

# THE IONE INDEPENDENT

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Labor to keep alive in your breast  
 that little spark of celestial fire—  
 consequence—  
 George Washington.

## THE FATHER OF HIS COUNTRY

George Washington is one of those great characters that assume more majestic proportions as they are viewed through the lengthening corridors of time. The blemishes that, for his contemporaries, marred some features, are lost to us in the haze of the past, while the great virtues of love of country, fidelity to principle, moral and physical courage and unwavering confidence in the final triumph of the right, stand out against the dark background of his time, as the outline of some mountain monarch which rising far above the level of both plain and range is projected against the blue vault of heaven.

He belongs to the immortals and is numbered among those to whom might justly be applied the old Shakespearean line. He was a man—take him all in all we shall not see his like again.

He was not a genius, either in war or peace. He had not the eloquence of Patrick Henry, the literary facility of Thomas Jefferson, or the firm grasp on the principles of finance that distinguished Alexander Hamilton; but in sublime force of will and decision of character he surpassed them all. In him were assembled the qualities of judgement, patience, insight, political wisdom that enabled him to choose the right course. Such was his magnanimity that he was able, as are but few, to detect appreciate and direct the superior abilities other men and so use them in the task of founding a new, a great an enduring state.

Of the men of his time there were many who surpassed him in some quality of character but none who excelled or even equaled him in the general assembly of the solid and enduring qualities of manhood.

As a man and a Christian; as a statesman and soldier; as a son and a husband; as a friend and brother; he rose to the higher if not the highest levels of human excellence.

Mr. A. D. Montgomery of the Pacific Joint Stock Land Bank was in Ione on business Saturday.

Mr. A. L. Douglas of Pendleton was an Ione visitor Saturday, the 14th.

### HOW'S THIS?

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## Willow Creek Pioneers

Wm. Y. Cecil, the first settler on Willow creek, was born in England in 1819, and brought to America when a child, he was raised and lived in Illinois until 1855, when he moved to Missouri where he engaged in farming. The Civil War came on and invading armies devastated his farm, and the Spring of 1862 found him with his wife and children Henrietta, Janie, Nate, Billy, Wilford and Frank starting the long trip across the plains to Oregon.

The army was engaged with the South which gave the Indians their chance to retard the progress toward the West and the family had many unpleasant experiences with the war like savages. Their first stop was made on Rock creek, but the desire for school took them on to the Willamette Valley where they spent the winter. Remembering the vast uninhabited region between Umatilla and John Day with its bunchgrass covered hills and the possibilities of stock raising and making money off the immigrants who were moving west over the Oregon Trail, they decided to return and establish a home. The Spring of 1863 found them locating at the Willow creek crossing where they built a road house and prepared to care for the travelers, they sold milk, butter, beef and vegetables as well as forage for the oxen and had a bar room. They began raising cattle and horses and soon became the largest stock men of that region.

Their nearest neighbor to the north was in Yakima, and Canyon City was the nearest settlement south. Schools were not within reach and the boys grew to manhood without education which was a great handicap to them when the stockmen had to give way to farmers and they were obliged to compete with those who had had the advantage of schools.

Until the late eighties the only method of travel was on horseback or with a farm wagon, yet a dance at Cecil's was attended by most of the settlers from Rock creek, Butter creek and the mountains. By their location and occupation they met all the immigrants coming over the Oregon Trail and were the best known family in the State.

Mr. Cecil died in 1896 and Mrs. Cecil continued to operate the ranch and cater to the travelers until her death in 1903. Henrietta married Tom Rhea, who was one of the early cattlemen on the creek, they soon moved to Rhea Creek, where they continued raising cattle and sheep until 1896 when they moved to Heppner and later to Hillsboro at which place she died a few years ago.

Janie married Jim Robinson, who was one of the largest cattlemen in the sand country, until the sheepmen began competing for range, when they disposed of their herd and moved to Walla Walla, where Mr. Robinson died in 1923 and Mrs. Robinson is yet residing.

Jimmie operated with his folks for many years and then went to Eastern Washington where he died a few years ago.

Nate became the largest cattleman of the country and his I. D. brand covered the sand from Umatilla to John Day. The farmers and sheepmen gradually reduced his range and the winter of 1889-90 put him down to a small herd which dwindled along until 1905 when he quit the game and has spent the recent years around Pendleton and Walla Walla. He died at Walla Walla, last October and was buried in an unmarked grave.

Billy was with his father in the stock business for thirty

(continued on page 4)

### Then And Now

When Washington was here on earth,  
 He saw full many an elele,  
 But never took a Pulman berth  
 Nor ever rode a bicycle.  
 He never learned to telephone,  
 By wire he could not send dispatch,  
 He never heard the radio's moan  
 Nor ever had a match to scratch  
 He never saw a submarine,  
 A phonograph he never heard  
 He never wrote with a machine  
 Nor saw a man outfly a bird  
 But since his time its come to pass,  
 All things are with such dashing done,  
 We've all these things, but then,  
 alas!  
 We seem to have no Washington.  
 Anonymous.

One 2 year old Mammoth Golden Bronze Gobbler for sale.  
 Mrs. Cecil C. Sargent.

### Church News

Notes of Interest to All Local Denominations.

The class in Bible study formerly conducted by Mr. Mortimore will continue the work under the direction of Mr. Head. The studies for the coming term are in the New Testament.

The leader of the Junior Endeavor meeting at the Baptist Church next Sunday evening is Dorr Mason.

Rev. Clark M. Smith, of the American Sunday School Union will conduct services at Fairview schoolhouse Friday evening, February 20.

Special services are in progress at Morgan every evening this week at 7:30. Services conducted by Rev. J. C. Pershall of Pine City.

### CHURCH DIRECTORY

**CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
 Rev. W. W. HEAD, Pastor  
 Services  
 11:00 A. M. and 8:00 P. M.

**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
 Rev. PAUL De. F. MORTIMORE, Pastor  
 Services  
 10:00 A. M. and 8:00 P. M.

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**  
 Sunday School at 10:00 A.M.  
 Junior Endeavor at 5:30 P.M.  
 Prayer meeting Thurs. 7:30 P.M.

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 Ione, Oregon

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**J. W. HOWK, Agent, Ione, Ore.**