

Lane County HISTORIAN



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LANE COUNTY PIONEER ~ HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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COVER PICTURE: The Prof. George H. Collier house, S.E. corner E. 13th and University Streets. Later home of University of Oregon presidents and presently used as U. of O. faculty club. Photo by MSM, 1958.

LANE COUNTY PIONEER — HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1958

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(Oregon Historical Society)



Collier home as it appeared when completed in 1886. The stable on the 9½ acre tract can be seen in the left background — trees of pioneer cemetery behind latter.

Photo courtesy Dorothy Collier.

The Collier House

(Faculty Club, U. of O.)

Still stately and gracious, although nearly three quarters of a century has elapsed since its construction, is the former home of Professor George H. Collier, later the home of the University of Oregon's presidents, and now the Faculty Club at the U. of O. It stands on the S.W. corner of 13th Avenue and University Street and is surrounded on all sides by numerous new buildings which comprise the modern university campus at Eugene.

The residence was built by Dr. George H. Collier, L.L.D., who was an early day faculty member of the University, from 1879 to 1895, being professor of physics and chemistry. He was born in Mina, Chautauqua County, New York, on March 5, 1827, was educated at Westfield Academy in Chataqua, New York, and at the State Normal School at Albany, New York, the second normal school in the United States, as a member of the 5th class in 1847. In 1853 he graduated

from Oberlin and in the same year married Miss Sybel Sumner Smith of Augusta, Maine at Oberlin, Ohio. Seven children were born to this couple. In 1856 he received his A.M. from Oberlin and taught mathematics at Wheaton College, Wheaton, Illinois.

In 1866 he was professor of natural sciences at Pacific University at Forest Grove, Oregon. In 1872 he was elected to the legislature by the Republican party and was appointed chairman of the committee on education. With some assistance from others he provided ways and means for a larger fund for educational purposes and established the office of Superintendent of Public Instruction. In 1876 he was called to Willamette University and in 1879 he came to the University of Oregon as professor of physics and chemistry. In addition to the latter subjects he was also greatly interested in astronomy and was instrumental in having an observatory placed on Skinners Butte.

On October 1, 1884, Professor Collier bought 9½ acres south of the "old campus", from H. R. Kincaid. On this site, in 1885, construction was begun on a fine residence for the family and in May, 1886 the lovely home was finished. The plan for the latter was typical of its day, a carpenter's handbook probably having been used. This permitted deviations in style and innovations to suit the individual needs and tastes of the builders.

The two story house, overall late Victorian, was of all wood construction and was paced upon a heavy stone foundation with masonry walls. A furnace in which 24" oak wood was burned, heated the house, the latter among the first in the area to be centrally heated.

Originally the downstairs comprised a gracious center hallway running from the front door to the rear of the house. On the left was a parlor, later called a living room, which was divided from the dining room by large sliding doors. Off the dining room was the kitchen with old fashioned pantry and the back porch. On the right was another large parlor, a bedroom and the handsome winding stairway leading to the upper floor. Large bay windows graced the front of the house and glass doors led into the garden from the dining area. Other windows about 6 feet high, plaster walls approximately 10½ feet high and maple floors were additional features of Dr. Collier's home.

Upstairs there were five bedrooms opening off a long central hall at the end of which was the bathroom. A scuttle from the hall led to the attic. Above this was the roof, the central portion of which was surrounded by a cast iron somewhat fancy railing.

Both Dr. and Mrs. Collier were

greatly interested in the flora and fauna of the surrounding area. Mrs. Collier was a trained botanist, so the trees, plants and shrubs were selected not only with loving care but with intelligent discretion. Through the years the setting has become increasingly beautiful and lends great charm to the old home. On this property are to be found False Cypress, Knob Cone Pine, Western White Pine, Sitka Spruce, Big Leaf Maple, White Magnolia and Oregon Myrtle of the tree family. Among the shrubs are: English Laurel, English yew, lilac, box wood, English holly, Japanese maple and skimmia, spirea and glossy abelia. In Mrs. Collier's garden were many lovely flowers as well, including a favorite bed of blue polemoniums. Originally there was a large pasture and barn to the rear where the old grey horse "Prince" was stabled.

In March, 1896, the University bought the Collier house for a woman's dormitory. Instead the upper floor became the home of the University's third president, Dr. Frank Stong and his family, and downstairs housed the college library as well. The latter arrangement prevailed for three years until the library was moved to Friendly Hall. During this time, Miss Camellia Leach was librarian and the library consisted of approximately 7,000 volumes.

In 1902 President Prince L. Campbell moved into the house with his young daughter Lucia and his late wife's mother, Mrs. Zieber. In 1908, Mrs. Susan Campbell Church, a cousin, became the wife of President Campbell, and her son Walter Church, moved with her to the President's home. During the latter's time of residence, (1908-1917) there were some additions and changes made, although Presi-

dent Campbell was very reluctant to spend money on the house for he felt there were more pressing needs in other parts of the university.

From 1902 to 1925, during the Campbell occupancy of the president's home, it was the very center of University life and activity, faculty and student body being considered one big happy family by Dr. and Mrs. Campbell. Many "first" events were presided over by gracious Susan Campbell, among which was the Y.W.C.A. sponsored senior breakfast in 1915.

President Campbell died in 1925. In 1926 the president's home was completely refinished for the first time for Arnold Bennett Hall, the new president and his family. In 1938 Dr. Donald Erb became President of the University and lived with his family in the old house until 1941. About this time the George McMorran home on Fairmount Blvd. had been acquired by the University for the President's home. The Erbs took up residence here until the untimely death of Dr. Erb. In the fall of 1941, the President's home on the campus became the Faculty Club.

At the latter, the old Collier

Mansion again underwent some renovations. One parlor became a cheerful library and reading room. The other one a sitting room from which the attractive dining area could be seen, the large sliding doors having been removed. The southeast downstairs bedroom became a recreation and billiard area. The upstairs bedrooms now are rented to bachelor members of the faculty. Luncheon and morning and afternoon coffee are available every day and many special dinners and committee meetings are held here in the lovely old fashioned rooms.

