

CHAIN HILL*

Chain Hill (Section 7, Township 16N, Range 1W) was named after Charles Chaenn (1839-1910), a pioneer farmer who owned 80 acres near the summit of the hill north of Tenino.

Charles Chaenn was born January 24, 1839 as Jean Thiabaud Tschaine in Brechaumont, Haut Rhin, France. He was married in Texas on March 15, 1876 to Marie Zoe Bertrand, who was born May 13, 1846 in Le Noyer, Haute Alpes, France.

Charles and Zoe came to Thurston County by 1878 where on January 25, 1878, Charles Tschaeenn declares his intent to become a US citizen in Thurston County Court. He is listed as a Farmer in the territorial census of 1879. In 1884 they purchased 80 acres on the hill north of town (NE1/4 of SW1/4 and NW1/4 of SE1/4, Section 7, Township 16, North of Range 1 West, Willamette Meridian) from Avery Gilmore for \$600.

In 1885 they purchased lots in Olympia located on what is now the corner of Capitol Way and 18th Ave SE. In 1887 Charles is listed in the city directory as running a saloon (called The First and Last Chance Saloon) on Main (Capitol Way) near the city limits.

A very public legal divorce battle beginning in 1888 between Zoe and her husband ended up in Territorial District Court where, amid criminal charges involving Adultery and Selling Liquor without a License (against Zoe though she was not found guilty) and an Assault (the beating of Charles Chaenn by Robert Holmes, Zoe's alleged lover), they were granted a divorce in 1889.

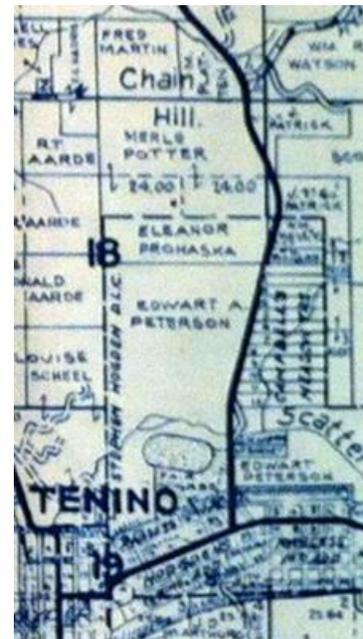
*Naming Variants

Due to the odd spelling of Chaenn, the hill's name has been written many ways over the years, including: Chain, Chane, Chein, Chaen. Charles usually spelled his name Chaenn and so it **should be Chaenn Hill.**


signature from a receipt dated
Sept 12, 1887.

"general breakdown and old age." He was buried at county expense in Forest Cemetery, Olympia. His grave is unmarked.

The earliest mention of Chaenn Hill that I have found to date is from 1912 in the Tenino News when it was spelled "Chainne hill."



Metsker Maps, 1962.

In 1890 Zoe was running a saloon on Main (Capitol Way) between 16th and 17th according to the Olympia city directory but after that nothing is known about her.

About 1897, Charles moved to King County where he spent a few years serving as a gardener for Edward Wittler's household in Seattle. While there he married a second time (to Lizette Schmidt) in November 1900, shortly after which the couple moved back to his farm in Thurston County. Lizette left him nine months later and moved back to Seattle.

With his health declining, in 1909 he sold his land for \$1 to Wilbur F Blue in return for having his debts paid and for being cared for by the Blue family until his death.

Charles Chaenn died on March 4, 1910 from

Several years ago Chein sold timber and secured about \$600. Of this \$100 went to pay a grocery bill and it is not known what he did with the remainder. Some think it is secreted about his place. He was borrowing money from friends up to the time of his death. He has no relatives here,

The Morning Olympian

5 March 1910