

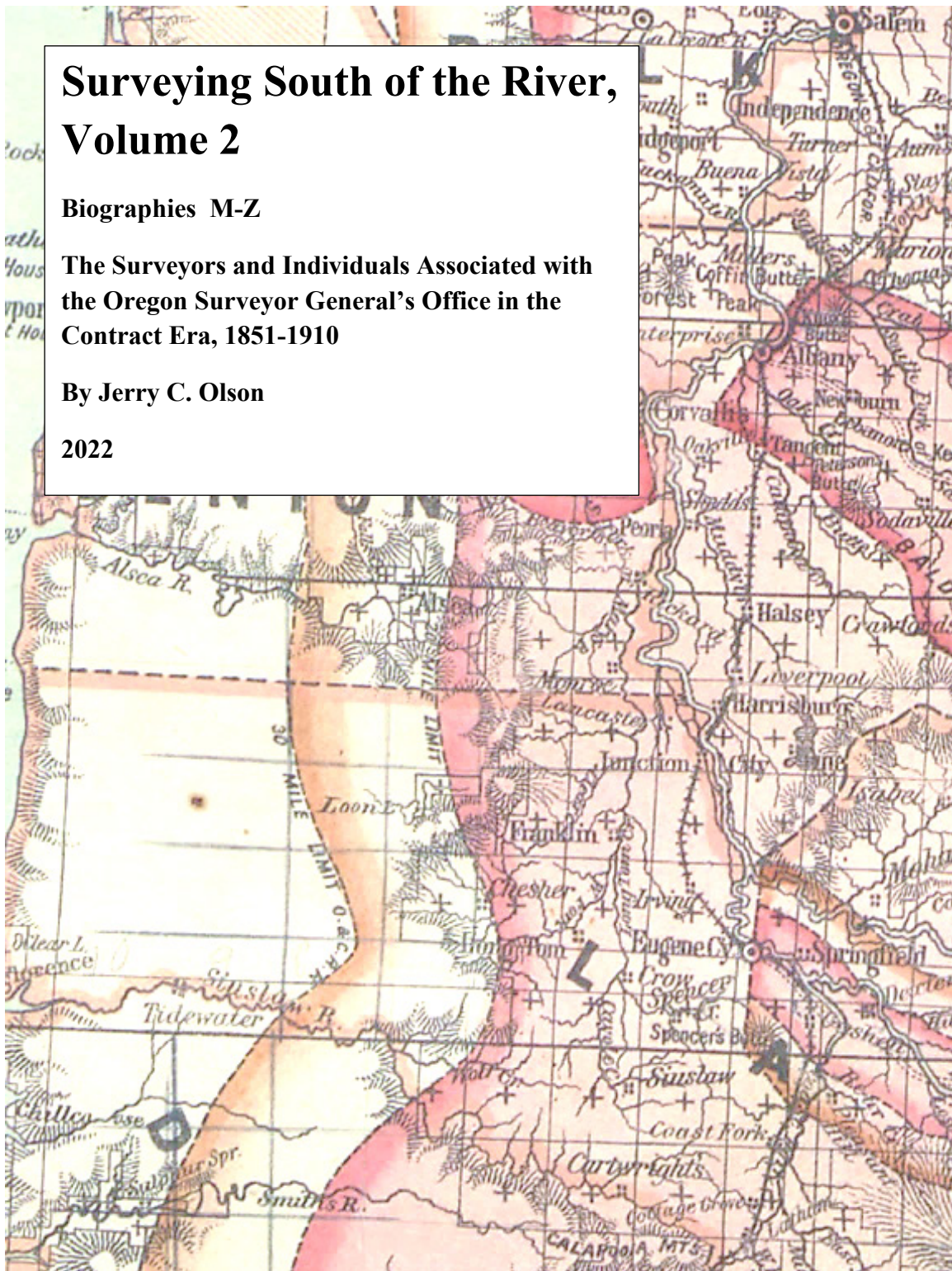
# Surveying South of the River, Volume 2

Biographies M-Z

The Surveyors and Individuals Associated with  
the Oregon Surveyor General's Office in the  
Contract Era, 1851-1910

By Jerry C. Olson

2022



**(Cover) A Portion of the 1879 GLO Map of the Progress of the Surveys, showing the Railroad Land Grants and the Wagon Road Land Grants.** (Drawn by C. Roeser, the Principal Draughtsman of the General Land Office, Public Domain)

# **Surveying South of the River**

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1851-1910  
Volume 2**

**By  
Jerry C. Olson  
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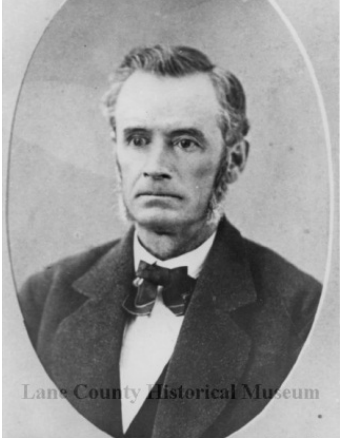




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# Biographies M-Z

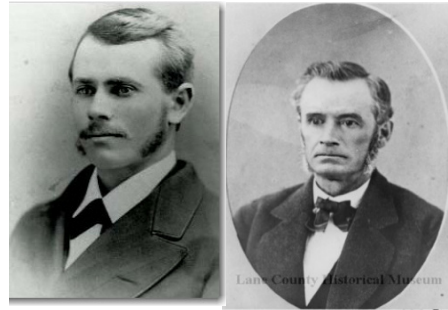
Of the Surveyors and Individuals Associated with the Oregon Surveyor  
General's Office, 1851-1910

 <p><b>USDS J. Henry Meldrum, 1869-1902</b></p>	 <p><b>S. G. Bynon Johns Pengra 1861-1869</b></p>	 <p><b>Clerk Eleanor J. Scrafford 1883-1885</b></p>
 <p><b>USDMS Elmer McCaustland 1864-1941</b></p>	 <p><b>USDS Levi C. Walker 1871-1905</b></p>	 <p><b>USDS Joseph William Trutch 1852-1857</b></p>



## Short Biographies M-R

### of All of the Surveyors and Individuals Associated with the Surveyor General's Office in Oregon 1851-1910



<b>Typical Format</b>	Photo	Short Biography
<i>Born-Died</i>	(if available with permission to post)	(biography) means that there is a collected biography of some kind available in the Biography Section.
Political Affiliation, if known	Credits and sources for photos can be found in the Photo Section.	See the end of this section for a list of abbreviations.
Type of Surveyor	Year	
First Contract or Engagement	Year	
to		
Last Contract or Engagement	Year	

### **Major, Daniel George**

*1832-1889*

Astr

USS

USDS

Special Instructions (Oreg.) (4/23/1863) 1863

(with John J. Major and Frederick G. Hesse as Assistant Astronomers)

to

Special Instructions (Oreg.) ) (with John J. Major as Assistant Astronomer) 1867

Born in Ireland, the son of a printer and lithographer, Daniel came to New York with an uncle and his family in 1834. He attended Holy Cross, as did his brother, graduating as an astronomer, and received his Masters at Georgetown in 1859. He was taking observations at the U. S. Naval Observatory at Washington, D. C. with Professor James Major in 1851-52. James was his uncle, and had served as a Navy Professor of Mathematics at sea for 8 years before being assigned to the Naval Observatory in 1846. James served until 1860 when he resigned to become a Jesuit Priest, and taught at Boston College and Holy Cross. Daniel was the astronomer for the surveyors, Jones and Brown, on the 1858 survey of the 98th Meridian, the Western boundary of the Chickasaw Nation. They were threatened by Comanches, but finished anyway.

Daniel postponed the astronomy for the beginning point of the 100th Meridian between Texas and Oklahoma until the next year, however. The monument he created on the Red River in 1859 was determined to be 3700 feet West of the true 100th Meridian by survey in 1902. He was a Naval Officer from 1861-1863, living in Washington, D. C. with 2 aunts and two sisters, occupying the position of Acting Master at the Observatory.

Congress appropriated \$4500 for the survey of the 46th Parallel, the Oregon and Washington Border, in 1860, but the amount was too small. No one would survey it until Daniel accepted in May 1863, with 6 adjacent fractional township surveys thrown in. They were all adjacent to the State Line, and much of the time they worked under Army security. His brother, John, was with him the whole Contract, in charge of monumenting the line, and Frederick Hesse of the Naval Observatory was an Assistant Astronomer.

His notes of the townships were reviewed in 1865, and many corrections were requested. When out West and not surveying, he lived in Alameda or San Francisco. In October, 1867, Daniel was awarded the State Line Surveys of Oregon/Idaho and Oregon/California by the Commissioner in Washington, D. C. The OR/ID Border began at the intersection of the Owyhee River and the Snake River, and ran due South to the 42nd Parallel. He finished by June of 1868, and was in San Francisco when he finished his notes.

