

EARLY SETTLEMENTS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY
MAY RINGLE LEPSCHAT - Sponsor, David Hill Chapter
Dau. of Am. Revol.

PAGE 1

The following program, Early Settlements of Washington County was originally presented over radio KOAC in Corvallis, March 5, 1956 and was prepared by Ethyl Johnson Moore and May Ringle Lepschat.

It was compiled for the David Hill Chapter, Dau. of Am. Revol. who sponsored it at that time and due to so many requests for a local release they again sponsored this broadcast over KUIK and now here's Mrs. Lepschat as narriator.

Thank you Mr. Gillis, Washington County is part of the old Tuality District one of four districts to be defined by the Oregon Provisional Government in 1843. The territory in this district was a very large area bounded on the south by the Yamhill River and on the east by a line through the center of the Multnomah or Willamette River & continuing north to the Russian Border and the Pacific Ocean on the West. Tuality District received its name from the river called Tuality by the Indians. The word means slow sluggish or meandering, however, descriptive the name, the spelling had to be done phoenatically and since everyone had a different spelling it led to a great deal of confusion as one can see by the old records. Because of this, Joseph Meek petitioned the territorial government in 1849 to change the name of the county from Tuality to Washington. At this time the area in the county embraced the present Columbia, Washington and part of Multnomah west of the Willamette. Many of the earliest settlements are now only crossroads and all that is left are the records of those early pioneers. Some are the school records, others the road surveys and still others the church history which was given on this station earlier. Since our time is limited and our county is so rich in early Oregon history we will limit ourselves to a few of the early communities and to the founders and the early growth of the two major cities in Washington County, namely, Hillsboro and Forest Grove. The earliest records we can find about the early day settlers in Washington County are those of the mountainmen, missionaries and a few Hudson's Bay men. So much has been written about these men, ^{that} all who have studied Oregon history will be familiar with them.

For old Tuality District sent 13 men to Champeoegh to partake in the historic meeting May the 6th, 1843. Late in the year of 1840, Joseph Meek and Robert Newell and their families came to the Tualatin Valley where another ex mountain man named Doty had built a cabin the year before. These men claimed land and built their cabins on the northeastern floor of the plain. According to early day narritors they called the place Rocky Mountain Retreat. In 1841, other immigrants came to settle near them. They were: Squire Ebberts, Caleb Wilkins, and Joseph Gale, erstwhile trappers or mountainmen. Charles McKie and Thomas Oshen who were Hudson Bay men and Reverend John Smith Griffin, an independent Congregational Missionary who had met Joseph Meek in St. Louis and had traveled west in 1839 with Meek in his party, and at Meek's invitation settled just south of the Meek claim.

1842 brought the first organized immigration of settlers to the district and some of these settled near the mountainmen but many more of them claimed land in different parts of Tuality District. The next year, 1843, brought many more settlers into the valley and now the mountain refuge became better known as Tuality Plains now known in part as West Union. Tuality Plains was the first sizeable community in the Tuality District though it seems always to have been a community and never a town. By 1844, three separate church groups had been formed. School was held in the home of William ^{BEAGLE} ~~Beagle~~ and William Geiger Jr. of West Tuality Plains taught. After the territorial government was inaugurated, this school district became District No.1 in Washington County. Joseph Gale had built a grist mill over on Gales Creek and Richard Constable kept a store in his home which is said to be the first frame building in the county.

1845 found Tuality Plains a busy community and the Provisional Government passed legislation to locate a road from Savies Island to Tuality Plains which would in turn connect with the Smyth Ferry on the Yamhill River. Charles McKie, Robert Poe and John Fleck were appointed on the commission. The road meant that the Tuality Plains settlers had a shorter road to the river ports. Before, they had to haul their grain across the valley and over the mountain to the Willamette below Oregon City. The year before, some promotors had cleared a road from Linnton to Tuality Plains. They believed that Linnton would become the major city in the Oregon country.

This road is the general location of the present day Germantown road. The first recorded road survey in Washington County was from St. Helens to the Dairy Creek Bridge. This survey followed the old road which had been cleared from Sauvies Island in 1845. On September 19, 1852 a petition was presented to the county court to grant the newly surveyed route to become a road from St. Helens to the Dairy Creek bridge following the existing road and shortening distances where practicable,

According to the petition, all claim owners were amenable except Ussylesses Jackson. He objected because the survey went through a choice cultivated field. A compromise was reached and the survey went on. The names of the claimants living along the road beginning with the town of St. Helens which was then in Washington County were:
Milton, Williams, Foster, Hoyt, Clangers Mill, Lambertsons -- all living on the Scapoose plain. Then over the mountain, were the Jacksons, McKie's Hoover, Ben Cornelius, Monroe and Michael Warren to the Dairy Creek Bridge. This road was also used as a military road by the United States Army stationed at Vancouver. It was the most direct route to the Fort in Yamhill County. While Tuality Plains was growing in numbers and security the population of the whole county had increased. The year's immigrants which had helped to swell the numbers around the mountain refuge had brought many settlers to the whole county. Communities formed in several other sections; one of these was formed a few miles south of Tuality Plains nearer the Tualatin River and emerged from the immigrants of 1842. The new immigrants: Isiah Kelsey, Ralph Wilcox, Richard Williams, Michael Moore and David Hill settled close together. Considerable confusion surrounds the early name of this community. Some records refer to David Hill as being in Tualatin Plains and others say that he was from Tualatin. David Hill planned in January 1850 to locate a postoffice there and he asked that the name of the place be called Columbia. He also asked that there be two mail deliveries a month from Oregon City and one from Portland. David Hill made application to become postmaster and in a letter dated January 6, 1850 to representative Samuel R. Thurston he stated that the name of the county had been changed to Washington and that the county seat - Columbia was located on his claim.

David Hill died in May of 1850 and Abraham Solger who owned a store in the town became the first postmaster of Hillsboro in August of 1850.

The townspeople had asked that the name of the town be changed from Columbia to Hillsboro to honor David Hill. David Hill had had a part in Oregon's early provincial government. He served two terms on the legislative committee which acted instead of a governor and he had been representative of the Tuality District to the provisional government until the territorial government was established. So the new town's name was Hillsboro, spelled Hillsborough until the city was incorporated in October, 1876 when the spelling was simplified to Hillsboro as it is today. David Hill had sold 40 acres to the town of Columbia now Hillsboro for a town site and Isah Kelsey and his wife gave 12 acres to the commissioners for the site of the courthouse. The first courthouse was a double log cabin located on David Hill's land. Later, a cedar wood courthouse was built in 1852 and the first brick courthouse was built in 1872 on the square where the present courthouse stands. Hillsboro was the county seat of a very large area. Citizens of Portland had to make their way over the mountain and across the valley roads which couldn't really be called anything more than trails. It was only 15 or 16 miles as the crow flies but what a 16 miles. Mud - hub deep in the winter, and in the summer, choking dust just as deep. After a few years of travel over these roads, some energetic men from Portland formed a company called the Portland Valley Plank Road Company. They got a charter from the legislature and sold subscriptions for \$100.00 a share to finance the project. The road officially opened in March, 1851, is now our present day Canyon Road.

When we drive to Portland in 30 minutes we find it very hard to realize that it sometimes took 2 days back in 1848.

Many of those still living in Washington County will remember going to Portland over old cordoroy roads.

This road was a wonderful help to the Tualatin Valley folks; it meant a much easier way to haul their products to market and the Port of Portland was beginning with the help of the Tualatin Valley.