The Collier house though aging still retains much of the graceful beauty and charm of former years. Mellowed and stately, surrounded by the mature growth of lovely trees, shrubs and plants it is still very much warp and woof of campus "life" as it was from the beginning. This historic house and property is also very dear to the hearts of many Lane County citizens, also to present and former members of the University faculty and to a large number of Oregon alumni, some of whom are also members of the distinguished Collier family.

Washington Adams, Pioneer on the Mohawk

The Washington Adams family was among those rugged pioneers to settle in the Mohawk Valley. The Mohawk is a tributary of the McKenzie River and empties into the latter just below Hayden bridge—5 miles northeast of Eugene. Washington (or "Wash" as he was always called) and his wife Eliza Cole Adams left for Oregon in 1875 after having lived in Kansas and Iowa for several years. They with their 5 children: Olive, Amy, Ellie

May, Sherman and Charley, traveled by way of the Union Pacific R.R. "emigrant" train to San Francisco, thence by boat to Portland and by train to Eugene City where they purchased a team and proceeded to their new home on the Mohawk, 21 miles northeast of Eugene. Wash had bought about 211 acres of land from the Oregon and California R.R. that had been given a grant of land including every other section in a strip 20 miles wide

on each side of the proposed R.R. to assist in its construction. As the latter was required to sell the land to actual settlers for \$2.50 per acre, it may be presumed that price was paid by the Adamses.

The year of coming to Oregon is verified by the date of an old letter of December 15, 1875, addressed to Mohawk, Oregon (the only post office at the time), wherein the mother criticised her son for moving to far off Oregon. The country was a wilderness in those days. It was said that the settlers were attracted by the big fir, hemlock and cedars that were available for the small local saw-mills and for driving down the rivers to larger mills or transportation center where were the ready markets. Most of the Mohawk-log drives were destined for Coburg via

the Mohawk and the McKenzie Rivers. Another strong factor for coming west was the offer of free land and later the chance to purchase R.R. land at bargain prices.

Tradition has it that there was a log school in operation during the Civil War above the present site of Marcola between McGowen and Parsons Creeks. An old Indian trail or Territorial road from and thru the Mohawk valley connected with the larger communities of Eugene, Springfield and Coburg. It was not until 1887 that a county road was located and built to wagonroad standards of that day.

About the time of the arrival of the Adams family, a second "White school" was built by public subscription on government land about half way between present Marcola

The Washington Adams family, taken in front of their home about 1906. Left to rt.: Sherman Adams, Bert Butler, Laura Adams (wife of Sherman), Charlie Adams, Amy Adams Polley, Walter Polley (son of Amy), Mrs. Flo Walters Reymers, Bill Reymers, Artie Reyers, Washington Adams, Eliza Cole Adams (Mrs. Washington). The Washington Adams house, near Mabel, Lane County, Oregon, 21 miles N.E. of Eugene in the Mohawk Valley. Built in 1886 around the fireplace of their original pioneer cabin of 1876.

Photo courtesy Louis E. Polley.



and Wendling townsites. Washington Adams soon had a log cabin ready on his new place that was to serve as a family home for 10 years. He cut the stone for the fireplace in a quarry on the George Yarnell place. The stone could be hewn out with an axe but soon became harder after exposure to the air. In time temporary quarters were built on the flat next to the barn, the original log cabin was torn down, except for the fireplace and preparations were made to erect a new house around the old "1876" marked fireplace. Timbers were hand hewn and much work was "turned" on a home made, wooden, hand-operated lathe. In 1885 the new 2½ story house was occupied. Great must have been the house raising bee when the whole valley turned out to help put up the frame of the big house. The doors and windows were hand made and finished on the job, as was the cedar, panelled wainscoting that was used throughout the house. The living quarters were on the first floor along with three bedrooms. The second floor contained two bedrooms and a large room in which trials were held — for Wash Adams was the Justice of the Peace of the Mohawk Valley for many years. The women of the valley used the room for many a quilting party. Adams was also an expert cabinet maker and made all of the coffins for the neighborhood. It is said that once when he was called upon he exclaimed "couldn't he have waited a few more days? I want to finish grubbing these stumps". Adams was also prominent in the community as a school board member and a grange leader.

Up until 1870 the nearest post office was in Eugene City 15 miles away. "Uncle" Robert McGowen used to pick up the mail for the set-

tlers on the Mohawk on occasional trips to the city — the county seat. Then the latter would stop for their mail at the McGowen place. In 1870 the "Mohawk" post office was established and later moved to the hamlet of Donna where the pioneers could get regular mail service (probably once a week). On January 20, 1876 the Isabelle P. O. was started at the present site of Marcola. "Isabelle" was officially changed to "Marcola" when the railroad was built — to Wendling, in 1901. The new name was a combination of Mary Cole, the wife of the Postmaster. In 1881 the Mabel P.O. was established with Alfred Drury continuing as postmaster for 20 years. The latter P.O. at Drury's was 4 or 5 miles above present Mabel to which site it was later moved when the West Coast Lumber Co. started to operate a logging and sawmill camp at that place.

Washington Adams lived on the frontier when cooperation with neighbors was the rule as well as an absolute necessity for survival. In 1880 and '81 he helped Andrew Workman build the first water power sawmill at Mabel, on Shot Gun Creek a tributary to the Mohawk. It is presumed that Workman and the other neighbors from the mill in turn helped to construct the big house a few years later. One of his old neighbors, Charles Evans, reminisced that there were no pay days in the old days. He tells of loggers who worked for 3 years along the Mohawk skidding logs with oxen and horses to the rollways on the river. But for the lack of freshets for two successive years they were unable to "drive" their logs to the mills. Then came the great flood of 1890 and washed all of the logs out to sea, for no boom across the river could hold! Bankruptcy overtook the operators and wages

of 2 or 3 years of hardest labor in all kinds of weather were out of the question. Pay day in the old days were after the job was finished in mill or logging camp.

The children of Washington and Eliza (who were all born in the midwest before the great adventure to the Lane County, Oregon frontier had started) for the most part married and became substantial citizens of the community. The only exception was the one who remained an "old bachlor" and lived in the old house until his death in 1951.

