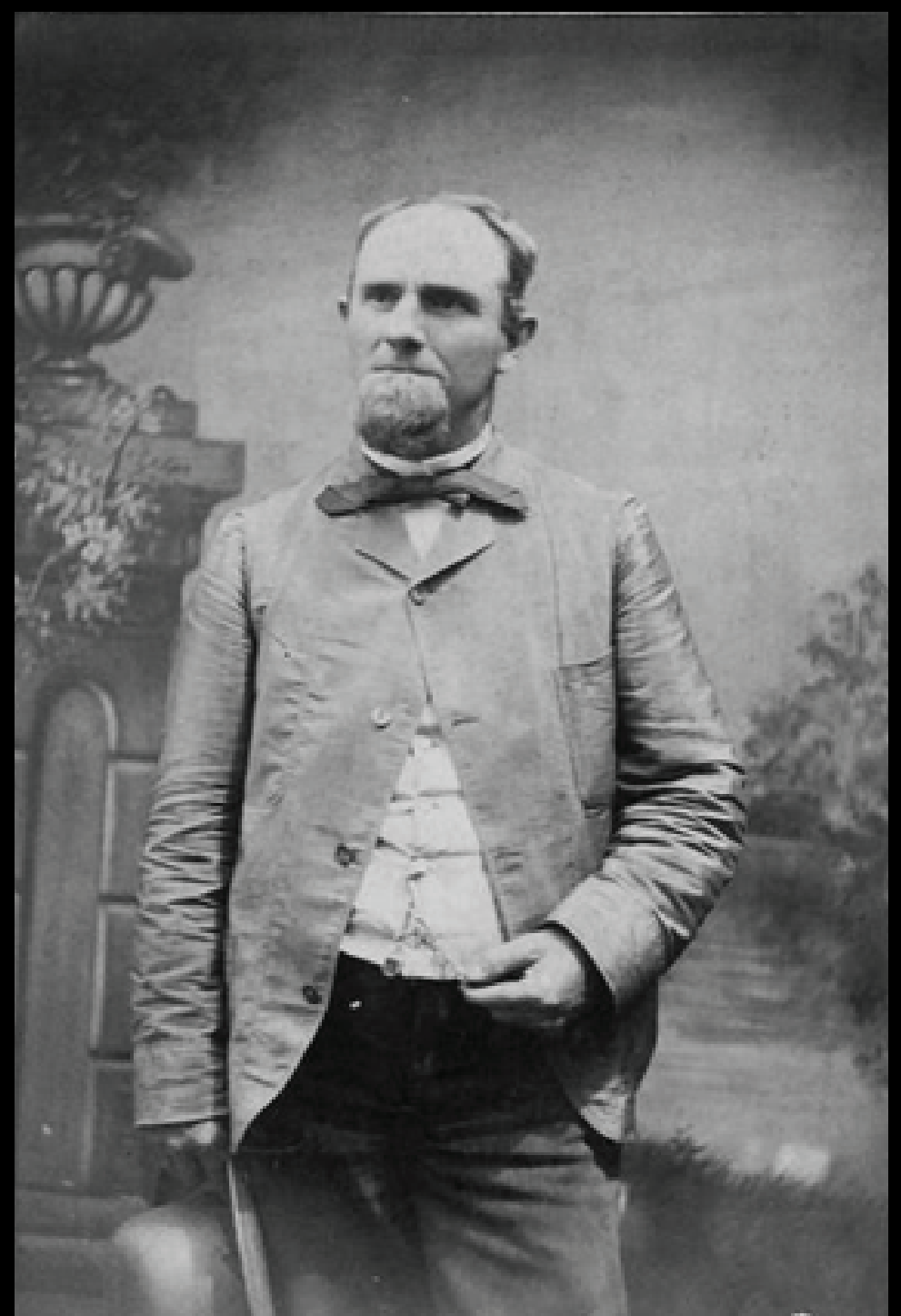


# Victor Falls

As the story goes: Because of his experience in the lumber business, Emanuel Johns, the uncle of Sumner's Amy Johns Ryan, was asked by a friend to come to Washington to oversee a shingle mill at the top of the water fall on Elhi Hill. Johns moved his family to Puyallup and went to work for Hastie of the Hastie Lumber Company. When Emanuel found out the lovely waterfall on Elhi Hill had not been named, he suggested calling it Victor Falls, after his youngest child. The name endured, but Victor didn't. He died April 27, 1901 at the age of 15 years. The former shingle mill at the top of the falls had two identical buildings that were used to house the mill workers. Once the mill closed down, the land ownership changed hands, and the buildings were neglected and fell into disrepair. In 1945, Cecil and Inez (Shinn) Frazier left their home in San Francisco to start a new home on this land that was owned by Inez's family. The couple had their work cut out for them. Cecil removed lumber from one of the old buildings to plug and patch the gaps on the structure they chose for their home. The Frazier family, with children Jack, Don, and Reka, enjoyed an idyllic setting, waking up and going to sleep in their former shingle mill bunkhouse each night to the sound of Victor Falls. This little known waterfall became the highlight for all the guests who came to visit. The property changed ownership a few times between its sale by the Fraziers in 1995 and the time the City of Bonney Lake purchased it from Ken Love in 2013 in order to make the falls available to public viewing as part of a City park.



The Frazier house was formerly one of two buildings used as a bunkhouse for workers at the shingle mill at the top of Victor Falls.  
(Courtesy Don Frazier)



Emanuel Johns, shortly before his arrival at Victor Falls in 1889.  
(Courtesy Ruth Rogers)



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