

J. S. GRIFFIN DEAD

Died at his home in Hillsboro in his 91st year

LAST OF OLD MISSIONARIES

He crossed the plains before the government soldiers—old settlers at the funeral.

The clock of life ran down and stopped. Father John Smith Griffin is gathered to his fathers at the age of 91 years, 2 months and 12 days.

The deceased was born in Vermont Nov. 23, 1807, and died at his home in Hillsboro Feb. 5, 1899.

The New England schools furnished opportunities for young Griffin's education. It is not stated that he graduated from a literary school but certain it is he read Greek fluently and was a discriminating critic on the subject of Greek parties. He graduated from the Oberlin "Theological seminary, and at once entered upon his life work.

But before this he had served an apprenticeship at ax making. This at a time prior to the establishment of the great hardware and cutlery manufacturing plants. Tools were then made by retail at little wayside smithies. As for everything else Griffin was a perfect mechanic. He was a rapid workman and his axes were handsome and well balanced, but best of all the temper was true. The workman could depend upon his tool and it was a delight to sink it deep into the hickories, the oaks and the beeches surrounding the pioneer home.

While the young man was at his anvil, questions of state, or perhaps to state it better, questions of humanity began to occupy his attention. The term "humanity" had not been used to convey the thought that now attaches to it. Humanity then was more likely to be expressed by abolitionists or black abolitionists as uttered by opponents, the friends used the softer term "free soilers." Griffin attended free soilers conventions and was fired by the eloquence of the Seward, the Weeds and those men whose political career has made their names known to all people. However Griffin's humanity went further than the civil condition of man. He was anxious for the spiritual well being of his fellows.

A wave of missionary zeal was dashing over New England about this time. Jason Lee was in the Willamette valley. Whitman and Spaulding were among the Walla Walla and the Spokanes. The American missionary society was at work but its organization was not perfect as it is now. It was then controlled by the Congregationalists and Presbyterians jointly. Individual churches were also equipping and supporting men in the field. The Congregational church at Litchfield was one of these and the man who went out from that organization in February 1839 was John Smith Griffin. A month later at St. Louis, Mo. he met, by appointment, Desre Griffin, whose acquaintance he had formed three years before at Litchfield. The trip was long and the friendship then began had been kept alive by correspondence and had ripened into love. They were joined in wedlock and at once started out on the plains, destination Spokane country. The trip was not without its hardships. The first winter in Oregon was passed at the Spalding mission on Lapwai. The next spring 1840 (see INDEPENDENT during months of March and April 1897) Mr. Griffin and his wife set out alone to Ft. Boise to plant his mission among the Snake Indians. After enduring great hardships the proposed station on Snake river was reached but an accident happened to Mrs. Griffin on the last day which interfered with the progress of establishing the mission and ultimately led to its abandonment. The accident above alluded to was caused by Mrs. Griffin's horse stepping into a badger hole and throwing her violently to the ground. The injury was not serious and after waiting a few weeks it was found necessary to have surgical help which was at Vancouver on the Columbia west of the mountains. The painful and weary journey of five hundred miles was undertaken after great suffering was completed. The mission at Boise was not a failure as some are accustomed to count it. It was simply not established.

Seeing that on account of his wife's injury he would be detained in the Willamette valley several months, Mr. Griffin accepted the chaplaincy of the Hudson Bay Co.'s station at Vancouver, where he remained about two years.

In 1842 he came to Tualatin Plains and squatted on a tract of land one mile north of Hillsboro which when United States land laws were extended over Oregon, took the name of the J. S. Griffin and wife d. l. e. These acres have never been alienated from him except by will.

In June 1842 the first Congregational church west of the Rocky mountains was organized by Griffin and named "First church of Tualatin Plains". Of course this statement excepts the mission stations, which ought not to be termed churches in the civic sense. Active church work was carried on here and the effort put forth has ultimately grown into the leading church organizations in Washington county. It is error to say that Mr. Griffin's church was moved to Forest Grove. The Grove church was organized ab initio. In his Tualatin Plains home Mr. Griffin took up the life of a typical American pioneer. He was a farmer, stock-grower, publicist and a minister of the gospel, all in one. However while he grew what he wanted to eat, he was not armed enough to hurt. His horses were ponies and his cattle had long horns. As a publicist he was strong. His writings are models of logic and rhetoric though his oral speech was lacking in polish and effect. During 1848 he published eight numbers of the "Oregon American and Evangelical Union." This paper did quite as much for Americanism as Oregon as any other one instrument.