He began the OR/CA survey in 1868 by astronomically determining the intersection of the 42nd Parallel and the 120th Meridian without the aid of accurate time. The monument he set was 2.4 miles West of the one set by Ives and Houghton in 1863, and he did not note that monument's existence or location in his survey. A subsequent survey by Von Schmidt set a new point 3.3 miles East of Major's corner, and that stood the test of time, a resurvey by USCGS in 1892, and a lawsuit in the 1970's.

His survey of the OR/CA Border, West to the Pacific Ocean, from 1868-69 varied 500-600 feet North and South of the 42nd Parallel. According to Bud Uzes, Daniel only took three sextant readings for latitude on the way to the Pacific Ocean. He surveyed the South boundary of Idaho and Oregon with brother John, from Utah to California in 1871-73, setting a monument that ended up 3700 feet East of the Southeast corner of Idaho, even though he had accurate time. He ended his survey in 1873 at the NE corner of California and closed on both his original monument and also that of Von Schmidt, finishing 260 feet North.



Daniel, John J. and their father, John, were all in San Francisco from 1875-78, with Daniel and John as surveyors, and their father, John, as a paper hanger. Daniel and John J. were living with their aunts in Washington, D. C. in 1880. He surveyed the Ute Reservation in Colorado, and subdivided it into allotments in 1880-81. He was a GLO Surveyor in Utah in 1882.

Daniel determined the MT/ND boundary in 1885, beginning by making astronomical observations using telegraph signals near the NPRR location on the Missouri River, in cooperation with the Washburn University Observatory at Madison, Wisconsin. He and his brother, John, surveyed North and South from that position in 1885, reaching the Canadian Border in December, 1885. His line is 500-1000 feet West of the statutory meridian. His notes indicate he was plagued by clouds, unstable setups, and passing trains. He took observations on 18 days in August and September, 1885. Daniel, John and Aunt Mabel were living in Washington, D. C. in 1886. Mabel died in 1890 in D. C., and Daniel and John both died in New York in 1889. It appears that neither Daniel, John or the two aunts ever married.

---

### **Major, John J.**

*1842-1889*

Astr

Comp

USDS

Special Instructions 1863  
(Oreg.) (4/23/1863)

(as Assistant

Astronomer to Daniel

G. Major)

to

Special Instructions 1867  
from GLO (as

Assistant Astronomer

to Daniel G. Major)

John was born in New York, the son of a lithographer, and ten years younger than his brother Daniel. Both Daniel and John graduated from Georgetown in surveying and astronomy, Daniel in 1859 and John in 1864. John was a Clerk with the U. S. Boundary Commission in the Bitterroot Valley in 1860. He surveyed the following boundaries: 1864, Washington and Oregon as assistant to Daniel; 1868-69, Northern boundary of California as assistant to Daniel; 1871, Utah and Idaho, as assistant to Daniel; 1872, West boundary of Kansas; 1872-73, North boundary of Nevada, as assistant to Daniel; 1873-74, South boundary of Colorado; and 1873-74, East boundary of New Mexico. Daniel, John J. and their father, John, were all in San Francisco from 1875-78, with Daniel and John as surveyors, and their father, John, as a lithographer.

Daniel and John J. were living with their aunts in Washington, D. C. in 1880, and with just Aunt Mabel in Washington, D. C. in 1886. Mabel died in 1890 in D. C., and Daniel and John both died in the Spring of 1889 in New York, but all are buried in Holy Rood Cemetery, Washington, D. C., with Daniel and John having unmarked graves. It appears that neither Daniel, John or the two aunts ever married. John was slightly less than 5' 7" tall. See WA GLO Surveyors for the maintained version of this information.

**Mallory, Rufus**

1831-1914

Rep

USDS

Contract ? 1873

to

no more

1867 - Congressional  
Portrait

The Oregon City Enterprise reported in the Dec. 19th and 25th, 1873 issues that Rufus Mallory received a survey Contract recently in someone else's name. He was the Oregon Speaker of the House at the time. No record so far has been found of that Contract, but at least two other contemporary Legislators that were mentioned in the article received Contracts, in spite of having no surveying experience. Before the end of 1873, Rufus was named United States Attorney for Oregon. This record is a placeholder until this is determined this one way or another.

Rufus was born in New York, attended Alfred University part time, and moved to Iowa, where he taught school, before coming to Oregon via Panama in 1858. He arrived in Roseburg where he again taught school before marrying Lucy A. Rose in Oregon in 1860. She was the daughter of Aaron Rose, the founder of Roseburg. Rufus studied law and passed the bar in 1860 before serving as the shared District Attorney of Douglas, Josephine, and Jackson Counties from 1860-62. Rufus switched to be the District Attorney for Oregon's Third District out of Salem, where he secured notoriety by convicting and hanging two murderers in 1866.

He was elected to the Oregon House in 1862 from Douglas County and then to Congress for one term, 1867-69, a result of his notoriety. He declined to run again. While in Congress, he voted against the impeachment of Andrew Johnson the first time, but later gave a speech from the floor, and voted for impeachment. Rufus returned to his law practice in Salem and was elected to the Oregon House again in 1872, being named Speaker. Just after he received his Contract in someone else's name in 1873, he was appointed U. S. Attorney for Oregon in 1874 serving until 1882. At that time, he accepted a position with the Treasury Department as a Special Representative to British Malaya. He finished his assignment in Singapore and came home, continuing around the world for 78 days, arriving back in Portland where he joined a new law firm.

Rufus was one of the incorporators of the company that built the Morrison Bridge in 1887, and they operated a streetcar that served Sunnyside and eventually Mt. Tabor. He was one of the founding members of the Oregon Bar Association in 1889 and built the Hotel Mallory in 1912, still in existence as a hotel on the National Register. He is also the namesake of Mallory Avenue in Albina.



Lucy A. Mallory

Lucy A. Mallory, Rufus' wife, was born in Oregon in 1843, and lost her mother during that childbirth. She married Rufus in 1860 and accompanied him to Washington, D. C. in 1867 when he was in Congress. In 1874 in Salem, she was the only one that would teach 45 Black students in Salem, since they were prohibited from entering the public schools. In 1886, she used her earnings from that teaching assignment to purchase a printing plant and began a new monthly magazine, "World's Advanced Thought".

She continued it and another magazine for about 30 years, with Judge Horatio N. Maguire as assistant editor for part of the time. It was a spiritual magazine and circulated among the advanced thinkers of the world. Tolstoy was a subscriber, and called Lucy the "Greatest Woman in America". Lucy maintained a reading room in Portland, was active in the women's suffrage movement, and was always a vegetarian.

**Maloney,  
Hundley Sevier**

1849-1927

Dem

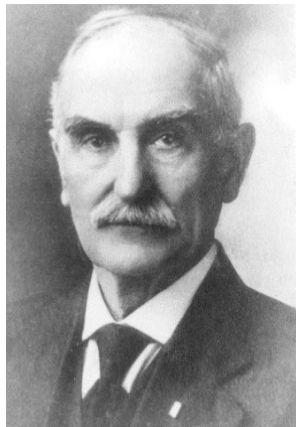
Rep

USDS

Contract 531 (with 1887  
Jefferson Fenton)

to

Contract 539 1889



Born in Tennessee, the son of a surveyor, Hundley enlisted in the Civil War from Greene County, Tennessee in 1864 at age 15. After the war, he served as a 2nd Lt. in the 15th US Infantry during reconstruction from 1867-70. He had a brother that served with the Confederacy and later was a Captain in the Oregon Militia. Hundley married 17 year old Laura Francis Hale in 1870 in Alabama, and they had one daughter before Laura died in 1872.

Hundley attended Tusculum College in Greenville, Tennessee for a period, came to the Northwest in 1873 via the Oregon Trail, and married Mary Frederick Metzger in 1873 in Umatilla along the way. He first settled in Linn County before going to Eastern Oregon for three years where he farmed and taught school. Hundley returned to Linn County where he again taught school.

Hundley came to Yamhill County in 1877 and worked both as a farmer and a surveyor. He was elected Yamhill County Surveyor in 1880-84, and continued at that from 1889-90 and 1896-98, when he was elected County Recorder until 1912. He received two Contracts in Western Oregon in 1887 and 1889, the first of which was on the Grand Ronde Indian Reservation as a Joint Contract with Jefferson Fenton. They surveyed most of the Reservation Boundary, section subdivisions, and many 40 acre allotments, and shared the work. The next Contract in 1889 was by Hundley on his own, also on the Grand Ronde Reservation. He surveyed section subdivisions and both 40 acre and 80 acre allotments, using one consistent crew.

Hundley also received Special Instructions in 1890 for more allotments in T6S R7W on the Reservation. He served in the Oregon Legislature in 1892-93, and Mary died in 1893 after 5 children. He remarried to Lucy Scruggs in 1896, and had seven more children. At some time he was Mayor of McMinnville and McMinnville City Recorder for 18 consecutive years, retiring just before he died of a stroke. He was 5' 4" with black hair and black eyes.