One of the first things to concern the pioneers in a new country was the education of their children. After the man got a roof over

his family and enough food in sight to keep the edge of hunger away,

schools for the youngsters was of prime importance. At least this was true of the Oregon pioneers. And, so, it was in 1851 the seventh grade or the seventh school district in Washington County was established in Hillsboro by the Reverend Horrest Lyman, Washington County's first county school superintendent.

The first school building was a one-room log cabin at the corner of what is now Third and Base line streets. Later, a one room frame building was built at the same location. Pictures of these two buildings may be found in the Washington County Historical Museum. In the early days, a school district did not always own the ground on which a school stood so to remedy this, Samuel Williams, Henry ^{WEHRUNG} Wearing and W.D. Hare in 1872 secured the title to two blocks from the city for \$50.00.

Later, a full city block was secured in a different location and a six-room school was built. Some of the teachers of those early days were: D. M. Segault, G.M. Hoopengartner, John Scott, Marian Adams, John Leland Henderson, Bill Barrett and John Hause. It is said that G. M. Hoopengartner and John Hause were hard because they could keep order. The first county jail was built in Hillsboro in 1853 by William N. Brown. The logs were handhewn, one foot square, bound together at the corners by iron bolts or rods. The doors were made of boiler iron and the whole building was approximately 12 x 14' on the inside.

It was located between baseline and Washington Streets near Fourth. Ezerah Stewart was the first jailor and Richard Wiley was the sheriff. After a new jail was built, this little one and the property where it stood were sold to the Reverend James Kave _____? who with a small family lived in it for a time. Later a house was built on the property and the woodshed enclosed the jail.

A few years ago when the old house was raised, the old jail was uncovered. Only a few people were left who could remember its existence.

The logs were given to the native Sons & Daughters of Washington County and this group had it moved to the Washington County Fairgrounds where it was restored as near as possible to the original. It can now be seen there. From the notes that the late John Brown, former historian for Washington County, we find that he says:

General Ulysses S. Grant slept there. General Grant was of lesser rank then, but he was in charge of Vancouver barracks, then called Columbia. The year was 1854 and Grant had ordered supplies for the barracks from a San Francisco firm and due to transportation and communication difficulties, he had not received a statement and so the bill had not been paid. Richard Wiley, sheriff of Washington County waited in Portland until Grant had come to Portland from Vancouver and then arrested him and brought him to Hillsboro for trial. Grant was acquitted but he spent at least one night in jail until his friends could bail him out.

In the earliest book of records from the County Court, we find that on April 8, 1852 the county court ordered that six blank grocery license be issued to the sheriff to tender to those wishing to take such licenses at the rate of \$200.00 per year for the term of one year.

To be dated on this day and give bond according to law. Men who applied for grocery licenses on that day were Richard White and Coburn Barrel.

It is impossible to say ^{just} where those stores were located.

Another bit of business done by the county court that same day provided for a public library. The court ordered that each of the public officers of Washington County be allowed a statute and the remainder kept by the county clerk as a public library to be loaned to the county inhabitants. The inhabitants had to give a receipt for the loan and could keep it one month. The officers of the court for that session were David Lennox, Judge,

Alvin T. Smith, Associate Judge and William Geiger, Jr. as clerk.

In the early days of slow travel, it was impossible for many of the settlers to ride to the county seat, get their business done and return home the same day. It was necessary to stay overnight, so about 1853 John Wood and his wife, Mary Ramsey Wood built and ran the first hotel in Hillsboro. They called it the Washington Hotel.

It is said that she was a very good cook which must have helped their trade. During County Court Sessions, the officers of the Court, Jurors and others connected with the Court boarded there. The hotel was located just across the road from the Court House Square on what is now First and Main Streets. Mrs. Wood attained a lot of publicity in the last years of her life for she passed the century mark by more than 20 years. She died in 1908.

Hillsboro grew slowly for the first twenty years and much of the earliest history was recorded only in memory. There must have been a blacksmith shop or a livery stable but we find no records of them until the '70s. Steamships plied the Tualatin, in the early days, one named the Onward was a narrow sternwheeler which managed the crooked stream quite easily; but the other ship, named Yamhill was a sidewheeler and it had a lot of trouble negotiating the bends in the river.

The ships navigated the Tualatin from Hillsboro to the Willamette River and hauled the wheat from the Tualatin Valley to Portland.

They were discontinued with the advent of the railroad in 1972.

In 1850, Peter Scholl applied for a license for a ferry on the Tualatin River five miles below the Harris ferry for a fee of \$200.00,

The Harris ferry at Bridgeport was run by Phillip Harris and Felix Landus. There was another ferry south of Hillsboro run by Abraham Solger who was Hillsboro's postmaster and also a grocer. The County Court set prices for the fares and the list of charges are interesting to us now, for we do not use money with the values they used then.

Here are the prices:

For each foot passenger - 25¢

each man and horse - 37½¢

each wagon and yolk of oxen or span of horses and teamster - \$1.00.

each additional yolk of oxen or span of horses - 25¢

each head of loose cattle or oxen - 12½¢

each hog or sheep - 6¼¢

Six miles west of Hillsboro is another settlement, first known as west Tualatin Plains, later as West Tualatin and now known as Forest Grove. One of the first if not the first settler was Alvin T. Smith who came to Oregon with a Wagon train in 1840. His land claim was just south of the present Forest Grove and was at that time called West Tualatin.

By 1848 it boasted one store, also, a Post Office which was in Alvin Smith's log cabin with Sed Smith the Postmaster.

Smith, in 1844, feeling the need of a church in the community sent a call to his friend Harvey Clark who had been with the same wagon train in 1840 and had settled in Glencoe to come to West Tualatin and aid in establishing a church. The two men erected a log cabin wherein church services were held on Sunday and during the week Harvey Clark taught school to a group of children, the cost being \$4.00 per month tuition and board.

In 1847 Clark was paid a visit by a little crippled widow woman past 60 years of age, namely Tobitha Brown who had come to Oregon to be with her three children who had preceeded her. She was interested in the education and welfare of orphan children and took over the teaching in the little log hut of Harvey Clarks.

This part of Forest Grove's history has been written and rewritten many times. It is well known that this little one room school was the beginning of Tualatin Academy and Pacific University which received its charter in 1849. Granted by the Oregon Territorial Legislature. Harvey Clark gave 200 acres to the new school or as it is recorded in the original deed: "Blocks one to thirty-four" .

At this early ^{date,} William Stokes had also granted land to the school.

While speaking of Mr. Stokes, it is of interest to note, William Stokes wrote his will the 19th of January, 1859 and it was probated the 5th of September, 1859. Children were mentioned but not by name.

Witnesses to the will were S. Hughes, T. B. Hoover and Allison Hinman all of Forest Grove. His widow, Laura Ann Stokes gave bond as his administratrix with Alchana Walker and Cushing Eals _____ as securities. Edwin and Myra Eals being witnesses.

The marriage records show William Stokes and Laura A. Selover were married by Harvey Clark the 20th of May, 1852 so their years of married bliss were short indeed. One year after William's death, on the 25th of September, 1860, Laura A. Stokes married as his second wife - Robert M. Porter. The marriage being performed by Alchana Walker. Porter's first wife had been Carolyn Brown to whom he had been married by Harvey Clark the 19th of August, 1852.

Forest Grove's history is so closely woven in with the college that it was indirectly the cause of the town coming into being; we find that we must continuously refer again and again to Tualatin Academy and Pacific University. With mention of nearly every settler we may find time to mention within the limits of this program.

