

HENRY SMITH—1846

(Source: Wesley Smith, Turner, Oregon, 1927.)

Among the pioneers of 1846 who were unfortunate in choosing the Applegate Cut-off to lessen the journey other than through the Blue and Cascade mountains, was Henry Smith, who settled at Aumsville, Marion county, Oregon.

Henry Smith was born in Tennessee on the road from Virginia to Missouri, where his parents were immigrating in 1818. He died at Aumsville in 1885, aged 67 years. He was a devoted member of the Christian church and an ardent Whig and republican as to politics. Endowed with a jolly disposition, he made friends wherever he went: he was a good mixer and full of fun and liked to joke.

While living in Missouri, he was married to Sr an T. Wright, on July 27, 1837. Susan was born in Kentucky in 1820 and died at Turner, Oregon, in 1916, aged 96 years. She was familiarly known as Aunt Susan by her pioneer neighbors.

At the time they chose that ill-advised pass into the Willamette Valley, Captain Applegate was their leader. Other members of this party were John Long, Underwood, James Smith, Campbell, Lorenzo Byrd and others, with their families, making quite a company.

This immigrant train had the greatest of hardships through the Applegate route. They found the rivers swollen by fall rains and by this time their stock was worn out and teams falling by the wayside from exhaustion.

At one place where the river bed was not considered safe to take the human freight, they decided to take all the women and children on the oxen's backs for eleven miles through a canyon, leave the wagons and return for them later. This they did, and after making camp for their families, the men returned for their wagons, only to find they had been plundered by the Indians and then set on fire, until nothing but their blackened tires remained.

This was indeed a sorry plight in which to be found. They were still hundreds of miles from their destination. It had been raining and that added to their misery. We have no record of how they proceeded but we presume by the women and children riding the patient oxen, while the men went on foot.

Each wagon of the pioneers carried some few cherished articles from the old home in the east and we can well imagine how these tired, methinks homesick, immigrant women felt, when they knew that every vestige of clothing except what they wore, all the keepsakes and even the utensils they had depended upon, had gone up in smoke at the hands of those ruthless savages. They must have had to depend entirely on what wild game they could kill, as through that part of the country there were no trading posts at that early date.

While staying at the above dreary camp, the sun came out one day and James Smith, a brother of Henry, who, with his large family, was of their party, looked up and jokingly remarked, "Boys, you better take a look at the sun; maybe it will be the last time you will see it," and in ten

minutes he was a dead man, having succumbed to a heart attack. They buried him at the camp and placed a rude wooden fence around the grave and many pioneers of a later date remembered having seen this lonely grave. His family came along with the company to the valley.

After their arrival in October of 1846, Henry Smith bought the right to a donation land claim of 640 acres from one William Brown, a relative of Gabriel Brown, pioneer of 1844. William had built a log cabin and fenced about ten acres, planting it with potatoes. He sold this fine claim to Mr. Smith for the fabulous sum of one old horse and a gun, the only possessions Henry Smith had left except his family, when he arrived in Marion county.

The Smiths were anxious to get settled for the winter. At this time the family were reduced to a diet of cracked wheat and wild game, but they were energetic and ambitious to better their lot. It was not long until "Uncle" Henry Smith's home was the place where many newly arrived pioneers would put up a hastily constructed cabin and winter there while looking about for a location.

In time, Henry Smith became one of the chief figures in that part of the country. Having the confidence of his acquaintances, he was elected to serve his constituency in the legislature of about 1880, serving faithfully.

The following children were born to the Smiths:

William H., born in Missouri; married Melcina Taylor.

Mary E., born in Missouri; married John Vaughn.

Louise A., born in Missouri; married George W. Peck.

James K., born in Oregon, 1848; married, first, Harriett Wilcox; second, Mary Hunt.

Henry W., born in Oregon, 1849; married, first, Flora Neal; second, Annie Staples Hussey.

Margaret A., born in Oregon; died aged 11 years.

Isaac A., born in Oregon, died aged 9 years.

Nancy E., born in Oregon; married S. G. Fields.

Talitha E., born in Oregon; married John McKinney.

Sarah J., born in Oregon; died aged 3 years.

Daniel W., born in Oregon; married Kate Addleman.

Of the above children, Isaac, Margaret and Sarah died within a few days of diphtheria.

and F. Pierce of Olex, Oregon, born in Marion county, married Nancy Kelsey.

After the death of Duffy Kimsey, on June 5, 1858, Mandana, his wife, married W. O. Bush of Olympia, Washington, on May 26, 1859. Two children were born to this union: John S. Bush, born in Washington and married to Christianna Gaston, and Mandana Isabella, born in Washington and married to George Gaston of Olympia, Washington.