---

## **Martin, Henry**

### **Bascom**

1833-1913

Dem

SES

Special Instructions    1886  
   to

Special Instructions    1888



Born in Indiana, Henry was raised on the family farm until 18 years old. He attended the Cloverdale Seminary for awhile, and self-educated himself in Latin, Greek, higher mathematics and surveying. He surveyed for railroads until 1854, when he went to Iowa, where his family had moved, still working as a surveyor. While in Iowa in 1857-59, he served as a Captain in the Indian wars. Returning to Cloverdale, he married Sidney Victoria Ellen Hart there in 1858.

He enlisted in the army and was mustered in as a private, but was soon commissioned as a Second Lt. His first battle was Barbersville, where he was shot through the thigh, but returned a year later. He served in many campaigns until Chickamanga, where now a Captain, he was shot in the wrist and was disabled again. Henry returned and fought with Sherman on his march.

He returned to Cloverdale, where he was a farmer, lawyer, and surveyor. He eventually moved to Greencastle to educate his children. In 1871, he was elected to the Indiana Legislature. Henry was appointed a Special Examiner of Surveys in 1885 for Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and New Mexico, by the recently elected Grover Cleveland Administration, and continued at that until 1889 when the Democrats were defeated. There are records of 16 Contracts in Oregon and 13 Contracts in Washington being examined by him, including 3 Benson Syndicate surveys, of David P. Thayer, Harry A. Clarke and James L. Mann, two of which he called "palpably fraudulent".

In partnership with his son, in 1892 he founded a newspaper, the Greencastle Democrat, and in 1893-95 he received a request by the second Grover Cleveland Administration to do examination surveys on members of the Benson Syndicate in California. One of those was of 8 townships in Death Valley of Benson surveyor J. W. Fitzpatrick in 1893. Soon after his son died, he sold the Democrat in 1897, and went to San Bernardino, CA, to help his children start a newspaper. His whole family but one was there in 1900, and after four years, he retired to his large farm in Indiana. Most of his surviving children ended up in California, but Henry and his wife, Ellen, died in Cloverdale. (biography) See WA GLO Surveyors for the maintained version of this information.

---

### **Martin, Nathaniel "Nate"**

1828-1908

Rep

USDS

Contract 188 (with 1873  
portions by James A.  
Warner as  
compassman)

to

Contract 599 (with a 1892  
portion by Ulysses G.  
Martin as  
compassman)

Nate was born in Indiana, moved with his family to Missouri, and married Elenore "Nellie" Allen in Missouri in 1847. She was orphaned the day of her birth and was adopted by the mother of Nate. Nate was born six weeks earlier and was also being nursed by his mother. Nate and Nellie lived together all their lives. They were in Missouri in 1849 and crossed the Oregon Trail in 1857 to California, before moving to the Rogue Valley, Oregon in 1858, where he was a blacksmith, and then moved to Lane County, Oregon in 1860, continuing as a blacksmith. He was the first Postmaster of Cottage Grove in 1865 in his blacksmith shop. Nate was a Justice of the Peace and a member of the State Legislature in 1872. He received a Contract for 6 townships in 1873, including five at Summer Lake in Lake County on the East side, on which he used James Warner as compassman and three sons as crewmen.

The sixth township was a fractional one West of Dexter that he surveyed himself with William Cathcart as a crewman. The Oregon City enterprise charged the Contract was awarded, among others, to Nate only because he was in the Legislature. Nate purchased 160 acres West of Cottage Grove in 1868, and established a Post Office on it called Royal, keeping it until at least 1893.

His second Contract did not come until 1892, and he used his son, Ulysses, as a chainman, and also as an undisclosed compassman for portions. He was examined by William Bushey, resulting in field corrections in 1894 of eleven miles of line. Ulysses was the compassman for those corrections. After another exam, he was approved in 1895. Nate lived in the Cottage Grove vicinity until he died there in 1908, a year after celebrating his 60th wedding anniversary. He is the namesake of Martin Creek a few miles South of Cottage Grove running along I-5.

---

**Martin, Ulysses S.  
Grant**

1862-1948

Comp

Contract 599 (as           1892  
compassman for  
Nathaniel Martin)  
to  
no more



Born the son of Nathaniel Martin in Oregon, Ulysses attended school through the fifth grade near Cottage Grove. He filed on a Homestead about ten miles West of Heppner and married 15-year-old Emma Jane Cox there in 1882. They patented the Homestead in 1891. He was acknowledged as a compassman for his father on Contract 599 for part of the work of T20S R10W in 1892 and surveyed 11 miles of corrections on that survey in 1894 as compassman.

Ulysses was a furniture dealer in Cottage Grove in 1900 and later a funeral director. He moved to Seattle in 1905 to take over the Georgetown Funeral Home, lasting until 1907. He then became a carpenter and contractor in Seattle in 1910, a carpenter in Seattle living with a daughter in 1920, and a carpenter in Long Beach, California living with a brother in 1930. He was in Seattle in 1940 living with a grandson, and died there in 1948. Emma had died in Seattle in 1925.

---

**Marye, William  
Bolivar**

1857-1931

USDS

Contract 560           1890  
to  
no more

CA PLS 340. William was the grandson of William W. Chapman, an Oregon Surveyor General, and nephew of Huston, Thomas, Arthur and Winfield Chapman. His father, Simon Bolivar Marye, graduated from William and Mary in 1847, served in the Mexican Revolution in 1848, became a judge in San Francisco in 1850, was a lawyer and Mayor of Portland in 1852, and returned with the family to the South before 1855. William's mother, Sarah Chapman, died of T. B. in 1858, and Simon died while on a trip to Montana in 1868, after remarrying in 1859.



William and his sister went to live with their grandparents in Portland, where William attended the Portland Academy. William was East Portland City Surveyor in 1882 and Multnomah County Surveyor 1884-85. He was a chainman for his uncle, Winfield S. Chapman on Contracts at Coos Bay and Altoona, Washington in 1875-76, where he may not have had the best tutor. He married Ella De Clerk in 1882, and she died of TB in 1886, leaving him the care of his two young daughters.

He accompanied Maj. John Brockenbrough of the GLO to study the timber resources of the Northwest in 1889. That year he was arrested for falsely claiming to show timberland at Nehalem to 30 men, and charging them \$45 apiece. He was also charged with embezzling money from a woman. He was a GLO Surveyor in Oregon with a small Contract West of Vernonia in 1891. William was out on bail for a criminal charge in 1890-91, jumped bail, and was sought by bondsmen. Marye partnered with his uncle, Arthur Chapman, as financier and bondsman, for WA Contract 397 in 1892, involving 4 townships West of Mt. St. Helens. Arthur paid off the bail bondsmen so William could get to work. William finished the field work in 1893, partly with the help of William Elwell as a chainman, and submitted the notes.

They were returned for corrections, and a field examination was ordered by the Commissioner. There were significant errors in the two townships that were examined, and the survey was suspended in late 1894. T15N R4E needed the North tier redone, and T9N R3E needed to be completely resurveyed. Marye realized that there was no more money in this for him, and he left for California and "threw up the work". Arthur Chapman had a bond for double the amount of the Contract and had to arrange for the resurveys. He hired Albert C. O'Neel to do the work in 1896, acting as Compassman.

William was living in San Francisco in 1896 as a civil engineer, and in 1900, Marye was awarded California PLS License No. 340 in San Francisco. His cousin, George T. Marye, was living in San Francisco at that time, was member of the Board of Trade, was a Chancellor of the University of California, and later became Ambassador to Russia. The census of 1900 showed William in Kings County, Lemoore, California. He was 5' 10" with blue eyes and brown hair. (old biography) This is the maintained version of this information.

Postscript 2021: Desert Station was a stage relay station on the Ben Holiday Stage line through Idaho. It was built on the edge of Rock Creek Canyon and was the last water for 18 miles to the West. Charles S. Walgemott wrote his recollections of this area in Idaho in 1936, just before he died, in a book titled "Six Decades Back" The station had gone to rubble and was barely discernable as a former building. Renard Mee, son of Judge Mee, stopped to examine the ruins, and found a bottle in the rock wall with a paper in it. It read as follows:

*To all whom it may concern, that I, William Bolivar Marye, the son of Simon Bolivar Marye, French Huguenot, and First Family of the State of Virginia, have undertaken to set forth certain facts pertaining to my life and travels, and to seal them within the bottle on the fifth day of November, A. D. 1903 (sic) at 10:35 a. m. I was at this old Fort or stage eating house of the Utah-Idaho-Montana and Oregon stage road.*



*At this time I was on my transcontinental trip "Mission" afoot as a doer of the works of the Evangelist from San Francisco, California to Maine to New York City, N. Y., leaving San Francisco, California, March A. D. 1903, and reaching New York City January 4, A. D. 1910, returning from New York City to Kentucky, then back to New York City, N. Y., then to the northwest corner, leaving that place May 29, A. D. 1911, on the return trip to San Francisco, California "afoot" from New York City, N. Y., Washington, D. C., Salt Lake City, then to this rock house July 22, 1912, then to Boise, then to Seattle, Washington, then to Portland, Oregon, then to San Francisco, California.*

*At this time the whole country was of wild nature, covered with sage brush, and its inhabitants were jackrabbits, sage hens, and coyotes. I was a boy 9 years old in A. D. 1869, and was a passenger on the overland stage which rolled into this place for supper.*

*-William Bolivar Marye*

*Doer of the works of the Evangelist*

Knowing what to look for, the author found many newspaper articles across the U. S. from 1903-1913 about William and his evangelical work. He did walk 20,000 miles, with no money, and finished in San Francisco. William was in Mendocino State Hospital in 1930, which is where he died in 1931. William is probably buried in the mass grave of hospital residents at Ukiah Cemetery. It was not surprising to some of us that he ended up in a State Hospital.