The majority we will have to leave for some future date and they should be included for all were keenly interested in the little village and gave generously of their time, land and money. Alchanna Walker and his wife Mary Richardson Walker with their children came to Forest Grove. In 1850 he gave 12½ acres to the abovementioned school and the wing of the original Tualatin Academy which is still in use and contains a museum rested upon part of the ground he gave. To his own log cabin in 1851, he added a frame addition. The first of its kind to be erected in Forest Grove. At the Walker home one day in 1850, a group of women met and organized a maternal association.

The purpose was to meet regularly for prayer and discussion pertaining to the responsibility and proper rearing of their children.

Present were Mary R. Walker, Emmaline Clark, Myra F. Eals, Abigail R. Smith and Sarah E. Burton.

One of the early Justices of the Peace was Irah E. Purdon, a name prominent in the early days. He has many wellknown descendents still residing in the county. He not only officiated at marriages but often acted as a witness. He was much in demand for jury duty. A family cemetery on the home farm is silent testimony of the early members of his family. Descendents still own and live on the old claim.

We keep speaking of Forest Grove but the settlement was not known by that name until 1851. A group of men, Harvey Clark among them, met and drew up plans for the new townsite at Tualatin Academy. The academy, feeling the doners had been too generous in their gift, returned a goodly portion which was laid out in town lots the 10th of May, 1851 and the said lots to be sold to raise the necessary funds with which to operate the school.

Can you imagine the great wealth \$30,000.00 would be in this period over 100 years ago. Such is the amount mentioned in the recording of the deed of Harvey Clark's gift of land to Tualatin Academy and Pacific University.

Benjamin H. Catching and his wife Lovinia took up a 640 acre claim in 1850. A portion of this claim was deeded in 1860 to be used as a cemetery to be known as the Union Cemetery and to be under the direction of a group of trustees forever. This cemetery is located at the end of the road just beyond the forest Grove water reservoirs and commands one of the most beautiful views in Oregon. Therein rests the pioneers and members of the family of Clark, Smith, Walker, Catching, Brown, Biel, Black, Barnes, Hinman, Machlan, Porter, Sewell and many others who were residents in the 1840 to 1850 period. This cemetery reminds one of the early need of funds for the infant college. The trustees and a few interested citizens are working hard to incite enthusiasm amongst the descendants and residents of the county to create a fund to insure the perpetual care for this the final resting place of so many of the early founders of this community.

Would that we had time to say more of this now second largest city in the county which in 1853 besides the little post office mentioned before, had one merchandise store owned by Wesley Mulkey and George Burnside. S.T. Walker operated the first planing mill.

In 1854, an agricultural society was formed in Forest Grove and the first Washington County Fair was held in October of that year.

Very few of the second generation are still living and most of the old landmarks and buildings have disappeared but memories of childhood are precious and many of these places we remember, as well as hearing the names of some of these people named as friends coming from the lips of our grandparents and sometimes our parents, gives a feeling of closeness to those mentioned in this history. Therefore it has been a great pleasure to have had a part in preparing this program. Thank you.

The topic given to this program pertains to the Tualatin Valley, Washington County, Oregon. The research was done by Ethyl Johnson Moore and ~~Ray~~ ^{MAY} Mingle LEPSCHAT for David Hill, Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution and originally broadcast over KOAC Corvallis in 1954, a part of a series of programs sponsored by the Oregon State Society Daughters of the American Revolution. Due to the many requests from people interested in Washington County history to have it repeated locally, Mrs. ^{LEPSCHAT} ~~Lepshad~~ _____ has considered to give it over KUIK and now Mrs. ⁿ Lepshad:

Thank you Mr. Hall. Our valley is that part of northwestern Oregon which is a protected triangle surrounded by spurs of the coast range mountains. Nehalem on the north and west, Shahelem on the south and west and the Portland or Tuality mountains on the east. The Indian name for the river which drains the valley is Tualatin originally Tuality, so our valley is known as the Tualatin Valley. The early missionaries who were the first to establish colonies in Oregon were quick to see the wonderful possibilities of this valley and some of them took up donation land claims and started school for the Indians. Soon, other pioneers arrived and settled throughout the valley. The missionar^{ies} then began to ride about and visit these new colonies. Later the pioneers would meet at the neighboring homes to hear the missionaries message and perhaps there would be a wedding for him to perform. When we were asked to compile this article about the early churches of our valley, our idea was to include only those churches which had been organized and had built church buildings before Oregon became a state February 14, 1859. Those were: the First Congregational Church of Tualatin Plains, organized in 1842 and later reorganized as the Hillsboro Congregational Church in 1866. The Forest Grove Congregational Church was organized in 1845. The Methodist Church of Tualatin Plains organized in 1844 and also the Methodist Church at Forest Grove, organized in 1852 and the Christian Church at Farmington organized first as Christ Church in 1846. Their first building was built in 1852, however, there are other church groups organized at later dates whose histories are too interesting to exclude.

One is the Presbyterian Church of Tualatin Plains organized in 1873 and another is the Visitation Catholic Church at Verboort organized in 1875. The Cornelius Methodist Church organized in 1881 is one of the oldest Churches in which regular church services are held in this valley.

The present day Congregational Church in Hillsboro was formed under a new charter, the older group having fallen apart. The earliest Church in our valley was the First Congregational Church of Tualatin Plains.

The Reverend Mr. J. S. Griffin was the first Acting Minister.

He started for Oregon in 1839 as an independent Congregational missionary.

Early in his career, he felt that in the Oregon country he would find few of the evils which beset him in the east so he appealed to the North Litchfield Congregational Church Association of Connecticut, and

they raised money to send him west as a missionary, however, the Association objected to his unmarried status. At St. Louis, Missouri he met a

Miss Desire S. Smith who had been born in Boston. He proposed marriage to her that day, gave her a day to think it over and they were married the next day April 10, 1839 proving that preachers need to be fast

workers at times. They came to Oregon and after a time took up a donation land claim near the present site of Hillsboro, early in 1841.

Mrs. Griffin was the first white woman to settle in the Tualatin Valley.

Mr. Griffin helped to organize his first Congregational Church in 1842 near what is now known as West Union about four miles northeast of Hillsboro.

At that time, this church served the whole valley. Because of the long distance, miserable roads and slow means of travel, the members and workers in the western part of the Tualatin Plains decided to organize a church nearer them.

When the new church was organized the Reverend Mr. Harvey Clark suggested that the new church be built large enough to accommodate a school.

Mr. Clark was another independent Congregational Missionary who, with his family, had taken a donation land claim in the western section of Tualatin Plains early in 1841. This claim is now a part of Forest Grove.

A site for the new church was selected for his claim on a little rise of ground across the swale and north of the Clark home.

That spot is now part of Pacific University Campus. Mr. Clark with the help of Alvin Smith hewed most of the logs and built the first church. It was a large building for that time measuring twenty-five by forty ft. on the inside. It had a punchboard floor and seats. The desks were made of half logs fastened against the walls. A huge fireplace made of logs and plastered over with clay was built at one end. The total cost of the building was \$30.00 and that included glass windows instead of the usual deerskin and hardware. All the work was done by volunteer labor. Mr. Clark was pastor of this church for 9 years.

Mr. Harvey Clark's name lives on today through a new school built in 1951 which bears his name in memorium. As the population of the county increased and the towns came into being, the demand for the church to be close by became urgent. The first few meetings of the Congregational Church in Hillsboro were held in the Court House. The first business meeting was held at the home of William Adams.

