

Footprints Through the Sands of Time

135 Years Before Seabrook

Byline: Kelly Calhoun, Executive Director/Curator of Museum of the North Beach and
Researcher Faith Tomizek

Johnson Lamont Bezzo, born in 1853 in Ontario, Canada, along with his wife Josephine Louraine, born in 1851 in Michigan, and their 10-year-old son Roy Garfield, born in 1880 in Michigan, homesteaded 96 acres just south of present-day Pacific Beach, some of which is now the new town of Seabrook.

The following are excerpts from Johnson Bezzo's diary from 1890 published in the North Coast News in 1990; a century later:

Saturday, May 10

Ran out the lines of my claim today. We ran the west, north and south lines. Went all day without anything to eat until 6 o'clock.

Monday, June 16

Commenced to cut the logs for the house. Had to quit on account of rain.

Tuesday, June 24

Finished falling the cedar. It was 8 feet through. Also laid foundation of the house. It has not rained today but looks as though it would tonight. We saw bear and elk tracks in the trail today.

Wednesday, June 25

Rained a little in the morning. We raised the house up as far as the top joist. Mr. Bellamy and Camel helped us raise it. The big spruce tree fell down last night, and I am mighty glad of it.

Thursday, June 26

Rain in forenoon. I went over to the house and got out the top joist and some of the rafters. Evening fine and bright.

Tuesday, July 1

We worked on the house today. I went down to the lower shanty this morning and got my window. The girls washed today. The weather looks misty this evening. Saw plenty of elk tracks today.

Friday, July 4

Went down to the point (Damon Point) to a picnic and had a fine time. The settlers turned out in fine shape. Day rainy in the morning and cleared off by 9 o'clock and very fine after that. Had beef donated by William Chatman.

Friday, July 18

Moved in our house today. The day has been very fine and warm.

Monday, August 4

The Indians have caught a whale and this morning we started out to see it, but found it was up to the Quinault Reservation.

Monday, September 15

Ran lines up the beach today. Had a very high tide which bothered us a good deal. Also, a strong wind from the NW.

Wednesday, September 17

I went up to Bellamy's this morning and had a talk with him about changing claims and finally concluded to make the change. I saw some elk tonight but didn't have a gun.

The Bezzos built another house on the new claim, but after 5 years on the beach they refiled their homestead as a timber claim and sold it to Powell and Ross Logging Co. In 1898, after selling the homestead, the Bezzos went cross-country by train to Florida to look at some land there. The land was under water at high tide, so the family headed back to Washington. After living in Montesano for a time, they moved to Hoquiam on Eklund Avenue. Johnson took odd jobs at the mills and Josie worked as a cook for the Northwest Sawmill Boarding House on H Street. According to the 1910 census, Johnson Bezzo was a laborer working at a sawmill. Josephine was the landlady of a boarding house.

Additional Details About the Family

April 10, 1904, Roy Bezzo was saved from drowning by George Brown who dragged the unconscious victim to shore.

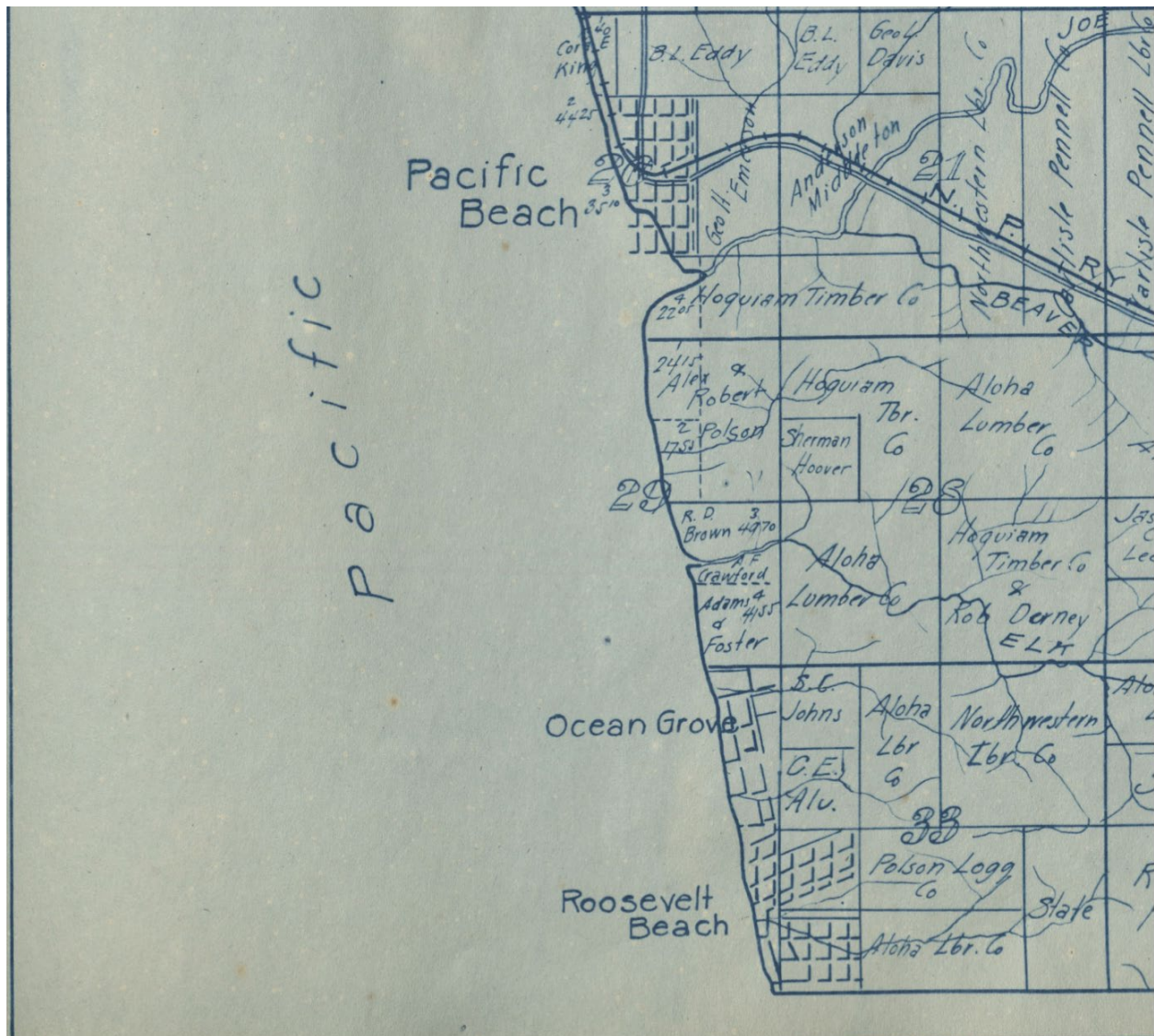
October 3, 1903, Mr. and Mrs. Bezzo left on the Canadian Pacific to visit their old homes in Michigan and will visit the St. Louis World's Fair.