The paradox to this story is that now the descendants of the Adams family — to the 4th and 5th generation — have moved elsewhere and the old "home place" has been sold for a tree farm and the timbers and the lumber that have been seasoning in the big house for 73 years

will be salvaged. The 200 acres will be reforested and the Weyerhaeuser Timber Co., the new owners, will put the trees back into the hillsides where 3 generations of Adamases attempted to grub them out to prepare the land for farming. The old place has served the family and the community well; where "a heap of living" was done throughout the years. And now on account of the changing times and of the economy that has concentrated people in urban centers, it is fitting that the area be returned to its original use of growing forest products.

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Editor's Note: Most of the information for the above was furnished by Louis E. Polley of Eugene, who is the family historian and in possession of many records, including the trials held in his great grandfather's J.P. courts.

SONS OF TEMPERANCE, DIVISION NO. 7, EUGENE CITY, OREGON TERRITORY

One of the most interesting "Oregon Centennial finds" was the discovery of the original ledger of the local branch of the "Sons of Temperance" lodge. From it we noted that the entrance fee was \$2.50, with a weekly dues of 10 cents. This old record book is a veritable who's who of the Eugene area pioneers during the decade just before statehood. It contains a page for each of about 135 names — 6 pages are missing.

The first entry in this century-old book was made on March 1, 1856 when Dr. A. W. Patterson, M.D. (pioneer of 1852 and surveyor of the Eugene City townsite) paid his entrance fee. Another entry reads "Recd. March 7, 1856 of F.B. Dunn, F.S. (fincial secretary) Eugene City, Division of Sons of Temper-

ance No. 7, \$34.50. (signed) M. H. Harlow, Treas." Malhon H. Harlow, pioneer of 1850 is remembered as the builder of Lane County's first court house, in 1855. F. B. (Francis Berrian) Dunn has the distinction of being the first clerk hired in the first drygoods store in Eugene City, (Joe Brumbly's in 1854). Eugene Skinner, for whom the city was named was finicial secretary one year (1857). And so it could be continued for all of the rest. The last entry was made in January 1859.

The Sons of Temperance apparently was one of the first lodges organized in Eugene City and was a part of the temperance movement of the times to combat the prevalence of much drunkenness on the streets of the frontier towns. In

those days there were many saloons on every hand to lure the miners, lumberjacks and other "rough" men who were nevertheless helping to build an empire.

The Oregon Historical QUARTERLY of September 1938 tells of the bringing to Oregon in 1847 of the constitution and by-laws of the Sons of Temperance of Indiana. As early as September 1853, Lafayette Division, No. 5 was meeting and the Grand Territorial (Oregon) Division was organized on January 13, 1857 in the Salem Temperance Hall. Some of the objects of the lodge were to provide sick benefits (\$6 weekly in Oregon), to visit the members when sick and to make provision for the comfort and education of the widow and orphan. The general "affliction" was the failure of the members to pay their dues. The Sons of Temperance faded during the Civil War, and by 1869 had yielded to the Independent Order of Good Templars, according to the OREGONIAN.

Another bit of evidence for this story is a picture, etched on stone to be lithographed for Britton and Ray of San Francisco and published in 1858. A reproduction of this Eugene City "Temperance Hall", from the Lane County Pioneer Museum, may be seen on page 26.

It is hoped that the celebration of Oregon's 100th birthday in 1959 will bring to light, for historical information and preservation, many more records, diaries, and pictures.

The following names are listed as paid-up members of Eugene City, Div. No. 7. (Only one of these was marked "EXPELLED—BAD"—who apparently fell "off the wagon").

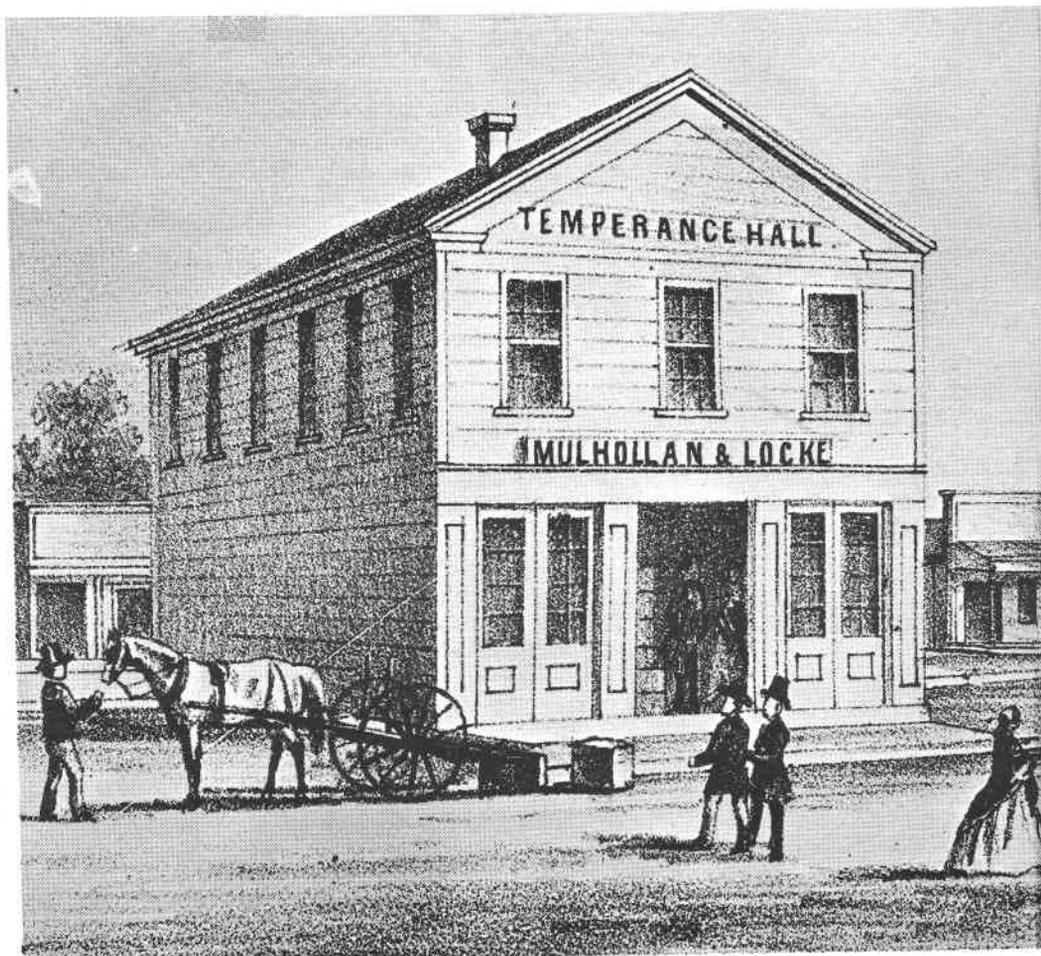
Dr. A. W. Patterson, Abraham Peek, Osker Parsons, John Parks,