In 1866 the church was organized and a new church was built with the help of Portland and Forest Grove members. The present church was built in 1888. The outgrowth of a camp meeting in July, 1843 was the First Methodist Church in Tualatin Valley. It was located on the Richard Constable donation land claim about five miles northeast of Hillsboro.

On July 7, 1844, the late Henry Sewell wrote the Methodist Church in the east that "the first meeting of the Methodists has been held and have five members and expect five more next Sunday and that will make them the largest Church on Tualatin Plains."

Church services were held by Circuit Rider Missionaries. Early records reveal that Territorial Court was held as early as 1845 in this building. The original church building was abandoned and in 1866, William O. Gibson and his son James tore down the building and hauled the lumber to Hillsboro by oxcart to help in the building of a church in town.

The Methodist Church in Hillsboro was started in 1869 and finished by January, 1872 under the direction of Reverend Mr. Joseph Hoberg.

Mr. Hoberg had two bells cast in Portland at a cost of \$100.00. One for the Hillsboro Church and the other for the Methodist Church in Forest Grove.

Dr. Wilson Bolbee hauled the two bells from Portland with a team of oxen. The bell in Hillsboro was rung for many years to celebrate the arrival of

New Years. The late Albert ^{Toshier} ~~Toshier~~ rung it for 50 consecutive years.

This bell is now in the Hillsboro Museum at the City Library.

The Methodist Church at Forest Grove was organized in 1852 by a group of members living in the western part of Tualatin Plains. The Church was first served by a circuit rider, the Reverend Mr. J. W. Miller. Their first building was erected in 1865 followed by a larger edifice in 1881. The present church was built in 1911 and remodeled in 1944. The Methodist Church at Cornelius was built in 1881 and was served by the Reverend Mr. H.W. Roberts of Forest Grove. It was at that time in the Forest Grove circuit. The original building renovated at different times is still in use and holds its place in the Oregon Conference of Methodist Churches. There are other Methodist Churches throughout the area which have interesting histories but for lack of time cannot be included.

Baptist Church work on the Pacific Coast started when West Union Baptist Church was founded in the David Lennox log cabin on May 25, 1844.

Among the first members were David and Louisa Lennox, William and Lucinda Beagle, Alexander Blevins and Henry Sewell. Although the church started without a minister or a deacon, they met each Sunday, prayed and sang hymns and one of their number would read a sermon. Twice during the first year, the Reverend Mr. Enoch Garrison, a Methodist Minister, preached for them. Mr. Lennox was chosen for the first Deacon of the West Union Church. In February, 1845, the Reverend Mr. Snelling and his wife arrived, presented their Church Letters and were received into the congregation. Mr. Snelling was invited to preach and his was the first sermon by a Baptist minister heard by the West Union group.

David Lennox donated two acres of land from his donation land claim in 1853 and a church was erected on this site. William Kane of Forest Grove was builder. The church was completed at a cost of approximately \$1500.00 and was dedicated on December 24th and 25th, 1853. This structure is still standing and is surrounded by the old cemetery. It reminds one of the labor and love our pioneers gave to these early churches.

Another early church sometimes called Christ Church was established in 1846 at Bridgeport. ^{The} first services were for all denominations and met in the home of Phillip Harris, pioneer of 1845.

He loaned a parcel of land for a church where a log cabin was constructed in 1852. Later, because more people lived across the river, they re-organized under the Christian Church. This was in 1863. The deed for this land was dated April 15, 1869. Felix and Jane Landis, his wife donated 1 and 36/100s acres of land to Robert A. Carpenter, David Camel, Peter Scholl, Thomas D. Humphreys and N.C. Richardson or Uncle Natty Richardson as he was lovingly called. Trustees of the Congregation of Christians known as the Christian Church at Tualatin for the use and benefit of said congregation forever. G.W. Richardson ^{was} the first minister. The present church was built in 1882. It is now used once a year. The Christian Church at Hillsboro conducts the services and the descendants of the pioneer members and their friends gather there for a picnic afterwards. Bridgeport is now known as Farmington. The Christian Church at Hillsboro was organized October 17th 1862 with Elder J.E. Murphy presiding, and W.T. Barnes - secretary. The property was purchased from Washington County on July 13, 1864 for \$20.00. In 1877, plans were made for a new building with a seating capacity of about 300. The main building being 34 x 52' with dressing rooms and vestibules 8 to 10' in each end of the building. The present building was built in 1887, remodeled twice and now a larger church is being built to accomodate the present congregation. The Tualatin Plains Presbyterian Church was organized November 16, 1873 near what is now North Plains. First services were held in the building when the Reverend Mr. George Ross taught Columbia Academy. The original church was built in 1873. This quaint little church locally known as the Old Scotch Church is still in regular use. It is located three miles north of Hillsboro in the heart of the county famous for its pioneer stock. The church yard is kept neat by faithful and loving hands and contains the graves of men famous in the annals of Oregon history. Among those buried there is Joe Meek, the man who saved the Oregon country for the United States. The Reverend Mr. George Ross was the first minister and continued to serve for 21 years. There were 12 charter members including Mr. and Mrs. William Chalmers, Mr. and Mrs. James Smith, Mr. and Mrs. George Ross, Mr. and Mrs. George Alexander and Catherine Chalmers. The first session consisted of William Chalmers and James Smith with the Reverend George Ross as pastor.

The Visitation Catholic Church at Verboor~~g~~t was established in 1875. A number of Holland Dutch families settled in this valley a few miles north of Forest Grove. Mr. John Verboor~~g~~t, his wife and family with the exception of one son, William Augustine, who was studying for the priesthood came with the early settlers. Mr. Martin Hermans, his wife and family, Henry Hermans, a brother of Martin; a widow, Mrs. Hendrine Hansen with her son Peter and wife, Adrian Vanderveld~~e~~n, his wife and daughter, Anton Krieger with his wife and children. All twenty-nine souls lived in one kindly farmhouse for the first winter. While the new colony awaited the arrival of their first priest who was to be William Augustine Verboor~~g~~t from the Diocese at Oregon City, they gathered for prayers and the Resitation of the Rosary. Anton Krieger usually led the prayers. On one occasion, the Reverend Louis Verhaig of Portland made the trip to Verboor~~g~~t and offered Holy Mass which is believed to be the first Mass to be celebrated in Washington County.

In 1876, Archbishop Blanchett of Portland changed the name of the community from the Catholic Colony of For~~est~~ Grove to Verboor~~g~~t.

In 1883, a new church was built and dedicated under the title of Our Lady of the Visitation. The previous building was then used for a two-room school taught by lay teachers until the arrival of the Dominican Sisters in 1887.

There are other facts of interest we found while compiling this data which we would like to share.

After the Whitman massacre, the missionaries who had been working among the Indians in what later became Washington territory were forced to leave their posts. Among these people were: Alcanna and Mary Walker; they came to Forest Grove in 1849 and became permanent residents and important workers in that community. When Reverend Harvey Clark came to Forest Grove as a missionary, he had started a school for the Indians. It later became an orphan school directed by ^{TABITHA} Tobiah _____, and then developed into Tualatin Academy in 1849. Mrs. Walker was an active worker for the church and school. A son of Alcanna and Mary Walker named Alcanna was sent as a missionary to China. It is said that he was the first foreign missionary to be sent from Oregon. By 1945, five members of the Walker

family had served as foreign missionaries. The Christian Endeavor Society organized at Forest Grove in 1884 is said to have been the first one organized west of the Rocky Mountains. It is but a short distance from Forest Grove to Verboorcht. In the area are prosperous farms and neat homes and in the center is the life of the community, the Visitation Catholic Church & school. Each Fall the people of Verboorcht prepare and serve a sausage and saurkraut dinner. Hungry folks from all over the northwestern part of Oregon attend, traveling long distances to indulge in a good home cooked country dinner. The proceeds are used to help the church and school.

