

# THE MEDFORD MAIL

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A. S. BLITON.

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MAN WAS BORN TO HUSTLE.

He is of few days; but quite a plenty.

SUBSCRIPTION \$1.50 PER YEAR

Entered in the Postoffice at Medford, Oregon as Second-Class Matter.

KING EDWARD fooled the prophets(?) who have predicted that he "would live to reign" but would not be crowned, by slipping quietly out on Saturday and having the job done.

THE Boer leaders who are coming to the United States to study farming methods are simply following the example of the rest of the world. American farmers and their machinery are in an unequalled class of their own.

THE brother of the Czar of Russia is in this country learning the intricacies of the game of poker. By the time he gets through he will probably have reduced the surplus in the imperial treasury some and increased the circulating medium here.

AFTER a search of two years, the Democratic party can find no issue and it should begin to see that the Republicans have the right side of every public question at the present time. It is awkward, of course, but facts are facts.—Eugene Register.

GEN. BRAGG like Gen. Smith has been indiscreet in his utterances but his opinion of the Cubans is very much like that of a great many of us. What the general said to his wife in the letter he wrote her just after she had "given him away" would make very interesting reading.

THE bell boys in a Minneapolis hotel have struck because they are furnished only with beefsteak, buttered toast, eggs, fried potatoes, fruit and coffee for breakfast. They demand wheat cakes and maple syrup. The demand should be granted—the grasping monopolies must not be allowed to deprive these boys of the necessities of life—they must have their cakes and syrup.

A VIENNA dispatch says in Eastern Galicia men are working for as low as eight cents a day and women four cents a day, while thousands are dying from starvation. When we contrast conditions here with those existing in Austria every man should thank God he is an American citizen, living in a land of plenty. Still, you can find plenty of men in this country who rail at providence and complain of poverty.

THERE came near being a free-for-all shooting scrape over Tracy's body between the five men who were responsible for his death and Sheriff Gardiner, of Lincoln County, Washington. Gardiner wanted to bring the body to Salem, but the men from Weston said "nay" and the words of the men who stood up and fought the desperate outlaw carried considerable weight, and they brought the body of the dead convict to Salem.



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Medford, Oregon

# INDIAN WARS OF SOUTHERN OREGON

Address of Hon. William M. Colvig, Delivered at the Reunion of the Indian War Veterans, at Medford, on Saturday, July 26, 1902

(Continued from last week)

I will now speak of the Indian wars in which the people of Southern Oregon were engaged. The first recorded fight between the Indians and whites in any portion of Southern Oregon occurred in 1825, when Jedediah Smith and seven other trappers were attacked by the Indians on the Umpqua river, and five of the whites were slain, only Smith and two of his companions escaping. The next fight of which we have any account was in June, 1836, at a point just below the Rock Point bridge, where the barn on the W. L. Colvig estate stands. In this fight there were Dan Miller, Edward Barnes, Dr. Bailey, Saunders, Woodworth, Irish Tom and J. Turner and squaw. Two trappers were killed, and nearly all were wounded. Within my recollection, Dr. Bailey visited the scene of this fight and pointed out to my father its location. In September, 1837, at the mouth of Fooths creek, in Jackson County, a party of men who had been sent to California by the Methodist missions to procure cattle, while on their return, were attacked by the Rogue River Indians and had a short, severe fight, in which several of the whites were badly wounded and some twelve or fourteen of the Indians killed. In May, 1845, J. C. Fremont had a fight with the Indians in the Klamath country; it may have been a little over the line in California. Four of Fremont's men were killed and quite a large number of the Indians. Kit Carson was a prominent figure in this battle.

As before stated, a few bold adventurers had located in Rogue River valley as early as December, 1851. During the spring, summer and fall of that year there was a considerable amount of travel through the valley, by parties from northern Oregon going to, and returning from the great mining excitement of California. Fights between these travelers and the Indians were of frequent occurrence. On the 15th day of May, 1851, a pack train was attacked at a point on Bear creek, where the town of Phoenix is now situated, and a man by the name of Dilley was killed. On June 3, 1851, a party of Oregonians, under the leadership of Dr. Jas. McBride, had a severe fight near Willow Springs with Chief "Chucklehead" and his band. Chucklehead and six other Indians were killed; several of the whites were severely wounded.

