

WILLAMETTE IS PIONEER SCHOOL

First English Speaking Institution of Higher Learning on Pacific Coast Which Has Persisted; A Great Heritage; A Glorious History

Willamette university is Salem's greatest help in supporting her claim to being an outstanding educational center. The school and the city were born twins. The story of their growth and struggles runs on parallel lines. The city and the school go back in the history of the "Oregon country" to the beginning of the development of civilization in the region reaching from the Rockies to the Pacific and stretching from the Canadian line to the scattered settlements of California. Willamette university is the pioneer institution of this vast region. It is "the old school."

Outline of Its History
The story of Willamette university is filled with the romance of heroism and the faith of prophets. Pioneer missionaries came to the northwest country upon a quest for souls and to build a Christian civilization. They knew that the foundation must be laid in religion and that there could be no permanence without education; therefore they immediately joined religion and learning by establishing a Christian school. Even before reaching Oregon, the missionaries gave birth to this far-sighted conception; for in 1839, while on the ship Lausanne

the new school were adopted. October 26, 1842—A meeting of the members and friends of the Methodist church was held in Salem formally to assume responsibility for the new school. As yet there was no conference organization to do this officially. July, 1844—The mission manual labor school of the Oregon mission was ordered closed by the new superintendent, Dr. Gary. Its property was sold to the Oregon Institute for the nominal sum of \$4,000.00, less than half the original cost of the building. It was a three-story frame structure, located on the present Willamette campus. At that time it was the most imposing structure on the Pacific coast. The building which the trustees were erecting, about five miles north of the present site of Salem, was sold. Tuesday, August 12, 1844—The Oregon Institute was formally opened by Mrs. Chloe Clarke Wilson to instruct white students. It was the first English speaking school on the Pacific coast which has lived. This was two years before it was decided whether the Pacific northwest should belong to the United States or to Great Britain, and five years before the Oregon territorial government

was organized and the building presented by Mrs. Henry D. Kimball, the wife of the founder of the school. 1907—Music hall given by W. W. Brown. December 12, 1907—Eaton hall was formally accepted by the trustees from the donor, Hon. E. A. Eaton. 1913—The half million endowment campaign completed. June, 1916—Last class graduated from the Oregon Institute (Willamette academy), the growth of public high schools making its work no longer necessary. November, 1919—The old Lausanne hall torn down to make way for the new Lausanne. December 17, 1919—Second Waller hall fire, the interior destroyed. The work of reconstruction started immediately, resulting in transforming this "Historic Temple" into a fine modern college building. September, 1920—The new Lausanne hall opened. It is one of the most complete and beautiful dormitories in the west. May, 1921—The gymnasium was destroyed by fire. 1922—Million dollar endowment campaign; the general edu-

the Indians, led they believed, by the Divine Hand, drove their stake and founded their mission and our city, sometimes in those early days, called Chemeketa, The Mills, The Institute, and finally Salem.

Ours is the third oldest city in the state. Astoria, founded by John Jacob Astor's fur company in 1811, being first. Oregon City, founded by Dr. John McLaughlin in 1829, being second. On that June day, so long ago, those missionaries, as they stood at old Chemeketa and looked about them must have thought indeed that they had been led to a goodly land, one as fair as Canaan, as beautiful as the vale of Cashmere. Stretching away under the June day sun to the east was a fertile and well watered plain, covered with waving grass. On beyond, mile upon mile, rose the fir clad mountains with their towering peaks capped in eternal snow. North and south lay the rolling prairie and its intermingling of wooded land and open vale, to the west the river, the Indian's greatest highway—his Willamette, our Willamette, and my old friend Sam Simpson's "Beautiful Willamette," and of which he sang so grandly:

"From the Cascade's frozen gorges,
Leaping like a child at play,
Winding, widening through the valley,
Bright Willamette glides away
Onward ever,
Lovely river
Softly calling to the sea;
Times that scars us,
Mains and mars us,
Leaves no track or trench on thee."