Items of interest we found in the memories of some of the earlier citizens of Washington county are:

Mr. Thomas H. ^{TONGUE} ~~Tung~~ of Hillsboro recalled the Reverend Mr. Griffin as a wiezened and stooped old man with thin straggely chin whiskers who always wore a silk-topped hat and a Prince Albert coat.

Mr. Frank ~~Raul~~ ^{Rowell} of Scholls recalled that he attended the little church at Farmington as a boy and that he well remembers the abandoned little log church nestled among the oak trees which grew there.

The town of Scholls is named for Peter Scholls who was one of the trustees of the Church. Among the records in the Washington County Court House are the records of the earliest territorial election for west Tuality district held first of June, 1846. David Lennox, one of the organizers of the West Union Baptist Church and David Hill were on the ballot running for territorial representative. David Hill won by 27 votes.

Our Chapter, Daughters of The American Revolution is named for David Hill; the city of Hillsboro (also named for him) is a lasting tribute to his memory. The people of our valley have always been grateful for its early settlers who were god-fearing, home-loving, church-going people.

Thank you.

How do you do. The following program will be of great interest to those who are interested in the history of our county. Information used was taken from Volumes 1 and 2 of Genealogical material in the Oregon Donation Land Claims abstracted from the applications by the Genealogical Forum of Portland, Oregon. The forum received the American Association for state and local history award of merit for their publication, the only organization so honored for the year west of Nebraska. Mrs. Wayne Gurley of Cascade Locks was Chairman of this monumental work in which many members of the Forum assisted her, including Mr. Francis Scarlow of Hillsboro who gave able assistance. The project took over two years and many hundreds of hours to complete. Mrs. Gerley is also State Genealogical Records Chairman for the Oregon State Society of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution and has prepared this program which is sponsored by David Hill Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution. It is with pleasure that I present Mrs. Gerley.

Thank you, Mrs. Letcalf, it is always a pleasure to talk about Oregon Donation Land Claims and today we will give special note to Washington County claims. Over 590 claimants listing their place of residence as Washington County received certificates for donation land claims under the Land Act of September 27, 1850. At the time most of these claimants filed applications for claims, Washington County embraced a part of the present Multnomah and Clackamas Counties as well as all of Columbia County. However, by January, 1855 the present boundaries of the county had been established and as a result, 81 of these claims became a part of Multnomah County. 50 were in Clackamas County and 11 were ^{LOCATED} in Columbia County. Because early boundary lines were hazy, 16 claimants had listed their residence as Washington County only to find out later that they were in Yamhill County thus leaving over 430 certificates issued for donation land-claims located in Washington County. The total number of claimants filing at the land office in Oregon City who received certificates for donation land claims was 5,289. But it is estimated that between 7,000 and 8,000 filed applications and this would mean over 2,000 applicants did not complete requirements necessary to be granted a certificate.

Of these it is reasonable to assume that a percentage of these were in Washington County. If you think your ancestor had a claim in this area but it is not listed in the 5,289 from the Oregon City office, it is possible that he might have been in the group that did not complete the requirements. Basically, Section Four of the Oregon Donations Land Law approved by the Federal Government September 27, 1850, granted to every settler or occupant of the public lands (American halfbreed Indians included) above the age of 18, citizens of the United States or having made declaration on or before the first day of December, 1850 and who shall have resided upon and cultivated the same for four consecutive years, 320 acres, if a single man, and if a married man or becomes married within a year from the first day of December, 1850 the quantity of 640 acres. One half to himself and the other half to his wife to be held in her own right. This provision was most unusual at the time and because of it any ^{woman} of barely marriageable age was assured a husband.

Section 5 of the law provided for those emigrating between December 1st 1850 and December 1st 1853 and above the age of 21 years. Complying with the foregoing section were granted 160 acres for a single man or 320 acres if married. Or, if he shall become married within one year from the time of arrival in the territory. As in Section 4, the wife would hold one half of the claim in her own name. February 14, 1853 the law was amended to provide for the widows of men who, if they had lived, would have been entitled to a claim under the original act. They were granted all that their husbands would have been entitled to receive had they lived and their heirs after them.

The last amendment, July, 1854, granted to orphan children of the earliest immigrants who died before passage of the Act, September 27, 1850, grants of 160 acres each. Each settler claiming a land donation was required to notify the SurveyorGeneral giving the description of his land and filing an application for said land. This application gave the claimant's name, age, place of birth, date of settling claim and in many cases the date of arrival in the territory. If married, wife's given name. Few bothered to give her maiden name. The date and place of marriage and affidavits of disinterested persons regarding the settlement date and the claimant's marriage. Often these affidavits were signed by relatives or friends of the family.

Two identical sets of these documents were made and one set is to be found in the National Archives Washington D.C., and the second set is to be found at the Land Office - Portland, Oregon.

It was the latter set of papers which was abstracted by members of the research committee of the Genealogical Forum of Portland, Oregon.

In 1957, Volume 1 containing biographical information found in the first 2,500 claims to receive a certificate from the Oregon City office was published, and May of this year, the second volume including the remaining 2,789 claims were completed. These books bear the title Genealogical Material in Oregon Donation Land Claims, Abstracted From Applications, Volumes 1 and 2 and can be purchased from the Genealogical Forum of Portland, Oregon. Both books contain introductions written by Dr. Dorothy O. Johanson ? .

Also included are interesting maps and both volumes are fully indexed, making it possible for the first time to locate many of the early settlers. From these books we are able to learn some very interesting facts about the early Washington County settlers, for example, we learn that Joseph L. Meek gave Christmas Day, 1840 as the date of his settlement on 642 acres of land which was located in township 1-North, Range 2-West, Sections 8 and 17. Thus being recognized by the land office as the first settler in this part of the territory then known as Tuality ? County, but later to become Washington County.

September, 1841, John S. Griffin settled a few miles south of the Meek claim and in October of the same year, Richard Williams took up land in the same Township and range. About the same time, Griffin and Williams were settling on their claims, Alvin Smith of Connecticut and his wife Abigail whom he married the 19th of March, 1840 in Adams County, Illinois had found a location to their liking just southeast of the present site of Forest Grove. January the 1st, 1842, Isaiah Kelsey of Kentucky who had married his wife Winnie on the banks of the big Platt 1841 while on his way west chose as their home 605 acres south of the John S. Griffins claim. And December of the same year found the Charles McKie ? , family farther north in the area we know as North Plains.

Early in 1843, John and Joyce Johnson of England took up 639 acres north of McKie ? and three months later they had as a neighbor on the southeast -- Thomas Ochin.

December 1st, 1843 the Horatio N. Colder family settled west of John Johnson. Of the 1842 and 1843 settlers, McKie and Colder were born and married in Canada. John Johnson was born and married in England.

While Thomas Ochin ? gave his place of birth as England and stated he married his wife Mary in 1838 at Red River, Canada, before coming to the Oregon Territory.

This suggests several reasons why these families settled as neighbors.

Of the nine settlers who took up land in 1844, George W. Ebert ? of Kentucky, Alexander Zachary of Virginia, Caleb Wilkins of Ohio began their settlement in January and the following claims were settled in this order.

