

# *Descendants of Nicholas Lafayette Drumheller, Part 1*

Courtesy of [www.museum.bmi.net](http://www.museum.bmi.net)

Our goal is to research the pioneers that came into the Walla Walla Valley Area, as a starter for those doing their family genealogy; *we are not related.*

Head Researcher: Sarah Olsen,

Researcher: Linda Kracke

July 18, 2010

*Generation No. 1*

1. NICHOLAS LAFAYETTE<sup>1</sup> DRUMHELLER was born 20 Oct 1801 in Charlottesville, Albemarle, Virginia, and died Abt. 1843 in Missouri. He married ELIZA HOLLIS 07 Apr 1827 in Gallatin, Sumner, Tennessee. She was born 15 Jun 1808 in , Sumner, TN, and died Abt. 1850 in Webster, Missouri.

Notes for NICHOLAS LAFAYETTE DRUMHELLER:

That Magical Name "Drumheller"

by Reba Perry Blakely

What is more exciting than to pay tribute to a horse family whose impact upon racing can track back two hundred and twenty-four years, even pre-dating this Bicentennial! And their name was Drumheller, [a name] well documented in the archives of international horse racing. For they did race in Tijuana, Mexico, in the Dominion of Canada and throughout America.

What is even more relevant to King County and Longacres Race Course at Renton is the fact that through the fine and delicate "nudging" of George J. Drumheller and his son Allen, Longacres was given a helping hand and their capable assistance to the late Joe Gottstein was instrumental in creating Longacres in 1933. Allen Drumheller, Sr. of Walla Walla was a member of the first Washington State Horse Racing Commission and was also highly successful as a horse breeder and owner, but won most of his recognition as a conditioner of horses for other owners. At one time, Allen Drumheller trained Bold Bazooka for the comedian Lou Costello and the runner was California's top two-year-old of the season.

Since that time the magical name of Drumheller has momentarily vanished from horse racing – a condition that shall always be subject to change. Who knows what the future will bring and possibly within another decade some Drumheller may hear the whisperings of their ancestors now long departed [which unfortunately has not been the case], such as Dewalt Drumheller who first settled on patented land in Rockland Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania in 1752, and return to the Sport of Kings (or is it Queens!) – horse racing!

Helen Cabell Self, an expert author, horsewoman and educator wrote a fine book, many in fact, upon the art of horsemanship, training and conditioning and it was she who wrote "When those first Hollanders arrived in what is now the State of Pennsylvania they brought with them those sturdy, small horses who later crossed with English Thoroughbreds became foundation stock for some of America's first Quarter Horses."

This information bears even closer study, for in the early part of the 1800s there were three Drumhellers whose impact upon horse racing, livestock ranching and later the Thoroughbred industry in our Pacific northwest was invaluable! Thomas Drumheller, 1827, later settled at or near Petaluma, California, first and then came to Spokane in 1847. He was followed by his brother Jesse, who located in the Oregon Territory in 1852 and later moved to Walla Walla in 1854. Still a third brother, Daniel M. Drumheller, followed his two other brothers and arrived in the Willamette Valley of Oregon. In 1861, he became one of the first cattlemen to drive beef on the hoof up the Caribou of the upper Okanogan Basin to the miners of Canada. Pertinent to this material is the fact that "Uncle" Daniel, who later settled in Spokane in 1880, rode the first so-called documented "Quarter Horse" mare into the Oregon Territory.

The story goes something like this. "Old Arch was a red and white pinto mare he rode for 2,000 miles and who he loved until his death. She never lost an ounce of flesh on that memorable journey." So she must have been a descendant of those sturdy horses first imported to America during the era of 1752 when the Dutch settled in Pennsylvania.

Closely examining the background of these particular Drumheller brothers, Thomas, Jessie and Daniel M., it becomes impressive how much so few gave to so many in our Pacific northwest and Canada, with respect to ranching, livestock production and the mining industry. Samuel Drumheller [a son of Jessie who discovered] coal and [which led to the development of] the town site of Drumheller in Alberta in 1910.

Upon Daniel M. Drumheller's return from California, he helped transport meat to the miners in both the Caribou and later up the Chilicoot Trail to Alaska. He became active in the Oregon State Legislature and no doubt was instrumental in helping Oregon found its first fair at Oregon City in 1861. That exhibit later was moved to Salem and there became the Oregon State Fair in 1863. Horse racing was part and parcel of that very first county fair effort, and just for the novelty of it, Oswald West (from his Famous Horses and the Pioneer Period) names some of those animals in 1870: Lacelles Greyhound, Rexfords Buckskin Bill, Bakers Whitestockings, Thorps Jim (was this the F. M. Thorp of Ellensburg? Chances are it was indeed!); also Baskett's Dixie, Scoggins Jack and Minnie Miner.

In 1869, William Bigham, who later settled on Crab Creek in Grant County, as well as T. B. Hoover and J. C. Chambers, settled at or near Fossil, Oregon. It is their history that established the first registered Thoroughbreds brought into the Pacific northwest by the pioneers.

All of this history was and is linked to Daniel M. Drumheller. When he moved to Spokane in 1880 he became engaged in both mining and transportation and later became mayor of Spokane. He was a most avid booster in that city. He served in many other civic capacities and consequently more or less removed himself from active participation in the Thoroughbred world.

His brother Jessie Drumheller, who continued to live in Walla Walla. married Martha Maxson around 1860 and raised the family who is still most actively linked directly to the Thoroughbred industry. It was his son, George J. Drumheller, who did enter into horse racing before 1900 and was active in the field until he sold out in 1934 to Mrs. Gladys Edris [wife of William Edris, Joseph Gottstein's friend and business partner for whom the famous Washington racehorse Sidre - Edris spelled backwards - was named.] of the Elttaes Stables of Seattle.

George J. Drumheller led almost a charmed existence in both horse racing, fairs and the wild west world, that later fostered contemporary rodeo. What led him into this field of outdoor spectator sports was no doubt influenced by the opening of the Walla Walla Fair in 1866, which was right in his domain. Later when his son Allen started growing into his teens he became enamored of the wild west, for less than 45 miles away the fabled Pendleton Round-up came into being in 1910.

