

Early History of Oregon City.

Oregon City is not really old, but around it clusters the halo of antiquity because it was the first permanently settled town of Oregon. Here Dr. McLoughlin took up a claim in 1829. Here the first immigrants paused beside the falls. With the train of 1842 came S. W. Moss, who, at the request of Dr. McLoughlin, laid out the future city with a pocket compass he had brought across the plains. In 1840 Jason Lee established a mission station here, with Alvin W. Waller in charge. In 1843 that mission dedicated the First Protestant Church west of the Rock Mountains.

The immigrants of 1843 were a progressive people. Many of them spent the winter in Oregon City, founded a lyceum and collected all their books together for a circulating library. Here the first Legislature

home of Dr. Barclay still stands with its brass door-knobs, and window panes and first place mantle brought from England; the old Catholic Church that was attended by Dr. McLoughlin; the old Legislative hall, now used as a hotel; the old Whitlock place, with its shading elms brought from Vermont and all around the adjacent country are the claims of the old homesteaders, rich with historic association—Rose Farm, the Rinearson place, the Walling place and others, the scenes of old-time Indian fights and holiday feasting.

In Oregon City the first newspaper west of the Rocky Mountains saw the light, the Oregon Spectator, whose pages, yellowed with time, are packed with history; the first lawyers opened their offices here, the first judges held their courts. From Oregon City



ROSE FARM

met, and for some years Oregon City was the Colonial Capital. In 1844-5 Dr. McLoughlin moved to Oregon City and built the best house in the Valley, now the old Phoenix Hotel. Soon after George Abernethy was elected Governor and erected Oregon's first gubernatorial mansion at Green Point. This notable landmark of the early time was swept away in the flood of 1861.

Almost every man of note that ever came to Oregon stopped first at Oregon City. The name was as well known all over the United States as Dawson and Nome are today. Here the first stores were built by the Hudson's Bay Company, and Couch and Pettygrove, who afterward became the founders of Portland. In this capital seat and center the old beaver money was coined, armies were raised to fight in the Indian wars, and to Oregon City the captives were brought when rescued after the Whitman massacre. Whitman himself was often here as a guest of Dr. McLoughlin, Governor Abernethy and other notables of that day. From Oregon City John Quinn Thornton and Joe Meek, Oregon's first delegates, left for Congress, in 1848. Meek went overland, Thornton went by sea. To Oregon City came the first Territorial Governor, General Joe Lane, the "Marion of the Mexican War," who left a good work behind him in his treaties with the Indians.

Oregon City is full of old landmarks, the

first argonauts started for the land of gold, led by Peter H. Burnett, the Supreme Judge of the state, who became the first Governor of California. Back to Oregon City they came, bringing pockets full, tea canisters full, bags full of the shining gold dust. Here it was used for money and weighed at the stores like wheat or bran at \$16 an ounce in trade.

Harriett Prescott Spofford, the noted writer, is the daughter of Oregon City's first Mayor; Edwin Markham, who wrote "The Man With the Hoe," was born in Oregon City in 1852. Parker, Wilkes, Farnham, Hines, authors of histories, books of travel and Government reports all visited and described the site of the future City by the Falls.

"ROSE FARM."

Situated one and a half miles southeast of Oregon City, is a part of the D. L. C. (640 acres originally) of William Livingston Holmes.

Mr. Holmes, with his wife and three children, left Missouri on May 10, 1843, and arrived in Oregon City Nov. 17 of the same year. After a long and wearisome trip with an ox-team across the plains. Some time in December, a month after his arrival, he located the farm now known as "Rose Farm."

In February of 1844 he brought his family to the two-roomed log cabin which he

had built, with its outside stick chimneys and mud-chinked walls. Here they made their home until the completion of the main part of the house shown in the above cut, which was in October, 1848, and here he and his wife lived and died.

The front, or main part of the house, is as it was originally built.

With its strong fir timbers, mortised and fastened with large wooden pins, it has stood the storms of 53 years and is still strong and sound. Every timber, beam and sill in the main building was hewed and sawed by hand and much of the lumber and work was of the roughest and most primitive kind. As the carpenters were paid from \$7 to \$10 per day, it is needless to say that the work was not pushed very rapidly. Mr. and Mrs. Holmes were both of Southern birth and parentage and were ever full of hospitality, and the old house has been the scene of many barbecues, dinners and balls. Here the "youth and beauty" from far and near could meet "to chase the glowing hours with flying feet," and here, too, came the different Governors and high "Tilakums" of the state were "wined and dined." In the large room on the second floor, used in the early days for a ball-room, one of the first schools of Mount Pleasant was held, in '48 or '49, the log cabin which was built for a schoolhouse having been burned down. Here each day were gathered the few children of the neighborhood, to be taught the studies then considered necessary.

Much more might be said of this old, historic house did space permit.

Mr. and Mrs. Holmes and five of their children have passed away from this home, and of the merry family that once filled the rooms with life and joy, but two are left to the old home.



NUTSIDE FRUIT GARDEN.

C. W. Swallow, proprietor, is experimenting with the different kinds of nuts with good success. He has over a hundred varieties of fruits and nuts. He makes a specialty of choice berries and table fruits. Postoffice address, Oregon City.