---

**Mather, James  
Henry**

1853-1916

Dem

USDS

Contract 587

to

no more

1891

James was born in Ohio, the son of a farmer, and was still in school in Ohio at age 17, and was attending Marietta College in Ohio in 1871. . He was a civil engineer in Kansas in 1884-85, where he was a deputy Ford County Surveyor. James travelled to Washington, D. C. in the winter of 1885 to watch the inauguration ceremonies of Democrat, Grover Cleveland. He was noted as having a new surveying office in Wallace, Kansas in November, 1895-96, having plenty of work. He married Annette "Nettie" Dibble in 1886 in Eldon, Iowa, eventually producing five children.

He lived in Nevada County, California in 1890 as a civil engineer before he came to Oregon by 1891 to survey a Contract for one township in the Coast Range Southeast of Tillamook in the fall of 1892. He was examined by J. C. C. Lewis and was approved in 1893. This probably was far different terrain and brush than Kansas or Nevada. James was in the 1892 and 1893 Directory of Portland, first as a chainman for the City and then as a civil engineer, and returned to Nevada County by 1896 as a surveyor and civil engineer. One of his children was born while they were in Oregon. Sometime around 1900, he was an engineer for the Los Angeles and Salt Lake RR that went through Las Vegas.

James was in Pacific Grove, California in 1901. In 1902 he was surveying the Imperial and Gulf RR from Imperial, California to the SPRR Mainline at Old Beach. In 1903, James was named a U. S. Deputy Surveyor in California and was awarded the Contract for the GLO resurvey of the sections in the Imperial Valley because the prior survey was erroneous. The Contract was challenged because it failed to use the public bid process, and it appears that he did not do the survey. He was a civil engineer in Los Angeles from 1904-07 and also in Belvedere, California in 1910. James died in Riverside in 1916, and Nettie was a widow in 1920 and 1930 in Los Angeles. James was 5' 9 1/2" tall with dark hair and dark eyes.

---

**Maxon, Hamilton  
Jordon Goss**

1813-1884

Dem

USDS

Contract 50 WA (with 1860  
Jared Hurd)

(2/2/1860) (with  
portions by David P.  
Thompson as  
compassman)

to

no more

Hamilton was born in Kentucky, married his wife, Arabelle in Missouri in 1841, and came across the Oregon Trail in 1845. He was accompanied by his family, his brother and his family, and at least one of his wife's brothers. They first settled near Salem, and he commanded a Company in the Indian Wars of 1848, before going to CA to seek gold in 1849. Upon returning he filed a Claim that included the present City of Camas, Washington. Maxon was a member of the Oregon Territorial Legislature in 1850-51, a Clark County Commissioner in 1853 and the Postmaster of Washougal in 1853. From 1851-1852, he and his brother operated a sawmill on Lacamas Creek near Camas. Quoting from the press at the time, "...more belly than brains," and "...a flamboyant horseman with a mustache as big as a snowplow and a voice that would stampede buffalo."

As a Major in the Indian Wars in 1855-56, he led several battles. His muster papers said he was 5' 11", had grey eyes, light hair and light complexion. Hamilton is memorialized in Washington history as the leader of a Company that slaughtered 8-30 Indian women and children near the confluence of the Nisqually and Mashell Rivers in March of 1856, known as "Maxon's Massacre". His orders came from Governor Stevens. He also commanded a Battalion of 67 officers and men that crossed over Natches Pass in the spring of 1856 to pursue the Indians, under Col. Shaw.

On the way, he was openly insubordinate to Colonel B. F. Shaw by allowing his men to fire their rifles, keeping his men separate from the rest of the troops, and was placed under arrest, even though not restrained. Only when they ran out of provisions, did he join the rest of the Company. His Battalion was placed under the leadership of a Lieutenant, and Maxon was still considered under arrest. When the forces reached the Grand Ronde River, they met the Indians, and Maxon and several of his men were separated from the rest. He eventually got back to the fort and led supplies back to the main force. The enlistment of he and his men were about up, and they left soon thereafter, taking many of the captured horses. His estate was still pursuing a claim for pay and expenses from 1855, 1856 and 1871 in 1885.

Under orders from Stevens, he had arrested the "Muck Creek settlers", who were former Hudson's Bay employees that were living peacefully with the Indians and had been accused of aiding and abetting. He was one of the right hand men to Isaac Stevens and James Tilton in the detention of both the Muck Creek settlers and a Supreme Court Justice. The settlers were prosecuted, and when the Washington Supreme Court declared their detention unconstitutional, Stevens had Maxon and Tilton imprison the Supreme Court Justice and declare Marshal Law. Maxon and Jared Hurd were appointed as members of a military tribunal to try the settlers. Based on a decision by Supreme Court Justice Chenoweth that they did not have jurisdiction, the tribunal dismissed the charges. Hamilton was a Member of the Washington Territorial Council (Senate) from 1857-59.

Even though he had no known surveying experience, he was awarded two Contracts by Tilton a short time later. They were both in the prime East side, and Contract 50, a joint Contract with Jared Hurd, comprised many miles of well paying township lines, standard parallels and the Columbia Guide Meridian. In all cases Maxon had experienced compassman listed in the crew, including Jared Hurd, David Thompson, and John Tennant. Thompson ran the Columbia Guide Meridian on his own, and he had just finished the portion of that Meridian in Oregon under his own Oregon Contract. He had begun that survey before Maxon and Hurd arrived in the area. During the Snake crossing, Thompson made an error of 7 chains North and 15 chains East, that is perpetuated today.

Maxon also signed the notes for the Second Standard Parallel North, West to almost Mt. Adams. Hurd signed the notes for the rest of the Contract. Hamilton was awarded Contract 60 in July 1861, shortly before Tilton was replaced. It was for 8 townships between The Dalles, Oregon and Goldendale, Washington, and Northeast of Roosevelt, Washington, all in sagebrush country. He used David Thompson as compassman for about half the work, and surveyed the other half in his own person, per the notes. David Thompson would go on to become Mayor of Portland, Governor of Idaho, and Minister to Turkey.

By 1863 Maxon had sold his DLC and moved to Idaho, where he worked as a miner at Baird's Gulch and Pine Creek. He also owned a hotel called Junction House on the stage line West of Boise, and a retail liquor store in Boise. Hamilton served in the Idaho Legislature in 1877. The censuses of 1870 and 1880 listed him as a farmer near Boise, which is where he died in 1884. Just before he died, he helped to survey the Dry Creek Cemetery, where he is buried. See WA GLO Surveyors for the maintained version of this information. (biography)

**Maxwell, Frank****Dillin**

1874-1945

Dem

USDMS

Mineral Surveys 1908

to

no more



Frank was born in Iowa, the son of a farmer, and was on the farm in 1885 with his family and widowed mother. By 1900 he was a recent arrival and a hired hand at a dairy farm in Boise, Idaho. He was a U. S. Deputy Surveyor and received a Joint Contract with A. N. Kimmel for eight townships in North Idaho near Harrison in 1903, another Contract in Idaho in 1906 on his own, and a large Contract in Montana in 1907.

He had moved to Weiser, Idaho by 1907 and continued there until 1910, operating Weiser Engineering Company. He was one of two Deputy Surveyors surveying about 500,000 acres of irrigation land between Twin Falls and Bruneau, Idaho in 1908. His Contract was a Joint Contract with Walter Tolboy. He was a U. S. Deputy Mineral Surveyor and surveyed one Mining Claim in Baker County, Oregon in 1908. Frank married Ann Ruth "Ruth" Pence in Boise in 1909, and they had a daughter in 1910 and a son in 1914. He was selling subdivision lots in Boise on a dozen occasions from 1905-1910.

He received a Contract in Idaho for one township Southeast of Boise in 1909, another for one township in Seven Devils Country, and another in 1910. Frank was listed as a civil engineer in general practice in Boise in 1910. He signed on as a transitman in the Direct System in 1911 out of Boise, and was a U. S. Surveyor in 1914. He was a surveyor for the Forest Service in 1918, and a Cadastral Engineer for the General Land Office in 1920 and 1930. He retired in 1936 and ran for Ada County Surveyor as a Democrat in 1938 and 1940 and lost by a small margin both times. He ran again in 1942 and 1944 against a different candidate and lost by a larger margin. He purchased a farm in 1936 10 miles West of Eagle, and farmed there until he died in 1945.