Henry Parsons, S.E. Elsworth, Eugene F. Skinner, M. F. White, M. H. Harlow, T. D. Linton, Rev. Jacob Gillespie, David Gipson, Joseph L. Brumley, J. C. Bushnell, L. S. Rogers, J. H. Rogers, J. A. Master-son, Jas. E. McCabe, Luther C. Hawley, Joseph Meador, Fritz Minz, Thomas McCord, M. W. Mitchell, Larry Poindexter, G. W. Bond, Jos. Davis, Alexander Good-pasture, Horrace Larance, Jas. Peek, Wm. Gibson, A. C. Parsons, L. Zumwalt, Abel Russell, Charnel Mulligan, A. S. Patterson, Henry Peck, James Huddleston, Dr. A. Renfrew, I. F. Roberts, W. A. Potter, R. H. Parsons, A. Zumwalt, Wm. Parsons, James Muse, James McCord, John Dillemater, A. S. Coston, S. W. Keith, W. F. Williams, G. B. Deadman, J. W. Gay, D. N. Hyde, John Howard, E. Roberts, David Grow, John Mulhollan, C. H. Fox, Joshua J. Walton Jr., J. H. McClung, Thom., J. Brattain, Dan'l. R. Christian, C. Belshaw, Childs, W. G. Miller, W. C. Woodcock, Abram S. Patterson, H. F. Williams, R. W. Cockran, J. W. Sluter, James Siddon, Mr. Ward, A. Branton, Marvin Wells, A. F. Hubbard, F. B. Dunn, M. McMurry, C. Clay, James Moore, Bartin Allen, Eli Beard, T. L. Zumwalt, John Eddins, Benj. Davis, Archibald Chrisman, John N. Johnson, Samuel W. Heit, H. K. Hines, John B. Covey, L. Danforth, Wm. Rogers, J. M. Gay, R. R. Eubank, Rev. W. Lenney, C. R. Rouse, D. M. Thompson, A. W. Wright, B. Willcoxon, A. J. McKenzie, Mr. Roach, Alexander Seavey, Samuel Gray, Manley Danforth, William Moody, J. H. Cockren, G. C. Pearce, W. W. Chapman, W. G. Miller, E. E. Haft, G. E. Baker, J. H. McClung, Fielden McMurry, Joseph R. McGibben, G. C. Smith, James Galloway, Stephen Lee, J. E.

McCabe, Frank Bryant, A. N. Mc-Reynolds, F. W. Reinhart, I. L. Nevil, W. Henderson.
Ed. Note—This old ledger was

found by Lester Calder, Weyerhaeuser Timber Co. and saved for the SOCIETY through the courtesy of Mrs. Mable Polley.

TEMPERANCE HALL, Eugene City, Oregon Territory. From an old print in the Lane County Pioneer Museum, published in 1858 by Britton and Ray of San Francisco, California.



"Oregon Pioneer Heritage"

of the new 1957-1958 members of the
Lane County Pioneer - Historical Society

(As submitted by new members)

(For the data on the 1956 and earlier, members — see Vol. I, No. 1 & 2)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>Bell, Mrs. Jesse E. Jr. 2015 Hayes St.
m.gg.grdp. David & Elmira St. John
1847
m.gg.grdp. John & Dalinda Goodell
1847
m.g.grdp. Jesse W. & Sarah Ranson
Pugh 1846
p.gg.grdp. Price Fuller & Abigale
King 1846
All of above — Ore. Tr.</p> | <p>Cook, Mrs. Margaret Hon-L Harrisburg,
Parents, Benj. P. & Julitha Cox
Richardson Ore. Tr. 1848</p> |
| <p>Bond, William A. 108 Thomason Lane
g.grdp. Solomon & Nancy Zumwalt
1852
Grdp. Isaac & Hettie McClure Bond
1853
Above via Ore. Tr.</p> | <p>Crain, Anna Hon-L 2120 Santa Barbara
St., Santa Barbara, Calif.
grdp. Jas. J. Finlayson, Ore. Tr. 1852
father, Colton T. Finlayson, Ore. Tr
1852
mother, Anna Underwood Fin., Is.
Pan. 1857</p> |
| <p>Brown, Mrs. Annie, Hon-L, 709 Broad-
way.
parents, Joel & Sophia Hinton Inman
1852
Ore. Tr.</p> | <p>Davenport, Mrs. Merle 1728 Columbia
St. grdp. Nathan & Rebecca Hockett
1846
grdp. Robert & Mary Booth 1852</p> |
| <p>Bryant, Newton J., Hon-L 1654 W. 11th.
parents, Geo. & Sarah Jane Smith
Bryant Ore. Tr. 1864</p> | <p>Edmunds, Harold L. 2085 University St.
p.grdp. Rev. G. R. Edmunds R.R.
1882</p> |
| <p>Calef, Mira A. Hon-L. 592 11th Ave. W.
m.grdp. Mahlon & Frances Tandy
Harlow 1851
mother Sarah Naomi Harlow Calef
1851
father Elmer N. Calef, Is. of Pan.
1858
First 2 - Ore. Tr.</p> | <p>Edmunds, Mrs. H. L. 2085 University St.
m.grdp. Joseph Atwater 1865</p> |
| <p>Callison, Emery Fall Creek, Ore.
grdp. Rufus & Martha Willis Callison
1852 - 1854</p> | <p>Fogle, Mrs. Victor, 527 E. St. Spfd., Ore.
grdp. Wm. T. Bryan, Cape Horn 1849
grdp. Lucinda Bryan Ore. Tr. 1862
grdp. L.E. & Alice Thompson R.R.
1891</p> |
| <p>Collier, Dorothy 610 E. 14th Ave.
p.grdp. Geo. & Sybil Collier. Is. Pan
1865
m. grdp. Andrew & Maria McCornack
1853
latter - Ore. Tr.</p> | <p>Goodman, A.J.(Jack) Hon-L. 250 Dia-
mond Pl. Coburg.
parents, Perry & Susan Goodman 1865</p> |
| | <p>Halton, Mrs. Beatrice Morris, 3480 Don-
ald St.
p.grdp. Geo. J. & Elezana Cook Morris
1853
m.grdp. John F. & Missouri Winkle
Baker 1848
All via Ore. Tr.</p> |
| | <p>Harlow, Miss Bessie 1145 Jefferson St.
p. grdp. Mahlon H. & Frances Tandy
Harlow via Ore. Tr. 1851</p> |
| | <p>Inman, Benj. P. Hon.-L. Rt. 1, Junction
City, Ore.
parents, Joel C. & Sophia Hinton,
Ore. Tr 1852</p> |

