



Kent Chronicles: 1881-1890

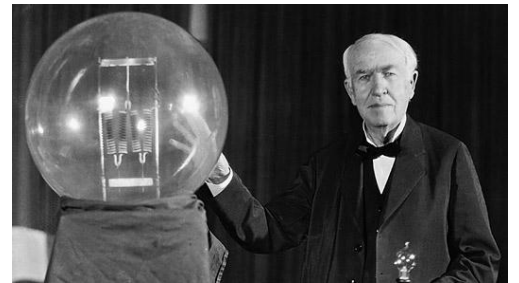
❖ **1881-** This U. S. president was the second to be assassinated:

❖ **1886-** Now the most popular soft drink in the world, this beverage was invented as a medicine by John Pemberton in Atlanta, Georgia:

❖ **1887-** This fictional British detective first appeared in Arthur Conan Doyle's *A Study in Scarlet*:

❖ **1889-** This Dutch painter completed his magnum opus, *The Starry Night*:

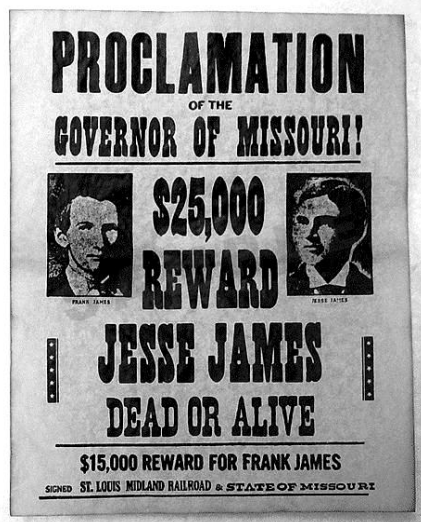
❖ This American scientist is commonly credited with the invention of the phonograph, the light bulb and the telephone:



The 1880s were part of a period known as “The Gilded Age” in the United States and the Victorian Era in much of the Western world. This was a decade marked by many political, social, artistic and technological developments that still have great influence on the world today.

The Gilded Age was a time of many contradictions, such as the widespread cultivation of an outward appearance of dignity and restraint for the upper classes, with the prevalence of practices such as prostitution and child labor happening beneath the polished surface. A plethora of social movements arose from attempts to improve the prevailing harsh living conditions for many under a rigid class system. For those living in the western territories of the United States, though, class distinctions and social conventions were not as strict.

The United States’ territory had been expanding rapidly with the belief in “Manifest Destiny”; by the 1880s, nearly a million people had moved west, travelling by wagon, steamboat and railroad. The people in the new territories were virtually cut off from the more “civilized” east, with correspondence and goods taking weeks or even months to travel between, giving rise to the “lawless” West. Washington became a state in 1889.



1887

Kent, White River and McCalister
Washington Territory

There were a total of 698 people.

Of that number, 489 were born in the U.S. and 209 were born in foreign countries as follows:

15 U.S. (no state)	1 Arkansas
176 Washington Territory	1 Florida
34 California	1 Idaho
33 New York	1 Maryland
28 Penn.	1 North Carolina
24 Missouri	1 South Carolina
19 Illinois	
18 Ohio	Foreign Born:
16 Iowa	38 Ireland
16 Maine	33 Canada
14 Indiana	29 England
13 Michigan	23 Germany
13 Wisconsin	19 Sweden
12 Oregon	18 Scotland
9 Nebraska	18 Denmark
6 Virginia	6 Finland
5 Kansas	6 Wales
5 Tennessee	5 Austria
4 Minnesota	4 Norway
3 Georgia	2 Bohemia
3 Texas	2 Belgium
2 Kentucky	2 Italy
2 Mass.	2 Poland
2 Mississippi	1 France
2 Montana	1 Prussia
2 Nevada	
2 New Jersey	
2 Rhode Island	
2 Vermont	
1 Alabama	

Of the 698 people... 288 Men
153 Women
144 Boys
113 Girls
698

These are some of the oldest photos in the Museum's collection:



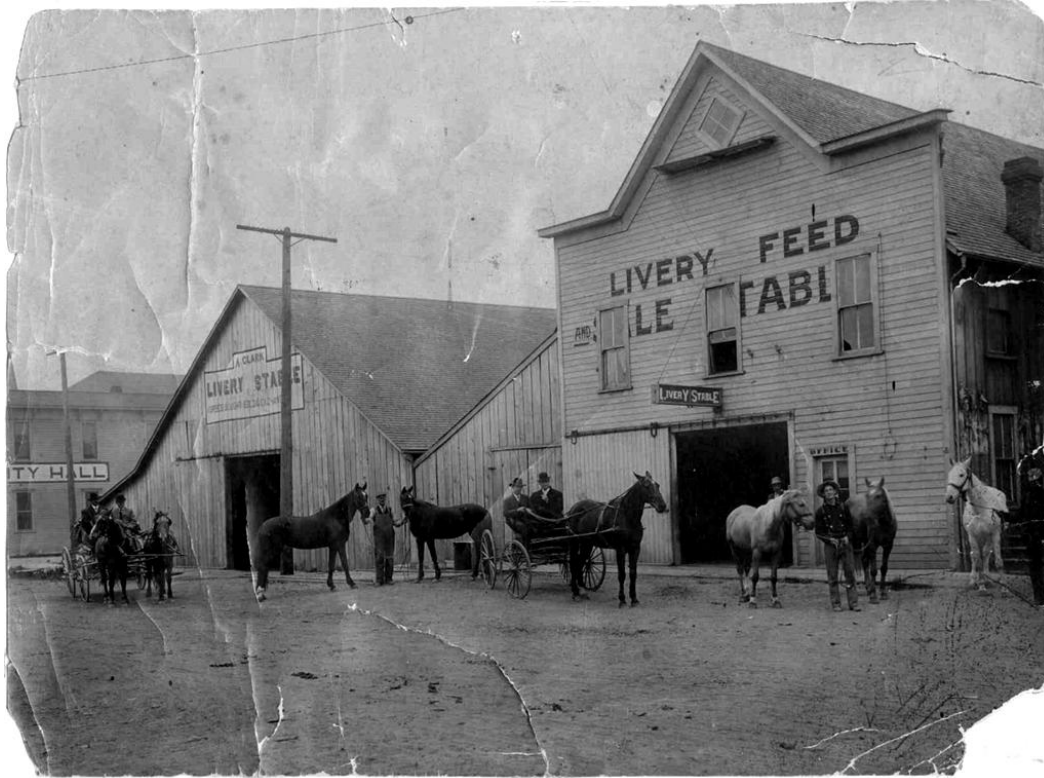
Titusville School, 1882

This was the first school in the area, predating all Kent schools. Located on the northeast corner of Central Avenue and 259th Street, the school taught all 12 grades. Notice the woods behind the building— American Indians still lived in the area at this time.



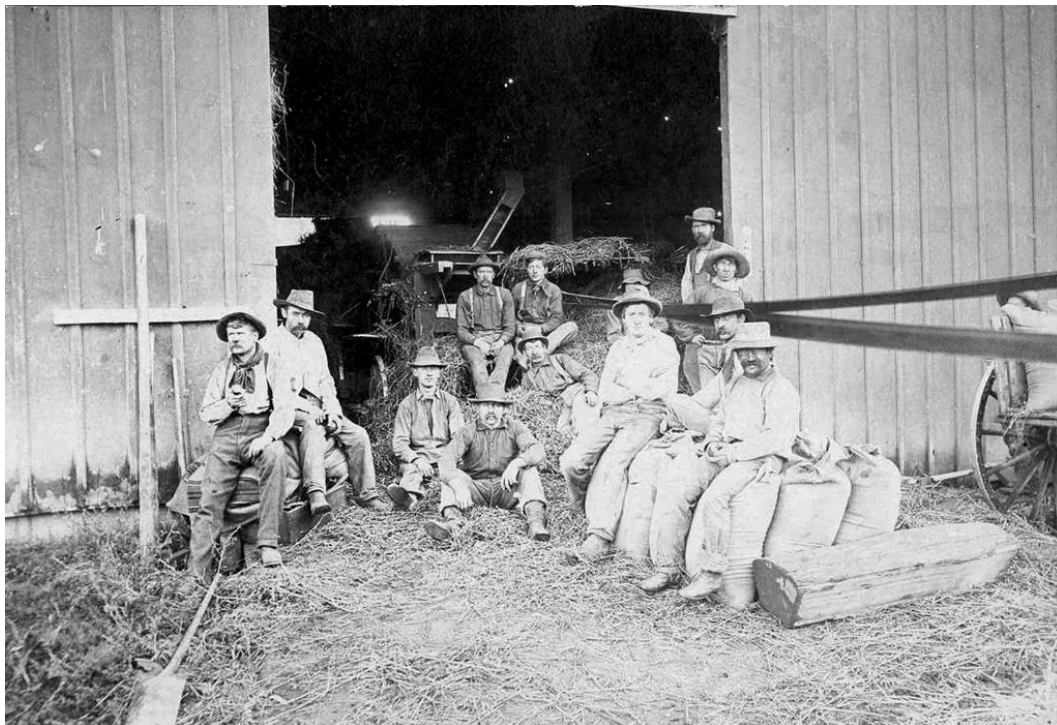
View of Kent, 1885

This photo pictures the Titusville Hop Farm, owned by James Titus. The new railroad tracks run through the middle of the photo, and beyond them is Front Street, known today as 1st Avenue. The building in the extreme left of the photo is the Kent Methodist Church.



Clark's Livery and Feed, late 1880s

The livery stable and feed store was located on Gowe Street between 1st and 2nd Avenues, where Union Bank is today. In the left side of the photo, behind the stable you can see Kent's first City Hall.



David Neely's Threshing Crew, 1890

Mr. Neely is on the far left of the photo. The Neelys were an important family in early Kent and the White River Valley; you might recognize their name from the Neely Mansion.