George, an affluent grain farmer, and his cousin, Tom Drumheller of Ephrata, now a prominent rancher and sheep man in this period of 1910, enjoyed competing [with] their animals and their [ranch] hands against neighboring ranchers. Neighborhood competition was the name of the game at first. Community fairs and rodeos were engaged in by those first pioneering families where [the] horse or mule was still king; because all the ranch work was performed by these animals. It was said of George J. Drumheller that "he farmed 5,000 acres of wheat with 500 mules . . ." This record is amply documented in our state archives.

When George's children started growing up, first Allen, then a daughter Jessie, and still a second son Dewey, [they] were all active, healthy and daring youngsters who constantly rode horseback to school and later entered into rodeo competition in men's and women's relay and pony express racing, both at the Walla Walla Fair and the Pendleton Round-up.

Their father purchased excellent short distance horses for them and hired trainers to school the animals and drill these energetic children on the fine arts of horsemanship. Further instilling in them the desire to excel and to practice good horsemanship, they became the best of their age group. This encouragement possibly was part of the character building for his children . . . Allen, Jessie and Dewey enjoyed the thrilling excitement generated by riding in competition against world famous performers of the likes of Lucile Mulhall and her troupe from Mulhall, Oklahoma. They had heard that she was called "America's First Cowgirl" and they of course had read of her and her father, Colonel Zack Mulhall, who was one of Teddy Roosevelt's Rough Riders. Lucile Mulhall was also a world champion steer roper against all comers. These were the type of professionals performing at the first Pendleton, Oregon, round-up. Also entered was the C. B. (Charles Burton) Irwin family with his trio of world champion relay and competing cowgirl daughters Joella, Pauline and Frances [who later married Mannie Keller and trained two Longacres Mile winners] from Meriden, Wyoming. The Irwins' history was also outstanding and most impressive. C. B. Irwin was a member of the Union Pacific employee system, later becoming a director and their livestock agent from his office in Cheyenne. [Later Irwin would serve as a mentor to none other than National and Washington Hall of Famer trainer Tom Smith, of Seabiscuit fame.]

Instead of the Drumheller family staying within their own bailiwick, they were urged on by and became inspired by the magnitude of fame and excitement of those first wild west families,

which included the Irwins and Mulhalls. This was all taking place beginning in 1893 when wild west [shows were] coupled with horse racing being staged in communities throughout America and Canada.

For those wishing to enlarge into active Thoroughbred breeding, all the activity helped to train race horses and learn which animals were speedy enough to race on the large race courses in the midwest and on the Atlantic seaboard. It was also without parallel the finest field of all to train outstanding jockeys who first learned their fundamentals at these smaller tracks. This was necessary for good reason - there just were not that many race courses in the far west.

California did start racing horses at their first state fair in Sacramento in 1854 and thereafter a number of other tracks opened up. But so flagrant was the unethical activity behind the scenes in early California horse racing at first and after 1900, that many large and affluent Thoroughbred owners and trainers dropped out of horse racing there or returned to the midwest and to the east where racing was conducted upon more rigid rules and regulations.

It wasn't until the fairs in the far west and Pacific northwest started holding race meets during their dates that horse racing in general got off to a healthy start in Washington State.

It was at these fairs [that] Allen Drumheller, his close boyhood chum Darrell Cannon [future trainer of Joe Gottstein's Longacres Mile winners Kings Favor and Steel Blade] and sister Jessie Drumheller gained excellent training and great fame in the relay and pony express world. George J. Drumheller acquired a fine string of top rated bucking horses, plus a formidable racing string. Many were trained as relay mounts when this daring and innovative family entered rodeo and wild west [shows] in earnest.

The Drumhellers staged the first great rodeo held at the opening of the 1912 Tacoma Stadium, a coliseum that gained historic attention because of its setting. The structure, right out on the Narrows of Puget Sound, and the excellence of its very first program, which included a world championship rodeo staged in part by the George J. Drumheller family of Walla Walla. Still within that same summer this dynamic wild west family and racing empire went on to the first Calgary Stampede (1912), where Allen Drumheller won the cowboys bronc riding championship for the Pacific northwest and Canada.

From 1913 through 1916, the Drumhellers also staged the first Walla Walla Stampede and then went on to stage rodeos at the 1915 Seattle Stampede held at the old Meadows race track [near Renton]. They continued to Cheyenne, Wyoming; Missoula and Billings, Montana; the War Bonnet Rodeo at Idaho Falls, Idaho; and to a great many other fairs and rodeos held annually in the states of Oregon, Washington and Idaho, as well as Canada.

Very drastically, a world war was brewing all through this period (1910-1917), and of course, as history records it, war broke out in 1917 and America was in it! Many [rodeo] performers did their stint for Uncle Sam.

Allen Drumheller and his sister Jessie both dropped out of rodeo to a degree, but Allen established a record in the men's pony express in 1926 at the Spokane Fair that was never erased or defeated.

Jessie then married Darrell Cannon and moved to California. This marriage was later dissolved and she moved to Salem, Oregon.

Allen Drumheller, from the mid-1920s onward and up until 1957, was one of America's most legendary horse conditioners. His was a most fashionable stable of select owners and fabulous racing animals. Horses that he developed and took to their fame came from a horse racing career that brought international acclaim to the "The Cowboy from Walla Walla, Washington" and to the name . . . Drumheller!

Notes for ELIZA HOLLIS:

Some information from Family Search, Ancestral File, submitted by Daniel W. Drumiler, 1173 South 1500 East, Bountiful, UT 84010.

Marriage Notes for NICHOLAS DRUMHELLER and ELIZA HOLLIS:

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~tnsumner/dmarr.htm>

Sumner County Tennessee Marriage Records

DRUMHELM, Nicholas HOLLIS, Eliza Apr. 7, 1827 James Hollis

More About NICHOLAS DRUMHELLER and ELIZA HOLLIS:

Marriage: 07 Apr 1827, Gallatin, Sumner, Tennessee

Children of NICHOLAS DRUMHELLER and ELIZA HOLLIS are:

2. i. JAMES THOMAS<sup>2</sup> DRUMHELLER, b. Abt. 1828, Sumner. TN; d. Abt. 1910, Medical Lake, Spokane, WA.

3. ii. MARY C DRUMHELLER, b. Abt. 1830, Sumner. TN; d. Abt. 1905.