- Johnson, Mrs. Mattie L.** 1009 W. 4th Ave
 grdp. Rev. John Johnson 1840's
Kinsey, Miss Ethel 382 E. 10th Ave.
 g grdp. Geo. & Elizabeth Belshaw,
 Ore. Tr 1853
 grdp. Geo. & Candace McCarty
 Belshaw Ore. Tr. 1853
Knox, Mrs. Edna 1338 Lincoln St.
 p. g grdp. Lane & Susan Matlock '53
 p. grdp. J.D. Matlog, age 14 1853
 Ore. Tr. & Willamette Pass
Lafferty, Jean Stevenson, 766 Crest Dr.
 m g grdp. Andrew & Maria Eakin
 McCornack Ore. Tr 1853
Lane, Mrs. Mary 350 Kourt Dr.
 m grdp. John & Mary McCulloch 1849
Lewis, Mrs. Dora Laird 4275 S.E.
 Franklin St. **Hon-L.** Portland 6, Ore.
 Eliz. N. Cooper Thompson " 1862
 parents, Patrick & Lucinda Laird,
 Ore. Tr. 50's
Lindley, Mrs. Cora Hon-L. 161 Madison
 parents, Jesse H. Smith Ore. Tr 1849
 Mary Grigsby Smith Ore. Tr. later
McCornack, Elwin A. 3077 W. 18th Ave.
 p. grdp. Andrew & Maria Eakin Mc-
 Cornack 1853
 m grdp. Thomas & Cornelia Condon
 1853
 McC's-Ore. Tr., C's Cape Horn
McCulloch, Mrs. Lucy Abbott McC.,
 1040 Van B
 parents, Samuel & Louise Abbott.
 Ore. Tr. 1852
McFarland, Ruth (Mrs. C.B.) Star Rt.
 Oakridge.
 p. grdp Mr. & Mrs. A. D. Hyland
 Cape Horn 1858
 m. grdp Mr. & Mrs. A. J. Crugan
 Ore. Trail 1854
McLean, Geo. N. Hon-L. 65 W. 24th Ave.
 parents, Jos. McLean Ore. Tr. 1852
 Margaret Davidson McL. Ore. Tr 1855
Mathews, Henry C. Dexter, Oregon
 p grdp. Thomas & Elizabeth Mathews
 Ore. Tr 1853
 m grdp. Mr. & Mrs. John Stoops
 Ore. Tr. 1853
- Mathews, Ruby** Baughman M. Dexter,
 g grdp. Elijah & Susannah Bristow
 1846
 m grdp. Robt. & Polly Bristow Calli-
 son 1848
 p grdp. Samuel & Elizabeth McCall
 Baughman 1852
 E.B., Ore. Tr, via Calif. Applegate Tr.
 to Ore. Sus. Bristow -- Ore. Tr. 1848
 others -- Ore. Tr.
- Mills, Mrs. Eliz. Howe** Mills, Cottage
 Grove, Ore.
 m. grdp. Oliver P. Coshow Ore. Tr. '47
 p grdp. Daniel M. Howe Ore. Tr. 1854
Mosby, Mary S. Hon-L. Rt. 1, Cottage
 Grove.
 m grdp Sam'l & Cynthia N. Knox
 Ore. Trail 1852-53
 parents - Mary Jane Knox
 Ore. Trail 1852
 Henry C. Veatch Ore. Trail 1852
Owen, Mrs. Sarah Emily Job. Hon-L.
 1480 W. 1th Ave.
 parents, James & Sophronia Job.
 Ore. Tr. 1853
Pitney, Clarence A. 725 Hy. 36, Jct. City,
 p grdp. John & Eliz. Wayland Pitney,
 Ore. Tr. 1853
 m grdp. Jas. & Eliz. Adkins Bushnell,
 Ore. Tr. 1852
Pitney, Ellen V. 725 Hwy. 36, Jct. City,
 grdp. "Pap" & Martha Nickols
 Cape Horn
- Richardson, John W.** Rt. 1 Jct. City, Ore.
 p grdp. Benj. Richardson Ore Tr. 1846
 parents, John Richardson Ore. Tr 1846
 Rebecca Cantrell Richardson, " 1853
Robertson, Will R. 753 W. 5th Ave.
 p g grdp. Solomon & Nancy Zumwalt,
 Ore. Tr. 1852
 m grdp. Isaac & Hetty McClure Bond,
 Ore. Tr. 1853
Safford, Mrs. Alberta Myers 1218
 Monroe St.
 parents, Jos. D. & Rosina R. Myers,
 Cape Horn, 1866