Beyond the river rose the wooded height, the Lamonts of the Indians, our Eola hills, famous now as the home of the original dirt farmer, Hon. Isaac L. Patterson. In the early part of July 1840, the missionaries began the erection of their saw and grist mills. The first dwelling house built at Chemeketa, occupied at different times as a hospital, as a residence for Rev. Jason Lee, Rev. L. H. Judson, J. B. McClane, John D. Boone and Judge R. P. Boise, is still standing at 960 Broadway. The house was remodeled by my father and looks quite different now from what it did when erected in 1840.

In 1841 building had advanced sufficiently at Chemeketa so that the central mission was removed to this point. A manual training school was erected here for instruction of Indian children. Around this mission gradually grew the city of Salem.

Now to get things connected up, I will give a brief statement of Oregon's early history. Prior to the founding of Salem occupation of Oregon for the purpose of creating here an American state had not begun. In the year 1840 there arrived in the Willamette valley what is known as the Peoria party. A company of 14 persons had been organized at Peoria, Ill., to come to Oregon to settle, and assist in making this American territory. Only seven of the number arrived in Oregon, the others turning back to the old home. Of these seven only five remained; namely, Joseph Holman, Amos Cook, Francis Fletcher, R. L. Kilborne and Sidney Smith. In the same year a number of American trappers from the Rocky mountain country with their Indian wives settled here. Among them was that remarkable character, Joseph L. Meek. Judge J. Quinn Thornton in his History of the Provisional Government of Oregon, writes as follows: "In the autumn of 1840 there were in Oregon 36 American male settlers, 25 of whom had taken native women for their wives. There were also 33 American women, 32 children, 13 lay members of the Protestant missions, 13 Methodist ministers, three Jesuit priests and 60 Canadian-French, making an aggregate of 137 Americans and 63 Canadian-French, having no connection as employees of the Hudson Bay company." Only 137 Americans, but as has been said:

"I hear the tramp of pioneers,
Of nations yet to be,
The first low wash of waves
Which soon
Shall roll a human sea."

On May 11, 1792, Captain Robert Gray, in the ship Columbia, sailed into the Oregon river, and renamed it the Columbia. In 1805, the Lewis & Clark expedition left Fort Mandan where they had wintered, came across the plains, followed down the Columbia river and wintered at Fort Clatsop, returning to the states in 1806. In 1813 the Pacific Fur or Astor company sold out its business to the Northwest Fur company, a British concern, and Astoria was rechristened Fort George. In the same year the British sloop of war, Raccoon, arrived and nominally of Oregon, and held it as British territory. At the close of what is known as the war of 1812, between the U. S. and Great Britain, the treaty of Ghent, that followed, provided: "That all territory, places and possessions whatsoever taken by either party from the other during the war shall be restored." By virtue of this provision, the U. S. through Capt. James Biddle of the American sloop of war Ontario, on August 19, 1818, raised the stars and stripes once again over the fort, changed the name back to Astoria and asserted our claim to Oregon.

The British consented to all of this except as to our claiming title to the entire Oregon country. In 1821 the Northwest Fur company and the Hudson Bay company united under the name of the latter concern. In 1824 Dr. John McLaughlin became its chief factor for the western district, and on his arrival in the country moved the stock of goods belonging to the company from Astoria to Vancouver and made that place his headquarters. Here with the power conferred upon one of his subordinates, James Douglas, of a British magistrate, and with his far flung trading posts (21 in number in 1839) covering the country, he ruled as did the barons of old for many years. His rule was just. He was a good and great man, but his endeavor for a long time was to hold this country for the fur trade with the Indians and against the Americans. That endeavor went down to defeat before the advancing wave of American immigration.