4. iii. SARAH MATILDA DRUMHELLER, b. 22 Dec 1831, Sumner. TN; d. 09 Feb 1905.

5. iv. JESSIE CURLY DRUMHELLER, b. 18 Feb 1835, Gallatin, Sumner, TN; d. 02 Dec 1907, Walla Walla, Walla Walla, WA.

v. JOHN FRANK DRUMHELLER, b. Abt. 1836, Sumner. TN; d. Abt. 1860.

More About JOHN FRANK DRUMHELLER:

Census: 1850, MO Dallas Dist 26 Pg 350(See Brother James Thomas)

6. vi. DANIEL MONTGOMERY DRUMHELLER, b. 25 Mar 1840, Gallatin, Sumner. TN; d. 02 Mar 1925, Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA.

vii. ELIZA JANE DRUMHELLER, b. Abt. 1842, Missouri; m. WILLIAM R MARLIN, 28 Feb 1864, Webster, Missouri<sup>1</sup>.

More About ELIZA JANE DRUMHELLER:

Census 1: 1850, MO Dallas Dist 26 Pg 350(See Brother James Thomas)

Census 2: 1860, WA Webster Missouri Pg

More About WILLIAM MARLIN and ELIZA DRUMHELLER:

Marriage: 28 Feb 1864, Webster, Missouri<sup>1</sup>

viii. GEORGE DRUMHELLER, b. Abt. 1843.

#### *Generation No. 2*

2. JAMES THOMAS<sup>2</sup> DRUMHELLER (*NICHOLAS LAFAYETTE*<sup>1</sup>) was born Abt. 1828 in Sumner. TN, and died Abt. 1910 in Medical Lake, Spokane, WA. He married (1) JULIE UNDERHILL Abt. 1862, daughter of ? UNDERHILL and SARAH ?. She was born Abt. 1841 in Tennessee, and died 01 Jun 1870. He married (2) MINERVA GEORGE Abt. 1870. He married (3) ELIZABETH LATIMER 29 Jan 1874 in Dallas, Missouri<sup>2</sup>. She was born Abt. 1843 in Tennessee.

Notes for JAMES THOMAS DRUMHELLER:

1850 Census MO Dallas Dist 26 Pg 350

Drumheller,Thomas J.,22,M,Farmer,TN

Jesse,16,M,Farmer,TN

John F.,14,M,TN

Daniel M.,10,M,TN

Eliza J.,8,F,MO

George W. ??,2,M,MO

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1860 Census WA Webster Missouri Pg

Drumheller,James T,32,M,Farmer,TN

Mary Marlin,29,F,TN

Elizabeth J.,11,F,MO

Eliza C.,9,F,MO

Charles Hollis,32,M,Farm Laborer,MO

Eliza Deumheller,17,F,TN

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1870 Census MO Webster Washington Pg 356

Drumheller,James,42,MW,Farmer,TN

Julia,27,FW,TN

Sarah E.,7,FW,MO

Daniel,4,MW,MO

John,2,MW,MO

Underhill,Sarah,64,FW,Keeping House,VA

Underhill,Virginia,30,FW,TN

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1880 Census WY Carbon Rawlins ED 14 Pg 87C

Drumheller,Thos.,51,MW,TN,US,US,Farmer

Lizzie,wife,FW,27,MO,MO,MO

Daniel,son,MW,12,MO,TN,MO

S.E.,daughter,FW,17,MO,TN,MO

John,son,MW,10,MO,TN,MO

Charles,son,MW,4,MO,TN,MO

Mirtha,daughter,FW,2,MO,TN,MO

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1887 Census State WA Spokane County Pg 134 (June 14, 1887 Alex Watt Deputy)

Line 13

134 13 Drumheller, James T 59 MW Farmer Single Tennessee

-----. John 20 MW Single Missouri

-----. Charles 11 MW Single Missouri

-----. Mytle 9 FW Single Missouri

More About JAMES THOMAS DRUMHELLER:

Census 1: 1850, MO Dallas Dist 26 Pg 350

Census 2: 1860, MO Webster Washington Pg

Census 3: 1870, MO Webster Washington Pg 356

Census 4: 1880, WY Carbon Rawlins ED 14 Pg 87C

Census 5: 1887, State WA Spokane County Pg 134

Census 6: 1900, WA Spokane Stevens Pg 118(See Son John E. Drumheller)

More About JULIE UNDERHILL:

Census: 1870, MO Webster Washington Pg 356(See Husband)

More About JAMES DRUMHELLER and JULIE UNDERHILL:

Marriage: Abt. 1862

More About JAMES DRUMHELLER and MINERVA GEORGE:

Marriage: Abt. 1870

More About ELIZABETH LATIMER:



Census: 1880, WY Carbon Rawlins ED 14 Pg 87C(See Husband)

More About JAMES DRUMHELLER and ELIZABETH LATIMER:

Marriage: 29 Jan 1874, Dallas, Missouri<sup>2</sup>

Children of JAMES DRUMHELLER and JULIE UNDERHILL are:

i. SARAH<sup>3</sup> DRUMHELLER, b. Abt. 1863, Missouri; m. I N BECKNER, 23 Jul 1884, Spokane, Spokane, Washington<sup>3</sup>.

More About SARAH DRUMHELLER:

Census 1: 1870, MO Webster Washington Pg 356(See Father)

Census 2: 1880, WY Carbon Rawlins ED 14 Pg 87C(See Father)

More About I BECKNER and SARAH DRUMHELLER:

Marriage: 23 Jul 1884, Spokane, Spokane, Washington<sup>3</sup>

7. ii. DANIEL FRANKLIN DRUMHELLER, b. Aug 1866, Webster County, Missouri; d. 24 Jan 1944, Seattle,King,WA.

iii. JOHN E DRUMHELLER, b. Abt. 1868, Missouri.