But it was before this publication that Mr. Griffin died his first step toward "saving Oregon." True

he did not make a winter's journey to Washington but he did at a small camp up on French prairie in Marion county, what changed the whole history of Oregon and gave it to the United States. The act was so quietly performed and Mr. Griffin has been so modest about it that mention has scarce been made. He never told the story to many, but twenty years ago it was listened to and at that time committed to manuscript but the paper has been lost and only a memory is left.

This is what remains: Along about 1844 or '45. The few people scattered about the valley began to feel the need of some form of government. There were two interests here then antagonistic. The Hudson Bay Company and the American missionaries. The former stood for British interests and the latter the United States. Runners had gone out and summoned the whites to a convention we would call it, to be held in French prairie, Marion Co. Tualatin settlement sent its spare men—four or five—Griffin among them. At the meeting it was found that the factions were about equally divided. The Hudson Bay people wanted the "government" and so did the missionaries. The meeting was about to break up in ill feeling with nothing done. Griffin had not yet said much but he had noted that the French Canadians were inclined to be neutral though as between the H. B. Co. and the missionaries they were going with the traders. It is here where Mr. Griffin's keen management is shown. He proposed a resolution with this idea: "Resolved that we as settlers meet this day to take into consideration our defenseless condition, organize ourselves for mutual protection." He made a little speech which seemed so simple and so plausible that when the division came the Canadians voted with Mr. Griffin and his resolution was adopted by one majority. The ultra Hudson Bay people withdrew in high disgust and left a fine working majority for the Americans. A simple government resulted which extended all over Oregon which then included Oregon, Washington, Idaho and a part of Montana. California was then a Mexican province.

Mr. Griffin never sought political preferment. He was greater than that. He was greater than the man who kept "humanity" in view. He did not build walls that he knew. He built as he planned. Three children were born to these pioneers here in Tualatin Plains, George, Homer, Sarah E. and Harriet. The second died. Two grand children are alive. Mrs. Addie Jenkins and Miss Amy Patterson daughters Mrs. Sarah E.

Griffin Patterson. Mrs. Desre Griffin died September 22, 1854. Some four or five years later Mr. Griffin wedded at Three Oaks Mich. Mrs. Lina Harvey Kenyon of Oswego New York, who survives him and who during his last years and especially during his last illness, which began on Christmas day, so tenderly ministered to his comforts.

The funeral occurred on Tuesday afternoon and was attended more numerous by the old pioneers than by others, though the younger ones of the church of which Mr. Griffin was a communicant were present to an individual. This notwithstanding the day was very stormy. From abroad the president of Pacific University and the principal of Tualatin Academy were there. So was the pastor of the First Congregational church of Portland, Rev. Ackerman. The pastor of the Forest Grove church was present and assisted with the ceremony, making the opening prayer. Rev. Clapp of the home mission society in Oregon sat on the platform. E. P. Hughes of the Hillsboro church had the management of the service. Rev. George of the Tualatin Plains Presbyterian church read the introductory burial service used by Congregationalists. The first hymn sang by the choir was:

How blest the righteous when he dies,
When sinks a weary soul to rest!
How mildly beams the closing eye!
How gently leaves the expiring breath!

After prayer the choir sang by request:

On the mountains top appearing,
Lo the sacred hills rise,
Welcome note to Zion bearing,
Zion long in hostile lands.

Mourning captives!
God himself shall loose thy bands.
Pastor Hughes read the simple announcement of the events in the life of the deceased after which the choir sang to the air, Schumann's "Tranquillity" the words:

We lay us calmly down to sleep,
When friendly night is come, and leave to God the rest;
Whether we wake to smile or weep,
Or wake no more on Time's fair shore,
He knoweth best.

Pastor Hughes spoke of the four Indian chiefs who along about 1828 left their hunting grounds on this side of the Rocky mountains picked their way to St. Louis where Capt. Clarke of the U. S. army was then stationed. These sons of the plain said they had come to get the white man's book of heaven and teachers for their people. Captain Clarke entertained the Indians and showed

them every courtesy but was not much interested in the book of heaven. Finally two of the Indians having died the other two made preparations for their return to their tribes. Before starting they had a last banquet at which one of the Indians made a speech in which he acknowledged all the courtesies he had received but he further stated he returned home sad and discouraged because he had not found the white man's book of heaven or teachers for his people. This speech was reported in the papers and in due time appeared in the religious press of the east where the missionary fire already burning was fanned into a fierce flame.

