

The Daily Astorian.

Vol. XIV.

Astoria, Oregon, Thursday Morning, February 24, 1881.

No. 46.

Annual Meeting of the Pioneer and Historical Society of Oregon.

ASTORIA, February 22, 1881.
Society met at the hall of Rescued Engine company No. 2, in this city. Meeting called to order at 2 P. M. President Jas. W. Welch in the chair. The roll of officers being called all were found to be present.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Mr. T. P. Powers.
Minutes of last annual meeting were then read and on motion approved.

Record of proceedings of the executive board for the past year were read by the secretary and on motion sanctioned and approved by the society.

Reports of officers being in order, the president was called upon. He reported verbally that he had been away much of the time, had endeavored to attend all meetings of the executive board when in town, and to promote the interests of the society. He considered the minutes of the executive board just read as a full report of the officers.

The corresponding secretary being called upon, then read his annual report, which, on motion, was ordered received and placed on file.

On motion adjourned to meet at 7 o'clock P. M.

EVENING SESSION.

Met as per adjournment, same officer in attendance.

The report of treasurer was read and ordered placed on file.

The special committee on library reported that the books had been delivered to Rescued Engine company No. 2 as per agreement.

The action of the board in relation to the disposition of the library of the society was, on motion sanctioned.

On motion it was ordered that the bonds of the treasurer of this society be fixed at \$1000, subject to be increased by the executive board.

The following resolution was offered by Mr. W. H. Gray:

Resolved, that article eleven (11) of the constitution be changed by striking out the words "22d of February" and inserting "11th day of May."

On motion it was ordered that a copy of the proceedings of this meeting with report of corresponding secretary be furnished to THE ASTORIAN for publication.

The meeting now proceeded to the election of officers for the ensuing year with the following result:

For president.....R. W. Morrison, esq.
For vice-president.....Capt. J. H. D. Gray.
For secretary.....Hon. W. H. Gray.
For treasurer.....Hon. J. Van Dusen.
For executive committee.....E. C. Holden,
John Hobson.

On motion adjourned to meet at this hall on the 11th day of May 1881, at two o'clock, P. M.

S. T. McKEAN, SECRETARY.
ANNUAL REPORT OF HON. W. H. GRAY.
ASTORIA, Feb. 22, 1881.

To the president and members of the Pioneer and Historical Society of Oregon:

Your corresponding secretary respectfully presents this tenth annual report of his proceedings for the current year.

This society came into existence after several unsuccessful attempts to organize at an early period in other places. Its first annual meeting was in 1871, referring to its record of names we have among its first organizers, who have died the name of Henry Spencer Allen, from Liverpool, England, born April 15, 1818, and died at Astoria April 19, 1875.

The next names on our list of members is James Welch, born in Clark county, Kentucky, February 16, 1816, and died at Walla-walla, Washington territory, September 28, 1876, and was buried at Astoria. Mr. Welch and Mr. Allen were active members of the executive board for several years.

Hon. James Jeffers, born in Washington, D. C., October 17, 1807; died at Portland January 7, 1876, and was buried on Clatsop plains. He has filled several responsible offices in the territory and state.

David Ingalls, born in Sullivan, Hancock county, Maine, October 31, 1808; died in Astoria August 31, 1880. A useful quiet citizen, having filled many minor offices in the town, county, and city of Astoria, and while a member of the executive board, was carried to his final resting place in the Astoria cemetery.

Diana M. Owens, wife of John Hobson, born in Pike county, Kentucky, February 12th, 1857; died in Astoria, November 23, 1875, leaving an interesting family in the early dawn of maternal life and usefulness.

John Jewett, born in Landolt, Graham county, New Hampshire, October 4th, 1786; died in Astoria, January 22, 1880, having lived a devoted christian in Oregon thirty-three years, leaving his third wife and a numerous family to follow his remains to the Astoria cemetery.

Robert Shortess, born in Pennsylvania, March 30, 1787; died May 4th, 1878. He arrived in Oregon November 28th, 1830, where he resided forty-nine years. Mr. Shortess, on first arriving in Oregon in '30 was of the first attempted party of settlers outside the previous missionary parties from the United States. Your corresponding secretary having before him an interesting narrative, written a few years before the death of Mr. Shortess, you will pardon me for copying a page from this interesting "reminiscences of the first immigration to Oregon, by one of the company," as the heading of the manuscript indicates. After referring briefly to the occupation of this country by the various fur companies and by the missionaries, Mr. Shortess says: "But the first immigration, in the general acceptance of the word, that is men voluntarily combining together to leave their homes in the States, solely dependent on their own resources, and to face the dangers and hardships of 2,500 miles travel to settle for life in a land of which hardly anything was known; the impulse to which was first

given by the Rev. Jason Lee by a lecture delivered at Peoria, Illinois, in the fall of 1838, on his way from Oregon territory to the Atlantic states, after a few years' residence in the territory. After Mr. Lee's lecture, meetings were held and measures taken to form a company to colonize Oregon; this was the first attempt which proved a success, by persons solely dependent on their own resources and going out with the purpose of permanent settlement, and consequently they are the real pioneers of Oregon territory.

Their outfit consisted of a circular tent, large enough to cover the entire party, and their baggage, consisting of provisions, and one hundred dollars for contingencies; besides, each had his riding animal and rifle, some of the latter carrying 120 balls to the pound. There were also several bowie knives weighing from seven to nine pounds each.