Notes for JOHN E DRUMHELLER:

1900 Census WA Spokane Stevens Pg 118

Drumheller,John E.,head,MW,May 1862,28S,MO,KY,MO,Farmer

James T.,father,MW,Mar 1828,72,wd,KY,VA,TN

Myrtle,sister,FW,Mar 1878,22S,MO,KY,MO

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1910 Census WA Spokane Tyler Twp Pg 154A

Drumheller,John,lodger,MW,38S,IL,PA,IL,Laborer,Farm

More About JOHN E DRUMHELLER:

Census 1: 1870, MO Webster Washington Pg 356(See Father)

Census 2: 1880, WY Carbon Rawlins ED 14 Pg 87C(See Father)

Census 3: 1887, State WA Spokane County Pg 134(See Father)

Census 4: 1900, WA Spokane Stevens Pg 118

Census 5: 1910, WA Spokane Tyler Twp Pg 154A

Children of JAMES DRUMHELLER and ELIZABETH LATIMER are:

8. iv. CHARLES C<sup>3</sup> DRUMHELLER, b. 03 May 1876, Missouri; d. 26 Jan 1949, Clearwater, ID.

9. v. MYRTLE DRUMHELLER, b. Abt. 1878, Missouri.

**3. MARY C<sup>2</sup> DRUMHELLER (NICHOLAS LAFAYETTE<sup>1</sup>)** was born Abt. 1830 in Sumner. TN, and died Abt. 1905. She married ARCHIBALD MARLIN. He was born 26 Mar 1811 in Sumner. TN.

Notes for MARY C DRUMHELLER:

1860 Census MO Webster Washington Pg

Drumheller,James T,32,M,Farmer,TN

Mary Marlin,29,F,TN

Elizabeth J.,11,F,MO

Eliza C.,9,F,MO

Charles Hollis,32,M,Farm Laborer,MO

Eliza Deumheller,17,F,TN

Living next door is a R.E. Marlin but do not see a link.

More About MARY C DRUMHELLER:

Census: 1860, MO Webster Washington Pg

Children of MARY DRUMHELLER and ARCHIBALD MARLIN are:

i. ELIZABETH<sup>3</sup> MARLIN, b. Abt. 1848, Missouri.

More About ELIZABETH MARLIN:

Census: 1860, MO Webster Washington Pg (See Mother)

ii. ELIZA CAROLINE MARLIN, b. 02 Feb 1851, Missouri.

More About ELIZA CAROLINE MARLIN:

Census: 1860, MO Webster Washington Pg (See Mother)

4. SARAH MATILDA<sup>2</sup> DRUMHELLER (*NICHOLAS LAFAYETTE*<sup>1</sup>) was born 22 Dec 1831 in Sumner, TN, and died 09 Feb 1905. She married GEORGE WASHINGTON HERD 26 Aug 1848 in Charity, Dallas, Missouri, son of JOHN HERD and REBECCA MARTIN. He was born 26 Sep 1828 in Blount, Tennessee, and died 27 Mar 1910 in Dallas, Missouri.

Notes for GEORGE WASHINGTON HERD:

<http://ftp.rootsweb.com/pub/usgenweb/mo/dallas/bios/h6300004.txt>

Biographical Sketch of George W. Herd, Dallas County, Missouri

>From "History of Laclede, Camden, Dallas, Webster, Wright, Texas,

Pulaski, Phelps & Dent Counties, Missouri, Published 1889, Goodspeed

Publishing Company.

George W. Herd, one of the leading merchants of Dallas County,

doing business at Charity, was born in Tennessee September 26,

1828, the son of John and Rebecca (Martin) Herd, natives of

Kentucky and North Carolina, respectively. The father was a

farmer all his life, and died in Tennessee when the subject of

this sketch was a very small child. After his death the mother

moved to Macoupin County, Ill., where she married James Derrick,

and soon after moved to Missouri, locating in Greene County, this county was soon after changed to Webster County, when George W. Herd was born seven years of age. The mother was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and died in 1875, at the age of seventy-two. By her first marriage she became the mother of two sons: James C. (deceased) and George W. The former died in Greene County, MO., January 20, 1888, at the age of sixty-one. He was a farmer. By the last marriage were born two children: Joshua, and Cynthia J., wife of Alex Blay. George W. Herd was nineteen years of age when he started for himself as a farmer, and this business he has continued up to the present, in connection with rearing and dealing in stock. In January, 1880, he opened up a general store at his present location, where he has remained ever since. August 26, 1848, he married Miss Sarah M. Drumheller, a native of Sumner County, Tenn., born December 22, 1831, and the daughter of Nicholas L. and Eliza (Hollis) Drumheller. This union has been blessed by the birth of nine children: Rosa J., wife of William T. Henson, a farmer of Dallas County; Eliza C., wife of Solomon B. Jones, a farmer of Texas; James T., a farmer of Dallas County; Phoebe V., wife of L.F. Jones, merchant, of Buffalo; Sarah C., wife of J.W.W. Thompson, farmer of Webster County; Lougenia M., wife of A.J. Graves, a Methodist minister, now on the Buffalo Circuit; Parthena, wife of S.B. Robertson, a black-

smith; and Alma, at home. There was one who died, Mary R. Mr. and Mrs. Herd are members of the Missionary Baptist Church, and he is a Democrat in his political views.

More About GEORGE HERD and SARAH DRUMHELLER:

Marriage: 26 Aug 1848, Charity, Dallas, Missouri

Children of SARAH DRUMHELLER and GEORGE HERD are:

- i. ROSA JANE<sup>3</sup> HERD, b. 25 Jun 1849.
- ii. MARY R HERD, b. 19 Feb 1851; d. Bef. 1889.
- iii. ELIZA CAROLINE HEARD, b. 12 Jun 1853; m. SOLOMON B. JONES.
- iv. JAMES THOMAS HEARD, b. 21 Dec 1854, Dallas, Missouri.
- v. PHEBE VICTORIA HERD, b. 08 Aug 1856, Buffalo, Missouri; m. L.F. JONES.
- vi. SARAH C HERD, b. 21 Feb 1858; m. J.W.W. THOMPSON.
- vii. LOUGENIA HERD, b. 14 Feb 1860; m. A.J. GRAVES.
- viii. PARTHENA HERD, b. 28 Oct 1867; m. S.B. ROBERTSON.
- ix. ALMA HERD, b. 01 Jul 1874, Dallas, Missouri.

5. JESSIE CURLY<sup>2</sup> DRUMHELLER (*NICHOLAS LAFAYETTE*<sup>1</sup>) was born 18 Feb 1835 in Gallatin, Sumner, TN, and died 02 Dec 1907 in Walla Walla, Walla Walla, WA<sup>4</sup>. He married MARTHA ALVIRA MAXSON 09 Oct 1863 in Walla Walla, WA<sup>5</sup>, daughter of S. MAXSON and LOIS BABCOCK. She was born 02 Mar 1845 in Lansing, Ingham, Michigan, and died 16 Dec 1916 in Walla Walla, Walla Walla, WA<sup>6</sup>.