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**Mayhugh, John S.***1834-1902*

Rep

IAA

Special Instructions 1891

from OIA

to

no more



1881

John was born in Pennsylvania, educated in a college in the East and came to Grass Valley, California in 1850. He went to Virginia City, Nevada in 1859 for one year before locating to Esmerelda County, Nevada. While there he was political and pro-Union, a correspondent for the Sacramento Daily Union, and was elected to the Legislature from 1864-69.

He came to Elko, Nevada in 1868 and married Julia A. Cavanaugh in Carson City in 1869. He was a Justice of the Peace in 1870, worked for the Indian Service in Nevada in 1871, was the Receiver in the Elko Land Office in 1872-77, and was a land agent in 1875. He was editor and publisher of the Nevada Tidings at Elko, and was elected to the Legislature again in 1878 from Elko. He was an accountant in Elko in 1880 and was the Agent for the Shoshone Duck Valley Reservation in 1882-84. He was the Special Allotting Agent on the Siletz Reservation in Oregon in 1891, where he behaved in a pro government and anti Indian manner in carrying out his duties. Agent Buford at the Siletz and Mayhugh fought so hard that Mayhugh was transferred to the Hopi Reservation and then the Moquie Reservation in 1893 to do allotments.

John was appointed the Indian Agent for the Shoshone Reservation in 1898, and that ended when several of the staff, including John, were involved in a shooting scrape amongst themselves. He announced as a candidate for Lieutenant Governor of Nevada in about 1899 and died in a fall from his horse in Elko in 1902.



## McCall, Jesse Applegate "Red"

1871-1934

Rep

Comp

USDMS

Mineral Surveys 1899

to

Mineral Surveys 1905



1908

CA PLS 1932. Jesse was born in Oregon, the grandson of U. S. Deputy Surveyor, Jesse Applegate, and the son of U. S.; Deputy Surveyor, Martin L. McCall, and was raised in Ashland. His nickname was "Red" for his red hair. An individual named J. A. McCall was the assistant compassman to Albert Wilson in 1891 in T2S R7W Southeast of Tillamook, and the signature was close but not a perfect match. Jesse was elected Ashland City Surveyor in 1895-96. Jesse married Orliena Ora Rogers in Ashland in 1898, a 22 year old lady with a one year old son born out of wedlock.

In 1899 Jesse was an incorporator of the Oregon Midland Company that proposed to build a RR from Klamath Falls to the SPRR line South of the Oregon Border. Deputy Surveyor Rufus Moore was also one of the incorporators. Jesse made the survey of the RR in 1900. Jesse was listed in the Ashland Census in 1900 as a surveyor, living with his mother, siblings and Orliena, and he was also in Malheur County as a civil engineer living next to one of his future chainmen. In 1901 he was contracted to survey 4 1/2 miles of new RR from the SPRR track at Tolo to a proposed sawmill at Woodville, including a crossing of the Rogue River at Bolt. The client was the Rogue River Mining and Lumber Company controlled by W. H. Stansill.

He surveyed 27 Mining Claims in Josephine and Jackson Counties from 1900-05, using a large five man crew in each instance, including his brother Guert McCall on most. He was named a USDMS in California in 1902. Jesse built a new house at 550 Main Street in Ashland in 1902 that is now a B & B on the Historic Register. in 1903, he surveyed an extension of the Weed RR running North From Weed, California Northerly ten miles to Keno, Oregon. Jesse was the surveyor in 1906 for the 15 mile RR from Butte Falls Milling Company to Eagle Point. The next year Jesse continued the route to Medford under the name of Crater Lake RR. Shortly the RR would go into receivership, and it is unknown whether Jesse was paid. Jesse was an engineer for a railroad in Plummer, Nevada in 1910, about the time he and Orliena divorced.

Orliena kept her original son and the two children of Jesse and soon remarried to the father of her first son. Jesse sold the house to his next door neighbor and was noted in Idaho in 1914. He remarried to Lula May Thorp in 1920 in San Rafael, California. She had two children and they had one son together. He was listed as divorced by 1930 as a civil engineer in Santa Clara, California and died in Santa Rosa in 1934.

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**McCall, Martin  
Laurence  
Alexander "Red"**

1840-1895

Rep

USDS

Comp

SES

USDMS

Contract 132 (with 1869  
Henry Stevenson)

to

Mineral Surveys 1893

Born in New York, Martin probably served in the Civil War before being listed as a miner in Yuba, California in 1866. He was in Oregon by 1869 when he received Joint Contract 132 with Henry Stevenson for one township in the rugged Coast Range East of Tillamook. They shared the work, and both signed the final oaths. Martin was listed in the 1870 census as a civil engineer in Portland, and had obviously gotten to know Jesse Applegate before them. He married Jesse's 16-year-old daughter Ailena Ellen Applegate, on June 13, 1870 in Douglas County. Along with Daniel Applegate, Jesse's son, Martin joined Jesse on Contract 137 in August of that year for 11 townships in the Southern Cascades and along the California Border issued by Surveyor General Elijah Applegate, Jesse's nephew.

At age 59, Jesse became ill and turned the work over to Martin and Daniel Webster Applegate as Deputy Surveyors without first getting the permission of the Surveyor General. By the time they turned in the notes for the work in 1870, William Odell had become Surveyor General and rejected at least all the work of Martin and Daniel and some of Jesse's.

After a lot of political negotiating and letters to the editor, Odell gave the three of them a new Joint Contract, including the work of Martin and Daniel in 1870. Several townships were thrown in also, now totaling 23 townships. Seven townships were East of Ashland, and the others were near the State Line between Ashland and Klamath Falls. Another problem was that Jesse surveyed a township that was not in his Contract, but he claimed it was in the diagram given to him by his nephew. They included that one in the new Contract, but refused to pay Martin for it until 1875.

Martin continued to live in Ashland until he died there in 1895 of influenza. He received a Joint Contract with J. H. Chitwood in 1880 for 12 townships between Lake Albert and Warner Valley in Lake County. All were surveyed by Martin, using a consistent 6 man crew. He ran for County Surveyor as a Republican in 1880, 1884 and 1886, losing at least twice, although he did get elected to the Ashland City Council in 1883. The RR was being built near Ashland in 1883, and Martin was hired to lay out a town of 130 acres adjacent to Ashland. In 1885, he made a preliminary location and cost for a bridge across the Rogue River at Bybe's Ferry. From 1879-1888, he made five maps of Ashland.

Martin was the Land Agent for the new Town of Medford out of Ashland in 1885. William Byars appointed him to be an Examiner of Surveys in 1892, and he made four examinations in Southwest Oregon. Martin was a U. S. Deputy Mineral Surveyor in 1893 and examined three Mining Claims as such without making a survey. After Martin died, his widow moved to Council, Idaho with her family, where their son Guert was a County Surveyor.

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**McCautland,  
Elmer James**

1864-1941

USDMS

Mineral Surveys            1891

to

no more



1907

Member AIME. Member ASCE. Born in Wisconsin, Elmer was in Oregon to survey the Dry Gulch Mining Claim and flume in 1889 near Quartzville, working out of Albany. Elmer married Cora S. Holland in Salem, Oregon in 1890, but she died in 1891 two weeks after giving birth to a stillborn baby. Elmer surveyed the Bohemia Mine in Douglas County, Oregon in 1891 as a U. S. Deputy Mineral Surveyor and replaced Alonzo Gesner temporarily as City Surveyor of Salem the same year.

He married Annie Gwynne in Salem, Oregon in 1893, the daughter of his minister, and they had a son in Oregon in 1894 and a daughter in 1901 in New York. Elmer was a professor of mathematics at Monmouth College in Monmouth, Oregon from 1894-96, before going back to college at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. He received or held the following: BSCE from Cornell College in Iowa in 1892; MCE Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, 1897; Instructor of Civil Engineering at Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y. 1900-07; and Head of Mining Engineering at University of Alabama, 1907.

Elmer was appointed Professor of Municipal and Highway Engineering at the University of Washington from 1908-14, and while there took a leave of absence to study the Hydrology of the Deschutes River in 1912 for the USGS. While in Seattle, he was the President of the State Board of Health. Elmer was the acting Dean of the School of Engineering in 1912, and his son Gwynne graduated from the school in civil engineering in 1915. He moved to Missouri to become the Dean of the School of Engineering at the University of Missouri 1914, continuing until 1935. Annie died of cancer in 1921, and Elmer remarried to Elinor Gertrude Hamilton in 1923. He was retired in Albuquerque, New Mexico in 1937 and died there in 1941. He is buried in Salem, Oregon with Cora and the baby, but also has a crypt in Missouri with Annie.

