

Salem City of Only 100 Residents in Days Statesman Was Founded

Late J. A. Baker Recalled Places

In 1851 No Churches Were Standing; Lee House Oldest in Town

To the late Joseph A. Baker of Salem, who died in 1932, The Statesman is indebted for the data given herewith on the census of Salem at the period when the paper was begun in Oregon City. Mr. Baker had come to Salem in 1848 and at the time of his death was the patriarch of the community—no one approached the span of years he had been a continuous resident of the city.

Mr. Baker recounted from memory that when he came to Salem there were 16 houses and about 75 to 100 residents.

The town having been named and platted in 1850 and 1851, and having secured the capital by a vote of the second territorial legislature that met in regular session in Oregon City in 1850, had enjoyed a slight "boom" at this period.

When the first territorial legislature to meet in Salem had assembled, December 3, 1851, there was no place suitable for its sessions, except a room for each branch in the basement of the Oregon Institute (that by change of name became Willamette university), and so arrangements were made for these rooms, with a couple of desks and some spittoons furnished. It appears that the sessions of 1853 and 1854 met in the hall of the Oregon Institute, the 1854-55 session was held in completed rooms of the territorial capitol; the almost completed building that was burned December 28, 1855, leaving the territory and state, for about 20 years, with only rented rooms in downtown Salem.

Buildings listed by Mr. Baker at the time of his arrival included the following:

1. The Jason Lee Mission house at what is now 960 Broadway, the first residence in what became Salem, still standing and almost as it was, was erected in 1840-41, except for the L on the southwest corner.

2. Small building or shed on west side of Liberty street on the south bank of North Mill creek, unoccupied.

3. Residence in course of construction on the northeast corner of Liberty and Union streets.

4. A house standing about the center of the block east of Commercial and north of Court street then occupied by Samuel Parker and family. It had been the home of the Rev. L. H. Judson family. The Pacific Christian Advocate was afterwards published in this building. It was later moved up to face Court street and a store front added, and in the old days it was the famous "North Star" saloon of "Sandy" Pines. It was torn down only a few years ago. The space is now occupied by the Dr. Steeves two-story brick.

Introduction to Empire Builders

5. A residence in the same vicinity and a little southeast of the southeast corner of the present Ladd & Bush Bank building, occupied by James Turner Crump and family, Salem's first (provisional government) postmaster; before Salem was named the place was then called "The Institute," as it had before been called "The Mills," the original Indian name having been Chameketa, meaning place of meeting, probably indicating that it was an Indian city of refuge. Mr. Crump was a partner in the first established store in Salem, succeeding, with the son William Cox, Thomas Cox, who brought his goods across the plains in 13 four-yoke ox wagons in 1847. This is the first regular postoffice was in the first store.

6. A small house just west of where the Masonic building now stands, occupied by Mrs. Brown and family; she was a daughter of Thomas Cox and mother of J. Henry Brown, the historian. The father had died on the plains.

7. A two-story residence on the site of William Brown's house, Church and State streets, occupied by Mr. Carter and family; a missionary family.

8. A small house on the northwest corner of Church and Ferry streets (where E. M. Croisan's place is now, occupied by Wiley Chapman and family. Mr. Chapman was the builder of Marion County's first courthouse.

9. The Oregon Institute, the finest building at the time on the Pacific coast; barring the California Spanish mission buildings.

Parsonage at Mills
10. The "parsonage." It stood about where the Kay woolen mill water tower now stands; was occupied by Rev. William Roberts and family. He had come to finish winding up the business of the Methodist missions in the Oregon country, and remained the balance of his life; one of the able early-day preachers.

11. The Parrish place on the west side of Capitol street, near North Mill creek. The house was built by Rev. J. L. Parrish. It was partly burned in Mr. Parrish's lifetime, and was reconstructed as it now is.