William A. Mills of Tennessee, William Wilson of Arkansas, Thomas Gene Nailer of Virginia, David T. Lennox of New York, Arthur Richard and Richard White of England. Of these 9 settlers, Ebert, Mills and Richard were married in Tuality County. 4 of the 9 became widowers before their certificates were issued. Caleb Wilkins wife Catherine died on their claim December, 1848 leaving 5 children. William Wilson's wife Polly died January 9th 1849 also leaving 5 children. Richard White's wife Caroline died September 29, 1850 leaving 7 children and Sarah the wife of Thomas G. Nailer died February 2, 1852 leaving 6 children. All but Richard White list a second wife on later documents.

John L. Northrup of New York settled on his claim December 1845 but anyone looking for the documents regarding his application for a donation land claim would not find them by that name in the Land Office Index.

For John L. Northrup died February 1st, 1859 and the certificate for this land was issued to his widow who had remarried and is listed as Nancy Hillory. In the two volumes mentioned, special care has been made to index each name thus, under Northrup, you would find John L. and his wife Nancy.

Also, Nancy will appear again under Hillory.

Harvey Clark of Vermont and his wife Emaline who he married in New York selected as their claim the land on which much of Forest Grove is now located. It was on this claim that he built a little log building which was used as

a church on Sunday and school during the week; later to become Pacific University. The Oregon Donation Land Claim papers of Henry Black of Kentucky who settled in the area near the present town of Verboort in March of 1845 included this affidavit: Married by J. S. Griffin at the house of Robert Newell before the congregation assembled in divine service, August the 7th 1842, Mr. Henry Black of the United States to Lisette Warfield of this territory. Also written on the document was this statement: First marriage in Tualatin settlement.

The claim papers also tell us that Lisette Warfield Black died on their claim 15th of July, 1846 leaving four children and Henry Black married his second wife, Mary, the 27th of February, 1848 in Washington County. Benjamin Q. Tucker of Kentucky who settled January, 1845 on land where Cornelius is now located could not resist the lure of the gold fields. He gave an affidavit that he was absent from May, 1849 to June, 1850. Being in the gold mines of California. Prior to 1869, he and his wife Clorinda sold their claim to: A. Montgomery.

1846 brought 9 more settlers into Washington County and of these Michael Wrenn had been a member of the Puget Sound Agricultural Company. He included with his papers a document stating that he and his wife Christiana were married the 15th of April, 1846 in Washington County, Oregon Territory by Reverend H. Clark of Forest Grove.

John Fleet whose claim was one of those that later was found to be a part of Yamhill County gave an affidavit that he and Michael Wrenn had come to Oregon together and he included interesting information regarding various members of Wrenn's family. Anyone interested in this family would find it well worth their time to read the information that can be found on page 93 of Volume 1.

Of the settlers of 1846, two were from Kentucky, two from Pennsylvania and 1 each from Maryland, Virginia, Ohio, Maine, Canada and Scotland. Seven claims were settled in 1847, nine in 1848, twenty-four in 1849 and fifty-six in 1850 to make a total of 128 settlers in Washington County before the close of 1850 who made application for donation land claims.

Many of these early settlers had already filed their land claims under the Provisional Government only to find that the bill signed by President Polk August 14, 1848, creating the Oregon Territory, declared null and void all laws heretofore passed in said territory making grants of land.

Among those settlers in 1850 was the Fleeman Lee family that had made the trip to Oregon in 1847 accompanied by his brothers Filander and Filester and their families as well as his sister Filinda and her husband Harvey Green. Harvey Green drowned while crossing the Snake River and Filinda Lee Green married as her second husband, James Terwilliger. Their claim was one that became a part of Multnomah County before the certificate was issued. While Fleeman Lee chose the Gales Creek site for his home, Filander Lee was settling in Clackamas County where the town of Canby is located. And Filester Lee took claim in Linn County. It was also in 1850 that John Elliott and his son George W. Elliott took adjoining claims in what is now the vicinity of Beaverton. David Hill and his wife Lucinda Wilson settled on land which is now a part of Hillsboro but you would not find his name mentioned among those receiving certificates nor will you find his name among the papers of the archives or the landoffice, for David Hill died prior to the time of the Land Act of September 27, 1850. His widow, Lucinda married November the 20th 1850 Wheelock Simmons and the application and certificate for the land first settled by David Hill will be found under the name of Simmons. From papers filed by Samuel E. Darns ? of Virginia who came to Oregon Territory in 1851, we find he did not take a claim until April the 1st 1855. His 131 acres were adjoining the Tualatin River and during high water the logs he had cut for his house were floated away. Darnes was also away from his claim while serving in the Indian wars. Four families by the name of Stewart settled near each other in Township 1 South, Range 2 West, while south of them we find three families by the name of Landus. Four families of Halls became Washington County neighbors and Joseph B., Lasander C., and Robert Tupper settled near one another. Benjamin Cornelius and his three sons, Benjamin Jr., Jessie and Thomas R., who came to Oregon in 1845 all had claims in Washington County by 1852. James ^{IMBRIE} Embrey, born 1818 in Ohio and his wife ^{MARY} D. had 644 acres in thier ⁷¹¹¹² original claim and by December 1864 he owned three more claims making the total 1,260. 456 and 75/100s acres of this land was in Columbia County and 160 acres was the Leander A. Smith donation land claim located not far from ^{IMBRIE} Embrey's home claim. Washington County had as settlers, persons who gave their place of birth as Norway, Switzerland, Scotland, England, Ireland, France, Germany and Italy as well as Washington D.C. and 22 of the states

existing in 1853. If you are searching for families who had donation land claims it is well to keep in mind that even though the claimant you seek settled his claim very early, it does not mean that he will have a low certificate number. For example, Joe Meek who gave his settlement date as December 25, 1840 did not complete his papers and receive his certificate until much later than many who came to Oregon after 1852. As a result, his number is 4,278 and the certificate for Charles McKie's claim was not issued until after his death in 1873 so appears under number 4,644. Also, there is often a variation of spelling. Each clerk seemed to have his own idea how some of these names should be spelled so I suggest that you always consider all possible spellings of the name. When abstracting the documents, the research committee made note of each spelling and included all of them. It is impossible to mention every Washington County family recorded in Volume 1 and 2 of Genealogical Material in Oregon Donation Land Claims abstracted from applications, however, each family played a part in the development and growth of this fine county and state.

Thank you Mrs. Gurley. I'm sure the residents of Washington County will have found your talk interesting and informative. The subject is so fitting for this - our Centennial Year.

Please follow me and you will enjoy a pleasant afternoon; from the thriving city of Beaverton, Washington County, Oregon we turn south on state highway 217 which meanders south and slightly east - brings us after traveling about 10 miles to the little town of Tualatin which has a quiet restful atmosphere. We turn a corner and there ahead of us a block or so across the railroad tracks, peaking through the trees is the beautiful old Sweek House which has the distinction of being 104 years old. The driveway is to the right of the house and from there it comes to full view in all its early glory. The two story white structure is most attractive being of western colonial architectural style. The beautiful large trees which shield it from the street include a locust, black walnut and a huge chestnut. All planted soon after the house was built, and have grown to immense heights in the more than 100 years since. A porch the full width of the house is supported by five large pillars, is graced with an attractive latticed railing which matches the railing around the open balcony which skirts three sides of the building; the small painted windows, twelve panes in each window mostly contain the original glass which was shipped from the east. Some of the oldtimers think perhaps the lumber used in the building of the house may have come from McLaughlin mill at Oregon City in as much as the house was built just twelve years after the McLaughlin House and at which time Oregon City was the main trading post. At that time Oregon City boasted of having the only post office in the Oregon territory. In this day and age, some homes are built without a fireplace. Many are built with one; sometimes a second is included in the present fad of the popular familyroom or a patio barbecue on an outside patio. The Sweek House was built with four fireplaces, the main source of heat for the home. A fifth fireplace was later installed in the south end of the livingroom which was originally the spot where a wood heater provided additional warmth and the fireplace in the other end balanced the circulation of warm air.