On October 26, 1818, the treaty of London, between the U. S. and Great Britain provided that all of that vast country north of the Mexican line, south of the Russian possessions and westward of the Stony mountains—then the name of the Rocky mountains—should be free and open for the term of 10 years to the vessels, citizens and subjects of the two powers. This joint occupation treaty was renewed August 16, 1827, with liberty to either party to annul and abrogate it any time after October 20, 1828, by giving one year's notice of such purpose. This matter stood with reference to the sovereignty of the Oregon Country down to June 15, 1846, when it was settled by treaty giving the U. S. the northern line as it now stands. So Salem was six years old before its residents could say, for a certainty, that they stood on American soil. It, however, was never thought that the British line would be drawn south of the Columbia river. Still there had been anxiety over the boundary dispute and its final settlement was hailed with joy by the American settlers. Salem, when founded, was the white man's southern outpost in Oregon. There was no civilized abiding place between it and the Mexican settlements of California.

In 1841 the mission saw and grist mills, both under the same roof, were in operation. The mission school with about 20 Indian children in attendance and with Joseph Holman and wife, nee Miss Almira Phelps, in charge, was doing good work. In 1842 the need for a school for white children was felt, so work was begun on a two story building, to be used as a school house, same being finished in 1845. It stood on what was then called Wallace prairie, being a little way northeast of the present Oregon Deaf school building. It was called the Oregon Institute, but was never occupied for educational purposes. What used to be known as the old university building was erected by the Methodist mission in 1844, for use as an Indian school. And, by the way, I saw this building burn to the ground on the night of December 27, 1872. It stood about where the present gymnasium building of the Willamette university stands. When in this same year of 1844 the business of the Methodist mission was closed, the old university building was sold to the trustees of the Oregon Institute and school was opened up in it with Mrs. Chloe Wilson as teacher in the fall of 1844, there being 20 pupils. On January 11, 1853, the name of the school was changed to Willamette University, it being incorporated under that name. The corner stone of the present Waller hall was laid July 24, 1864, and on October 21, 1867, the school was removed to it. The history of the buildings that have been added since, most of those present are familiar with.

Among the pioneer professors of old Willamette who did great work in their day, I recall Rev. N. Doane, Rev. J. H. Wilbur, Rev. F. S. Hoyt, T. M. Gatch, L. V. Powell, F. H. Crawford, J. H. Wythe, F. H. Grubbs, C. H. Hall, D. S. Spaulding, Miss Mary Miller (later Mrs. J. K. Kelly), Mrs. Samuel Thurston (later Mrs. W. H. O'Dell), Miss Mary Waller (later Mrs. C. H. Hall), Miss Lucy Ann Lee (later Mrs. F. H. Grubbs), Miss Mary Adams, Miss Ellen Chamberlain and Miss Lizzie Boise. Had I the time there is much more I would like to say of this old school. Its past is grand and its outlook for the future bright indeed.

Hall J. Kelly and Nathaniel J. Wyeth, who had been in the Oregon country, the latter for a time operating a trading post in 1834 on Savie's island; Dr. Marcus Whitman, Rev. Jason Lee and others, mostly prior to 1840, had lectured on this country in what was then known as The States. In 1842 Dr. Lynn introduced in the U. S. senate his Oregon Donation Land bill giving to a married settler 640 acres of land and to an unmarried one 320 acres.

WILLAMETTE UNIVERSITY

EMBRACING

College of Liberal Arts College of Law School of Music

INSEPARABLY CONNECTED WITH THE HISTORY OF OREGON

DR. CARL G. DONEY, President
SALEM, OREGON



Spacious New Gymnasium—Latest Addition to Willamette Campus

as it called the Pacific ocean. Jason Lee and fifty others took a collection of \$650 for the purpose of founding such a school for white children in the land to which they were going. What vision, what faith! and how nobly have the years justified their labors!

Through Eighty Years
During the eighty years of existence Willamette has been attended by over 15,000 students and has graduated about 1,500. The impress of the school has been placed upon this large number who have carried it throughout the world, but especially to the northwest.