LORENZA BYRD—1847.

(Source: Lorenza Byrd's wife, at Salem, Oregon, 1926.)

Lorenza Austin Byrd was born in Arkansas about the year 1826. In the year 1846 he hired out to his old Arkansas neighbor, the Rev. Cornwall, a Presbyterian preacher, who contemplated the Oregon Trail, to drive an ox team and also generally to care for the stock taken on the journey. In this way he worked his passage and was a member of Rev. Cornwall's family during that long, hard trip, arriving in the Willamette Valley early in the fall of 1847.

The Cornwall train, in which Lorenza Byrd worked his way, was very unfortunate in choosing the Applegate Cut-off and suffered untold agonies of mind and body because of this choice. Their hardships were very great, almost starving to death before they reached Polk county, January, 1847, where they got relief. This train started out with 80 wagons and, counting three yoke to a wagon, this was some sized train. When they finally got to the Willamette, there were only two yoke of oxen left out of all those hundreds. In the party were the Henry and James Smiths, Underwoods, John Long and the Campbells, as well as Rev. Cornwall.

Lorenza was the son of John and Mary Byrd. After his father died, his mother married Reuben Millsaps, an officer in the American army during the war of 1812, under command of General Jackson.

Other members of this family to come west in after years were Micajah Luther and Virginia, who married John Magnus.

Lorenza at once took up his donation land claim in what is now known as the Victor Point district of Marion county. He built a 14x14 log cabin and feeling the urge to prospect in the mines of Southern Oregon and not caring to tie himself down to his homestead, he let the family of John S. Hunt, who came late in October of the same year, live in his cabin the first winter. This held his claim from being jumped by other arrivals, as even at that early date the best claims were watched pretty carefully.

This cabin and a crop of wheat were destroyed by a forest fire a few years after and, becoming rather discouraged, Mr. Byrd sold his claim to Dr. John M. Savage, who arrived in the country early in November, 1850, for the sum of \$500. Mr. Byrd was to receive part pay in stock. At this time Mr. Byrd was staying on French Prairie and the bargain had been made between the two men at that place. Mr. Byrd had not yet met the family of Dr. Savage.

Soon after Dr. Savage began the building of the family cabin Mr. Byrd came to see how the work was progressing and to get his stock. It was then he met Martha, the lovely daughter of Dr. Savage, who afterward became his wife. This young couple were married by the Rev. Bassett at the Savage home, in 1857. Then they settled on their permanent homestead near Fairfield, Oregon, on French Prairie, where they lived and raised a large family of most worthy citizens. These children are:

Dr. W. H. Byrd, a physician of Salem, Oregon.

J. C. Byrd, of Spokane, Washington.

Cordelia, who married Wm. Hager of Salem, Oregon.

Lorenza Austin, of Salem, Oregon.

Susan Virginia, of Portland, Oregon.

Edgar Franklin, of Spokane, Washington.

Bertha, who married Judge L. H. McMahan of Salem, Oregon, and Dr. Roy Dean Byrd, of Salem, Oregon.

Mr. and Mrs. Byrd were Presbyterians and Mr. Byrd was a democrat as to politics. Where they settled near Fairfield they built a very good, substantial house, much better than the average, and at this writing the old house still stands unoccupied, yet too valuable a house to let stand thus and in time fall in ruins.

When the youngest child was eight years of age, for the sake of better schools and opportunities for their growing family, they left the farm and moved to Salem, Oregon, where they built another grand old house on North Cottage Street, where they lived for many years.

Mrs. Byrd finally, in her extreme old age, made her home with her daughter, Bertha Byrd McMahan.

It was only through Mrs. Byrd that the writer could get any information about the families of Byrd and that of Dr. Savage. At the time of the interview, Mrs. Byrd was over ninety years of age and so beautiful was she of face and form that she could easily be judged thirty years younger. She told me that about all the symptoms she could feel of her old age were a little rheumatism and much forgetfulness.

Mrs. Byrd was born in Van Buren county, Missouri, December 13, 1835, and came with her parents, Dr. and Mrs. John Savage, in 1850, when she was about fifteen years old, to the Oregon country, to make her home and do her bit along with the other pioneers.

country. Practically all the trades and professions are represented by his descendants.

When the call came for volunteers in the World War, eighteen of his family responded.

During pioneer days his family were employed as freighters, sheep herders, timber men, millers, farmers and miners, doing their share to develop the country of their adoption.

SARAH ANN WADE CONE—1853

(Source: Sarah A. W. Cone, 1927.)