The diningroom and two of the bedrooms upstairs have a fireplace which were all part of the original building. What a dream the 34x27' livingroom would fullfill for present-day entertaining, even as it did in the days gone by. Mrs. Sweek entertained each and every Govenor from the time the home was built up to and including Govenor George E. Chamberlain who was elected Govenor in 1902. The gleaming beauty of such a wide expanse of hardwood floor was most fitting for such entertainment.

Opposite the front door a wide stairway leads from the livingroom to the upper floor. In the corner of the livingroom near the stairway stands the old Chickering piano which came around the horn from Boston as a gift to one of the Sweet daughters for her 16th birthday. The present occupants will sorely miss it when it is called for by Dr. Harry and Mrs. Harding who have it excuse me

it having been left to Dr. Harding along with the property by his mother Lillian Sweek Harding, a daughter of the builder.

Climbing the stairs to the second floor, one is faced with the smaller of the bedrooms which has been furnished with furniture of the early period. The walls still have the original wallpaper and aboutface to walk along the hall and on the left the wall is enhanced by large framed pictures of the builder, John Sweek and his wife, Maraiah Beard.

The pictures are on loan to the present owners of the home and are destined by the owner, Dr. Harding for the Museum at Champooeg.

The pictures show a kindness and hardiness which was proven by their success as pioneers. Down the hall and around the corner where on the right we enter the master bedroom. It is furnished with an early bedroom suite of the pioneer period which was found dismantled but reassembled. The suite includes a bed with high wooden headboards, commode and chest. This is a large room in comparison with todays standards. It also displays the original wall paper.

I think we'll now go back downstairs and visit the diningroom, so spacious and cheerful. These walls have the original wallpaper; a green background with pheasants or similar bird features; room for a large number of guests to be seated comfortably and enjoy the burning embers of the fire in the fireplace. It has adequate windows on the east and north for plenty of daylight.

Oh... how one's heart throbs as we step into the large country kitchen; what was originally two spacious rooms has been remodeled and made one. In the days when our pioneer lived in this house, one room was where the help congregated to relax and eat their meals, the other was the big family kitchen where over the good old-fashioned wood range Mrs. Sweek prepared the luscious meals with her family around her. From each part, doors opened onto the porches. A room we would describe today as a huge utility room was no doubt used for many things in the early days. A Pioneer woman needed a place to set up her washtub. Pa needed a place to take off his wet clothes and his dirty boots, maybe the kids played there on a cold rainy day; probably, in the summertime, before the appearance of the bathroom the washtub was placed on the floor and filled with water for the necessary bathing. Two large pantries are also off the kitchen providing storage at a time when a trip to the grocery store meant a whole days travel. One pantry was built with double walls and insulated with sawdust or whatever was used in those days as storage for those supplies which needed to be protected against freezing. We must not forget to mention the back stairway going up from the east end of the kitchen. Upon reaching the upper level we find two more rooms which were both originally bedrooms. The larger of the two has now been converted to a modern bathroom. Downstairs again, let us go out the backdoor on the north side of the kitchen area. Nearby and a little west is a faithful old well that provided pure water for our pioneer family. The size of the housing would suggest that they had plenty of room to hang a couple of buckets for milk or whatever they chose to keep it nice and fresh as well as cool in the summertime. When John Sweek was a young man he studied law and medicine and practiced both professions in his hometown before the urge to come west overcame him. He and his bride arrived at a place along the Tualatin River August 25th 1852 where they filed a donation land claim for 320 acres. The number of their claim was 4,258 located in Washington County, Oregon Territory, Township 2-South, Range 1-West, Sections 14 and 23.

He first erected a log cabin on the place in which to live until the big house was completed. The luxurious home which is still beautiful is located in the northeast corner of Section 23, the date of the final settlement on their claim was February 20th 1853. John Sweek was the son of Martin Sweek who was born in Virginia. His mother, whose name I have not learned was said to have been born in England. The young couple traveled three months in a wagon drawn by oxen with a party of about 60 people, all westward bound to the Oregon territory. It is said they called their claim Willowbrook.

In applying for his donation landclaim, John Sweek stated he was born in St. Genevieve County, Missouri in 1823. That he married Maraiah in that same county, February 29, 1852. Those signing affidavits for him were William Barr, Francis McKimmie G.C. Ryder, Levi Anderson and Edward Byrom.

The coming of many people swelled the number of settlers and a need developed for a place for meetings and recreation.

The first floor of the Sweek home was completed by this time and they graciously opened the unpartitioned upper[?] room for community gatherings

People came for miles around for these festivities; many staying over night and enjoyed a hearty breakfast ^{early} the next morning in the Sweek kitchen before returning to their homes. One of Mr. Sweek's great desires was to create a city here and on his property he layed out the platt for the town of Tualatin. He had a part in cutting the first road from Boons Ferry to Portland and Oregon City which was their trading post and Post Office at that time. Most of the timber used in the breakwater at Oregon City was handled by him. He also hauled freight from the Dalles to Idaho City where he was in the merchandising business for six years. History says of him "whatever he undertook he carried forward to a successful completion. For he was a man of indefatigable energy, strong resolution and unflagging perseverance". It seems that one of the most important results of this strong character was the establishment of the Oregon School System. His six children were the first of the locality to receive a college education. His son Alexander, following his graduation from Pacific University practiced law in Portland and in 1900 was elected to the State Senate on the democratic ticket.

Cyrus also practiced law in Portland, that is, with the Oregon Railroad and Navigation Company in Portland and Lawrence removed to Grant County and went into business. His daughters, Alice, married M. W. Smith and Lillian became Mrs. C. Harding. Mrs. Harding inherited the family home and she, in turn, left it to her son, Dr. Harry Harding.

About 1955, Dr. Harding sold the home to the present owners, Mr. & Mrs. Larry Pratt, who are in the process of refurnishing the home with furniture of the period in which it was built.

Dr. Harding and his wife, the former Lucy ~~W~~ WEATHERED are now residents of Wilsonville. John Sweet died at age 68 years, 9 months and enjoyed his home in the west for nearly 40 years. His widow operated the farm until her death. The lovely home stands as a monument to the memory of this outstanding pioneer couple.

Hello.....Mrs. Joseph Lepschat speaking; yes, I'm radio-TV Chairman for David Hill Chapter, Daughters of American Revolution.

Yes, our home designation is Hillsboro. Oh... yes, I've known Hillsboro ~~for a~~ Happy Days celebration all my life. I'll be happy to tell you something about it. Due to a question asked me recently concerning it I did a little investigating to freshen and set straight my childhood memories.

The glorious Fourth of July. Happy Day. But why do we celebrate? Oh.. so much could be said, but I'm going to quote from a timely article which appeared in the Hillsboro Argus on the date of June 23rd 1898. Let us recall this date was right in the midst of the Spanish American War. I quote: "Independence Day will soon be here. There is much in the idea of celebrating this day of all days. 122 years ago our forefathers with all their families comprising but three million made a declaration of independence. It was a parallel of modern Cuba against Spain. These old patriarchs of liberty successfully fought England. The greatest nation of the world against fearful odds and notwithstanding our enemy inaugurated a savage and Indian warfare against them, the revolution was successful. Let it be remembered that they were not afraid of going it alone and if necessary to die for liberty of their posterity; and so, when we, their posterity, are fighting that liberty may enter the souls of the people of Cuba lets all go to this annual demonstration with the full importance of the word liberty and with a more complete comprehension of what our fathers have inaugurated."