**McClung, John****Henry**

1837-1923

Rep

USDS

Contract 127, (with 1869  
John Meldrum)

to

Contract 173 1872



John was born in Ohio, the son of a carpenter, and moved with his family to Indiana in 1845. He stayed there until he went West to Kansas in 1850. He was a chainman on GLO Surveys in Kansas in the early 1850's on three Indian Reservations. He came to Eugene, Oregon in 1856 via Panama, and was a survivor of the train wreck over the Isthmus that killed 72. He purchased a farm six miles West of Eugene near his grandfather and was the Captain of a Company in the old Oregon Militia. His family, including step father Bell Jennings, came in 1858 to the farm John had purchased.

John sold his interest in the farm in 1858 and went back to school in Eugene before purchasing a drug store with an uncle, Thomas Belshaw. John and Thomas sold out their shares in 1862 to Bell Jennings to go mining at Salmon River, and after a short time of not much luck, returned with John buying his share back. John married 17 year old Katherine Henderson in 1863, the daughter of James Henry Dickey Henderson, the Republican Congressman from Oregon. John was early into Republican politics, attending many county and state conventions. From 1866-69, John and Bell owned 400 acres of farm land near Creswell that they had purchased. John was a Clerk in the Surveyor General's Office of Elisha Applegate in 1868-69 before he began surveying a series of five Contracts from 1869-72. Bell also began as a Clerk in the Surveyor General's Office in 1869.

John's first Contract was a Joint Contract with John Meldrum for 13 townships along the Deschutes River North of Bend. They shared the work, and John used a small, stable crew, while Meldrum used his brother Henry as a chainman on most townships. John received another Contract with John Meldrum in the same year in the same place using the same pattern. An exception was that Henry Meldrum was a compassman for one of John Meldrum's townships, where Rufus Moore was a chainman.

John was awarded a Contract of his own for about 9 townships in the same area North of Bend in 1870. This work facilitated some of the land grant to the Santiam Wagon Road. Another Joint Contract, this time with William Pengra for 16 townships, came his way in 1870. They shared the work, and half of the fractional townships were just North and East of Eugene. The rest were on the East side at Silver Lake in Lake County.

His last Contract was on his own for six townships in 1872 just Northwest of Cottage Grove on the Siuslaw and at Marcola on the McKenzie in Lane County. He built a house and was appointed a Judge in Eugene in 1873-74 and was elected to the State Legislature in 1874. John was the Treasurer for the University of Oregon Board of Regents at the beginning in 1875. He was nominated by the Republican Party as the Candidate for the State Senate in 1876, but lost by 68 votes in the election.

After 1872 John opened a drugstore and a dry goods store, and occupied himself in that way through various iterations until he retired in 1902. He built the McClung Building in 1901 at 8th and Willamette. John was Mayor of Eugene from 1891-93 and a member of the City Council for many years. In 1894 he was elected to the State Senate and served from 1894-97. John was also on the School Board for many years. He moved to Portland in about 1904, where he was a member of the Commercial Club and died there in 1923.

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### **McClure, Andrew**

#### **Samuel**

1829-1898

Union

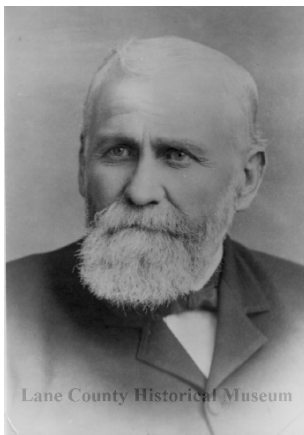
Indep

Dr/Clerk

Transcribing Clerk 1871

to

no more



Born in Illinois, Andrew came across the Oregon Trail in 1853 with his cousins and their families at age 24. Under guide Elijah Elliott, they left the Oregon Trail at the Malheur River on September 1 and headed West across the center of Oregon. After Burns, they wandered South to avoid Indians, wasted precious time, consumed food, and strained their draft animals. By fall, their situation was grave, and they became "The Lost Wagon Train of 1853".

On September 13th, near Burns, Andrew and seven other young men were dispatched with seven days rations to reach the Willamette Valley to send aid back to the wagon train. He and B. F. Owen kept diaries that have since been published, and Andrew's diary is on file at OHS. They reached the Deschutes on September 25th. They crossed the Cascades between the South and Middle Sister, mistaking the South Sister for Diamond Peak, the location of present Willamette Pass. They waded cold rivers, ate three of their horses, abandoned the other nine, and were nearly dead when rescued by settlers sent back to help them.

Andrew quit his diary on October 13th, having filled it up. They ate the last of their dried horse meat on October 15th and survived on a few grouse and squirrels until they were rescued by a relative from Eugene on Oct 23rd. The settlers in the Willamette valley rallied a rescue, and went East over the Emigrant Road to rescue the wagon train. All eventually made it to the Willamette Valley in the fall of 1853.

Andrew settled on a Claim at Pleasant Hill, just Southeast of Springfield, served as a Captain in the Rogue River Indian War of 1855-56, married Sarah Jane Dillard by 1859, and eventually sired eleven children. He was a merchant in 1860 and 1870 in Eugene and was elected Lane County Treasurer in 1862 from the Union Party. He ran for Lane County Commissioner in 1874 as an Independent with unknown results. Andrew served a few months as a Transcribing Clerk in the Surveyor General's Office of William Odell in Eugene in 1871-72.

An A. S. McClure declared bankruptcy in the bankruptcy court in Portland in 1874, and there is no mention of his dry good business after 1875 in Eugene except for the instance that he was in the grocery store business in Portland in 1887. Andrew was listed as a teamster in 1880 in Eugene. A biography notes that he lived in Portland and Eastern Oregon for some time after 1880. Six of his sons and one daughter graduated from college and went on to professions.

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**McClure, Henry Franklin**

*1860-1931*

Rep

Comp

USDS

Contract 439 (as 1882  
compassman for  
Ewing K. Henderson  
for portions)

to  
Contract 480 1883



1885

Born the oldest son of Andrew S. McClure, Henry graduated from the University of Oregon in 1885, and then stayed for three more years for a Masters and for Law School. While attending school in 1881, he was a chainman for James Currin in the very Southeast corner of the State, and in 1882, Henry and his brother, Charles, were crewmen for Ewing Henderson on a Contract Southeast of Burns. Henry was promoted to be compassman for four townships on that job.

Also while attending school in 1883, Henry received his own Contract for 11 townships East of Burns. He used a small consistent crew, and a subsequent BLM surveyor noted he probably stubbed the 1/4 corners on the E/W section lines. After graduation from law school, he read law with Judge Edward Deady in Portland before moving to Seattle in 1888. He had just got an office going in downtown Seattle when the Great Fire of 1889 happened. Henry was in his office and hauled all of his books and furniture out into the street barely before the fire burned his building to the ground. He wrote a letter to his brother Edgar in Eugene describing the 80 acres of destruction and chaos, and asked for some money. There were no stores and only one bank left in downtown Seattle



He entered into the practice of law with Laban H. Wheeler, a University of Oregon graduate and fellow Deputy Surveyor. By 1892 Henry was in partnership with Daniel W. Bass, another U. of O. classmate, and then with his brother Walter in 1897. He married Elizabeth A. Hoffman, a German immigrant slightly older than he was, at age 41 in Seattle in 1901, and they had no children. Brother William joined the firm in 1901, and they would continue that arrangement until Henry died of a heart attack in Seattle in 1931.

They were joined in Seattle by two other brothers in the 1890's who worked for the Press Times, and all lived together until Henry was married. Another brother, Edgar, was the Chair of the Chemistry Department at the University of Oregon when he died in the first recorded climbing fatality on Mount Rainier in 1897 on Muir Glacier at what is now known as McClure Rock (named for Edgar). He was responsible for making an accurate barometric height determination of Mt. Rainier that was the best available for some time. Brother Charles was a physician, brother Horace was a newspaperman, and sister Jennie was a teacher, all in Seattle.

Henry was a Special Federal Judge at one time, a Member of the Arctic Club, and President of the Bar Association. He was active in business, participating in several corporations, and dealing in real estate. Henry was active in Republican politics early in his career, but backed out later in life, becoming disenchanted.

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**McCornack,  
Eugene P.**

*1851-1916*

Rep

USDS

Contract 261                      1877

to

Contract 398                      1881



Eugene was born in Illinois, came to Washington on Puget Sound with his family in 1852 over the Oregon Trail, and then moved to Oregon by 1859. He was a student in Eugene in 1870 where his father was a State Legislator, but graduated from Pacific University in 1874. His father was killed in a run-away incident in 1872 near his farm. Eugene was a chainman for John Kincaid in 1873 at Mitchell, on a Contract that was surveyed by Henry Perkins as compassman.

From the beginning, Eugene was involved in Republican politics, attending most of the county and state conventions and serving as the Secretary of the State Central Committee. He was awarded WA Contract 239 for fractional T3N R8E at Carson, WA in 1878.