Notes for JESSIE CURLY DRUMHELLER:

<http://www.usgennet.org/usa/or/county/union1/wallawalla/wwbiosd.htm#JESSE%20DRUMHELLER>.

JESSE DRUMHELLER.

Jesse Drumheller, deceased, an honored pioneer of the west of 1852, was during the remainder of his life a prominent factor in the advancement of the business interests and development of this section of the country. Widely known, his life history cannot fail to prove of interest to the many friends who still cherish his memory, and it is therefore with pleasure that we present this record of his career to our readers. His birth occurred in Tennessee in 1835. There the first eight years of his life were passed, after which he accompanied his parents on their removal to Missouri, the family home being established near Springfield, where he remained until 1851. He then located near Savannah, Missouri, where he remained for a year, and in 1852 he heard and headed the call of the west. He started out across the plains with ox teams for Washington and located in Cowlitz county, where he turned his attention to the lumber business. Soon afterward he removed to California, where for several years he engaged in mining, and in 1855 he became a resident of Oregon. There he joined the Oregon Volunteers for service in the Indian war and was sent to Walla Walla. During the eleven months in which he was a part of that command he participated in several severe engagements with the red men and aided in winning the victory which crowned the arms of the white troops. After the cessation of hostilities he entered the employ of the United States government and assisted in building the government posts at The Dalles, at Walla Walla, at Colville and at Simcoe. His activities thus became an important factor in the development of this section of the country. In 1859 he took up his abode on land two miles south of Walla Walla and turned his attention to stock raising and general farming, a business which he followed until about 1900. In this he prospered and from time to time added to his holdings until his landed possessions aggregated nearly six thousand acres. He thus carried on farming most extensively and in 1899 his crop of wheat amounted to about sixty-five thousand bushels. He followed the most progressive methods in the development of his land and stood at all times as one of the most enterprising and representative farmers of the northwest. He also carried on stock raising with success and his diligence and determination brought him prominently to the front in connection with the line of his chosen occupation.

On the 9th of October, 1863, in Walla Walla, Mr. Drumheller was united in marriage to Miss Martha A. Maxson, a pioneer of 1859. They became the parents of five sons: Samuel, of Calgary, Alberta; Oscar; George, a stockraiser of Walla Walla; Thomas J., who is engaged in the hardware business with his older brother, Oscar, they being members of the well known firm of Drumheller & Company, dealers in hardware, furniture and crockery; and R.M., collector of customs at Seattle.

Jesse Drumheller was a member of the Masonic fraternity, holding membership in the lodge and in the chapter. His death occurred on December 2, 1907. He stood in the front rank among those who have planted civilization in the northwest and was particularly active in the growth of Walla Walla county, where for many years he made his home, and his labors were of a nature that contributed in marked measure to the substantial and moral development and upbuilding of this section of the country. He was a progressive business man, wide-awake, alert and energetic, and carried forward to successful completion whatever he undertook. While his business interests became very extensive and important, he always found time to cooperate in plans and measures for the public good and was a most loyal and devoted citizen from the time when he aided in subduing the Indian uprising, through the period of later development and progress up to the time when death called him to the home beyond.

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[http://www.washingtonthoroughbred.com/WaTbStats/HOF\\_Drumheller.htm](http://www.washingtonthoroughbred.com/WaTbStats/HOF_Drumheller.htm)

## ALLEN DRUMHELLER

The Thoroughbred industry in Washington State has been blessed with many out-standing individuals, both people and horses. Nine horsemen and three horses were honored during the inaugural Washington Racing Hall of Fame gala dinner in September. In last month's issue, we gave you a brief biography of these outstanding individuals, but felt that each one's story and accomplishments deemed an in-depth profile. This month we will begin with what is to be a continuing series on Washington Racing Hall of Fame recipients, a story on the "Wizard of Walla Walla," Allen Drumheller. We hope you find these profiles as fascinating and inspiring as we did.

When you think of the uniquely named southeastern Washington town of Walla Walla, some of the first things that come to mind are endless wheat fields, those wonderful Walla Walla sweet onions and the infamous Whitman massacre, but at one time Walla Walla was also the home of Washington's leading Thoroughbred farm, family and a nationally respected Thoroughbred trainer; all by the name of Drumheller.

### The Walla Walla Birthright of Washington Thoroughbred Breeding

Born in Tennessee in 1835, Jesse Drumheller, then 17, first arrived in Walla Walla in 1852 with the Ezra Meeker wagon train. It was during this time period that the Washington Territorial Legislature had begun creating new counties out of the 110,000 square miles that they had earlier (in 1854) set aside from Skamania County and christened Walla Walla County. (Walla Walla County was one of the first areas in the region between the Cascade and Rocky Mountains to be permanently settled.) Jesse married fellow pioneer Martha Maxson in 1859 and they had six sons and one daughter. He and his sons would later found the Drumheller Company, which retailed hardware and agricultural supplies. Meanwhile, he kept adding to his land, until he had almost 6,000 acres. He was noted for his progressive methods in both farming and livestock raising.

Among his sons were Oscar and Thomas, who would run the family store; Samuel, who would travel with a herd of cattle to Alberta's Red Deer Valley, discover coal and later have the eventual settlement named after him - after winning that honor in a supposed coin toss; and George (1874-1945), who followed his father in becoming one of the pioneer wheat growers in Washington with a farm of 1,050 acres. Walla Walla's Drumheller Building, built about 1910, stands to this day.

George and his wife Lillian had three sons, Allen, Dewey and Earl, and daughter Jessie. The community-minded Lillian is remembered for her profound influence on the growth of Walla Walla in its early days and especially "for the campaign that brought a YMCA to Walla Walla" in 1911.

