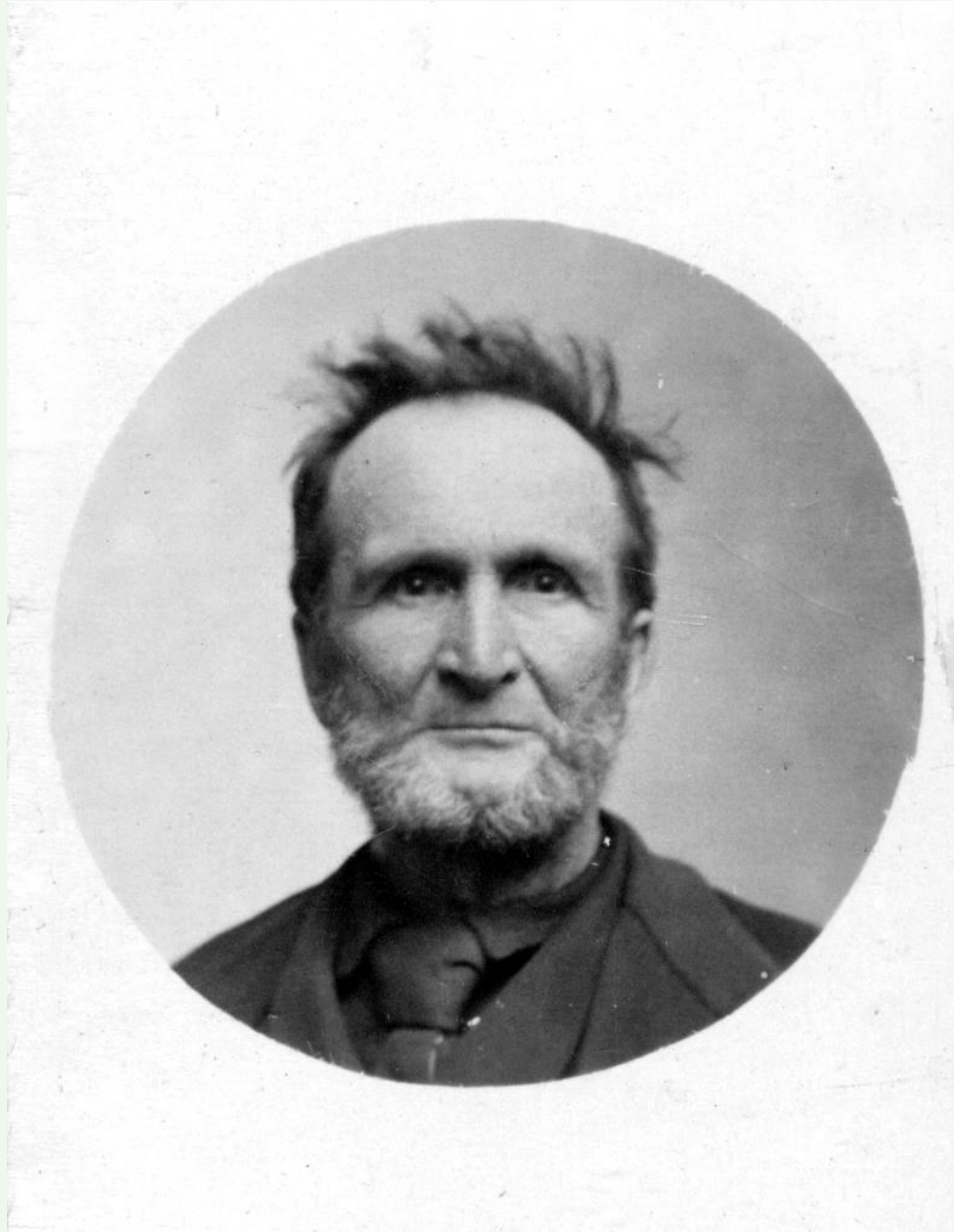
HARBOR HISTORY MUSEUM

(Editor's note: The following is the third in a series of stories by Mrs. John H. Insel in conjunction with the 100th anniversary of the discovery of Gig Harbor. The three-day celebration starts Wednesday and will be published Thursday.)

In 1884, Dr. Alfred M. Burnham and family moved to Gig Harbor from Tacoma in a rowboat. Burnham took up a 160-acre tract instead at the head of the harbor. The first plat of Gig Harbor was filed the first day for

Burnham, many settlers from Albert Lea, Minn., Dr. Burnham's company, came to the harbor. The Gig Harbor Mill company, erected a sawmill on the west side of the harbor.

George H. Burnham, former manager of Old Tacoma mill company, became manager of the mill, and through his influence, 15 sailing vessels and steamers came to the harbor for cargoes of timber. Among these were the "Ninevah" and the "Republic" which loaded million feet of lumber for



Dr. Alfred Mark Burnham. Object ID: 1989.038.050 Harbor History Museum Collection



