

ADDRESS PAYS HONOR TO COX

First Merchant's Life is Described, Memorial to Him Unveiled

(Continued from page 2)

chased 8 yards of calico for \$2.37 and a shawl for \$7 for his wife. Presumably he was satisfied with the new store because 3 days later, on Oct. 23, he returned and purchased a bill of goods amounting to \$36.15, and paid \$10 in cash and gave Mr. Cox a cow valued at \$20 on account of the balance. It is interesting in running over the items of this purchase to observe that he must have been in need of a new suit as he bought 2 yards of black broadcloth for \$13; 1 1/2 yards lining, 45 cents; 1 doz. buttons, .25 cents; 5 buttons, 12 1/2 cents; 1-3 yard padding, 50 cents. But the items were not all for himself as there were three yards of cashmere, \$10.50; 5 yards alpaca, \$4.05, and one yard bouret silk, \$1.50. So, imagine that soon after this purchase David Leslie was preaching in his new black broadcloth suit, and his wife was going to the ladies' aid society in her new cashmere dress, silk bouret and shawl. If the Leslie had done no shopping since they left Boston ten years before, I can well understand why they thus early became customers of Mr. Cox.

Lindsay Applegate, the brother of Jesse, the pioneer of 1842, on October 28, 1847, came to buy 16 yards of linen for \$4.83 and 2 yards of flannel for \$2.25; 14 yards of calico, \$3.50; 10 yards cotton drill, \$5.00; 4 yards Kentucky jean, \$4.00. Total bill, \$19.53. On the same day, namely, Oct. 28, 1847, Jesse Looney, another pioneer of 1843, outdid the Applegates for he purchased calico, alpaca, thimbles, shawls, lace and ribbons to the amount of \$29.32. You can see that Mr. Cox had the instinct of a merchant in that he had lace, ribbons and shawls for the women even though he had to cart them 2500 miles over mountains and prairies and across rivers in wagons drawn by oxen—yet he would cater to the ladies.

But Mr. Cox was not himself going unadorned for we find that on Dec. 5, 1847, he charged himself with a watch at \$60 and a chain at \$30.

The missionaries seemed to have been good customers. David Leslie more so, started them. On Oct. 30, 1847, Rev. Goodhue, not to be outdone by Rev. Leslie, also bought himself some broadcloth for a new suit, and calico, alpaca, and cashmere for Mrs. Goodhue at a cost of \$31.26. Father Partridge could not be thus outdone and so three days later, or Nov. 3, he was found in the store buying calico, velvet and cotton flannel, all for \$46.03, apparently all for Mrs. Partridge who probably had pressed his old suit and told him that it looked better now than the home made ones of Rev. Leslie and Rev. Goodhue. Even the missionary women had their way and their ways.

I notice that my own grandmother was an early customer for on Oct. 27, 1847 she indulged herself in 15 yards of print for \$4.50, which she later paid for by making vests for the store.

One observes another instinct of the true merchant. In looking over these books one sees that Mr. Cox was very careful to charge himself and every member of his family for whatever each got from the store.

You will be interested to learn that he sold molasses at 75 cents a gallon, children's shoes at \$1 a pair; boots at \$4, \$7, and \$8 a pair; a black cravat (probably for the missionaries) at \$1.75; gloves at \$1.50 each; 7 lbs. cracked sugar for \$1.75; flour at 5 cents a pound. During the year 1852 prices seem to have risen for we notice that on Feb. 2, 1852, Mr. W. Griswold bought the following:

25 doz. eggs \$ 25.00
6 1/2 bus. onions 19.50
(\$3 per bushel)

1 barrel containing:
104 doz. eggs 104.00
1 1/2 bus. oats 1.12

There are many entries of payments by gold dust especially during 1849 when it was received almost every day. The entries indicated that they took in gold dust at \$11 and \$12 per oz. and credited their cash at \$16 an oz.

I have in my possession also the original account books of Thomas Cox kept in his store in Wilmington, Will County, Illinois, before coming to Oregon. From them I learn that there he sold sugar at 5c a pound; butter at 25c a pound; corn 50c bushel; pork at 6c a pound; pears, \$2 a bushel; tea, \$1.00 per pound; coffee 20c per pound; vinegar, 3 quarts for 25c; tobacco, 50c per pound. That common labor was paid \$1 per day while \$4 was all a man got for cradling wheat for 5 days.

The first call to public duty found Mr. Cox ready. When the Cayuse war broke out in a short time after his arrival in Salem, the first need was ammunition for the militia. The supply of powder and caps, which he had manufactured in Ohio and probably also in Illinois and brought along with his other effects, he gave freely and gladly to the government making no charge therefor.

