

Life with Brice: Capt. William Tichenor, founder of Port Orford

By Brice Wagner
PON staff writer

Part II
In this final visit to speak of Captain Tichenor the founder of Port Orford and the local area settlement by the first white people we can address his accomplishments. Captain Tichenor's dream come true was to establish a settlement somewhere on the Oregon coast, and provide shipping or provisions inland to the goldfields of interior southern Oregon. Whether Tichenor knew how much gold was actually available on the local beaches, and close inland is a mystery. He thought there was bigger money to be made in shipping supplies inland to the gold fields.
Captain Tichenor at thirty eight years of age formed a small group of men in Portland, Oregon to land on a place that he had previously chosen and create a white settlement. The

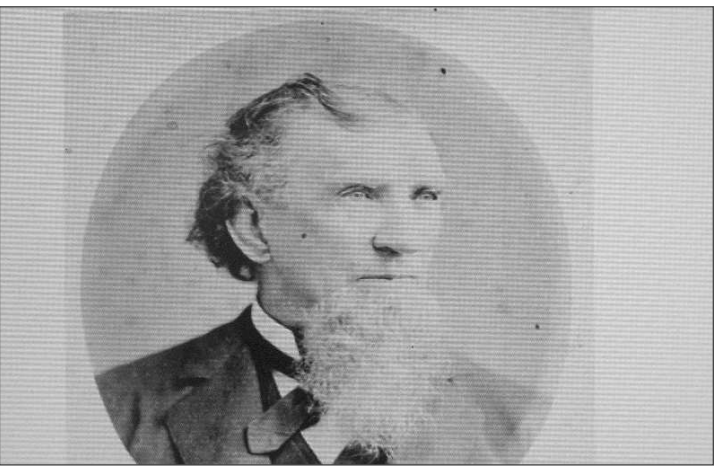
area had been inhabited by local native Americans for thousands of years. The small landing party led by Captain JM Kirkpatrick tested the waters and withstood several sieges by the local native Americans for 14 days.
When several hundred Indians showed, the nine white men decided it was time to make a run for their lives, and that is what they did making their way many miles north to the Umpqua River and safety. Tichenor later landed a larger group of sixty seven men, and from then on Port Orford was a permanent white settlement.
Captain William Tichenor was a family man, businessman, sea



Brice Wagner

PON photos by Brice Wagner
Capt. William Tichenor, founder of Port Orford is shown at right.

captain, owner of his own vessels, was the town magistrate, was twice elected to the territorial legislature for Coos, Curry, and Umpqua Counties, before coming west, he passed the Illinois bar and was an attorney, a gold miner that struck it rich and invested in his first vessel the schooner "Jacob M. Ryerson" in San Francisco and hauled freight and passengers up and down the Oregon coast to California.* He later sold the "Jacob M. Ryerson" and took command of the brig "Emily Farnam". He made several trips with this vessel, then time passed and he took command of the well known vessel, the 400 ton Seagull. He crossed the Humboldt bar February 26th, 1852 and lost his steamer Seagull in a heavy south west gale, but managed to save all on board, for which the passengers awarded him a gold watch. He next took command of the steamer Quickstep on voyages between Portland, Oregon and San Francisco, California. Captain Tichenor and his backers never found a Route from Port Orford to pack in supplies to the inland goldfields. Later in 1854 the steamer San Diego delivered the machinery for a steam sawmill. Eighteen days later after delivery the employees of the mill had it operating. The little mill employed 25 men, and in ten hours sawed 5,000 board feet of lumber. William Windsor was the key



millwright to keep the mill operating. The milling company sawed cedar that brought \$125.00 per thousand delivered to San Francisco, California. It is stated that this little sawmill contributed in making famous "Port Orford cedar". Tichenor moved his family to Port Orford on May 9, 1852, his wife and three children, Ellen, Anna, and Jacob B. Finally in 1868 Captain Tichenor abandoned the sea and settled down at his home in Port Orford. His wife Elizabeth died in 1880, and he later remarried. He was energetic, and untiring, and on account of his superior intelligence, he became a great factor in the development of the resources of the coast. In closure it was said "No man could sit and visit with Captain Tichenor for an hour and not be instructed".*(exert from Pioneer History of Coos and Curry by Orville Dodge-published 1898 Coos-Curry Pioneer History association-2nd edition 1969 Exerts from Fools Hill-Captain Tichenor page 22 by

great great grandson John Quick-- research also from Port Orford a History by Patrick Masterson permission from the friends of Cape Blanco— Research from The Golden Frontier the recollections of Herman Francis Reinhart—J. Frank Dobie, general Editor
Captain William Tichenor lies sleeping up Boot Hill road in the Tichenor cemetery. His grave stone is a very plain marker; his wife Elizabeth on the other hand has a tall monument marking her resting place. Opinions and attitudes vary on Captain Tichenor but one thing for certain is "he is the founder of Port Orford".

Captain William Tichenor founder of Port Orford
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Crossword:

Solution on page 9, Classifieds

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

46 Express gratitude

1 African ante-lope

4 —Khan

7 Cougar

11 Coarse file

13 Wander about

14 Historic times

15 Neighbor-hood

16 Pussy-cat's partner

17 Nearly

18 Gift of the Magi

20 Potter's oven

22 Total

24 Desirable male (Sl.)

28 Environ-ment

32 Stafford-shire

33 Physical

34 Gist

36 Part of the loop

37 "Likewise"

39 Stove top features

41 More than enough

43 Pouch

44 Oh, what fun —to ride ..."

DOWN

1 Metric measure

2 Not even one

3 Addict

4 Past

5 Stars

6 Wing it

7 Cheap-skate

8 Spoon-bender

9 Periodical, for short

10 Blond shade

12 Cheap

19 Shack

21 — Angeles

25 Color quality

26 Olfactory stimulus

27 Longings

28 Rope

29 Ice

30 skating leap

30 Restrain

31 Clumsy boat

35 Kram-den's

38 Mel of baseball lore

40 Stoolie

42 Highway sign

45 Late-

47 The third man

48 Protuber-ance

49 Entangle-ment

50 "The — Daba

51 A mere handful

52 "Norma —"

54 More than "er"

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BRIEFS, from page 5

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