

# WILLAMETTE FARMER

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## OREGON PIONEER HISTORY.

SKETCHES OF EARLY DAYS.—MEN AND TIMES IN THE FORTIES.

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NUMBER XXV.

### Social Enjoyments in 1840.

There was some social enjoyment in the wilderness even then. In White's narratives, compiled by Miss Allen, he tells how about 1840 they received visits from friends. Rev. Mr. Beaver and wife of Vancouver, made them a visit, as did Dr. McLoughlin, which visits involved a canoe journey down the Columbia, up the Willamette to the falls, a portage there and about fifty or sixty miles of river above the falls to Champog, then ten or twelve miles on horseback to Dr. White's house. Dr. McLoughlin and the Beaver family were well educated and intellectual people, and these visits gave satisfaction for many reasons. Also Dr. Marcus Whitman spent some days with them, and his visits were a great pleasure, as he gave so much information concerning his methods with the Indians. McLoughlin brought his wife and family, bed and bedding, tea, coffee, sugar, bread, cakes, cheese, meat, wine, and everything good for a camp trip. They had many servants, also tents and equipage, a good cook, and as pleasant and delightful manners as ever invaded a wilderness. The doctor was exceedingly pleasant company, and he was able to "sink the ship" when he went pleasuring as thoroughly as if he had not a care or responsibility, instead of being at the head of an immense company with hundreds to plan for and an immense business to watch over and direct. His delightful manner was the charm of every company he was part of. If we compare the present and the past we reduce to a brief journey by rail, in very luxurious cars, what was then an episode in one's life, taken as a pleasure trip. Even at the worst the present consists of making a pleasant summer-day journey by the rivers, in comfortable steamers, and the portage of the falls is replaced by a delightful passage through the canal and locks that now surmount the obstacles nature planted there, seemingly so im pregnable.

Miss Allen gives a description of a company of the Hudson Bay people returning from a trading and trapping expedition that is charmingly done and pictures to the life the way these expeditions were equipped and managed. She says: "They start in the spring for California, carrying merchandise for barter with the natives, and return laden with furs, principally of the beaver and otter. The company, just before entering the settlement, which was early in the morning, stopped to remove from their persons stains and traces of travel, and dress themselves carefully in their best attire. They then formed themselves in Indian file, led by Mr. LaFrombois, the chief of the party. Next him rode his wife, a native woman, astride—as is common with the females—upon her pony, quite picturesquely clad. She wore a man's hat, with long white feathers fastened in front and drooping gracefully behind. Her short dress was of rich broadcloth, leggings beautifully embroidered with gay beads and fringed with tiny bells, whose delicate, musical tinkling could be heard several hundred yards distant. Next the clerk and his wife, much in the same manner, and so on to the officers of less importance, and the men, and finally the boys driving the pack horses, with bales of fur, 180 pounds to each animal. The tramping of the fast walking horses, the silvery tinkling of the small bells, rich, handsome dresses and the appearance of the riders, whose numbers amounted to 60 or 70. The array was really patriarchal and had quite an imposing appearance."

### The Pioneer Printing Office.

Miss Allen is very remiss in giving dates. We find a letter dated in 1838,

from the Sandwich Islands, and suppose it to have been 1839 or 1840 that she mentions the arrival of E. O. Hall and wife, from the Sandwich Islands, who brought as a present from the Islanders a small printing press and material. Hall instructed them in the printing art and returned. His trip was made for his wife's health, which was much improved. This printing press, if we are not mistaken, was the one afterward used for the publication of the Spectator, the first newspaper published in Oregon, if not on the Pacific slope.

In June, 1840, Rev. Jason Lee returned from two years' absence in the states with a large reinforcement of missionaries. Mrs. Lee had died in his absence and they anticipated his intense grief returning to the scenes where they had worked so happily together. But their sympathy was needless, as at the head of the list of new arrivals stood "Mr. and Mrs. Jason Lee," for he had consoled himself with a second wife. There were fifty-two of the new arrivals and they were portioned off to different parts of the country to found new missions or recruit old ones.

How the Willamette Mission Originated. In Miss Allen's book concerning Dr. White it is stated that Rev. Jason Lee originally came out to teach the Flatheads. The pathetic story is told of four Flathead Indians making their way east to St. Louis, to ask that "some man who knew Jesus Christ's God," should go to their country and teach them a true religion. This story is said to be founded on the fact that Capt. Bonneville and Lewis and Clarke when passing through the country found that tribe to be very superior in character to most of the savages, and gave them some instructions and advised them to learn something of the Christian religion. They received from these travelers some ideas of the true religion and wanted to acquire more. Among the trappers were two or three who were religious men. Jedediah Smith was one of these, and they no doubt acquired some further information from these men. Certain it is that the tribe sent a delegation east, whose mission electrified the civilized world and led to the establishing of all the Protestant missions of early times in Oregon, which meant then all of the United States territory west of the Rocky mountains.