In addition to wheat, George began to seriously dabble into "what, in the twenties, was most certainly an obscure business in this state" - Thoroughbred racing. By the time of his death, George was deemed "the father of Thoroughbred horse racing" in Washington. He was considered the leading Washington horseman of his day, after "spending thousands of dollars for Kentucky bloodstock and racing stock" and was the state's leading breeder by earnings from 1935 through 1940. Among his best horses were My Reverie, Bonnie Omar, Blarney Stone, Pat, Linden Tree and Glad Mart. When Longacres opened in 1933, Drumheller Ranch was the largest Thoroughbred breeding operation among the eight that existed in the state. Drumheller was also one of the original sponsors of Washington State House Bill 59, which once again allowed horse racing back into the Evergreen State. His son Allen, soon to become one of the nation's most respected trainers, was one of the state's original racing commissioners.

### From the Rodeo to the Racetrack

Born in 1894, Allen followed his father into the business of breeding Thoroughbred horses in 1925. He had been a relay and bronco rider at the age of 14. "A fast-tempered and thrill bound youth," the young Drumheller turned from studies at Whitman College to an early career with the rodeo where he later became a champion rodeo performer. One of his companions was world record holding relay rider and 1921 Pendleton All-around Rodeo Champion Darrell Cannon, who went on to train Longacres Mile winners Kings Favor and Steel Blade for Joe Gottstein's Elttaes Stable in the late 1960s.

While Allen Drumheller is being honored with induction into the inaugural Washington Racing Hall of Fame due to his record as a trainer, he and his father could have just as easily been honored for their many contributions to the state's fledgling breeding industry.

### Breeder First

In 1922, Allen's father George had made his first serious foray into the breeding business when he brought Gladiator, a 1917 son of Superman who had won the Toboggan Handicap as a four-year-old, from New Orleans to stand in Washington. Gladiator's best son was 1941 Longacres Mile winner Campus Fusser (bred and trained by Allen), the first Washington-bred to take the Longacres Mile. In the early 1930s, George added the Black Toney stallion Black Forest (1928), who sired Georgie Drum, named in honor of Allen's son George. At five, Georgie Drum "won the Stars and Stripes Handicap beating Equifox, \*Rounders, Pensive [winner of the 1944 Kentucky Derby], War Knight and four others, earning \$41,000 - it was the richest stakes ever won by a Washington-bred horse and in it he whipped the best lot of horses a Washington-bred was ever pitted against - his earnings after this stakes were \$61,000, a suitable reward for the patience exercised by his owner, breeder and trainer Allen Drumheller..." Fort Churchill, a 1917-foaled son of \*Honeywood, was another stallion roster addition. While he was originally "acquired and used exclusively as a stock horse sire, the demand in the area being for range work horses of size and early speed. The Fort Churchills began to show such zip in ranch races and rodeo relays the big horse was tried on Thoroughbreds." Among his successful offspring was Prince Ernest, winner of the 1945 Longacres Mile.

Allen Drumheller only bred a total of 34 Thoroughbreds, all during the 19-year period between 1933 to 1952. All but one of them started. The lone unraced Campus Star went on to produce



1948 Washington Futurity winner Lucille Angel. An amazing 30 (88 percent from foals) returned to the winner's circle. By the time of his death in 1955, they had recorded 273 wins among 1,777 starts and earned \$583,234, for an incredible average of \$17,673 per runner. To put this in some sort of perspective, in 1955, the average earnings for a Washington-bred runner during that year was \$1,180 and the 25th highest earning Washington-bred on the all time leading list had won just under \$25,000!

Allen Drumheller was the very first Washington breeder to go over the half-million mark in earnings. The previously mentioned Lucille Angel was responsible for her breeder hitting that milestone. It happened on March 2, 1952, when she won the eighth race on the Agua Caliente card.

To show the influence that Allen Drumheller-bred horses had during Washington's early modern (post Longacres' opening) racing days, you only need look at the list of leading Washington-bred earners through the 1955 race season. Of the 25 horses listed, the top three - Hank H., Sirde and Georgie Drum were all bred by Allen Drumheller, as well as two others on the list!

Sirde, a 1941-foaled son of \*Mio d'Arezzo was the first Washington-bred to hit the \$100,000 mark. He hit that pinnacle after winning a Santa Anita overnight handicap as a five-year-old. Sirde, which is Edris spelled backwards, was named to honor Joe Gottstein's partner and friend William Edris. Among Sirde's stakes placements was a third in the 1945 Hollywood Gold Cup to Challenge Me, who he had previously defeated in the San Carlos Handicap.

Router Hank H., "a gangling, rip snorter from the Walla Walla wheat fields" was named in honor of the Drumhellers' longtime ranch foreman Henry Heinrich. The 1943 son of Black Forest became the state's second \$100,000 winner. Hank H. passed Sirde as the all time leading Washington-bred earner when he won a seven furlong dash at Hollywood Park on July 13, 1951. By coincidence, the following day Calumet Farm's great Citation won the Hollywood Gold Cup to become racing's first millionaire. By the time of his retirement, Hank H. was Washington's leading earner with 26 victories among his 69 starts and \$130,700 in money won.

A 1952 article in The Washington Horse states: "The wide swatch [Allen] Drumheller has cut as breeder of Washington-breds can be no better emphasized than by pointing out that he has bred one-twentieth of the year starters since 1935 and has accumulated one fifth of all monies won by local Thoroughbreds."

Allen bettered his father's record of six times as Washington's leading breeder by leading the list eight years, 1941 and 1943-1949. He finished second on the list in 1942 and 1951, was third in 1938 (with earnings of \$4,335), 1940 and 1950, and was fourth from 1952-1953. He had his best year in 1944 when his five winners, from seven runners, won 13 races and earned \$80,065.

A "Conditioner" Par Excellence

By the time 1952 rolled around, Allen had bred his final Thoroughbred, a colt named Spookaloo, who was sired by the last of the Drumheller stallions, Conformity, a 1946 son of His Grace.

"Drumheller has been the most successful breeder in the history of Washington turf annals. There is simply no telling to what heights he would have gone in the breeding field if he had devoted his full attention to that endeavor. As it turned out he was equally or more successful as a trainer and found it more advantageous to follow that pursuit."

Allen's name was first recorded in the Longacres record books as an owner, when his Triplane, a three-year-old son of Whichone who he had claimed for \$3,000 at Santa Anita the previous winter, won a Seabiscuit-less 1938 Longacres Mile. Seabiscuit had been assigned a record 142 pounds for the fourth running of the Mile, but trainer Tom Smith had elected to leave his champion charge in California. With fellow Washington Racing Hall of Fame inductee Ralph Neves aboard, Triplane came home by one length over Klister. William Boeing's race favorite Gleeman, who had previously defeated the mighty Charles S. Howard runner, finished less than a length back in fourth. It marked the first victory in the Mile for a Washington owner. Drumheller had had a runner in the 1936 Mile, but Plucky Jack could do no better than sixth.

