

The city of Ashford, Pierce Co. Washington has also been of interest to me.. Is it named after an ancestor of mine? I looked up the town in Wikipedia and the city of Ashford was named for W.A. Ashford, who settled there in 1888.

I then looked on Ancestry.com for a W. A. Ashford living in Washington and found that in 1900 a W. A. Ashford was living in Silver Lake, Pierce Co., Washington. He was living with his wife Cora J. and four children; Zina B. 12, Fred L. 11, Emma G. 10 and Mildred M. 2. He was born in England as were his parents. He immigrated to the U. S. in 1871 and was married in 1886. His wife was listed as age 35, born in Michigan. All the children were born in Washington.

My great grandfather William Ashford, whose real name was Haemer, was born in Kentucky. He moved west as a single man, showing up for the first time in the 1880 Oregon census. He was 29 years old, single, and his occupation was listed as a carpenter. His mother and father were both born in Virginia. As far as I have been able to determine, no other member of his family settled in the west. In 1883 William Haemer married Amanda Jane Sullivan, daughter of Thomas Jefferson Sullivan and Sarah Catherine Hooker, in Polk County, Oregon. They lived in Polk County until about 1915, when they moved to Castle Rock, Washington, where he lived until his death in 1925.

Based on this evidence I don't see how I am related to the founder of Ashford, Pierce Co., Washington.