- Skinner, Charles, 39 Oakridge Ln. W. Hartford, Conn.**
p. grdp. Eugene & Mary Cook Skinner Ore. Tr. via Calif. 1846
- Smith, Mrs. Robt. G. 345 E. 12th Ave. m grdp. Alva & Rachel Hill Rowley, Ore. Tr. 1852**
parents, Narcisse La Raut Is. Pan. '49
Amy Rowley La Raut Ore. Tr 1852
- Stafford, Mrs. Lila Straub 1825 University St. Parents, Prof. & Mrs. John Straub, RR & boat 1878**
- Temple, Mrs. Zella L. 107 N. Ash St. p grdp. Richard C. Robinson 1847 Sarah Ann Petree, mar. in Eugene '52 RCR. - Ore. Tr. to Applegate Tr. to Oregon**
- Thompson, Herbert C. 322 A Main St., Beach Hill, Santa Cruz, Calif. p grdp. Sam. & Margery L. Thompson, Ore. Tr. 1853 m grdp. Geo. & Martha Cooper Ore. Tr. 1862 parents, Jn. N. Thompson Ore. Tr '53**
- Walker, Grace Hills (Mrs. Earl), 135 High St., Oakridge p. grdp. Cornelius Hills Ore. Trail via California 1847 Sephonia Birggs Hills Ore. Tr. 1851**
- Walker, Earl, 135 High St., Oakridge p. grdp. Hugh Marion Walker Ore. Trail 1852 Mary J. Reid (Walker) Ore. Tr. 1852**
- Wallace, Mrs. Emma Smith, Hon-L. 687 Cheshire St. Parents, Jesse H. Smith Ore. Tr. '49 Mary Grigsby Smith**
- Wassom, Mrs. Clara Seavey, Hon-L., Box 2, Coburg. grdp. Eben & Susan Butler Blachly, Ore. Tr. 1854 parents, Alexander Seavey Cape Horn 1855 Sarah Ann Blachly Seavey, Ore. Tr '54**
- Weyer, Mrs. Emma Canaday, Hon-L 342½ W. 8th Ave. parents, Dr. Madison & Sarah Abbott Canaday Ore. Tr 1852**
- Wheeler, Will L., Hon-L. Dexter, Ore. parents, Jedediah & Amanda Walker Wheeler Ore. Tr 1852**
- Wheeler, Mrs. Emma Bond, Hon-L. Dexter, Oregon. parents, Isaac & Hettie McClure Bond, Ore. Tr. 1853**
- Wilkins, Mrs. Amos, Hon-L. 482 Lawrence St. parents, Andrew J. Babb Ore. Tr. 1852 Mary Jane Mathews Babb, Ore. Tr '61**
- Zimmerman, Mrs. Ethel Petty 1040 Ferry St. parents, George Petty Ore. Tr. 1853 Malinda Eaton Petty Ore. Tr. 1864**
The above information was supplied by each member and is typed on the reverse side of his first annual dues card.

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Explanation of abbreviations used:

- m—maternal — mother's side
p—paternal — father's side
g—great
gg—great grand
grdp—grandparent
Ore. Tr.—Oregon Trail
Is. Pan—Isthmus of Panama



John Craig, A PIONEER MAIL CARRIER

—by Ruth Ellsworth Richardson

Under City News, the **Oregon State Journal** printed in Eugene City on Jan. 8, 1876, contains this brief item about John T. Craig, mail carrier, who made regular trips over the McKenzie summit of the Cascades between the Willamette Valley and Central Oregon. "We are informed by B. F. Finn, Esq., that John T. Craig, mail carrier on the McKenzie and Ochoco route, has been out fourteen days without being heard from and it is feared that he has perished in the snow; yet there is some hope that he may have reached Camp Polk in safety. Parties have gone in search for him. Mr. Craig is an old mountaineer and we have some hope that he may come out safe."

Very few motorists who hurry over the McKenzie highway know that near the summit of the pass, lies buried on a point of land about level with the top of their car, a courageous pioneer mail carrier. The marker bears this inscription: "In honor of John Templeton Craig, March, 1821—Dec., 1877, Pioneer Mail-Carrier over the wagon road he himself located and built, where the present highway runs. He perished in a little log cabin near this point from exposure in a terrific storm while attempting to carry the mail over this route. The adjacent tomb is the final resting place of his mortal remains. Erected by the Rural Letter Carriers Association 1930."

John Templeton Craig was born in Woster, Ohio, in March, 1821, of Scotch-Irish parents. He came to Oregon in 1852, driving an ox-team for Bill Ritchie, his brother-in-law, and the next year he came to Lane

County settling on Camp Creek in the McKenzie valley. He helped build the old Camp Creek sawmill for Charles Patterson which was one of the first in Lane County.

He was later employed by Felix Scott Jr. in the first crossing of the Cascades over the McKenzie pass with cattle and wagons in the summer of 1863. Felix Scott and his party of 50 or 60 men hacked their way through the thick forest up the steep mountain slopes and past the jagged lava fields. They started the road about four miles east of the present community of Vida (30 miles east of Eugene City, up the McKenzie valley). There was a wagon trail with a tollgate that far from Springfield. It took all summer.

The chief reason for building the road was to drive cattle and supplies to the recently discovered gold fields in the Florence district of Idaho. In the fall of 1862 nine wagons of supplies and 900 head of cattle were driven over the summit. The party wintered on Trout creek in what is now Jefferson county and in the spring continued on to Boise with the supplies.

One time Craig while at work alone on the McKenzie road had a foot-log across the river. He tried to fell another tree to make a bridge but it dropped on the first log, breaking it in two and lossening it so it floated away down stream. He lived on wild lettuce and ferns for two weeks before he got another tree in position. He split out puncheons and fastened them with wooden pegs to make a bridge.

The Indians of eastern Oregon

had been causing trouble for some time. In 1864 a treaty had been made with the Klamaths, the Modocs, and the Yahooskin band of the Snakes, but other Snakes were still troublesome. In 1866 the roads were unsafe because of Indian raids.

George B. Currey was assigned to the command of the department of the Pacific on August 6, 1865. He selected nine sites for winter camps. One of these was on the Santiam road not far from its present junction with the McKenzie highway and above three miles northeast of the present town of Sisters.

In the late summer of 1865 a detachment of Company A, United States Army Volunteers came to this site under command of Captain Charles La Follette. The post, located on Squaw creek was given the name Camp Polk for the county from which La Follette came. The detachment spent the winter at Camp Polk, but when spring came the volunteers were mustered out and returned to their homes.

Samuel M. W. Hindman in 1870 settled across the road from the cabins left by the military and was appointed postmaster of Camp Polk in 1872. The office was abandoned in 1888 and the business transferred to Sisters.

With the establishment of the Camp Polk postoffice and the opening of the McKenzie road, the contract was let to carry the mails from Eugene City to Prineville by way of Camp Polk. A. S. Powers, who was one of the early mail contractors, an officer of the road company, and a toll collector, gave the contract to John T. Craig, who was 56 years old at that time. Craig's contract was to carry the mail weekly over the route between McKenzie bridge and Camp

Polk.