Allen Drumheller was both the owner, and trainer of record when the Drumheller-bred Hank H. won the 1947 edition of the Mile. The Drumheller triple could have been achieved six years earlier if Allen hadn't sold his Washington Futurity winner Campus Fusser to Mrs. B. N. Hutchinson prior to the 1941 Mile. Campus Fusser beat entrymate Wee Toney by 3 1/2 lengths, equaling the track record of 1:35 3/5. After the Mile, the winning trainer proclaimed, "I guess I made a mistake. I knew the horse was good, but I really didn't think he was that good."

Campus Fusser and Hank H. were half-brothers, both offspring of the stellar producer Campus Queen, the only mare in race history to produce two separate winners of Joe Gottstein's spectacular. Hank H. is also one of only three runners to win both the Gottstein (Washington) Futurity and Longacres Mile and was the first horse to take back-to-back runnings of the Washington Championship (now Washington Cup Classic) Stakes.

Drumheller saddled his second consecutive Mile winner in 1942, when B. N. Hutchinson's California-bred Lavengro won the northwest racing jewel by two lengths. Five years earlier, Lavengro, then two, had been the best runner of his generation, even defeating 1938 Kentucky Derby winner Lawrin. The first dual winner of the Longacres Mile was Amble In. The son of Fighting Fox had won the 11th renewal in 1946 under the stewardship of Francis Keller, the only woman to train two Mile winners. Two years later, Amble In gave Allen Drumheller his fourth Longacres Mile winner as trainer when the five-year-old gelding took the race by a neck over his entrymate Minstrel Boy, who finished two lengths to the fore of fellow Drumheller trainee and 1947 Mile winner Hank H. (Drumheller's final entry of the four, the filly War Moment, who had served a role as a rabbit in the race, finished last in the field of 10). The last previous sweep by an entry in an American stakes race had been the 1947 Washington Park Futurity, when Calumet Farm runners Bewitch, Citation and Free America had finished in that order. Drumheller's record of four Mile winners has never been broken and it wasn't until 2002 when fellow Washington Hall of Fame trainer Jim Penney, a member of another Washington pioneer family, equaled his win record with Sabertooth.

Though the Drumheller runners frequently made the trip up and down the west coast, they were also successful in Chicago, as attested by Georgie Drum's victories in the Sheridan, Stars and Stripes and Emerson F. Woodward Memorial handicaps.

During Bay Meadows spring opening day of 1951, Drumheller and rider Johnny Longden won three races. It was noted that the "Play Drumheller' customers grow more ardent as the days passed." He was the leading trainer at the 1955 Hollywood Park meet, when he trained 32 winners. It was during that same meeting that he sent out five horses one day and came home with five winners. He also led the Longacres trainer standings in 1948.

From 1948 through 1955, Drumheller was listed among the top 30 trainers by earnings nationally. He was ranked seventh in 1953 when he had 84 wins and earnings of \$319,950. Even with his premature death in 1955, his runners had given him 83 wins and earnings of \$453,582 during the nine months they ran in his name, to again rank seventh in earnings, and sixth in number of wins.

When Allen Drumheller died of a heart attack on October 1, 1955 at the age of 61, he was considered one of the most prominent trainers in the country. It was noted that he actually preferred the title conditioner, rather than trainer. At the time of his death, Drumheller was serving as a director of the California division of the HBPA and was ranked fourth in the national training standings.

"Drumheller was one of the most respected men in his profession, his wise and temperate counsel invariably being asked."

His large public stable of 40 horses included the 1955 two-year-old sensation Bold Bazooka, who was owned by comedian/actor Lou Costello, and Hollywood Park three-year-old of the meeting Baby Alice. Among his other topnotch stakes horses were Spanish Cream, Special Touch, Manyunk and \*Guerrero. Earlier on the day of his demise, his son Allen, Jr. had saddled Mr. Sullivan to victory in the San Jose Handicap at Bay Meadows.

The late Clio Hogan, longtime editor of The Washington Horse, wrote in his editorial following Drumheller's death the following illuminating phrases.

"The news of the death of Allen Drumheller, Sr. shocked and saddened every person connected with racing in the State of Washington. Of course, this was a natural reaction to all those who knew him, for he was a loved and respected man. But it was more than that, it was more than the passing of a man - a person - it was the loss of a symbol, which spelled an ideal.

"The name Allen Drumheller, or Drum-heller father and son, was synonymous with success in the breeding field in Washington. Here was a man who bred but 34 horses over a span of 19 years, less than two horses per year, yet was the primary force in putting Washington breeding on the map.

"How did he do it? We have better bloodlines in the state today than Allen had at hand and yet there has been no Hank H., no Sirde, nor a Georgie Drum in the last decade. Why? The answer came to light when he turned his full efforts to 'conditioning' Thoroughbreds. He quickly proved he was a master, in all its meaning, in that field. He was such a master that any horse coming under his care, which had a spark of greatness, was made great.

"He may not have been years ahead in bloodlines, but he was 25 years ahead in conditioning and therein he leaves behind him a great lesson to fellow horsemen in the State of Washington or elsewhere."

Sources: Various Washington Horse articles including "The Second Guess," by Mike Donohoe, September 1946, "Hank H. and Alderman," by Leon Rasmussen, August 1951, George Drumheller obituary, January 1946, Allen Drumheller obituary, November 1955; From Pendleton to Calgary, by Doug and Cathy Jory; Who's Who in Thoroughbred Racing, 1947, by Ed Welch; Walla Walla County Web site; "On the Trail of Narcissa," by Betsy Miller; Longacres Mile Media Guide; American Racing Manuals, 1946-1955.

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<http://www.wsulibs.wsu.edu/Holland/MASC/finders/pc11.htm>

The original prints of the Drumheller collection were loaned to the Washington State University Library and copied during the winter of 1977-1978. They were arranged and processed by David Smestad in March, 1978.