A. M. Burnham home with Mrs. Burnham and dog, Prince, 1885. Object ID: 1973.005.013 Harbor History Museum Collection



View of a Launch at Young's Landing.
Written on back: "Note on original by Biz Burnham – Indian Shanties – Start of the City of Gig Harbor in 1888 – Left of Picture – Indian Ground Potlatch House (Indian Meeting House) Now Austins sawmill – Youngs Landing and First Post office Now Union Dock – George McDonald in the Foreground."
Other sources indicate the person is actually George McDowell. Houses near the center of the image were built on Dr. Burnham's plat of Gig Harbor. The road to the immediate right of the houses is now Burnham Drive.
Object ID: 2006.67.132
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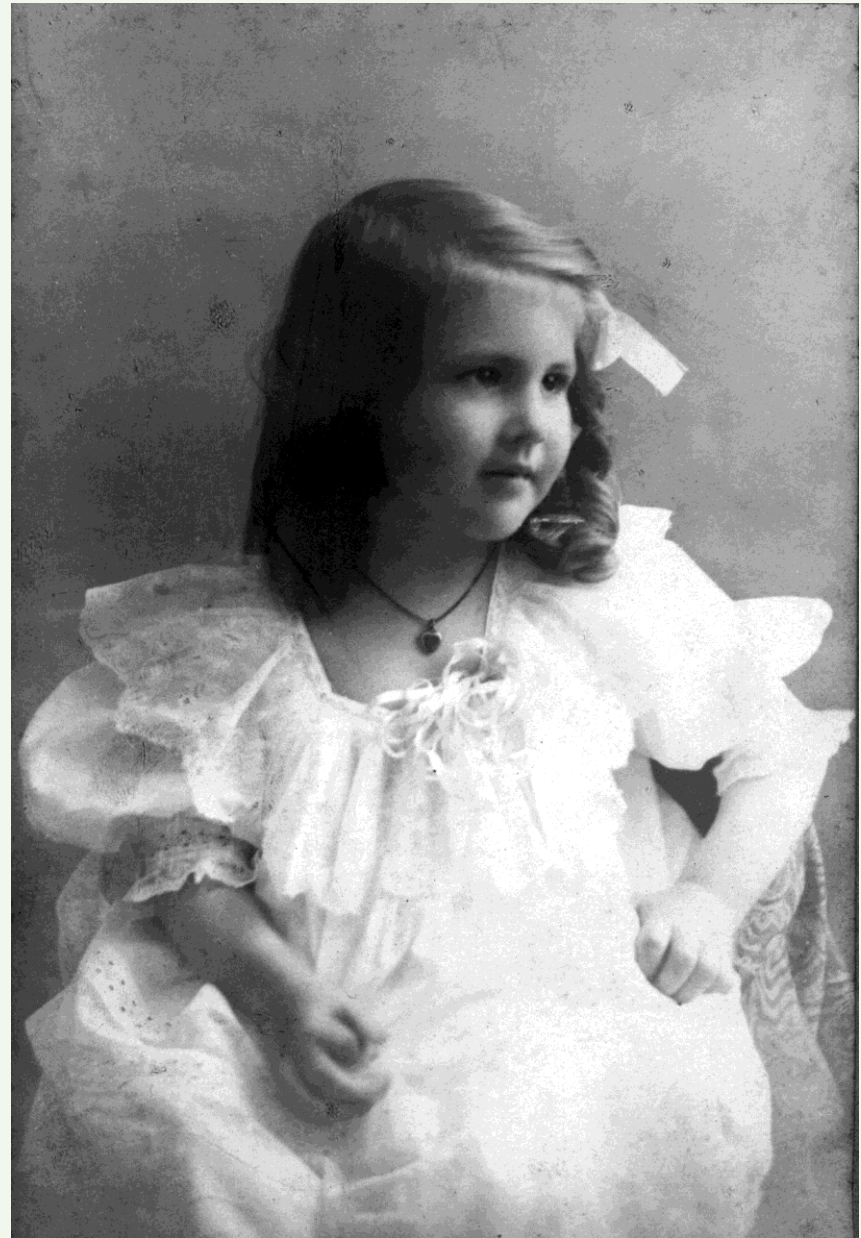
View of first Burnham home, around 1891. Pictured: Clarence (Nick) Burnham, A. Bismark (Biz) Burnham, Rachel Burnham, Dr. Alfred Burnham, Mr. Young's son, Frank Burnham, and Mr. Young. Object ID: 1973.005.008 Harbor History Museum Collection



Native American carved canoe paddle, late 1800s. Give to Dr. Burnham by carver. Object ID: 2009.035.001 Harbor History Museum Collection



Alfred Bismark (Biz) Burnham (later Captain), son of Dr. and Mrs. Burnham. Object IDs: 1989.025.057 and 1989.038.053 Harbor History Museum Collection



Louella Burnham (later Sessions Kretchman), daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Burnham. Object IDs: 1989.025.059 and .063 Harbor History Museum Collection



Gig Harbor, 1910. Burnham home at left, Methodist Episcopal church spire in woods, large white home of R.I. Franklin, Skarponi house with laundry line, tall building is Bayview/Messer Hall, Kendall store on far right with Kendall house to left. Object ID: 2012.015.050 Harbor History Museum Collection



View of A.M. Burnham & Sons General Store, about 1915. In 1915 the store was actually the Kendall Store, the fifth owners after Burnham. The house to the left was the Kendall's, they had bought it from the Wrights. Object ID: 1973.005.015 Harbor History Museum Collection



Dr. A. M. Burnham homestead, around 1907 – 1949. Object ID: 1972.006.010 Harbor History Museum Collection



Rachel Burnham and Prince. Object ID: 1989.038.042 Harbor History Museum Collection



Burnham family members, 1933. Nick Burnham, Luella Burnham S. Kretchman, Biz Burnham, Margaret Burnham Greig, John Greig, Rachel Burnham, Marcella Greig. Object ID: 1989.038.002 Harbor History Museum Collection