Their leader directed them Oregon dragoons, and they carried a flag bearing the motto of "Oregon or the Grave."

Soon after, the writer met with the captain of the Oregon dragoons at Independence, Missouri, and was told by Captain Farham that their intention was to raise the American flag, take possession in the name of the United States, and drive out the Hudson Bay company. On being asked if he considered his force (18 men) sufficient? he replied, "Oh yes, plenty." But, Captain, part of your force are Englishmen, do you think they will fight against their countrymen? "Oh yes, they will not turn traitor; if they do, by God we'll shoot them." This conversation gave the writer a pretty good idea of Captain Farham's character, morals and intellectual abilities.

They had not traveled far before the usual effects of liberty, equality and fraternity began to develop themselves, so that they arrived at Independence, Missouri, towards the latter end of May in a rather disorganized condition. Here they halted perhaps a week or ten days to make the necessary changes in their outfit before entering on the unhabited wilderness. The wagon was exchanged for pack animals, the stock of provisions replenished and such goods as could be had for Indian trade was bought.

Two persons here joined the expedition, one an English tailor, and H. Shortess, who had resided some years in western Missouri.

After reorganizing by reflecting their leader, and agreeing to bury all by-gones and differences, they early in June crossed the Missouri line into Indian territory, which at that time was not from Missouri to the Pacific ocean, and from the bay of San Francisco to the Arctic.

The first encampment was at Elm Grove, about thirty miles from the Missouri boundary, on the Santa Fe road, where during the following day, the party remained to complete the organization of the company, and procure a supply of flour at the Shawnee agency.

The organization was completed by the election of C. Wood, lieutenant, and the division of the company into platoons of four men each, sixteen men and six officers all told.

The company formed at Peoria consisted of sixteen persons.

It would be ungenerous to pass without a note the many noble qualities of a man whose heart and soul from the moment he trod on Oregon's soil, devoted his whole energies to making an American in opposition to that of a foreign power. He was the most prominent and the most shrewd manager in opposing the first effort made in 1841 to make Oregon a British colony. Of the slightest persons that started for Oregon with a view to settle, he was a skeptic. He was the author of the petition that was sent to congress in 1842 for protection of American citizens from the Hudson Bay company's intolerable opposition to American settlers, and participated in all efforts to protect American rights to the Oregon country.

His reminiscences of the party closes with the impression that there were then but four, himself included, living. There is at the present time not a single one of the party alive, or that has attempted to revive its existence, except its general leader, Mr. Fournard, who it appears is not a reliable chronicler of those romantic expeditions. My intimate acquaintance with him from the time he arrived in Oregon, extending through his whole Oregon life, leads me to the conclusion that his reminiscences are not to be depended upon, and consider him as a skeptic. He was the author of the petition that was sent to congress in 1842 for protection of American citizens from the Hudson Bay company's intolerable opposition to American settlers, and participated in all efforts to protect American rights to the Oregon country.

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the title of "Grandma" Lampliar by all who knew her.

Though George Naylor and Sara Story Naylor, his wife, the former born in Albemarle county, Virginia, October 12, 1814. The latter in Cook county, Tennessee. They reached Oregon and settled at Forest Grove in 1842. Mrs. Naylor died in 1852, and her husband in 1857.

Lydia Cornia, wife of Anderson Durdard, born in Howard county, Missouri, 1822; came to Oregon in 1849 and died April 15th, 1880.

Godfrey Linscott, born in Plymouth, Massachusetts; came to Oregon in 1840 and died in 1842.

Daniel Franklin Carthens, born at Virginia station, Virginia, January 20, 1829; came to Oregon in 1849 and died January 20, or 7th, 1857.

Jane White, first wife of Capt. J. C. Kinsworth, born in Iowa, 1837; came to Oregon with her parents in 1840 and died in December, 1859.

On receipt of our weekly papers we learn and deeply regret that in this tenth report we are called upon to enter upon our records the death of Dr. James C. Hawthorne, of East Portland, Oregon. He was born in 1810, and was a resident of Oregon or on this coast in 1850, long and favorably known as a skillful physician, a kind and obliging man in all his dealings and as a neighbor. He was for many years, and at the time of his death, in charge of the state insane asylum. He died of his long-continued illness prepared for him among the mansions in Our Father's house on Saturday evening the 12th of February, 1881. There is a discrepancy of dates as to his birth. In entering his own name upon our Pioneer record he gave the date as above, on the 15th of February, 1810.

Samuel R. Thurston, born in Montmouth, Maine, April 15th, 1818. He was Oregon's first delegate in congress, and died at Acapulco, on his return to Oregon, April 10th, 1851.

Alonzo Albert Skinner, born in Indiana, was born in 1810, Ohio, January 22, 1817, died April 28, 1876.

We have traced as briefly as possible the two important events in the existence of human life. It would be interesting and profitable to know more of the continued labors, the motives, and the deaths of the lives of the state insane asylum. He died of his long-continued illness prepared for him among the mansions in Our Father's house on Saturday evening the 12th of February, 1881. There is a discrepancy of dates as to his birth. In entering his own name upon our Pioneer record he gave the date as above, on the 15th of February, 1810.

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