Dr. White's volume, compiled by Miss Allen, gives this statement: That the first Methodist mission was intended for the Flatheads, but leaving them far to the right, "went on to the Willamette, to winter there before proceeding to his destination. He found a mild, equable climate, and society though small, of whites, more congenial to his habits than anything he could expect in the section to which he had been sent. Thinking that he had discovered signs of the colony becoming an extensive and valuable field of usefulness, and that the flatheads had less claim for missionary effort than had been supposed, he determined to assume the responsibility and commence a mission on the Willamette. He directed his principal energies to bear for the promotion of the interests of the white population, the results of which have been seen in the erection of mills, etc., and through this influence also a perfect form of provisional government has been established and enforced for years. Dr. White's book, we are quoting from was published in 1848 and gives views above taken. The M. E. mission was very influential in both settling and civilizing Oregon.

### Disappearance of Willamette Indians.

Dr. White credits the Presbyterian mission with greatly benefitting the Indians. The Dalles mission was conducted on the same principle pursued by Dr. Whitman and his associates, as it opened farms for the natives as well as taught their children in schools. While the Willamette originally contained many bands of Callipoias, num-

bering 5,000, these were suddenly swept away in great part by disease, chiefly ague and measles, that were almost invariably fatal under native treatment. So the thousands dwindled to hundreds, and the few who remained by association with degraded whites became infected with other diseases that polluted the blood and caused further decrease. So that when the mission was ready to become useful to the Indians, there were few left to instruct, and they were degraded and contaminated. By this time the whites were becoming numerous, and the country was assuming conditions that required missions for the proper instruction and improvement of whites and their children. It cannot be denied that the M. E. mission was providentially planted where it was greatly beneficial, and did good work for Oregon.

### Exploring the Umpqua.

The arrival of the large reinforcement gave means to establish mission stations at Nisqually, on the sound, and in the Umpqua, as well as to strengthen that at The Dalles. I infer that in 1840, a mission party went south to explore for a good mission station in Umpqua. They were Jason Lee, Gustavus Hines, who was to have charge of the new station, and Dr. White, with an attendant. In two days they reached the head of this valley, which was new territory to them all. There were no hunters there then, and the streams showed signs of beaver and otter, wild fowls were plenty, and "herds of deer were scampering over the beautiful plains." Over in the Umpqua they found a Hudson Bay Company fort, consisting of pickets enclosing neat houses, and a cultivated farm. Lee and Hines found their way to the coast; Dr. White returned home, taking with him an Umpqua lad he had redeemed from slavery, who acted as interpreter. They had camped for the night, and about sunrise were awakened by the approach of a small band of Indians who were peaceably inclined. This incident possesses great interest, when understood, for these proved to be a small company of Christianized Umpquas, whose leader was a chief.

His story was that six years before he was persuaded to accompany a trapping company to California. One of this party was more sedate than the rest, and at the close of each day retired by himself to repeat his devotions. From him he had learned the great truths of the Christian faith and learned to pray and was taught many (to him) strange truths. For while his people were strangely impressed with the new theory and became changed by it, but gradually it had worn off until they six were the only ones who had kept the faith. Having learned that missionaries were looking for a place to locate they had gone in search, and finally had followed the trail they made and had overtaken them. He hoped all people would gain more knowledge and have God's love shine in their heart once more. This was a strange experience to meet with in the then wilds of Umpqua. Dr. White gave them all the information and instruction he could and invited them to visit the mission. Before they separated the little company knelt in prayer and the children of the wilds listened with emotion as they joined in worship, crossing themselves devoutly for their first instructor was a Catholic. To Dr. White the incident was affecting and he remembered the spot as hallowed ground.

As Dr. White and Jason Lee differed in their views of mission work, Dr. White withdrew, and with his family returned east where he remained a year or so, when a friend persuaded him to go to Washington and give information concerning Oregon, as Oregon matters were then pending. He did so, and it resulted in his returning to Oregon with a commission as sub-Indian agent for all the country west of the Rocky moun-

tains. He returned to Oregon overland, leaving his family in New York state, accompanied by the three McKay boys—Alexander, William, and John—who had been there six years at school. Medorum Crawford was another member of the company. Dr. White visited Platte City and county and some parts of Jackson county, around Independence, and created what interest he could in raising a company. Parties came in from Illinois, Arkansas and Missouri, so that by the middle of May, 1842, the first immigration of note, consisting of 112 persons, was ready to take road. A scientific corps was appointed consisting of C. Lancaster, L. W. Hastings and A. L. Lovejoy. James Coates was pilot, and Nathaniel Crocker, secretary. Mr. Lancaster received bad news that compelled him to turn back, but he came afterwards, and now resides in Washington territory.