About this time Major Phil Kearney, afterwards Gen. Kearney, who was killed at the battle of Chantilly in the Civil war, happened to be passing through the valley on his way from Vancouver to Benicia, Calif., with a detachment of two companies of U. S. regulars. He remained a short time and assisted in punishing the Indians for the numerous depredations committed by them during the year. He had several fights with the Indians, in which about fifty Indians were killed. One of these fights was on Rogue river, near the mouth of Butte creek, where Captain Stewart, of the U. S. army, received an arrow wound from an Indian, who was also wounded. The arrow penetrated the captain's body, and he died the next day at the camp on Bear creek, near Phoenix. The camp thenceforth took the name of Camp Stewart, and Bear creek in all government records is called Stewart's creek. The captain's body was buried at a spot where the wagon road crosses the mill race in the town of Phoenix. Some years ago his remains were taken up and sent to Washington, D. C., to be buried by the side of his mother. Capt. Stewart's last words were, "Boys, it is awful to have passed through all the battles of the Mexican war, and then be killed by an Indian in this wild country."

At the massacre of emigrants at Bloody Point, Klamath County, in 1852, thirty-six men, women and children were murdered. Capt. Ben Wright and twenty-seven men from Yreka and Col. J. E. Ross and some Oregonians went out to punish these Modocs. Old Schonchin, who was afterwards hung at Fort Klamath in 1873, at the close of the Modoc war, was the leader. Wright gave them no quarter. He and his men, infuriated at the sight of the mangled bodies of the emigrants, killed men, women and children without any discrimination—about forty in all. And it is said that they asked for a "peace talk" whereupon a roan ox was prepared. Wright poisoned it, gave it to the Indians, and then rode away.

I cannot give you the names of all who were killed in Rogue River valley during the years 1851, 1852 and 1853. I will mention some that were killed in 1853. In August of that year Edward Edwards was killed near Medford; Thos. Wills and Rhodes Nolan, in the edge of the town of Jacksonville; Pat Dunn and Carter, both wounded in a fight on Nell creek above Ashland. In a fight with the Indians on Bear creek in August, 1853, Hugh Smith was killed, and Howell, Morris, Higgins, Whitmore and Gibbs wounded, the last named three dying from their wounds soon after.

These murders, and many more that could be mentioned, brought on the Indian war of 1853. Southern Oregon raised six companies of volunteers, who served under the following named captains, viz: R. L. Williams, J. K. Lamerick, John F. Miller, Elias A. Owens and W. W. Fowler. Capt. B. F. Alden, of the 4th U. S. Infantry, with twenty regulars, came over from Fort Jones, Calif., and with him a large number of volunteers under Capt. Jas. P. Goodell and Capt. Jacob Rhoades, two Indian fighters of experience. Capt. Alden was given the command of all the forces. The first battle of the war was fought on the 12th day of August, 1853, and was an exciting little fight between about twenty volunteers under Lieut. Burrell Griffin, of Miller's company, and a band of Indians

under Chief John. The volunteers were ambushed at a point near the mouth of Williams creek, on the Applegate. The whites were defeated with a loss of two killed and Lieut. Griffin severely wounded. There were five Indians killed and wounded in the battle. On August 10, 1853, John R. Harding and Wm. R. Rose, of Capt. Lamerick's company, were killed near Willow Springs. On the 10th of August, 1853, Gen. Joseph Lane, afterwards U. S. senator from Oregon, and a candidate for vice president in 1860, came out from his home in Douglas County and brought fifty men with him, to take part in the war. Gen. Lane was a man of large experience in Indian warfare and in all military matters. He had commanded an Indiana regiment in the Mexican war and enjoyed a well earned reputation for bravery. On the day that Gen. Lane arrived, what is known as the battle of Little Meadows was fought. Lieut. Ely and twenty-two men met the Indians near Evans creek, in the timber, and a short, but deadly conflict took place. Seven whites were killed inside of an hour; Lieut. Ely and three men wounded. They left the battlefield in charge of the Indians—at least, in the popular phraseology of that day, "they got up and got out."