On April 3, 1837, was born near Cleveland, Ohio, Sarah Ann Wade. She went with her parents to Middlebury, Elkhart county, Indiana, when about six years of age. She attended school at this place for a time, but necessity compelled her to do her part toward the family support, so she worked in a tavern as soon as she was old enough and received the munificent sum of 50 cents per week for her labor. Some of her more experienced friends received \$1.50 per week, which was considered big pay at that time. She worked at different occupations until at the age of 16 she met William Perry Long, and on February 7, 1853, they were married.

Mr. Long was born at Goshen, Indiana, and was a school teacher and farmer by profession. Their wedding took place at Middlebury, Indiana, and was witnessed by the groom's brothers, Charles and Andrew Long. A Methodist preacher tied the marriage knot. Very soon after this pioneer wedding, the young couple started across the plains to Oregon (on March 22, 1853), with the train known as the Long-Wilan train, consisting of the above-mentioned William P. Long, Mr. Wilan and James Long, the father of William. Each family had several wagons.

Their route led them via Joliet, Illinois, on westward to Council Bluffs, Iowa. They crossed the Missouri river on a bridge higher up the river from where most of the immigrants crossed by fording.

Mr. Wilan hired a man and his wife to make the trip to Oregon with him, as his wife was practically an invalid. As they proved of no good whatever, about the time they got fairly on the way, Mr. Wilan discharged these folk, so they could go back home. This enraged them so, they procured a gun and horses and followed the train. This man and Wilan got into an altercation that ended in a fist fight. During this melee, some shots were fired, but fortunately no one was killed or wounded and the disgruntled ones finally left the train and did not cause further trouble.

All along the train met with bands of wild Indians, each band in turn claiming to be good friends but warning our friends that all other tribes both behind and on ahead were "heap bad Injuns," but Mrs. Cone said they had no trouble at all from the redmen.

At Council Bluffs supplies for the whole trip were laid in. From this place on Sarah Cone walked the whole way along the Oregon trail

to Oregon City, where they arrived in October, 1853, being seven months on the way.

The little homely incidents of this trip are mostly lost in the dim past, but one can imagine this footsore, tired young girl-wife as she stooped over the camp fire of buffalo chips, preparing their meager fare, after trudging all day under the glare of the fierce summer sun, over stony, dusty roads. So few of life's comforts aided the cooks of that exodus.

Sarah Cone told the writer that the reason she walked all the way foot part of the way, except for moccasins. At Fort Boise she procured some shoes to finish the trip. She said the elder women took the lead in the camp cookery, as she was very young and inexperienced at that time. She said the younger members were young and full of adventure and she did not remember having felt at all discouraged. Their camp fare, she said, was bacon, dried beans, some pickles, bread baked in the Dutch ovens, dried apples and sometimes a little wild game. They would build their camp fire in a hole in the ground, so as to have a deep bed of coals to cook over. Their frying pans and kettles were made of heavy iron. They just spread their meals out on the ground, with the blue sky for a canopy, while the ox yokes were their only chairs.

After arriving in the Willamette Valley, they spent the first winter in a cabin owned by a man by the name of Rummel. They cooked here at an open fireplace. Their beds were suspended from the walls by ropes. Their table was also hanging from the rafters. At one place they lived they cooked in a hollow stump with nothing but a dirt floor in the rough cabin. She said somewhere in the black hills of South Dakota they posted some letters to friends back in the "States."

Two months after this party arrived at Needy, Oregon, a baby boy was born to Sarah and William Cone, on December 7, 1853.

In relating this trip to the writer, Mrs. Cone said they had not had any potatoes for nearly seven months, when somewhere between the Sandy river and Oregon City they bought some of these toothsome tubers, of the Blue Mechanic variety, and nothing on the whole trip tasted so good. They boiled them with the jackets on and ate them with a relish. This variety of potatoes became the popular kind with the early pioneers for many years.

In just a little over a year Mr. Long died and Sarah was left with the little son to care for, with not a relative nearer than Goshen, Indiana, and she but a little over 17 years of age. She went to live for a few weeks with Mrs. Abigail Scott Duniway, the well known pioneer woman of Woman's Suffrage fame, and then got employment with the James Barlows, of Barlow Prairie, where she worked four weeks or long enough to earn money for a pair of shoes. After this she went to live with her father-in-law, who had come to the Oregon country at a later date.

Not long after this Oliver Cone came a-courting and our young widow and Oliver were married on July 3, 1855, at the home of James Long on Rock Creek, Clackamas county, by Rev. Moreland. Oliver Cone was

born April 25, 1819, in Indiana. Witnesses to this marriage were James Long and his wife.