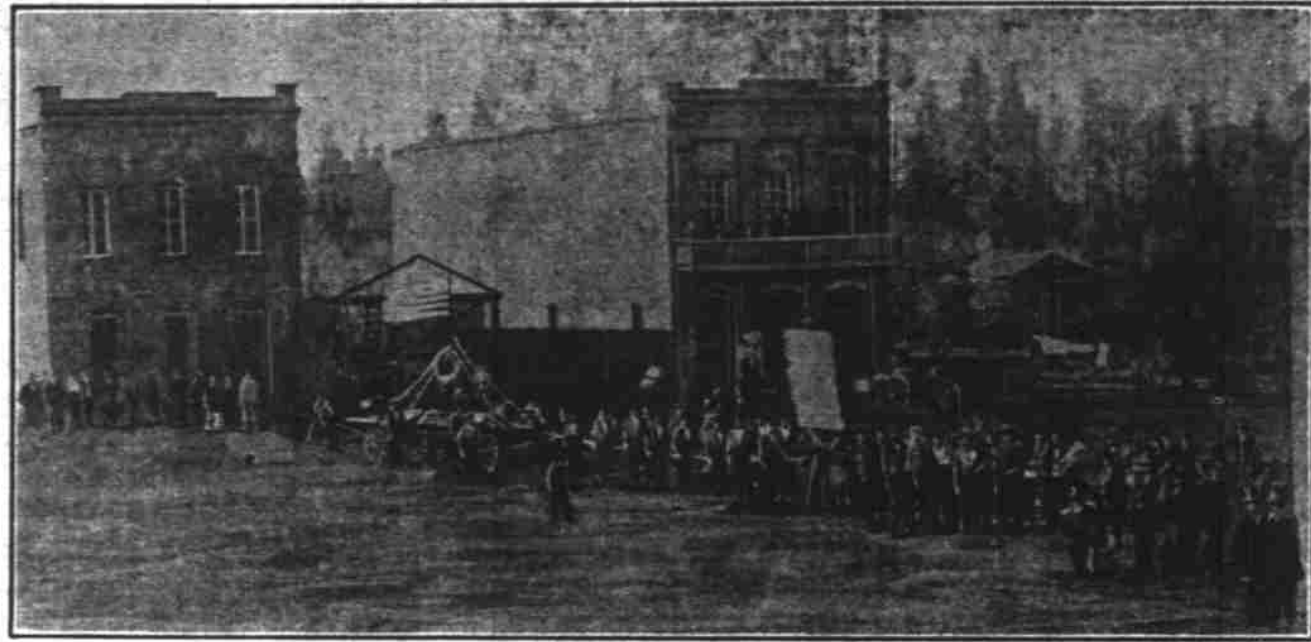
12. The residence of Rev. A. F. Waller, north side of East State street, about opposite 14th street.

13. The Cox store, northeast corner of Commercial and Ferry streets. First store and postoffice in Salem, as related above.

14. A dwelling where the back part of the main machinery room of the paper mill is now. It was the family residence of W. H. Willson, who platted the main Salem townsite, and Mrs. Willson was the first teacher in the Oregon Institute. They had both been early Methodist missionaries.

15. Rev. David Leslie, who named Salem, had a home on his donation land claim at the south end of Church street. The house was about where the Sallie Bush

Corner of State and Commercial Streets in 1861



Northwest corner State and Commercial streets. The first brick is Moore's block; second brick was then McCully-Starkey company store. The building is now occupied by Buster Brown shoe store. The log house at edge of timber was moved from Marion and Chemeketa where it was first school-house in Salem. Celebration seems to be a firemen's exhibition.

house now stands. There is where the first Fourth of July celebration was held in Salem.

16. The mission mills, across from the Jason Lee home (the site now occupied by the Larmer warehouse). The mills were built in 1840, after the coming of the Lausanne, Mayflower of the Pacific. Their construction started the town that became Salem.