The following chronological outline of Willamette's history was prepared by Prof. Robert M. Gatke, of the department of history, and will acquaint one with the development of the institution:

January 17, 1842—Jason Lee, the Christian Father of the northwest, called a meeting to consider the educational needs of the Oregon country. It was attended by the religious leaders of the pioneer community. They assembled at the new mission house, the first frame dwelling erected in Salem, located in what is now North Salem. A committee was appointed to draw up and submit plans at a later public meeting.

February 1, 1842—A public meeting was held at the old mission station to consider the founding of a school. This historic building was located on the banks of the Willamette river, ten miles north of where Salem now stands. It was built by Jason Lee and his helpers in the year 1834, at a time when there were no white men in the northwest except a few fur traders and trappers. This meeting decided to organize a Christian school, to be called the Oregon Institute which should become a university as soon as circumstances would permit. A board of trustees, including Jason Lee, was appointed. This marks the true founding of Willamette university.

March 15, 1842—The constitution, by-laws and prospectus for the school were adopted. October 26, 1842—A meeting of the members and friends of the Methodist church was held in Salem formally to assume responsibility for the new school. As yet there was no conference organization to do this officially. July, 1844—The mission manual labor school of the Oregon mission was ordered closed by the new superintendent, Dr. Gary. Its property was sold to the Oregon Institute for the nominal sum of \$4,000.00, less than half the original cost of the building. It was a three-story frame structure, located on the present Willamette campus. At that time it was the most imposing structure on the Pacific coast. The building which the trustees were erecting, about five miles north of the present site of Salem, was sold. Tuesday, August 12, 1844—The Oregon Institute was formally opened by Mrs. Chloe Clarke Wilson to instruct white students. It was the first English speaking school on the Pacific coast which has lived. This was two years before it was decided whether the Pacific northwest should belong to the United States or to Great Britain, and five years before the Oregon territorial government

was established. The total white population of the Pacific northwest was between three and four thousand.

September 5, 1849—The meeting of the Oregon-California mission conference was held at the institute.

January 12, 1853—The territorial legislature of Oregon granted a charter to Willamette university, with the Oregon Institute retained as its preparatory department. This was about a month before Washington territory was separated from Oregon territory. The Rev. Francis S. Hoyt became first president.

1859—Miss Emily J. York, Willamette's first graduate, received the degree of Mistress of English Literature.

October 3, 1860—Board of trustees seek a new college building.

February 22, 1864—Plan for the new building was adopted. It was to be three full stories, of brick construction and the ground plan was to be that of the Greek cross.

July 24, 1864—The corner stone of the new building was laid.

November 14, 1866—The board of trustees took action for the establishment of a college of medicine.

April 1, 1867—The medical college was opened with an attendance of twenty students. It was the first professional school on the coast. It continued until 1913 when it was merged with the University of Oregon.

October 21, 1867—With much rejoicing the students took formal possession of the new building, although it was not yet fully completed. This structure, now known as Waller hall, remained the principal building until 1907. It cost about \$40,000, which represented a value much greater than that of today.

1882—College of law established, which still flourishes.

September 16, 1891—Fire destroys interior of Waller hall.

1905—Science hall was built. It was first known as the Medical building.

1906—Kimball College of Theology

board making a conditional gift of \$350,000.

1923—New gymnasium dedicated November 9.

The Test of Time
Willamette university has been tested by eighty long and productive years. Rooted in a great faith and serving a great need, it has been a beacon to guide many a life-bark upon a safe and prosperous journey.

The members of its faculty are scholars who know enough to be authoritative teachers in their subjects and who know enough more to discover God in the heart of all truth.

The students of Willamette are chosen youth of high purposes and honest endeavor. They are loyal, cheerful, democratic, good and true; serious, but happy; industrious, but light hearted; responsible, but care free; they are 600 great souls upon a great quest.