### A Variety of Fruits.

CROSTON, Or., July 6, 1886.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

The use and healthfulness of fruits cannot be denied. Pears, apples, prunes, peaches, nectarines, apricots, almonds, cherries, etc., to say nothing of walnuts, hickorynuts, pecans, chestnuts, mulberries, and that best of all fruits, the strawberry. All the above fruits grow, more or less, to perfection in the Willamette valley. All persons who own land can, by a little outlay and care, have an abundance of these various fruits. I know this to be so, for I have them on my place. You will say, "few people have a taste for growing fruits," and, "perhaps some do not know how," others are "roster lazy." You will also say "fruit don't pay." I answer these questions by asking you a single one: "Do all love to eat fruits?" If they do, then is it not worth while to grow them? If all who are destitute of fruits—I mean all who own land—were asked "why they have none?" and you were to spell the word lazy to them would they not winch! We can have nothing valuable without labor. Labor is a means to an end; the end is fruit. If then we desire fruit we must set in active causes; these causes produce effects, the effects culminate in rich, rare, healthful and beautiful fruit. The soil must be well cultivated, the weeds kept down and the trees kept well pruned. Common sense teaches these; common sense leads to success; and, there is nothing so successful as success. To succeed is the end, the main end of life. An unsuccessful life is an abortion. Excuses are poor and only show the excusing power. A bold, brave, energetic and determined course is the only true one.

Fruit growing, like any other profession, and it is a noble profession, the noble one, has, and ever must have, its dark and its bright side. It takes years to grow trees, years of patient labor, years of patient waiting, years without remuneration; but, the remuneration comes, though deferred, looms in hope's bright horizon, and we have only to reach forth and the prize is won.

"Rich, and splendid—

The victory is ours."

There is something noble in conquering and—

"Going forth to conquer."

As a profession fruit-growing must be studied as one would law. The student of law pours over Blackstone, Kent, Story, Chity, Rusel, Vattel, and the various reports of the judiciary of the several States, so, too, the fruit-grower should read Lindley, Downing, Cole, Barry, Thomas, Elliot, Fuller, Hender son, and the various reports of horticultural, and agricultural societies of the several States. He should read the many excellent periodicals on these sciences as, the Agriculturist, the Country Gentleman, the Rural New-Yorker, Prairie Farmer, Coleman's Rural World, also the New York Tri-

bue, Sun, Herald, with other great newspapers. Many of our best papers now have a horticultural and agricultural department edited by men of acknowledged ability. This is a splendid improvement. On my present farm I have five. It took me ten years "to win the prize," but I have won. Now I have one hundred mulberry trees, one hundred chestnuts, ten English walnuts, three hundred prunes, one hundred plums also pears, apples, peaches, nectarines, apricots, a fine vineyard, and thousands of "God's best fruit," the strawberry, also one hundred insignificant cherry trees, with asparagus, pieplant, gooseberries, currants, blackberries, etc. An immense variety in fruits renders home delightful, happy, healthful. Man is an omnivorous eater, hence a variety suits him, his "other half" and the "little fellows." When we are blessed with intelligence, energy and moral power, "this is a lovely world of ours." But with the lazy, the indolent, the careless, life's cup holds only "bitter drugs, and rare disappointments." The Willamette, nestled among the mountains, whose sides are covered with immense forests, dark, and darkly green, and cloud shaped peaks, flung on high and glittering in the sun's effulgent beams; with valleys here, undulating hills there; groves of deciduous and evergreens, mingling in the scene; the beautiful river with its tributaries meandering through vales and hills, enameled with a carpet of green; a soil unsurpassed, a climate unequalled, a home for man. And all we need to do is labor and be happy.

Coming to Oregon when young, and having been here over forty years, I loved the country in '45, I have loved it all along, and I love it now, in '86. "It is a beautiful land." My father's bones lie here, my daughter's bones lie here, my grand children's bones lie here, and here, too, my bones shall lie forever.

A. F. DAVIDSON.

### Weather Report for June, 1886.

EOLA, July 1, 1886.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

During June, 1886, there were 3 days during which rain fell, with an aggregate of 0.58 in. of water, there were 6 clear, 16 fair and 5 cloudy days, other than those on which rain fell.

The mean temperature for the month was 61.50 deg.

Highest daily mean temperature for the month, 71 deg. on the 2d.

Lowest daily mean temperature for the month, 54 deg. on the 11th.

Mean temperature for the month at 2 o'clock p. m., 71.13 deg.

Highest temperature for the month, 83 at 2 p. m. on the 3d.

Lowest temperature for the month, 50 deg. at 9 p. m. on the 11th.

The prevailing winds for the month were from the north during 18 days, south 11 days, southwest one day.

During June, 1885, there were 8 rainy days, and 1.40 in. of water, 4 clear, 10 fair and 8 cloudy days.

Mean temperature for the month, 59.27 deg.

Highest daily mean temperature for the month, 67 deg. on the 28th.

Lowest daily mean temperature for the month 53 deg. on 4th.

T. PEARCE.

### A Fine Farm for Sale.

We have had placed in our hands for sale a choice farm highly improved, about four miles south of Salem. The place contains 120 acres, all of which is cleared. There is a growing crop of 52 acres, consisting of barley and wheat. There are good buildings and an orchard. This place yielded thirty bushels of wheat per acre last year. Apply soon and obtain a bargain. Price \$35 per acre.

Farmer's Attention! It is a well known fact that the man that buys the cheapest can afford to sell the cheapest. That's what's the matter with Port & Son, Druggists, No. 100 State street.

Drugs at Port's, 100 State street.

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