On August 24, 1853, the battle of Evans Creek was fought. In this fight the Indians did not fare so well, twelve of them being killed and wounded. One volunteer named Pleasant Armstrong was killed and Capt. Alden and Gen. Joe Lane were each wounded. During the summer of 1853 several men were shot by Indians in Josephine County. In the fall Gen. Lane patched up a temporary peace, which lasted till 1855. The war of 1855-1856 was preceded by a great many murders and depredations by the Indians in different parts of Southern Oregon. I will mention a few:—Dyar and McKew, killed while on the road from Jacksonville to Josephine County on June 1, 1855. About the same time a man by name of Philpot was killed on Deer creek, Josephine County, and James Mills was wounded at the same time and place. Granville Keene was killed at a point on Bear creek, above Ashland, and J. Q. Faber was wounded. Two men, — Fleming and — Cunningham were killed in September, 1855, on the road over the Siskiyou mountains.

On account of these various depredations Major J. A. Lupton raised a temporary force of volunteers, composed of miners and others, from the vicinity of Jacksonville, about thirty-five in number, and proceeded to a point on the north side of Rogue river, opposite the mouth of Little Butte creek. There he attacked a camp of Indians at a time when they were not expecting trouble. It is said that about thirty men, women and children were killed by Lupton's men. The major himself received a mortal wound in the fight. This fight has been much criticized by the people of Southern Oregon, a great many of them believing that it was unjustifiable and cowardly. Two days after this affair a series of massacres took place in the sparsely settled country in and about where Grants Pass is now situated. On the 9th day of October, 1855, the Indians, having divided up into small parties, simultaneously attacked the homes of the defenseless families located in that vicinity. I will name a few of those tragic events. On the farm now owned by James Tufts, Mr. Jones was killed, and his wife, after receiving a mortal wound, made her escape. She was found by the volunteers on the next day and died a few days afterwards. Their house was burned down. Mrs. Wagner was murdered by the Indians on the same day. Her husband was away from home at the time, but returned on the following day to find his wife murdered and his home a pile of ashes. The Harris family consisted of Harris and wife and their two children, Mary Harris, aged twelve, and David Harris, aged ten, and T. A. Reed, a young man who lived with the family. Mr. Harris was shot down while standing near his door, and at a moment when he little suspected treachery from the Indians with whom he was talking. His wife and daughter pulled his body within the door, and seizing a double-barreled shotgun and an old-fashioned Kentucky rifle, commenced firing through the cracks of the log cabin. They kept this up till late in the night, and by heroic bravery kept the Indians from either gaining an entrance into the house or succeeding in their attempts to fire it. Just back of the cabin was a dense thicket of brush, and during a lull in the attack the two brave women escaped through the back door and fled through the woods. They were found the next day by volunteers from Jacksonville, our late friend, Henry Klippel, being one of the number. Mrs. Harris lived to a good old age in this county. Mary, who was wounded in the fight, afterwards became the wife of Mr. G. M. Love, of Jacksonville, and Mrs. John A. Hanley, of Medford. David Harris, the boy, was not in the house when the attack was made, but was at work on the place. His fate has never been ascertained, as his body was never found. The Indians started, after peace was made, that they killed him at the time they attacked the Harris house. Reed, the young man spoken of, was killed out near the house.

On October 31, 1855, the battle of Hungry Hill was fought near the present railway station of Lehand. Capt. A. J. Smith, of the U. S. army, was at that battle, and a large number of citizen soldiers. The result of the battle was very undecided. There were thirty-one whites killed and wounded, nine of them being killed outright. It is not known how many of the Indians were killed, but after the treaty was made they confessed to fifteen. The Indians were in heavy timber and were scarcely seen during the two days' battle.