The Lewis, Whitmans, Spauldings, Parkmans and others answered the Macedonian call. How did these Indians get their first idea of a heaven? Possibly from Capt. Clarke himself who in 1804 was a member of the Lewis & Clark exploring expedition passed through the Indians country. Possibly from some member of the Astor fur company that in 1809-10 traversed the waters of the Columbia. Continuing, Pastor Hughes said:

Why do I go to the trouble of repeating all this? Because it gives us an insight to Father Griffin's life. It tells us the moving motive, the governing principle, the compelling reason of his actions.

What was his object in turning his face toward the land of the setting sun, rendering himself liable to suffer indescribable hardships and privations, being perilous of savage and water and vermin? Self aggrandizement? The acquisition of wealth, so that after a few years of pressing toil he might return east to surround himself with the well earned delights and comforts of civilization? Nay, these things entered not into his computation. He came to carry the blessings of civilization and Christianity to the child of the wigwam and of the forest. He answered the Macedonian cry of the wilderness and came to give the "white man's book of heaven" and to teach.

He came, not to dig riches out of the soil, or from the mountains, but to offer the unspeakable riches of the gospel of Jesus Christ. This is everything, my friends, in our judgment of this man and his life. He belongs to a class of men whose influence is incalculable in the direction of the highest civilization.

I have always thought we have too exclusively landed military leaders as heroes. The monuments, statues, sons, and praises are for the heroes of war. I would not detract one iota from their glory, nor pluck one flower from their garland of fame.

Amy Patterson, grand-daughter, had a bunch of ripened wheat on the cuff emblematic of the well rounded and perfect life of her dearly loved grand-father.

Mrs. Waggoner contributed a cycle of cut flowers; Mrs. H. V. Gates sent ripened grain; Gen. Ransom Relief Corps of which Mr. Griffin is a member sent a floral piece.

The Ladies Missionary Society of the Hillsboro church sent a bunch of Calla lilies to which was attached a printed card bearing these words: "The Ladies Missionary Society of the Congregational church of Hillsboro, recognizes the self-sacrifice of John Smith Griffin who, sixty years ago left home and comfort and plunged into a savage wilderness more isolated than Africa or Asia is today to carry the Gospel to the natives, and places these flowers on his bier as a tribute to his sincerity, devotion and steadfastness. He never faltered in his purpose nor regretted that he had crossed the Rocky mountains in quest of a just and God-ward man were carried to the tomb."

PACIFIC UNIVERSITY.

Pres. McClelland, Prin. Bates and Rev. Freedman went to Hillsboro Tuesday to attend the funeral of Rev. J. S. Griffin.

The Bernhard Walther company gave a concert in the auditorium of Marsh hall last Monday evening to a large and appreciative audience.

The faculty allowed the students a half-holiday Monday last to go skating.

Miss Evans' second year English class will give a recital in the auditorium to-night.

THE GAMMA SIGMA DEBATORS.

Meets. Schuch, Lancelotti and McClelland are very busy preparing to meet the representatives of the U. of O. on Feb. 24.

FARMINGTON.

The Farmington people are still alive notwithstanding the severity of the recent cold snap.

The singing class is doing finely with Mr. Jones as a teacher.

The debate between Reedville and Jack schools was watched with much interest. The question being, Resolved: That the world is not governed in the proper manner. Jack school supported the negative side and carried away the honors. Benj. Jack, Henry Jack, George Jack and James Kirkwood were the speakers on the winning side.

A debate is now being arranged between Jack school and the Reedville debating society. The question will be Resolved, That the Philippines should not be annexed to U. S.

BEAVERTON.

The young people of Beaverton met in the Beaverton hall Friday night and organized a dancing club to meet every Friday night. Dancing was the order and every one tripped the light fantastic until twelve o'clock when they all went home voting the club a success. Only members and those having invitations are admitted and critical periods there burned a steady and clear light in the humble home of the Tualatin Plains pioneer missionary that clearly showed the true path, the path which, thank God, was eventually taken.

His was an earthly existence of night unto a century. Over four score years and ten is an unusually long term of life. It is a matter of grateful remembrance that the last years of his eventful and long life were crowned with sweet and calm joy. And it is but justice to add that a great deal of this is owing to the tender ministrations, the loving care and constant watchfulness of her who proved to be a help-met in his old age.

And now we come to say farewell

to Father Griffin. To Father Griffin? No. He is with us and will continue with us. It is the erect figure which we knew so well and was so familiar a sight on our streets that we part with—like body, the physical man. He, the soul, is with us. Those whom one day long ago you took out of your homes, and in an awful stillness, placed in the earth, are not gone. They come to us in the twilight dim where the spirit's eye only sees. "There are dead but spirited monarchs who rule out spirits from their urns. These potent shadow-influences are constant factors in our life."