Number of Containers: 1

Linear Feet of Shelf Space Occupied: .25

Approximate Number of Item:s 65

#### BIOGRAPHICAL STATEMENT

The year 1964 ended 105 years and three generations of sheep raising for the Drumhellers beginning with Jesse, who started the business in southeastern Washington in 1859. His son, Tom, Sr. (T.J.) took over in 1900 and in 1906 purchased the Lord Blythe cattle ranch near Ephrata and moved the sheep operation westward. Tom, Jr. took over the operation in 1948 and continued until 1964.

The collection consists of 4x5 copy prints plus seven copy negatives. The negatives prepared by the library to copy the original prints are filed in the visual file.

#### DESCRIPTION AND ARRANGEMENT

Folder Descriptions Items

1 Drumheller family members 17

2 Aspects of the Drumheller sheep business 41

3 Old cars 7

4 Hotel Field on Lake Chelan 1

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Last updated on Thursday December 18th, 2003.

<http://www.wsulibs.wsu.edu/Holland/MASC/finders/pc11.htm>

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An illustrated history of Walla Walla County, state of Washington, 1901, page 333

JESSE DRUMHELLER, a pioneer of 1852, was born in Tennessee, in 1835, and there the first eight years of his life were passed. He then went with his parents to Missouri, locating near Springfield, where he lived until 1851. For about a year afterwards he resided in Savannah, Missouri, but in 1852 he set out across the plains to Washington with ox-teams. He located in Cowlitz county, and turned his attention to the lumber industry, but soon moved to California, where for several years he followed mining. In 1855 he came to Oregon, joined the Oregon volunteers and was sent to Walla Walla. During his eleven months' service he participated in several severe engagements with the Indians.

After the cessation of hostilities Mr. Drumheller entered the service of the United States government, and assisted in building the government posts at The Dalles, Walla Walla, Colville and Simcoe. In 1859 he located on land two miles south of the city of Walla Walla, and embarked in stock raising and general farming, a business which has engaged his energies ever since until quite recently. Being an active, enterprising and progressive man, of the wealthiest and most influential farmers of the county. He is the owner of nearly six thousand acres of land, and in 1899 his crop of wheat amounted to about sixty-five thousand bushels. Mr. Drumheller's fraternal connection is with the Masonic order, Blue Mountain Lodge, No. 13, and the Royal Arch. He was married in Walla Walla, October 8, 1863, to Martha A. Maxson, a pioneer of 1859. They have six living children: Samuel, a farmer; Oscar and Thomas J., hardware merchants; George, a farmer and stockman; Althea and Roscoe M.

Mr. Drumheller has taken up his residence in Walla Walla city, where we now find him living a retired life and enjoying the fruits of his well-deserved success.

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<http://www.edheritage.org/1910/pridocs/norwegian.htm>

<6> The Drumhellers are an old Walla Walla family. Jesse, the founder, arrived with the Ezra Meeker train in 1852, when he was seventeen. His son Oscar farmed until 1900, and then leased his acreage, as Bergsagel suggests. In the same year, Oscar, his brother Jesse, and his father founded the Drumheller Company in Walla Walla, which retailed hardware and agricultural

supplies. Washington Northwest Frontier: Family and Personal History, 3:314 (New York, 1957).

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Oregon Historical Records Index

Case# 024-09

Name Drumheller, Jesse

Date 1907

Record Type Estate

County Umatilla

Source County

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1860 Census WA Walla Walla Dry Creek Pct Pg 279A

Line 28

37 37 Joseph Draper 24 M Carpenter IN

Jesse Drumheller 25 M Teamster TN

Charles Savers 26 M Teamster OH

George Gripbey 25 M Teamster IN

Solomon Holman 37 M Teamster AL

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1870 Census Wash Terr Walla Walla Pg 263A

Line 20

Drumheller Jesse 34 MW Farmer TN

-----, Martha 25 FW Keeping House WI

-----, Sam 5 MW W.T.

-----, Oscar 3 MW W.T.

-----, Albert 1 MW W.T.

Bourk James 28 MW Farm Hand IN

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1900 Census WA Walla Walla Ritz ED 84 P3B

Drumheller, Jesse, head, MW, Feb 1835, 65, m36, TN, VA, TN

Martha, wife, FW, Mar 1845, 55, m36, 7, 6, WI, NY, NY

Althea, daughter, FW, Oct 1876, 23S, WA, TN, WI

Roscoe, son, MW, Feb 1882, 18S, WA, TN, WI, At School

Thomas J., son, MW, Jan 1873, 27S, WA, TN, WI, Lawyer

Wood, Edith, niece, FW, Aug 1882, 17S, WA, TN, WI

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<http://www.wags-web.org/8/d.htm>

Drumheller 10 55 Pictorial Past Scrapbooks, Oversize Bookshelves

DRUMHELLER 16 099 Pictorial Past Scrapbooks, Oversize Bookshelves

Drumheller,

54 History of Garfield County (WA Books)

DRUMHELLER

504 Pioneers of NCW by Eva Anderson (WA Books)

DRUMHELLER

045 The Sagehens Homesites Stories, Grant Co., WA Bookshelves

Drumheller, Albert

14 Walla Walla Remembers; WA Shelves

Drumheller, Altha

14 Walla Walla Remembers; WA Shelves

Drumheller, Dan

86 First 20 Years - Turn of the Century Life-Like ti was along the Border

Drumheller, Daniel

005, 010 Reflections of the Kettle River, WA Bookshelves

Drumheller, George

14 Walla Walla Remembers; WA Shelves

Drumheller, Jesse

14, 15 Walla Walla Remembers; WA Shelves

Drumheller, Martha

14 Walla Walla Remembers; WA Shelves

Drumheller, Oscar

14 Walla Walla Remembers; WA Shelves

Drumheller, Roscoe

14 Walla Walla Remembers; WA Shelves

Drumheller, Sam

14 Walla Walla Remembers; WA Shelves

Drumheller, Tom

14 Walla Walla Remembers; WA Shelves

DRUMHELLER, TOM 06 051 Pictorial Past Scrapbooks, Oversize Bookshelves

DRUMHELLER, TOM 04 094 Pictorial Past Scrapbooks, Oversize Shelves

DRUMHELLER, TOM J. JR. 06 051 Pictorial Past Scrapbooks, Oversize Bookshelves