April 9, 1906, Johnson Bezzo had a bad fall, injuring his pelvis while working in the warehouse of Powell & Ross (the same company who bought their land).

Johnson Bezzo died in 1914, Josephine passed away in 1912. They were buried at Flower Creek Cemetery in Claybanks Township, Michigan.

Their son Roy married Mamie Ellen Allen on July 1, 1914, in Hoquiam. They had two sons, Loren and Alden, aged four and two in 1920. They lived on Chenault Avenue. Roy worked in one of the many mills. Roy passed away on September 13, 1945. Mamie died on November 30, 1972. Both are buried at Sunset Memorial in Hoquiam.

(seven photos ahead)



Early 1900's plat map showing the area owned by the Bezzo family.

The wife of homesteader Sherwin Hoover, whose property is shown on the map, was the school teacher at Elk Creek School located at what is now Seabrook.



Johnson L. Bezzo



Johnson and Josephine Bezzo Headstone, Michigan



Roy Bezzo's Headstone at Sunset Memorial, Hoquiam

SERIAL NUMBER		1. NAME (Print)				ORDER NUMBER	
589		LOREN LAMONT BEZZO				2147	
		(First)		(Middle)		(Last)	
2. ADDRESS (Print)							
525-HIGH ST. BELLINGHAM WHATCOM WASH							
(Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) (County) (State)							
3. TELEPHONE		4. AGE IN YEARS		5. PLACE OF BIRTH		6. COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP	
2463		25		HOQUIAM		U. S. A.	
				(Town or county)			
DATE OF BIRTH							
BELLINGHAM		MAR. 24		1915		WASH	
(Exchange)		(Number)		(Mo.) (Day) (Yr.)		(State or country)	
7. NAME OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS						8. RELATIONSHIP OF THAT PERSON	
MRS. MIAMIE ELLEN BEZZO						MOTHER	
(Mr., Mrs., Miss) (First) (Middle) (Last)							
9. ADDRESS OF THAT PERSON							
104-EKLUND AVE HOQUIAM GRAYSHARBOR WASH							
(Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) (County) (State)							
10. EMPLOYER'S NAME							
WESTERN WASHINGTON COLLEGE STUDENT							
11. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS							
BELLINGHAM WHATCOM WASH							
(Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) (County) (State)							
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.							
REGISTRATION CARD							
D. S. S. Form 1							
(over)				16-17105			
				Loren Bezzo			
				(Registrant's signature)			

Loren Bezzo WWII Draft Card

SERIAL NUMBER 2651	1. NAME (Print) Robert Alden Bezzo <small>(First) (Middle) (Last)</small>		ORDER NUMBER 784
2. ADDRESS (Print) 1711 Opal St Pullman Whitman Wash. <small>(Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) (County) (State)</small>			
3. TELEPHONE 7965 <small>(Exchange) (Number)</small>	4. AGE IN YEARS 22 <small>DATE OF BIRTH (Mo.) (Day) (Yr.) Nov. 2 1917</small>	5. PLACE OF BIRTH Hogviam Wash. <small>(Town or county) (State or country)</small>	6. COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP U. S.
7. NAME OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS Mr. Roy G. Bezzo <small>(Mr., Mrs., Miss) (First) (Middle) (Last)</small>			8. RELATIONSHIP OF THAT PERSON Father.
9. ADDRESS OF THAT PERSON 104 Eklund Ave. Hogviam - Gr. Harbor Wash. <small>(Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) (County) (State)</small>			
10. EMPLOYER'S NAME W.S.C. Student.			
11. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS W.S.C. Pullman Whitman Wash. <small>(Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) (County) (State)</small>			
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.			
REGISTRATION CARD D. S. S. Form 1 <small>(over)</small>		16-17105 Robert A. Bezzo <small>(Registrant's signature)</small>	

Alden Bezzo WWII Draft Card



Aerial View of the Former Bezzo Homestead and Today's Seabrook, August 27, 1949