John T. Craig was a rough, unshaven pioneer who never had his picture taken. He always carried his frying pan and coffee pot with him when he worked on the road. He burned out old fir logs to sleep in. One such log, called "Craig's bedroom" was 42 miles from Eugene near Finn Rock — about two miles from Blue River.

Craig started out one December morning from the present site of Belknap Springs on snowshoes with the mail on his back. He aimed to go to Camp Creek which was forty miles. He felt sick when he started in the morning, but he told the men not to worry as he planned to stop at his cabin which was about half way. It was storming when he left.

A week passed and Craig did not return. A few days later three men — John Sims, Philander C. Renfrew and Ben Finn — started out to look for him. Before long Sims was blinded by the glare of the snow and all three had to turn back before reaching the cabin near the summit of the pass.

Powers, the mail contractor, then wrote to Hindman at Camp Polk, but the letter had to go through Portland and by way of The Dalles and Prineville, much of the way on stagecoach, which meant a delay of another week. Finally, word was received from Camp Polk that Craig had not reached there. Powers then knew that the mail carried had probably perished in the mountains.

Two able mountaineers, Peter Wycoff and Ben Finn — were sent to search for Craig. They started on snowshoes as the snow was eight and ten feet deep in the pass. They reached Craig's cabin with little difficulty.

The cabin, about seven feet high at the eaves, contained one room

with a fireplace and a leanto used as a woodshed. The cabin was almost buried in the snow. The customary way to enter a snowed-in cabin was through the spacious fireplace chimney. Craig's body was found lying wrapped in his blanket among the ashes of the fireplace.

Rufus Robertson, an old-time resident of Eugene, crossed the McKenzie pass in the spring of 1878, the same year that John Templeton Craig, the pioneer mail carrier lost his life. With Robertson were two other Eugene men who had driven a large herd of cattle to Prineville over the Santiam. They were returning by way of the McKenzie. It was spring and most of the snow had melted. They stopped at Craig's cabin. Mr. Robertson said that there was plenty of wood, which John Craig apparently had been too exhausted to use. In the ashes was a partially burned spool of thread and scores of burnt matches, with which he had futilely tried to start a fire.

It is possible that Craig didn't reach his cabin the first night out

from Belknap, as we know he was sick and it was storming. The trail to the cabin was very steep. He may have become exhausted and very ill from exposure before he reached his cabin. He may have made a fire on reaching his cabin and lay down to sleep. The fire may have gone out. He may have rolled out the back log and crawled exhausted into the warm ashes.

And so, days later, his body was found. The two men removed the body and buried it as best they could a few feet from the cabin. They built a cairn of stones over the grave to keep the wild animals away.

Wycoff then took up the job of carrying the mail across the mountains. Two years later Carey Thomson carried one relay of the mail, making a fifteen mile trip daily from Alder Creek to two miles east of Windy point, often using Craig's cabin for a shelter.

High in the mountains beside the road he helped to build lies the grave of John Templeton Craig, unseen and unknown by the thousands passing on the scenic highway.

The Lost Wagon Train

—by Leah Collins Menefee

Editor's Note: As the great covered wagon emigration to the west increased from 1843 to reach its peak in 1852 with hundreds of groups, or "wagon trains", using the Oregon Trail, it became obvious that deviations and cutoffs would develop. Many emigrants were ill equipped and more inexperienced than others, but all were urged on

by the compelling desire to get to Oregon before the best of the free land was taken up and before the winter snows would overtake them in the mountains.

Oregon City was the main terminus at first but later branches were developed from points in Idaho to reach various sections in Oregon— more directly. These would

save precious time and many weary days of travel. The Applegate Trail provided access through Southern Oregon. The early settlers in Lane County were interested in getting

a shorter route into the upper Willamette Valley by way of central Oregon. A project, inspired in 1852, to establish such a route (although not adequately carried out); and

Inside cover of the Petty family Bible brought across the plains in the "Lost Wagon Train of 1853". Belonged to Ebenezer Petty, who died in 1838, and whose son Joseph, and grandson George came to Oregon in the famous train of 1853 and settled in Lane County near Creswell. Presently in possession of Riley Petty of Creswell (son of George), age 83. The wife of Joseph was killed when a trunk fell upon her during one of the many fordings of the Middle Fork as the starving emigrants approached the Willamette Valley.

This Bible belongs to

Riley Petty.

It was bought in Missouri
and was brought across
the plains in an
Ox wagon in 1853

Ebenezer Petty Married Elizabeth Fisher

In the year 1790 February the 4

Absalom Petty Born July 21 1798

Mary Ann Petty Born March 4 1793

Solomon Petty Born March 4 1793

Lunice Petty Born December 8 1795

Fisher Petty Born October 9 1799

Elizabeth Petty Died January the 2 1810

Ebenezer Petty Married To

Susannah Plagle November the 30 1812

Joseph Naval Petty Born November 7 1814

Napoleon Bonaparte Petty December 27 1817

Susannah Petty Died March 6 1826

My name this 19 of August 1838

~~_____~~

~~_____~~

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~~_____~~

~~_____~~

Ebenezer Petty died Oct 1838

11

resulting in the near-disastrous "Lost Wagon Train of 1853" are subjects of the following story.

The month of October in the year 1853 was dry and warm. Like October, 1958, the rains were slow in coming, and the middle fork of the Willamette river was low, very low. It could be easily forded with ox teams in a number of places and to that fact many members of the so-called "Lost Wagon Train of 1853" probably owe their lives. For in mid-October of 1853 they were making their way slowly and painfully down the Middle Fork of the Willamette River after crossing the summit of the Cascade mountains through a pass just south of Diamond Peak, and they crossed the river some twenty-seven times in their progress as far as what is now Oakridge.

This wagon train was actually a series of groups of wagons, over two hundred in all, knit together in parties by ties of family, neighborhood or simply by chance meeting in Independence, Mo., or on the Oregon Trail. Its story has been handed down for over one hundred years in the families of those who traveled the Middle Fork route that fall of 1853. Each party turned into the new route just west of Fort Boise, went astray in the Harney-Malheur lakes country, suffered with thirst on the eastern Oregon desert, lost oxen and wagons and discarded cherished possessions. Yet many of these pioneer travelers never saw each other on the trail or afterward and dozens never even knew the names of the other parties traveling the Middle Fork route. In spite of the very real hardships only one death occurred. Mrs. Joseph Petty was struck by a trunk during one of the river crossings and instantly killed. The baby

in her lap escaped injury but later died.