"Such deaths are like the alabaster box. That held the precious ointment. Never again shall it be gathered to its comely shape. But the spirit perfume still throughout the house. Yields up perpetual fragrance; And the hearts that clustered round it. Have themselves become purer and sweeter for the sacrifice."

Pastor Ackerman bore testimony of the worth of and high esteem had for Griffin by the ministers of the church. He related how Mr. Griffin as a central figure in the last Triennial Council had stood on the platform and exhibited the records of the organization of the first church west of the Rockies, and how he had been instrumental in procuring the last benediction when the council finally adjourned.

The choir sang Eventide using the words:

Able with me! Fast falls the eventide,
The darkness deepens—Lord, with me abide!
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, oh, abide with me.

Supt. Clapp spoke of the strong characters that in the beginning came to the west and how they had developed personalities, even angularities that sometimes wounded when in contact, but these sharp corners are necessary to the subduing of wild conditions found in a new country. "Pat Father Griffin and 25 like him in a legislature, could you drive them to do an unworthy thing? Could you bribe them?"

The casket was a beautiful covering for the dead, furnished from P. O. Brown's undertaking parlors. It was covered with black cloth and heavily silver mounted. It was further beautifully decorated with floral tributes from mourners and friends. Mrs. Addie Jenkins sent a beautiful bouquet of roses and white lilies. She was not present in person because of illness in the family.

Mr. Richard, formerly of Forest Grove died Saturday and was buried at Mount Olive cemetery Monday. She had been ill a long time and leaves a husband and several children.

Mr. Len Guild was "under the weather" a few days but is able to be out again.

CEDAR MILLS.

The young people have been enjoying many pleasant parties and evenings at the mill pond since the freeze. Boudiers beautifully illuminated the pond to night. As the ice was smooth as glass many stars were seen although the heavens were dark.

The skating party at the pond were highly entertained Monday night by Professors A. Latham's and Bessie Young's melodious singing.

At the quarterly meeting in the M. E. church, Rev. W. H. Bates was added to the church book.

Miss Mable Young who is teaching music is highly pleased with the progress of her class.

The salvationists of Portland who hold semi-monthly meetings in the Siegenthater church have several members as the result of their labor.

Mr. John Smith who was helping to catch the blacksmith's spirited horse received a frightful fall from the horse which he was riding and a fracture of the ankle bone is feared.

The new convent which is under construction to replace the one that was recently burned is nearing completion.

A happy couple who thought they were enjoying a fine sleigh ride in the snow were informed by their friends that their sleigh was making deep gullies in the mud instead.

Mr. Baume who has been confined to his bed several months shows no signs of improvement.

Mr. G. W. Reeves while shoveling the snow from the roof of his wagon shed had an attack of hemorrhage of the lungs.

Mr. J. Q. A. Young and Jas. Constable attended the funeral of the late Rev. J. S. Griffin with Mr. Young as the first settlers on the Tualatin Plains.

Mr. S. Siegenthater who has for several weeks been lying at the point of death is not yet out of danger.

Don't forget the love, courtship and marriage lecture the 14th. Come every body and learn.

DEAD LETTER LIST.

The following is a list of letters remaining uncalled for in the postoffice at Hillsboro, Feb. 4, 1899:

A. Tussing, Esq.
Mrs. Wm. Crowley.

All letters not called for by Feb. 15, will be sent to the Dead Letter Office. One month will be charged for each letter called for.

H. SCHULMERICH, P. M.

The Hillsboro band did the citizens of Hillsboro another good turn this week in getting the Bernhard Waltzer Concert Company to give an entertainment here. Mr. Waltzer is a violinist of rare execution. He has perfect control of his instrument so that at one time the full volume of sound strikes violently while at another the faint whisperings of melody float out entrancing the delighted audiences. Mrs. Waltzer as a vocalist possesses a wonderful voice carefully cultivated. Her classical pieces were greatly appreciated but it was in the popular ballads that she won the hearts of the Hillsboro people.

Edward Fuller was asked by Dist. attorney Bagley to appear in J. P. Smith's court last Saturday and answer the charge of smoking on the streets. The boy did so without trouble to the officers, no warrant of arrest being required. Because of this Mr. Bagley asked the court to exercise leniency when the plea of guilty was entered. The court did so and imposed a fine of \$4.00 or two days in jail. The boy who is nearing 18 years of age went to jail. When will boys realize that they must not smoke cigarettes.

