



#### **Barn Number 54**

Historic Name: Max Prevedell Barn  
Address of Barn: 31248 Prevedell Road,  
Sedro-Woolley  
Built Date: c. 1909  
Built By: Henry Patrick Mullen and  
Henry Mullen  
Barn Style: Dutch  
Features: Hay Hood

History: The Mullens and Prevedells were early pioneer families in the Lyman area. Max and Marie Prevedell had emigrated from Tyrol, Austria. After being flooded out twice on a farm in the Day Creek area, Max purchased the 80 acre piece of property on the hill above Lyman. He paid \$525 cash for a small house, a very small barn and 80 acres of uncleared timberland. Henry Mullen met Max and Marie's daughter, Virginia, at a dance in Lyman and they married in 1909. The Mullens built this barn for their in-laws in the early 1900's. Timbers used in construction were taken from the Prevedell's property. Max and Marie's great grandsons manage the farm that now includes 140 acres.

Max Prevedell was born in 1861 and had left his home in Austria before he reached age 18 so he could avoid spending time in the Army. He worked in Russia, Germany and France before immigrating to Bessemer, Michigan in 1886 where he worked in the coal mines. A year after he arrived, he wrote to his parents and asked them to find a nice Austrian girl for him to marry. He had been away from home for a long time and didn't know which girls were still eligible. He asked for a girl who would be a good worker. Marie arrived in Michigan - accompanied by three brothers - and Max and Marie were married in 1887. They moved from Michigan 5 years later to get away from the dangerous mine work and bought a farm in the Day Creek area of Skagit Valley. They did not live there long until they found themselves in the middle of a 'hundred year flood'. When the water rose to the level of their house, Max built a raft of boards and the whole family got on and they paddled toward a large fir tree. There they spent the night - 4 young children and 2 adults - in a hastily put together tree-house. Early the next morning Indians came in canoes from Lyman, across the Skagit River, to rescue the family. When flooding happened again the next year, and the family had to spend the night in the upper floor of their barn, they found a farm on higher ground! They bought an 80 acre piece of property on the hill above Lyman, which was being auctioned off for default on mortgage payments. For \$525 cash, Max purchased a small house, a very small barn and 80 acres of mostly uncleared timberland. It has remained in the Prevedell-Mullen family ever since.