Full to Capacity
Willamette university can accommodate the 600 students now in attendance; but this requires some crowding, because the present facilities were planned for around 500. But there is growth, and must necessarily be, in such a great and growing field. There will be 1000 in the not far distant future; and then more and still more. Considered in merely a business way, the "old school" is a great asset to Salem. In every other way, it is a wonderful influence in the building and maintenance of high standards, here, and radiating throughout the whole world—even to the far places in all the missionary fields.

With Willamette; with her splendid public schools; with her fine business college, and her many private institutions teaching music and other branches, Salem rightfully lays claim to being an educational center.

The building in which the meeting was held January 17, 1842—the first frame dwelling erected in Salem—still stands, on Broadway street. It is a part of the residence that was formerly occupied by Judge R. P. Boise.

to the northwest in a race that would have to be only a few hundred yards long until a hillside was reached that gave sufficient fall to allow the operation of their overshot wheel. Here was the place for their mills. Here was the place to found a settlement; to build a city. The land lay high above the river. The drainage was good, the location healthful. Here the old Indian trails leading north and south and east and west, crossed. In the summer at the upper end of what is now called McClane's island the Willamette river could be forded, and the water level graded from the ford passed around the hills to the prairie lands of the west side. To the east were far stretches of level country. Here these missionaries, who had come to Christianize and civilize

ROMANTIC STORY OF JASON LEE AND EARLY SALEM TOLD AT FIRST HAND BY PIONEER SON, R. P. BOISE

I have been asked to briefly sketch some of the facts connected with the founding of this city and of its early history. So, I will tell you the story as I have often heard it told by those who laid the foundation stones of Salem, building enduringly upon them and guarding well for many years what they had built.

In 1834 the Rev. Jason Lee founded the Methodist mission, 10 miles north of this place, on what is now known as Mission bottom. This location proving unhealthy, Father Lee, on his return from

the east in the ship Lausanne in 1840 with reinforcements for the mission, set out with others of his party to find a better location. Also to discover a water power and mill site, as he had brought with him on the Lausanne the machinery for both a saw and grist mill. Across the prairie they came to the Indian village of Chemeketa. Father Lee had examined the place prior to his starting east in 1838 and here, where the Oregon Electric railway bridge now crosses North Mill creek, they saw where they could build a dam, turning the waters



Dorris Louise Morris Listening to Radio in the Window of the Salem Electric Company

Discussions over this bill with Senators Lynn and Benton saying many splendid things for Oregon and the necessity of its being held as American territory had stirred up the people, especially of the middle west and resulted in the great migration to this country that rolled especially strong in the 10 year period from 1840 to 1850. Nothing just like these migrations are known in previous history. Two thousand miles of travel through a wild and hostile country, and it was not as armies march, but it was the home seekers with their wives and children, their ox teams, their plows, harrows and farming implements in general. Six long months and sometimes more, living largely off the country traveled over, the journey filled with hardships, beset by dangers, they endured the storms, they fought the savages, but it was ever on and on until their purpose was accomplished. It has been said, and said truly, that "only the brave got through," but here they came. They had their choice of land all through that long march. Their pick was a home in the Willamette valley. They here made roads of Indian trails, farms where had been hunting grounds and cities rose where trading posts and missions once had stood. S. A. Clark sang years ago of these pioneers: "Tramp, tramp, tramp, the trains come marching. Westward still westward, see they come. Sometimes savage tribes they fought, But the starry flag they brought While beneath its folds each freeman found a home."

When the pioneers arrived in Oregon they found no government here so they met to organize one May 2, 1843 at old Champego, and meeting with them was British opposition. Still they organized their government and it met, down to March 4, 1849, when General Joe Lane inaugurated the territorial government, every exigency that arose, including the war with the Cayuse Indians who had massacred the Whitman family and others Nov. 27, 1847, at the Whitman mission near the present site of Walla Walla.