Just as many of the people in the Lost Wagon Train did not know who followed in their tracks, so few of their descendants know why the wagons turned from the Oregon Trail into the new route in 1853. This story begins in the Mahlon Harlow home in March, 1852. Men from Lane and Linn counties met there and decided to do something about a new route across the Cascade mountains into the Willamette valley. Three men were commissioned to make a "road viewing" trip over the Middle Fork route and see if a way feasible for wagons could be found. On August 20th, 1852, these three, with four others, started on horseback up the Middle Fork. They were Wm. M. Macy, Joseph Meador, John Diamond, Alexander A. King, Wm. T. Walker, J. Clark and Wm. Tandy.

Traveling up the "incline" of the mountains, they reached a pass just south of the large mountain which John Diamond then climbed and named for himself. They called a southern peak "Macy's Peak". This name has been lost but Johnny Diamond's mountain still bears his name.

The men reached the plains beyond the present city of Bend without incident but soon were attacked by Indians. Diamond, Clark and Macy were wounded. King, Tandy, and Walker made repeated stands on ridgetops while Joseph Meador hurried the wounded men along under the protection of the three crackling rifles. The men finally reached the Oregon Trail near Vale and met an emigrant train, putting their wounded in the wagons. Return was over the Barlow route and the report to the Territorial legislature was made without any men-

tion of the Indian trouble. However the notes of the trip were lost during the battle and the report was therefore quite general and made from memory. In it the seven men stated the route was quite possible for wagons and set the sum of three thousand dollars as sufficient to open a wagon road up the Middle Fork and through to the Deschutes river.

Subscription lists were opened to raise this sum, meetings were held and a contract for construction let at the price of \$12.00 per mile. Mr. Elijah Elliott, who was about to go east in 1853 to meet his family, was assured by the "commissioner of the road" before he left over the Barlow trail, that should he wish to return over the new route he would find it cut through to the Deschutes river by fall.

Followed by other parties, Mr. Elliott who had met his family near Ft. Boise, turned west over the new route. In all some 1500 persons, with over two hundred wagons are said to have followed onto the supposedly shorter trail to the Willamette valley.

They traveled too far south on the old Meek trail of 1845 and lost three weeks around Harney and Malheur lakes. Finally, they turned north, passed across Crooked river upstream from the present store at Post and reached the Deschutes near Bend. Here they lost more time searching for the road, finally finding some blazes thirty miles south on that stream. Bearing on the south shoulder of Diamond Peak, they followed the faint traces toward the Willamette Valley.

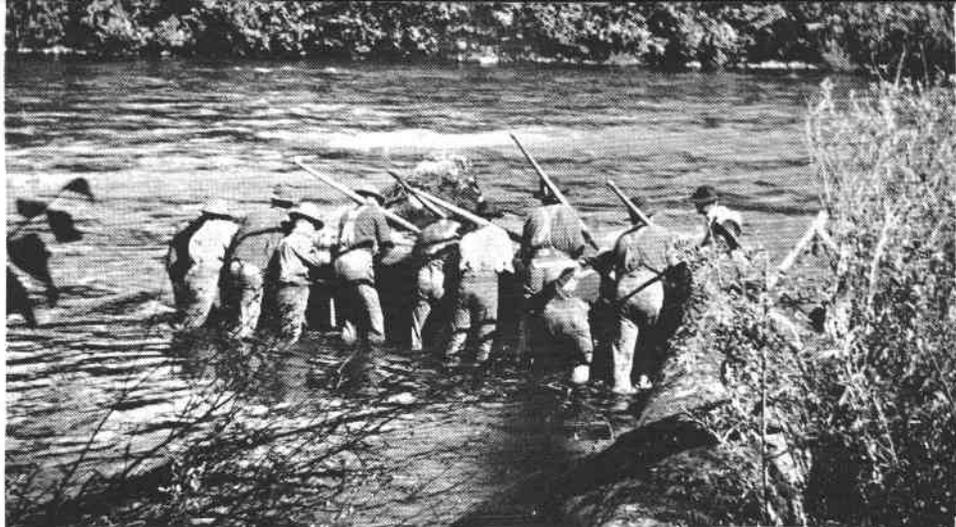
In mid-September, parties of young men had begun to leave the train to attempt a quicker crossing of the Cascades to get help. These went too far north, traveled down the McKenzie instead of the Willamette and reached the valley af-

ter much suffering. They found that the plight of the emigrants had already become known to the settlers. For, in early October, a young schoolmaster named Martin Blanding had been sent ahead over the pass on a borrowed mare to carry word to the valley. Near Butte Disappointment, not far from the present Lowell, he was cooking a piece of a still-born colt when discovered by settlers who had seen his fire. He was cared for by them and lived to found the Cloverdale Academy.

Within hours, riders were speeding down the valley to tell of the emigrants toiling behind Blanding. Men gathered oxen. Women cooked and packed food. Men on horseback were the first to reach the train. They built campfires and piled up stacks of pancakes, apportioning them equally to the starving families.

Laden wagons and beef cattle on the hoof followed these men in quick procession and the list of rescuers reads like an early Who's Who of the Willamette. Abel and John Russell, Jacob Spores, Marion Scott, Squire Powers, John Bargdell, W. W. Bristow, Hulings Miller, Dr. Cheshire, Presley Comegys, Adin McDowell, Daniel Hunsaker, Lester Hulin Sr., Mahlon and Henry Harlow and the Youngs. Cornelius Hills, James M. Hendricks and many others also went.

Homes in the valley bulged during the next few weeks as settlers took in members of the train. Donation land claims were found for them whenever possible and by November 9th W. W. Bristow was able to report to the Salem Statesman that all the emigrants were in Lane, Linn and Benton counties were richer by 615 men and 412 women and children who had come in the Lost Wagon Train of 1853.



“Driving” logs down the McKenzie River during pioneer days. Only trees near the rivers were felled and skidded to the banks by ox teams to be floated down to the sawmills during the spring freshets. Much hand labor was necessary to keep the logs moving — over the shallow gravel bars and when log “jams” would have to be dislodged.

Photo courtesy Mrs. W. E. Schwering, Blue River.

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