In April, 1856, after peace had been concluded between the whites and Indians, the Ledford massacre took place in Rancherie prairie, near Mt. Pitt, in this county, in which five white men were killed. This event was the last of the "irrepressible conflict." Soon afterward the Indians were removed to the Siletz reservation, where their descendants now live and enjoy the favors of the government which their fathers so strongly resisted.

The war in Rogue river valley had now virtually ended. "Old Sam's" band, with an escort of one hundred U. S. troops, was taken to the coast reservation at Siletz. Chiefs "John" and "Limpy" with a large number of the most active warriors, who had followed their fortunes during all these struggles, still held out and continued their depredations in the lower Rogue river country and in connection with the Indians of Curry County.

Gen. John E. Wool, commander of the department of the Pacific, in November, 1855, had stopped at Crescent City while on his way to the Yakima country. He received full information while here of the military operations in Southern Oregon. Skipping many details, it is sufficient to state that he ordered Capt. A. J. Smith to move down the river from Fort Lane and form a junction with the U. S. troops under Captains Jones and E. O. C. Ord, (afterwards a major-general in U. S. army) who were prosecuting an active campaign in the region about Chetco, Pistol river and the Illinois river valley. Capt. Smith left Fort Lane with eighty men—fifty dragoons and thirty infantry. I can only take the time to mention a few of the fights in that region during the spring of 1856. On March 8th Capt. Abbott had a skirmish with the Chetco Indians at Pistol river. He lost several men. The Indians had his small force completely surrounded when Capt. Ord and Capt. Jones with 112 regular troops came to his relief. They charged and drove the Indians away with heavy loss. On March 20, 1855, Lieutenant Colonel Buchanan, assisted by Capt. Jones and Ord, attacked an Indian village, ten miles above the mouth of Rogue river. The Indians were driven away, leaving several dead and only one white man wounded in the fight. A few days later Capt. Angne's company (U. S. troops) fought John and "Limpy's" band at the mouth of the Illinois river. The Indians fought desperately, leaving five dead on the battlefield. On March 27, 1855, the regulars again met the Indians on lower Rogue river. After a brisk fight at close quarters the Indians fled, leaving ten dead and two of the soldiers were severely wounded. On April 1, 1855, Captain Creighton, with a company of citizens, attacked an Indian village near the mouth of the Coquille river, killing nine men, wounding eleven and taking forty squaws and children prisoners. About this time some volunteers attacked a party of Indians who were moving in canoes at the mouth of Rogue river. They killed eleven men and one squaw. Only one man and two squaws of the party escaped. On April 29, 1855, a party of sixty regulars escorting a pack train were attacked near Chetco. In this fight three soldiers were killed and wounded. The Indians lost six killed and several wounded.

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The volunteer forces of the coast war were three companies known by the names of "Gold Beach Guards," the "Coquille Guards" and the "Port Orford Minute Men." I have not the time to enter into the details of the battle that was fought on the 27th of May, 1855, near Big Meadows, on Rogue river. Capt. Smith was in command of his eighty regulars. Old "John" led the Indians. The operations covered a period of two days, John using all the tactics of military science in handling his 400 braves during the battle. Just as everything was ready, according to "John's" plans, for an attack upon the regulars Capt. Angne's company was seen approaching. The Indians were then soon dispersed. Capt. Smith lost twenty-nine men killed and wounded in this battle, and had it not been for the timely arrival of Angne's company, his men would all have been killed.

While these operations were being carried on by the U. S. troops, the volunteer forces were not idle. They were kept busy with "Limpy" and "George's" warriors, at points in Josephine County. On January 28th, 1856, Major Latshaw moved down the river with 213 men. He had several skirmishes and lost four or five men in killed and wounded. On May 29th "Limpy" and "George" surrendered at Big Meadows to Lieut. Col. Buchanan. On May 31st Gov. Curry ordered the volunteer forces to disband—nearly all the Indians had surrendered. About 1300 of the various tribes that had carried on the war were gathered in camp at Port Orford. About July 1st, 1856, "John" and thirty-five tough looking warriors, the last to surrender, "throw down the hatchet." I have now gone over, in chronological order, the principal events connected with the Indian wars of Southern Oregon. I am fully aware that the narrative is very defective, and that many events of importance have not even been mentioned. You who took part in these early struggles can easily fill in the gaps, and correct the errors that I may have unconsciously made.