After March, 1851, there was a good deal of building in Salem; for gold dust in large quantities had been coming from the California mines, brought by the Oregon settlers who were among the first gold rushers, as some of them were the discoverers of gold near Sutter's Fort. The two main and rival sections of the town were then, first near the mission mills, and second, near South Mill creek—the present Commercial and Front and Ferry streets. The famous Island House was built in the period between September, 1849, and March, 1851, on "the island," near the mission mills, as were saloons, blacksmith shops etc. That section was the main business center in that earliest period, but soon the men returning with their gold dust from the California mines started steamboating on the Willamette, and as the main landings were near the foot of Trade street, the south end of the town boomed, and the central downtown district before long had an increasing number of dwellings scattered among the fir and oaks.

But there was no church building until January 23, 1853, when the original First Methodist church was dedicated. Church services had theretofore been held in the Oregon Institute chapel. Even the first courts were held in that building, as well as the other meetings of a public nature including Methodist mission conferences.

Even as late as 1855 little was known of it on the east coast. I talked with an aged mariner on the shore of Narragansett bay one day. I remember that mariner the more distinctly, because he was digging clams, and his beard was so long that it occasionally came out from under his belt, where it had been tucked away with the tail of his shirt. At such times it interfered with his clam-digging, and the language that he used was very picturesque.

I had asked him if he knew anything of Captain Gray, the skipper of the Columbia who had been the first to sail into the Columbia river. I chanced to know that Captain Gray was a Providence man.

Report Not Glowing

It turned out that the clam-digger knew a heap about Captain Gray, some of which was probably true. The captain had been dead many years, but the clam-digger it seems had had a grandfather and a great-grandfather. Also he had a son, a sailor, and this son had been up the Columbia to the mouth of the Willamette and by the Willamette as far as a place called Salem within the year. And he did not think much of either Salem or Portland. He described them as sleepy and mossy places, where the cows grazed in the streets.

"And," quoth the clam-digger, "what in tarnation anybody wants to go to a country like that for is more than I can understand."

This view was general on the east coast 50 years ago. But slowly conditions have changed. Oregon probably felt the depression of the past several years less acutely than any other state in the union. Indications of vigorous growth are unmistakable.

The Statesman has many reasons for happiness on its 85th anniversary.

Recovery Is Slow

EVENS VALLEY, March 28—Mrs. Halvor Brokke, who contracted influenza about seven weeks ago, has been suffering from several relapses making her recovery very slow. She has been cared for during the past two weeks at the home of her mother, Mrs. Ole Larson.

Halley Johnson Painting Mural As U. O. Thesis

MONMOUTH, March 28—Halley Johnson, son of Mr. and Mrs. P. H. Johnson of Monmouth, spent part of the spring term vacation here. He is a senior student in fine arts at the University of Oregon, and will receive his degree in June. As his thesis, he is painting a mural in three sections, on the

wall of a campus building. The scenes depict phases of the lumbering industry of Oregon and the northwest. He can work only four hours each day, and paints directly upon plaster, which necessitates the aid of a plaster man, a stone-cutter and a carpenter.

Two Plays Offered

HAZEL GREEN, March 28—The Thursday morning English program in charge of Gella Kasper presented two plays, two debates and music by the harmonica band. The band has 44 members.

Few Changes, Paper's Offices

Stewart Building Longest Occupied; Present Home Historic

Owners of The Statesman have come and gone but the home of the paper has changed infrequently except for the early days when it followed the course of the territorial government.

When first printed in Oregon City The Statesman was located in "Frier's building, second story, first north of Methodist church, Main street."

During the period from June 21, 1853, to April 17, 1855, which was the first Salem period of The Statesman, the office was in the second story of a building near the steamboat landing. The site is that which is now occupied by Fry's warehouse, as nearly as can be determined, corner Front and Trade streets. The steamboat landing was at the foot of Trade street.

Office Near Steamboat Landing
At Corvallis the publication office was just given as "near steamboat landing."

Returning to Salem in December, 1855, the paper was published in the second story of the Griswold block, southwest corner of State and Commercial streets. A picture of this building appears in another column of this issue. It was probably the first brick building in Salem proper. Then it was only a single front. Later the

Home for Nearly Half a Century



The Stewart block, 162-166 North Commercial. The Statesman moved here about 1870 and remained until 1918. Offices were used, and a business office downstairs. The Statesman did the printing for "The Oregon Vindicator and Anti-Monopolist," a partisan paper of the late '80s. The Statesman sign is barely visible at the foot of the stairs.

building was enlarged in frontage, three stories, and is still in service.