The coldest day of the season was last Friday when the mercury at 3 o'clock went to zero. At 7 it got back to 10 degrees above the zero, and continued to rise. Tuesday morning a heavy fall of snow covered the ground to the depth of six or seven inches but by 11 o'clock a. m. it was raining. Wednesday the ground was bare and now the frost is out. There is good skating as early as Saturday but the snow of Tuesday spoiled it. We now have standard weather.

An original article by Washington Irving is an unusual event in magazine literature. The Outlook has been fortunate enough to obtain, through representatives of the Irving family, a heretofore unpublished article by Washington Irving, called

"The young people of Beaverton met in the Beaverton hall Friday night and organized a dancing club to meet every Friday night. Dancing was the order and every one tripped the light fantastic until twelve o'clock when they all went home voting the club a success. Only members and those having invitations are admitted and critical periods there burned a steady and clear light in the humble home of the Tualatin Plains pioneer missionary that clearly showed the true path, the path which, thank God, was eventually taken."

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LAUREL ITEMS.

A crowded house was entertained by the Literary Society last Friday evening. An excellent programme was rendered. The master of ceremonies was Fred Dilberger. The master of ceremonies was Fred Dilberger. The master of ceremonies was Fred Dilberger.

The debate was postponed until this week. Question for debate is Resolved, That the people of the United States would be benefited by direct legislation by the people. Mr. Pearson will lead the affirmative side and Mr. Fred Dilberger the negative. Programme will include several funny sketches and songs. Debate will be open for all.

Saturday, Sunday and Monday evenings were gayly spent by the young people coasting. Jim Brown's hill was the popular place. A merry time was had by all.

The sleigh bells merrily jingle was heard on our streets for a few days. Every body had a sleigh ride and now are ready for some more "Oregon mist."

Miss Ely Barnes is in Hillsboro this week attending the teachers examination. During her absence Miss Beryl Barnes of Beaverton is teaching her department.

Webfooters are not prepared for such regular "down east" weather as we experienced last week and in consequence potatoes apples and turnips are reported frozen by a good many of our farmers.

Mrs. Hull died last Friday night and was buried Sunday at Mount Olivet cemetery. She leaves a husband and seven children to mourn her loss.

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Schilling's Best money-back tea and baking powder at Your Grocer's

"A Festival Day in Rome." It has intrinsic interest, which is increased by an introductory sketch showing how Irving's literary ambition came into being and by a fine portrait. \$3 a year. The Outlook company, New York.

Secretary Batchelder, of the Oregon Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition committee, is in receipt of notice from State Treasurer Moore to the effect that citizens holding certificates of the commission for money advanced by them for the Oregon exhibit at the Omaha fair can have face value of same returned by presenting said certificates at his office in Salem, or by presenting them at Shute & Foot's bank, Hillsboro.

Miss Ruth Moreland, who has been in Tillamook since October, reached home last Monday evening. She came in the coast steamer from Tillamook to Portland and the rest of the way by rail. Miss Moreland's experience with the sea is not the most satisfactory, though Neptune let her pass after she had paid tribute by feeding the gulls.

There will be services at the Evangelical church next Sunday as follows: Sunday school at 10 a. m., preaching services at 11 a. m. and at 7:30 p. m. At the morning service there will be reception of members into the church. All are cordially invited to these services.

Thirty-five applicants for teachers certificates appeared before the board of examiners. Two of these ask for state diplomas and two for life diplomas. Nine of them are men. The examination will be completed this afternoon or tomorrow morning.

A joint meeting of the two fire companies is called for next Tuesday evening at 8 o'clock to transact business in which both companies are interested.

Judge Hood is sick this week and hence not able to attend this term of court. He was reported yesterday to be a little better than he had been.

A. R. Crandall and wife came in on the Monday afternoon train and will visit for a few weeks with his father Capt. R. Crandall.

Mrs. Frazier of Union county who has been a guest with her mother Mrs. Eliza Williams returned home this week.

Dr. Brown has the only cataplectic outfit in the county, also a sure and safe method of extracting teeth without pain.

Mr. and Mrs. Barber gave a party at their home, on the Warren ranch, in honor of their son Charley's 21st birthday.

Wanted immediately, men to cut 1000 cords 4 ft. fir wood. Call on or address, Wm. Nelson, Hillsboro.

Come and examine Dr. Brown's new and latest improved method of filling teeth without pain, Feb. 19.

Osa Garlington has returned to school at P. U. the first of the week after a wrestle with the measles.

Remnant sale continues at Schulmerich's & Son. Hosiery and men's furnishings goods this week.

P. O. Brown, the popular furniture dealer and undertaker has been very busy this week.

Dr. C. B. Brown the reliable dentist will be in Hillsboro Feb. 19.

Shoveling snow has been the popular past-time of the week.