A Donation Land Claim Act was passed by the Provisional government in 1843 that stopped claim jumping, and thus assisted materially in maintaining order. This land act was modeled on the Linn bill before referred to, and was almost identical with the law finally passed by congress, September 27, 1850. The full story of the Provisional government is most interesting and instructive and shows that the average American lands on his feet wherever shaken down. Oregon's territorial days ended on February 14th, 1859 when the state was admitted to the union.

Salem got its share of the immigrants coming to Oregon. Among them, and arriving here in the fall of 1847, was Thomas Cox who brought with him a stock of goods. He purchased from Dr. W. H. Wilson, the original town site proprietor, a lot on the northeast corner of Commercial and Ferry streets. Here he erected a two-story building, moving into it early in 1848, and using it both for a store and dwelling. This was Salem's first store. The second one was opened in 1849 on Boone's Island in North Salem by J. B. McClane. The third store was started by David Carter and Joseph Holman, a little way north from the northeast corner of Commercial and Trade streets. J. D. Boone and Philister Lee opened the fourth store at the northeast corner of Commercial and Che-

meketa streets. Mr. Lee resided in the rear part of the store building.

In the summer of 1848 news reached Salem of the gold discovery in California, and before winter set in about all of the able bodied men, not only in this place but in the entire Willamette valley, had gone to the mines. Upon the return of these gold seekers, mostly in 1849-50, bringing back with them much of what they had sought, Salem saw its first boom. Everything not only here, but on the entire coast, went ahead with a rush. The first steamboat to operate on the Willamette river above the falls in the year 1851 was the Hoosier was.

In January, 1851, by act of the legislature, the capital of Oregon was moved from Oregon City where it had been located since the organization of the Provisional government, to Salem. In the month of June, 1851, the Oregon Statesman (A. Bush, owner and editor) was moved from Oregon City to Salem. This was Salem's first newspaper.

In September, 1853, a contest opened up between J. B. McClane and J. D. Boone over the land claim that is included in what is known as North Salem. It led to long litigation and held back the development of that part of the city. It was finally compromised, each side getting half of the claim. The patent from the government going to Mr. McClane.

Joseph Watt, a pioneer of 1844, residing at Amity, conceived the idea of building a woolen mill in Oregon. In 1856 he started soliciting subscriptions for this purpose, at first principally in Polk and Yamhill counties. He soon had \$4000 subscribed. At a meeting in Dallas of these subscribers, Salem, on account of its water power was chosen as the site for the factory. In April, 1856, the Willamette Woolen Manufacturing Company was organized and work started on building a race to connect the Santiam river with Mill Creek. This work was under the supervision of Mr. Watt. W. H. Rector was superintendent of construction of the factory building, which was located on Boone's Island, a short distance south of where the Mission mills stood. All was completed and the factory running in the year 1857. This was the first woolen mill to be operated on the Pacific coast. The officers of the company were George H. Williams, president; Joseph G. Wilson, secretary; J. D. Boone, treasurer; Joseph Watt, Joseph Holman, W. H. Rector, L. F. Graver, Daniel Waldo and E. M. Barnum were the directors. The turning of water from the Santiam into Mill Creek and thus giving Salem a first-class water power and the building of the woolen mill here were mighty forward strides for Salem, and sent the town ahead for a time at a rapid pace. There had been an effort to incorporate our city in 1856 and officers had been elected, but the courts held against the legality of the charter. In 1860, however, the incorporation was perfected and Hon. Lucien Heath elected mayor. Through all of the years that have followed, the history of which I leave to others, Salem has steadily progressed and kept her place as the second city of Oregon, and now bright shines her star of destiny betokening a splendid future.

We rise to remark that it is often safer to remain seated—Odessa Democrat.

Britain hurries to recognize Russia while there is enough left to recognize.—Pittsburgh Sun.

Here's Hoping that Europe has seen its worst days.—Washington