When The Statesman was merged with the American Unionist, the publication offices of the latter were used, second floor Moore's block, where United States National bank now stands. When S. A. Clerk acquired the paper and restored the name of Statesman, it was moved to the second floor of the Stewart block, still standing, 162 1/2 North Commercial.

The longest period in any one location was in the old Stewart block. Offices at first were the

north half of the second floor. Later the south half was also used, a commercial printing department being added by Hendricks and Saubert; and a little later business offices were opened downstairs. The Stewart building was occupied until The Statesman moved in 1918 to its present building, the first one which it owned. The building itself is historic because it was used to house various public offices and the library during a considerable portion of the twenty years between the burning of the territorial capitol and the completion

Rain Postpones Berry Planting

HAZEL GREEN, March 28—The rain this week delayed the planting of strawberries. N. P. Williamson had ground ready to plant 18 acres. Others who will plant them are Robert Masile, three acres on N. P. Williamson's farm; Alexander Sharp, two acres on Joseph Zielenki's farm north of Japanese church; W. H. Williamson, two acres on home farm. Plants are the Marshalls from the Silver Creek district.

A. T. Van Cleave and son Alvin are to plant six acres of Etterburg berries. Van Cleave's tried the youngberry, last year being their first crop. They are planting five acres this year. They have a ready market for all the youngberry plants they have.

Louis Garbereno sold three carloads of onions this week, the last of his large crop.

of the new state capitol. It was also used for a considerable period prior to 1913 by the Hofers for publishing the Capital Journal and by a commercial printing plant.

The building has been remodelled and is now well adapted for a newspaper home. The editorial and business offices are on the main floor at the Commercial street entrance. Composing rooms, light and well ventilated, are on the second floor. Press rooms are on the ground floor in the rear, with the big newspaper press housed in the "cell" opening on Ferry street.

We Congratulate The Oregon Statesman On Its 85th Birthday

Through 67 Years...

For 67 years the Ladd & Bush bank has been a clearing house for the financial transactions of the mid-Willamette valley. Founded only nine years after Oregon was admitted to the fraternity of states, this institution has seen panics and good times, has witnessed men and their businesses grow strong from humble beginnings, has assisted worthy customers through financial difficulties and has taken joy in their successes.

From its origin to the present day, an entirely Salem-owned institution, Ladd & Bush has taken a consistent pride in the development of its community. It has steadfastly regarded its task as greater than one of receiving and holding private and public moneys. These funds it has guarded as a trust to be used with discrimination for the well-being of its territory.

Today Ladd & Bush is vastly appreciative of the good will which this policy has produced. As Salem and the state have grown, this institution has prospered. The fundamentals of its policies remain unchanged. It shall continue a Salem-owned institution, proud of its heritage, thankful for the faithful support of its friends, always considering itself a public trustee for the continued economic development of the Willamette valley and its citizens.

This institution extends its greetings to The Oregon Statesman as it has completed its 85 years of service as a newspaper in this community.

An Institution That Has Progressed With the Community

DEPOSITS

June 30, 1870	\$80,008.74
June 30, 1880	\$157,529.59
June 30, 1890	\$893,026.62
June 30, 1900	\$1,135,824.49
June 30, 1910	\$1,940,603.45
June 30, 1920	\$4,434,705.25
June 30, 1930	\$6,783,359.79
June 30, 1935	\$9,360,993.81
March 4, 1936	\$10,242,759.12

Opened for Business March 29, 1869
Sixty-Seven Years Today

LADD & BUSH, Bankers

OFFICERS

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WM. S. WALTON, Vice President
GEO. H. RICHES, Cashier
ROY BURTON, Asst. Cashier
C. M. COX, Asst. Cashier

J. FUHRER, Asst. Cashier
H. V. COMPTON, Asst. Cashier
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