The location of the store in the Judson house was satisfactory. Mr. Cox very soon found himself confronted with the need for a building for his family and store. The town had just been laid out. It was very important that the store be on a main street. Hence, when Mr. Cox began to cast about for a new location he had to consider well where the new village center might be. He finally decided on the spot where we now stand, the northeast corner of Commercial and Perry streets, and here, in the winter of 1847-48, he built the first store building, and probably the first built

ing after the new streets were laid out. It was a two story frame structure with the store on the first floor and living quarters for his family above. About this time, Mr. Turner Crump, with whom he had lived in the Judson house, was appointed postmaster and he chose the new store building as the place for the new post-office. And thus the building became the site of the first post-office as well as that of the first store.

When the gold fever of California spread to Oregon, Mr. William Cox, the son of Thomas, went to California. His efforts were rewarded with real gold. But he was anxious to return to Oregon. By this time the gold rush was on in full. San Francisco was filled with merchants. So William Cox purchased new goods and returned to Salem in 1849. On his return he married the stepdaughter of Turner Crump. Soon after this, Martha, the wife of Thomas Cox, died and he retired from the store and his son, William, went into partnership with his father-in-law, Turner Crump, and the store continued under the name of "William Cox & Co."

On retiring from the store Thomas Cox went on to his farm about 3 miles south of Salem. Here he devoted himself to developing fruit trees from seeds which he had brought across the plains with him. Among other fruits he developed a peach called the "Cox Golden Cling", a peach still to be found in certain orchards in the Willamette Valley. They sold for \$1.50 a peck or \$8 a bushel.

Just as his experience as a merchant in Indiana and Illinois had

caused him to be a merchant in Salem, so his experience as a builder of grist and woolen mills there caused him to associate himself in 1851 with Joseph Watt, Wm. H. Rector, John McIntosh, Joseph C. Wilson, John D. Boon, and others in the erection of the Willamette Woolen Mills on Boon's Island, later called North Salem. This was the pioneer woolen mill of the coast. He was appointed to superintend the building of the dam across Mill Creek to provide a head of water for the mill. So well was this done that it resisted the floods for over 20 years. He retained his interest till 1860 when he sold to Joseph Smith.

In the same year he moved from his farm to the home of his son-in-law, Benjamin F. Harding, who had married his daughter, Ella. He lived to see his eldest son, Joseph, a member of the convention which drew the constitution for the state of Oregon. He also saw his son-in-law, Benjamin F. Harding, grow to be one of the first citizens of Oregon. He saw him appointed U. S. District Attorney by President Pierce when George H. Williams, Cyrus Olney and Matthew P. Deady were the U. S. Judges of Oregon. He saw him become Secretary of State for the Territory of Oregon under President Pierce, from Jan. 27, 1855 to March 3, 1859. When the Civil War broke out he saw Harding appointed Quartermaster in 1861, being as Judge Carey in his History of Oregon, Page 662 says among the "first appointees for volunteer service in an Oregon regiment in the Civil War, of whose loyalty to the Union cause there was no

question" and less than one month before his death Mr. Cox saw Mr. Harding elected by the Legislature of Oregon to be the United States Senator to fill the unexpired term of Senator Edward D. Baker after his untimely death. His term of office was from Sept. 11, 1862 to March 3, 1865.

Thomas Cox died at the home of his son-in-law, Benjamin F. Harding, on October 8, 1882, 14 days before his 72nd birthday and 15 years after his arrival in Oregon. He died probably from injuries received from a fall when his horse and buggy backed off a bridge over Pudding river and fell 15 feet.

He was small of stature, probably never weighed over 150 pounds. He was wiry and energetic, a close and keen observer, of a mechanical turn of mind, and most skillful in the use of his hands. In his dealings he was strictly honest and exacted honesty of all who dealt with him. He was cautious in his business dealings and successful in his undertakings. He had more than ordinary musical ability and to his dying day his violin was his constant companion. He lies buried in the Cox cemetery on one of the old Cox homesteads nine miles south of Salem.

Such is the record and achievements of Thomas Cox, the first merchant of Salem. He began out as a farm boy in Virginia where his father pioneered. His first venture and his last was on a farm, but between these two ventures he developed into a builder, owner and operator of grist and woolen mills, a manufacturer of guns and gunpowder,

and finally a merchant. It was thus as a man in the full strength of a successful business career that he came to Salem and became its first merchant.

(The writer hereof, being a great grandson of the said Thomas Cox, has in his possession his original account book of his store and mills in Wilmington, Illinois, going back to Jan. 1838, while Chester Cox, also a great grandson, has the account books of the first store in Salem. Thus we have in the family the original records of his business career concerning which there can be no doubt.)