Oliver and Sarah moved to near Butteville, Marion county, where they took up a donation land claim in Section 33. Five little children came in turn to bless this union.

In 1864 mines were discovered at Orofino, Idaho, and Mr. Cone went with others to try his luck, but ill health followed him there. After his death his body was buried at Orofino, as facilities for transportation were so limited at that time. Thus we see Sarah Cone a widow for the second time and left alone on the homestead with six little children to care for. For the second time life looked dark to her. She had suffered so many hardships that life hardly seemed worth the struggle. But pioneer women were made of sturdy stuff and they stayed by their jobs, so Sarah stayed by hers.

After about two years of widowhood the brother of her second husband came along. His name was Anson Sterling Cone, pioneer of 1846. Anson and Sarah were married at Butteville, Oregon, on October 6, 1866, by the Rev. E. Garrison and he and his wife were the witnesses. Anson Cone was born at Shelbyville, Indiana, November 6, 1827. He was a farmer by profession, and according to Sarah, he proved a good kind father to her six little children and a most worthy husband. Anson Sterling not only was sterling by name but as to character as well.

No children blessed this union, but they lived happily together for over forty-eight years, on their farm near Butteville, Oregon. Anson died there at the age of 86 years, on April 6, 1914. At the date of the writer's interview with Sarah Wade Long Cone, she was past 90 years, hale, hearty and possessed of all her faculties.

On May 7, 1927, she was crowned "Queen Mother" at the pioneer reunion at Champoege, Oregon. She is living on the old farm with her youngest son, E. A. Cone, who is past 65 at this date of 1927.

To the union of Sarah Wade and William P. Long was born one son, named John Wesley Long. He was born on December 7, 1853, at Clackamas county, Oregon.

To the union of Sarah Wade Long and Oliver Cone were born five children, namely:

Abarilla M., born at Butteville, Oregon, September 5, 1856.

Eliza J., born April 5, 1858, at Butteville, Oregon.

Orville O., born February 6, 1860, at Butteville, Oregon.

Everette A. M., born December 4, 1861, at Butteville, Oregon.

Mary F., born June 18, 1864, at Butteville, Oregon.

WILLIAM JOHN HUMPHREYS—1853

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(Source: Mrs. Boyd Ashby at Salem, Oregon, 1926.)

William J., the oldest of a family of eleven children, five sons and six daughters, was born in Monroe county, Tennessee, on December 4, 1828, a son of Thomas M. and Jane (Harrison) Humphreys, farmers for many years in Tennessee.

On the Tennessee farm he received his early home training, and his educational opportunities were those of the early subscription schools of his district. He was of good old Revolutionary stock and was a direct descendant of the Harrison family from whom our president sprang.

A double wedding, celebrated July 21, 1852, united William J. and his next younger brother John P. to the Wilson sisters of that neighborhood, Penelope J. becoming the wife of William J. and Clementine becoming the wife of John P. Humphreys. The following September the two brothers and wives, Mr. Humphreys, Sr., and his family, with others of the neighborhood, started overland for Missouri, where they spent the winter. The following spring they outfitted for crossing the plains, and without any particular misfortune succeeded in reaching their destination in Oregon about one year after leaving their home in Tennessee.

W. J. Humphreys and wife spent the winter of 1853-54 at a place now known as the Oak Grove schoolhouse, about fourteen miles east of Salem, and in the fall of 1854 bought the right to one hundred and sixty acres of land from John Greenstreet, the property having a small log house of one room ready for use. There were no other improvements on the place and the new owner at once began to clear and otherwise improve the land and build a home for himself and family. Mr. Humphreys later purchased a mining claim in Jackson county, Oregon, which he worked at various intervals for several years. He also did some mining in California and Idaho, but always retained possession of his Waldo hills farm, where his family continued to reside during his different mining expeditions. At different times he bought small tracts of land adjoining his first purchase, until he had four hundred acres, which he used for farming and stock raising for a period of fifty-four years, quite a record for continuous living on the same farm.

Of the large family of children living on the same farm, only four are now living, the two oldest and the youngest sons, and next to the youngest daughter.

Margaret, the oldest, was born on the plains, and died at the age of fifteen.

John M. now lives near Heppner, Oregon.

Augustus M. lives at McCoy, Oregon.

Texanna B., now deceased, became the wife of J. M. Rogers, of Portland, Oregon.

Sarah Ida married Grant Ashby, both now deceased.

Mary L. is the wife of J. B. Ashby, of Salem, Oregon.

William H., of East Salem, Oregon.

Carrie P. married C. L. Rogers, both being now deceased.