Eugene was also a GLO Surveyor in Oregon, surveying six Contracts from 1877-1881, totaling 28 townships, all on the East side. His first four Contracts were for five townships total, East of Maupin and at Arlington. Joint Contract 320 in 1879 with Henry Thatcher North of Baker was surveyed by Thatcher. Contract 398 on his own in 1881 was for 70 miles of Standard Parallels and Meridians and 23 townships of exteriors, all just East of John Day. He generally used small, consistent crews. BLM surveyors report his bearings to witness trees were only to the nearest 5 degrees, but his distances were accurate. From 1878-1887 he served as the executive secretary of the State Land Board of Oregon.

Eugene somehow made a lot of money and was a partner in a 12,000 acre cattle ranch with his brother Frank. In 1893 he purchased the Reed Opera House on Liberty Street in Salem, and built the McCornack Building next to it. He also owned the First National Bank of Salem. Steven Puter, in his book "Looters of the Public Domain", written from jail, accuses McCornack of selling the rights to purchase State Indemnity Lands in the Corvallis School Lands Fraud. As Secretary to the State Land Board, he would personally charge an additional \$1.25 per acre for the rights to purchase lands and pocket that amount. The payments would go to his bank, and the State Treasury would be paid by the bank, with no accounting. Eugene also kept privately the only record of which school lands were available, and sold that information at a high price.

In 1899, he married Edna Moody, the daughter of Governor and U. S. Deputy Surveyor, Zenas Moody. She died of typhoid in Salem 6 years later, having no children. Eugene and Edna were living in the Moody home in 1900, where Eugene was listed as a lawyer. He was still living with the Moodys in 1910 after Edna died, and he reported no occupation. He was also the brother-in-law of USDS Charles M. Collier and the brother of Clerk Walter Ross McCornack. Just before he died in 1916, he had reclaimed 8000 acres of tule next to Upper Klamath Lake. Eugene died in Salem, still living at the Moody residence, and left an estate of about \$800,000. He is the namesake of a building at Collier State Park Logging Museum North of Klamath Falls. This is the maintained version of this information.

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**McCornack,  
Walter Ross**

1845-1903

Rep

Dr/Clerk

Clerk

to

no more

1872

Born in Illinois, Walter came first to Olympia, Washington in 1853, and then to Lane county, Oregon in 1858, both times with his family. He had eleven brothers and sisters, all of whom survived him in 1903. One of the Brothers was Deputy Surveyor Eugene P. McCornack. Walter was a Transcribing Clerk in the Surveyor General's Office of William Odell from at least 1872-73. From 1871-80 he was a Lane County deputy sheriff, and a deputy county clerk for several terms until 1890. He was a bank director in 1886, ran for Clerk in 1890 but lost, and was a Legislative Committee Clerk in 1893.

Walter married Elizabeth E. Hazelton in 1874, and made his permanent home on a 700 acre stock and dairy ranch on the North Fork of the Siuslaw River near Florence in 1893. He was one of the first farmers to purchase a cream separator. He remained there with his family until he died, with two sons continuing the ranch.

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**McCown,  
Malcolm  
Sunshine**

1876-1941

USDS

Contract 732 (with 1901  
Rufus Moore)

to

no more



1900

Malcomb was born in Oregon City, the son of lawyer Ferdinand McCown and Sarah Meldrum, the sister of John and Henry Meldrum. Malcom was the nephew of four Deputy Surveyors in the Meldrum family. He attended one year of high school and left for Alaska in the winter of 1898. He received Joint Contract 732 with his uncle, Rufus Moore, in 1901 for one township at Crater Lake, another at Klamath Lake, and 11 townships East of Warner Lakes in Lake and Harney Counties.

Henry Meldrum had created a group of Deputy Surveyors and Notaries to facilitate the fraudulent applications for surveys. Henry created 21 of the applications and forged the signatures of 23. Stephen Hungate created one application and forged the signatures on three. Rufus created three and did not forge any. The field notes were in the Benson purple mimeo or stamped field note format, and the land was in fact arid and unusable. John Hamaker notarized the Klamath Falls surveys, and George Brownell notarized the others of Malcomb McCown. Rufus Moore, McCown, Hamaker, Henry Meldrum and George Wagoner were all charged with fraud. Near completion, Surveyor General Henry Meldrum urged the appointment of David Kinnaird as examiner (complicit) because he was nearby and ready.

Two chainmen testified before the Grand Jury and were later charged with perjury. Rufus and Malcomb were examined by David Kinnaird (indicted in 1902) in 1901 and A. W. Barber in 1904, who was involved investigating the land fraud cases. The plats were withheld from filing until 1909 while the investigation was ongoing. Newspapers reported that this had been going on for a period of time, with Henry, Rufus and John Hamaker being involved. They would split the profits after supposedly turning in fictitious survey notes and plats. The investigation did not charge this, but it was hinted at in the evidence, stating that the field notes were in the handwriting of Henry Meldrum and his son, Don Meldrum.

Moore surveyed the two at Crater Lake and Klamath Lake, and Malcomb surveyed the rest. He used a four man consistent crew on all, and the notes were on preprinted mimeo forms. They were examined by David Kinnaird and approved in 1903 by Henry Meldrum, his uncle, after a short suspension and supplemental instructions. John Hamaker notarized the work of Moore and George Brownell notarized the work of Malcomb. All of these individuals except Malcomb were indicted in 1903 for survey fraud, including these surveys. Included in the indictment were: Henry Meldrum, Surveyor General; George Waggoner, Chief Clerk; Rufus Moore, Deputy Surveyor; David Kinnaird, Examiner; John Hamaker, Notary; George Brownell, Notary; and Frank Van Winkle, Notary.

Two of the chainmen used by Malcomb on this Contract 732 perjured themselves at the urging of Henry Meldrum. The newspaper articles were vague enough to not be able to link this specific Contract to the indictment, except for the crewmen, but the team was the same. S. A. D. Puter in Looter of the Public Domain did link this Contract to the indictments. Henry Meldrum received another indictment in 1904 for falsifying survey notes with intent of fraud.

Amherst Barber, out of the General Land Office in Washington, D. C., was involved in the investigation of Contract 732, and all of the plats for Contract 732 were withheld from filing with the Land Office until 1909 when all of the indictments were either tried or dismissed, including Rufus Moore, who was probably paid for Contract 732 at that time. Henry Meldrum was convicted of fraud and sent to McNeil Island Federal Prison, and Rufus Moore appealed his indictment, using the Governor of Oregon as his lawyer, but was ordered back to a trial that never happened. So far, Malcomb has not been mentioned in the indictments, but he must have been complicit.

Malcomb spent much of the time after 1901 in Canada in mining, covering most nearly all of the time from 1911-1935. He had a wife in 1911 in Yukon Territory, but was not listed as married in Eagle, Yukon Territory when he was listed as a self employed laundryman in 1918. He was married to Ollise Smith (Alice Bertha Smith) in Seattle in 1927. He was in San Francisco in 1931 and was a divorced mine owner in Winnemucca, Nevada in 1940. He had divorced Alice in 1936, although his death certificate listed Alice Bertha McCown as his wife. He died of a stroke and sclerosis of the liver. Alice sued the estate, consisting of mining property, for one third of the value and lost.

**McCoy, Marion****Poe**

1860-1944

SES

USDS

Special Instructions 1903  
to

Special Instructions 1903



WA PLS 1365. Marion was born and raised in Ohio, and at 20 years of age he was still working on his father's farm in Van Wert County. He completed 4 years of college, and in 1885 he was a deputy county surveyor in Iowa. He returned to Van Wert County and was elected County Surveyor from 1885-88. By 1890 Marion lived in Watonga, OK, being elected as a director of a church. He married Frances Teubner in 1890 in Ohio, filed a Homestead within the city limits of present Watonga, and eventually patented it in 1894.

Marion surveyed about 200 townships in Oklahoma from 1895-1898, mostly as a U. S. Surveyor for the USGS. He was elected as a Representative in the Third Oklahoma Territorial Legislature in 1895 from Blaine County, serving on several committees. He was in the Dakotas surveying for the USGS in 1898 on Forest Reserves. McCoy was appointed a Special Examiner of Surveys out of Washington, D. C. in 1899 for several Western states, continuing at that for the next ten years, examining 5 surveys in Oregon and 209 surveys in Washington alone. His work in Oregon on the exams of Contract 747 of George Waggoner and of Contract 748 of Klaetsch and Minton were suspicious. He also performed small original surveys as a U. S. Deputy Surveyor as needed, including a survey of Fort Sherman in Idaho. His home town in 1900 was Highland, Iowa.