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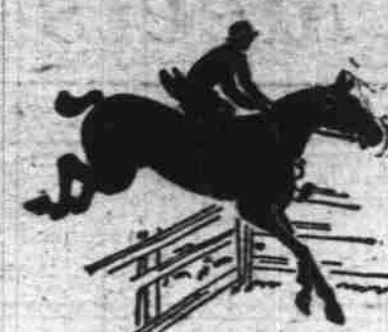
at the
OREGON STATE FAIR
Come and Spend the Day

-- PROGRAMME --

- 10 to 12: Judging of boots and displays.
10:30 a. m. Program in art department.
11:00 a. m. Free acts on Monkey Isle.
11:30 a. m. Special music program.
1:00 p. m. Music program sponsored by Club Federation.
1:30 p. m. Horse races featuring Governor's Derby.
2:00 p. m. Matinee horse show.
2:00 Road hacks Class 49
2:15 Harness ponies—single Class 17
2:25 Five gaited—
3 year olds Class 34
2:35 Polo ponies—teams Class 73
2:45 Shetlands—tandems Class 64
2:55 Draft horses—
six-in-hand Class 58
3:10 Harness ponies—pairs—
under 13.2 Class 20
3:20 Five gaited combination Class 39
3:35 Shetland—ladies Class 67
3:45 Three gaited—amateur Class 32
4:00 Hunters, ladies Class 45
2:30 p. m. Program in art department.
5:00 p. m. Free circus acts on Monkey Isle.
7:00 p. m. Evening musical program.
8:00 p. m. Horse show.
8:00 Hunters—lightweight Class 43
8:20 Harness ponies—tandems
over 13.2 Class 21
8:30 Five gaited horses—
junior Class 38
8:45 Harness horses—single
over 15.2 Class 10
8:55 Three gaited horses—
ladies Class 27
10:10 Hunt teams Class 48
10:30 p. m. Horse show supper dance, Marion hotel.

The Following Have Assisted the Oregon State Fair in Making This Space Possible

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Morris Optical Company | Midget Market |
| Irish's Cash Store | Gray Belle |
| Beneficial Loan Society of Oregon | The Spa |
| Atlas Book Store | Marion Hotel |
| George E. Allen Hardware | Valley Motor Company |
| Ladd & Bush Bank | Salem Hardware Company |
| First National Bank | Oscar D. "Frosty" Olson, Florist |
| A. C. Haag & Co. | Douglas McKay Chevrolet Co. |
| U. S. National Bank | Halik Electric Shop |
| Commercial Cigar Store | Charles R. Archard Implement Co. |



Today Is Salem Day
At the Fair

This Store Closes at Noon

TODAY....! A Half Day Sale At MILLER'S! Holeproof Silk Hose

Come down town early today and shop MILLER'S HALF DAY SALE! This sale of pure silk full fashioned first quality Holeproof today at much less than half! Main Floor.

Half Day! **79c**

"Cled" Rayon Undies

Regular \$1.00 quality Cled fine rayon undies. French panties, bloomers, stepins, chemise and vests in flesh and peach. Both regular and out sizes. Main floor. Hosiery section.

Half Day! **59c** 2 for 98c

Imported Umbrellas

Imported Gloria fancy top umbrellas in newest novelties for autumn in this sale. Sixteen rib... bakelite tips... crook and novelty handles. Main floor.

Half Day! **\$2.95**

Silk Umbrellas, New!

Fine quality silk umbrellas in black and white, red, green, blue, and black. Fancy silk tops... bakelite reinforced tips and a great variety of new handles. Main floor.

\$3.95

Goodrich Galoshes

New! First quality Goodrich and U. S. rubber galoshes in black, tan and brown. Talon and snap fasteners. These sell regularly at \$2.98 pair. Main floor today.

\$1.95

Half Day Sale of New Hats

Tricornes, Turbans, Eugenie
Robin Hood Effects

\$2.89

However perplexing your hat problem may seem... you'll find the answer here today in these new tricornes, turban, Eugenie, etc., at special sale price \$2.89. Good quality felt with fashion's new trims of feathers, braids, etc. 2nd floor.



Sale of Sample
Costume Jewelry
39c

A salesman's sample line of necklaces at 39c and not a string sold regularly for less than \$1.00 to \$2.00. Here you'll find the color scheme for that new coat or frock. New greens, browns, tans, reds, black and white, white and pastel shades.

Sale of Boys' U. S.
Leatherette
Rain Coats
\$2.95

Complete line of boys' leatherette rain coats arrived in time for today's sale. These are U. S. Rubber first quality. Black and brown. Sizes 2 to 18 years in sizes 2 to 14 a helmet to match is included at this price. These are exceptionally durable. Boys' department, Main floor.

Boy's Broadcloth Shirts 59c

A sale of boys' fast color broadcloth shirts in plain tan, green, blue, well tailored to fit and a thoroughly satisfactory shirt for dress or school wear. Sizes 12 1/2, 13, 13 1/2, 14.