There were some men who took part in the Indian wars of Southern Oregon who afterwards became prominent in the history of the Nation. I will name

# The University of Oregon

EUGENE, OREGON

The first Semester, Session 1902-3, opens Wednesday, September 17th. The following Schools and Colleges are comprised in the University: Graduate School, College of Literature, Science and Arts, College of Science and Engineering, University Academy, School of Music, School of Medicine, School of Law. Tuition free, excepting Schools of Law, Medicine and Music. (Incidental fee \$10, Student-Body tax \$2.50 per year.) Cost of living from \$100 to \$200 per year. For catalogue, address Registrar of the University, Eugene, Oregon

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### County Commissioners' Court.

The county commissioners met on Wednesday, Aug. 6. Journal for the month of July read and approved. The usual amount of business was then attended to as follows:

In the matter of road petitioned for by Ira Wakefield, et al praying for a change of county road leading from the lower bridge on Big Butte creek to Lewis post office. Oredred by court that Carl T. Jones be appointed to survey said proposed change. Andrew Carthou, S. Vestal and C. Brophy appointed viewers to meet August 21 to view survey and alter said road.

In the matter of a tie vote in road district No. 27. In this district in June election resulted in a tie vote between McClannahan and Knighton. The latter having signified his willingness to the appointment of McClannahan the court made an order to that effect.

Monthly report of sheriff, clerk, recorder, treasurer and hospital keeper approved.

Re-appointment of Thos. Pankey as constable for Table Rock precinct accepted and Wm. Fresham appointed to vacancy.

J. L. Rowe appointed supervisor of road district no. 23, vice J. R. Morrison resigned.

The official bond of Carl T. Jones, county surveyor, filed with E. Denton, J. U. Willeke, W. H. Patrick, Thos. McAndrews and C. B. Rostel as sureties was examined and approved.

Warrants were drawn on the indigent soldiers fund in favor of Ezra Webber for \$30 for the funeral expenses of J. R. Rowe and for the same amount in favor of T. E. Hills to defray funeral expenses of C. E. Kald.

### Miss Prudence Was at the Killing.

BAKER CITY, Aug. 11.—Two young women, more accustomed to drawing-room functions than to woodcraft and firearms, killed a large brown bear at Austin station, near Baker City, yesterday. The ladies are Miss Ruth Jackson, of this city, and her guest, Miss Prudence Angle, of Medford. The young ladies with Ray Jackson, a brother of one of the heroines, were walking in the woods near Austin when they met ruin. Miss Jackson was carrying the gun and she very promptly fired, the load of shot taking effect in the animal's head. Miss Angle picked up a stout club and finished the job. The young man was not permitted to take part in the slaughter, but was allowed to lug the bear back to the hotel.

### Will Make Trouble This Fall.

From the Portland Oregonian:

J. W. Prall, of Medford, Or., is located at the fair grounds at Salem with the pacer Belle Air, 2:14, where he will condition her for the fall races. This will be Belle Air's first noteworthy appearance on the track since the State Fair meet of 1899. At that meet the mare overleaped herself and made her record in the first heat. In the second she was distanced. Her failure to win out was attributed to her lack of endurance, and horsemen generally classed her as a single heater. The attention which Prall has given her, however, leads many to believe that she will make trouble in the fall.

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E. J. SAWYER, Proprietor,  
East Cambridge, Mass.

There came into my enclosure, three miles north of Beagle, Jackson County, on April 11, 1902, one dark brown mare, branded with a figure "11" on left shoulder; eleven or twelve years old. Owner will please call for same, pay charges and take her away.

L. C. RAIMY.