The first Happy Days Celebration in Hillsboro, I was _____ of was held in 1895. The Argus, June 27th of that year tell of a mass meeting held at the Court House. The Honorable F.B. Houston Mayor of Hillsboro was placed in a chair and he named J.C. ~~Hair~~ ^{HARE} W.H. ~~Waren~~ ^{WARREN} and E.J. Lyon, J.W. Morgan and B.P. Cornelius on the executive committee to make complete arrangements for a rousing celebration on the Fourth.

Between 1895 and 1907, Hillsboro, Forest Grove and Cornelius are alternated in holding the celebration in their town and since 1907 Hillsboro has held the big celebration each year with other towns in the County at times holding smaller gatherings. An important part of the celebration was the annual reunion and campment of the Veterans Association which was usually held June 27th through July 3rd or 4th. They were the veterans of the Mexican War, the Indian wars and the rebellion. If the encampment ended on the 3rd, they held over for the 4th so they might take part in the Independence Day celebrations. It is natural my childhood memories of those earlier celebrations gave the old DAR veterans an important part.

For my dear Grandfather, George C. Thomas was a very active member of that group. Businessmen's clubs, Rotary, Chamber of Commerce, Businessmen, Professional Women, the American Legion, National Guard, Boy Scouts and patriotic organizations have all had a part in sponsoring the celebrations. The City of Hillsboro appointed a committee with ORANGE PHELPS local theater owner as manager and chairman and sponsored the celebration for a few years. The Chamber of Commerce took another turn until 1935 when the Hillsboro firemen formed a Fireman's Association and that group took over the sponsorship of the Happy Days program which they continued through 1959. Those firemen signing the incorporation papers of the Association were: Sidney ^{MELHUISCH} ~~Maltheusch~~ _____ who was firechief at that time and chairman of the new association. Also, Andrew Lentz _____ Jay Phillips, Arlin Brock, Wilbur Dillon and Paul Ringle, my brother who is now deceased, as is Wilbur Dillon.

The new sponsors as of the 1960 Happy Days is the Junior Chamber of Commerce. But what about the celebration itself... oh.. wonderful and something for all ages. Although the celebration lasts three to four days, 'the day' down through the years has started with the patriotic parade led by a man carrying Old Glory and a man representing Uncle Sam. For many years the flag bearer was J.C. Lampkin a well known Hillsboro businessman. In 1897, James Lampkin awakened the citizens early that morning by a cannon and when the parade formed he carried Old Glory at the head of the line.

The fireladdies were out in full uniform with the fire apparatus tastily decorated. The old soldiers marched in the parade and they stepped to the music much better than the rising generation. Now, that group of old soldiers have all left us. And, the old soldiers taking part in the parade of today are those from World War One. Three bands at that time, Hillsboro, Bethany and ~~Verboorcht~~^{VERBOORCHT} took part and a pioneer float in the parade with Willie Atkins dressed as an Indian Chief and Forest Tongue as the Cheekinous _____.

With the Reverend J.F. Griffin of 1839 and Gramma Woods - age over 100 years representing the pioneers of 1840, was a highlight of the parade. So on through the years the stage and the stages of progress and patriotic events are depicted in each annual parade. The parade disbands at ~~Sch~~^{SHUTE} Park and representatives of various patriotic organizations and distinguished guests are seated on the platform erected on the grounds. Chairs or benches are placed for those who wish to be behind them ? _____

The program starts with stirring music and the raising of the Flag. More music; the invocation given by a Minister; reading, then of the Declaration of Independence.

At the 1897 program, Miss Minnie ~~Heide~~^{HEIDEL}, one of Hillsboro's young ladies distinguished herself by giving from memory in a rich clear voice the entire Declaration of Independence. A patriotic oration usually follows next delivered by a chosen speaker. This portion of the days activities inspired one with renewed love for this our country which our forefathers fought and died for to give to us.

From the very first there has always been entertainment for all ages and the carnival portion has greatly increased through the years but within my memory the merry-go-round has always been there and the children of today love it as much as those of yore. The games of chance the ~~xxxx~~ free shows on the midway, the icecream and popcorn stands and smell those hamburgers and hotdogs?? Now days, even a real resturaunt meal may be had. In the old days it was a picnic basket packed by mother and a quilt spread on the ground and all sat around on the ground to eat.

Many contests have been held throughout the years. In 1907, Willie Cornelius won the pony race with C. Smith and C.F. Wilson of Galescreek in 2nd and 3rd place.

The greased pig was caught by Ray Taylor who then sold it for four dollars.

The year 1908, the programs were shot to pieces by a heavy rain.

The thrill of the old balloon ascensions held a part until the 1920s.

In 1910, the ascensions turned into a thriller when the ropes wouldn't

work and the arialknot _____ when we attempted to cut them

and he came down with the balloon in Mrs. N.A. Pauls garden mowing a swath through wheat and potatoes.

This celebration has always been considered homecoming for present and former members of ... residents of Hillsboro to renew old acquaintances. Baseball is always present. Often times a game each day of the celebration. Amateur teams more often than not. In 1907 the big game was between the married men of Laurel and the married men of Hillsboro.

At the 1930 celebration, George ^{OPPENLANDER} ~~Openlander~~ of Forest Grove won the \$50.00 first prize in the Bunyon Derby which was a walking contest from the Journal Building in Portland to ^{SHUTE} ~~Deschutte~~ Park _____ ?? at Hillsboro.

Included in contests were boys and girls races and a Ladies Mail Driving contest. I'm sure many remember the old dance pavillion.

Open air with benches built around the edge, a big canvas top, dancing all day and evening. The floor always crowded with swaying gliding couples.

After 1935 when the Farmers Association became sponsors, one-third of the proceeds went to the city. The Farmers Association kept one-third with which they bought new equipment for the fire department.

The other third went to the park bureau and was used to improve the park.

Today the park boasts a big auditoreum well built. By resanding and finishing the floor for each celebration it could be used for dancing until the trend of the times changed to rollerskating to which use the building is put the year around.

Throughout the celebration a continuous group of spectators enjoy the healthful dexterity of the skaters. Lots of play equipment is available for the youngsters, swings and slides and so-forth. Enough picnic tables and stoves with wood stacked by to care for many picnic groups, large or small. Many groups hold their family reunions during the Happy Days celebration. The grand final climax ... a fireworks. Boy, they were here in 1898 and perhaps before and most likely every year since. May I again inject a personal thought.

Between 1903 and 1908, my father William Ringle was one of the teams who set off the fireworks. I used to worry for fear my daddy would get hurt working there where all that fire was till my mother's comforting words eased my fears. Oh! that loud first bang, announcing to all that the fireworks are now starting... and the ohs and the ahs from the spectators, what a beautiful display and every year they seem to get more spectacular. After the low piece which burns to a bright goodnight ?? the old folks and the farmers head home leaving the youth to dance or skate and enjoy the various carnival attractions.

There remain many events I have not mentinned but time doesn't permit but if you wish to enjoy a day of pleasure and one which stirs your blood with patriotism and appreciation of the liberty and freedom your country gives you, just visit Hillsboro Happy Days Independence Day celebration. It is a fitting commemoration to that liberty and freedom our forefathers fought and died for as a legacy to their posterity.

Well its time to go now and I'm so glad to have had this talk with you and tell you about an event which is close and dear to my heart.
Goodby now.