While assigned to Seattle he also had the title of Special Disbursing Agent, which allowed him to make out checks from the Federal Treasury, including on his own account. It was too tempting, and he was caught making out false expense checks to fake vendors, and cashing the checks himself, beginning in 1907. He also started paying himself for work he did not perform such as examinations in Montana. The amount is unknown, but later an amount of \$15,000 was said to be a small part of it. The newspapers said he spent the money on "wild speculation". Federal Investigators caught him in 1909, and he was convicted of embezzlement and sentenced to three years at McNeil Island Federal Penitentiary, beginning September 1909, and ending when paroled in March of 1911. He performed examinations until 1909, but the official record stops at 1908.

In 1920 he was a civil engineer for the State Highway Department in Spokane, and District Engineer in Brewster in 1925. He then was elected Okanogan County Engineer from 1926-1937. In 1937 at age 77, a newspaper article talked of him supervising the running of level lines in Okanogan County for the future irrigation from Grand Coulee Dam. He and his wife were still in Okanogan in 1940, but he died in Georgia in 1944. His only son was a college graduate and a chemical engineer for a petroleum plant in New Jersey in 1940. See WA GLO Surveyors for the maintained version of this information.

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## McFall, George

1829-1908

Comp

Contract 32 (as  
compassman for  
Joseph Hunt and  
Butler Ives for  
portions)

1853

to

Contract 47 (as  
compassman for  
Butler Ives and  
George Hyde for  
portions of the work)

1854



c. 1900

Born in Ohio and raised in Wisconsin after 1844, George came to Oregon City in 1851 via the gold fields in California. He was hired by Butler Ives in the fall, in whose employ he stayed until he left Oregon, working much of the time as compassman. One exception was when he worked as a compassman for Anson Henry for one township near Gresham. George began as a crewman for Butler Ives on Butler's first Contract in 1851. He continued as a chainman for 3 more Contracts until Contract 28 in 1852 when he was promoted to compassman.

In 1853 Butler Ives and Joseph Hunt were awarded Contract 32 which was for several townships along the Columbia River on both sides, and for several townships near Chehalis, Washington. George was the compassman for Butler on his portions. When Butler received Contract 39 for many exteriors and township surveys in the Rogue River Valley from Ashland to Grants Pass, again George was the compassman for Butler's portion.

After finishing this survey in October, 1854 in the Rogue Valley, Oregon, McFall travelled South to San Francisco and then back East to Wisconsin. He married first in 1858 and then again in 1880 after his first wife, Laura, died in childbirth in 1873. George sold his original 107 acre farm in 1875. He had farmed for awhile, raised 9 children, and was an elected a County official in many offices. He was: County Treasurer of Harrison Twp. from 1863-67 and 1869-1876; County Surveyor 1871-74; County Clerk 1878-82; Board of County Supervisors 1876, 1882-86, 1894-95, and 1897-99; and Superintendent of the Grant County Poor Farm 1880's to 1892. He was exempt from the Civil War because of poor eyes. He has a diary at the Oregon Historical Society.

Here is a story from "Chaining Oregon" by Kay Atwood: "Ives and his crew pushed on through a wet, miserable January (1853). The company narrowly escaped tragedy when McFall, balancing across the Willamette River on a log, tripped on a limb and fell in. The current quickly sucked him under and, as he grabbed for overhanging branches, he dropped the compass and tripod in the fast moving river. Keen and Potter scrambled out on the log and, one holding on to the other, twisted under the water to free their trapped colleague."

"Relieved that McFall was safe, but frustrated at the loss of equipment, Butler Ives went to Oregon City for another instrument. In the meantime, the remorseful McFall searched the icy waters until he found the tripod. He waded back into the cold river the next day to look for the compass, triumphantly pulling it out only damaged. Equipment in hand, the company resumed the survey rather than wait for Ives' return. Unaware that McFall had found the instrument in usable condition, Ives bought another solar compass from draftsman Dubois for \$250." This is the maintained version of this information.

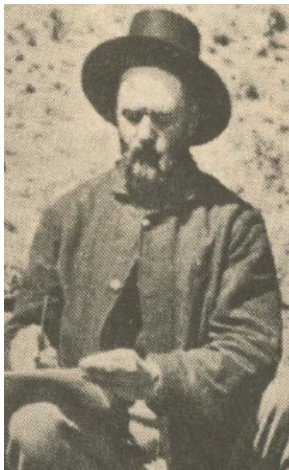
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**McKay,  
Alexander**

1837-1912

Comp

Contract 199 (as            1873  
compassman for  
James C. Tolman for  
portions)  
to  
no more



1872

Born in Rhode Island in 1837, Alex was in San Francisco by 1866 with no job. He received a Contract from the California Surveyor General to survey the 9th Standard Parallel just South of Klamath Falls, and lived in Yreka during that time. The survey was completed in 1871, but because of disputes with the Surveyor as to the location of the Meander line of at least Lower Klamath Lake, he was suspended. It was not resolved until 1880 when he resurveyed portions.

Alex was a surveyor in Yreka in 1872 when the Modoc Indian War broke out. He was hired to represent the San Francisco Evening Bulletin and the Yreka Herald as a reporter to cover the War on their behalf and had many articles with his byline. James C. Tolman received Contract 199 in July, 1873 and used four compassmen for the work, including Alex. The others were J. S. Howard, Chandler Watson, and Horace Hurlburt. The work was along the California Border, with five townships near Brookings, and three near Klamath Falls and two West of Summer Lake. Three were left unsurveyed, and Hurlburt survey the ones near the Coast. Alex surveyed the two near Summer Lake, And the rest were covered under blanket oaths.

Alex finished his townships in September 1873. The newspaper reported in November, 1874 that Alex had a number of townships in the Lower Klamath Lake area, and would start soon. In an interview with Jesse Applegate, Alex reported that he never received the money directly from his California Contracts, but that he was paid \$100 per month for his services. The Contract was in his name though. Alex was awarded another California Contract in 1878 for one township near where he had surveyed the others. He appears to have finished his GLO career in 1879 by making Corrections to the Standard Parallel across Lower Klamath Lake. The Registers showed him as a surveyor in Modoc County in both 1878 and 1880,

From 1882-1890, Alex was a surveyor in Alameda County California, but by 1894 he was a laborer. He was living in San Francisco in 1900 as a hotel keeper and in 1910 in the Home for the Aged and Infirm, noted as a widower in both censuses. He died at the Home in 1912.

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**McKenzie,  
Thomas T.**

1831-1889

Rep

Peoples

USDS

Contract 328 (with A. 1879

O. Eckelson)

to

no more



1872

A Joint Contract was issued to T. T. McKenzie and Albert Eckelson in 1879 for five townships and a Standard Parallel in the Goose Lake Forest Reserve. Four were surveyed by Eckelson and the fifth by others. The Standard Parallel was surveyed in 1880, signed by Eckelson but probably surveyed by Bamford Robb. Albert was a civil engineer in Jacksonville for a long time, and the likely candidate for T. T. McKenzie would be Thomas T. McKenzie, the Sheriff of Jackson County from 1872-74.

He was an early settler in 1855 and a businessman, born in Scotland. He does not show up in the notes of the survey, except for being noted as the Joint Contractor, and was probably a financial partner. The newspaper in 1879 did mention Thomas "returning from his survey." Also, one of the chainmen was a business partner of Thomas. Thomas married Rebecca Hopwood in Jacksonville in 1866, and they had a daughter that died at Bear Creek in 1868. He had a flour mill in at least 1870-72, and rented it out, probably to fulfill his duties as Sheriff.



In 1880, Thomas was again noted as a miller, and moved a steam grist mill from Central Point to Holman Gulch. He sold the mill in 1880 just before he ran for County Clerk on the Peoples Ticker, when he lost to Henry Klippel. He purchased a saloon in the U. S. Hotel in 1883 and ran that until at least 1886. Thomas died of typhoid in Jacksonville in 1889, and he and two children are buried in Jacksonville Cemetery. Rebecca died in Seattle in 1939

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## McLeod, John D.

*1860-1938*

Rep

SES

Special Instructions 1899

to

Special Instructions 1900



1920

John was born the son of Scottish immigrants on Prince Edward Island, Canada in 1860 on a small homestead. He attended college in the winter for four years, studying civil engineering and surveying. In 1883 he went to the Dakotas, surveying townsites, and then railroads in Montana and Washington. He married Luella Shoquist in 1885, who became ill by 1899. John took Civil Service Examinations, quit his job as County Surveyor, and accepted a position as Special Examiner of Surveys in Oregon to give Luella a change of climate.

John left for Oregon, temporarily leaving his wife in Helena. While he was 150 miles from the nearest telegraph office out of Burns, Oregon, Luella died in Helena, and he could not be reached. John's brother arranged for a service to be held, and left Luella in the funeral home until John's return. It is unknown when John found out about his wife's death. From 1899-1900, John examined 13 Contracts in Oregon. He also surveyed the North Boundary of the Klamath Reservation and the meanders of Wood River in 1899 as an Examiner of Surveys under Special Instructions. His mother-in-law was taking care of the two young children in Helena. He remarried in 1902 to Mattie Farquhar, and they had three more children.

When John came back to Montana after his Examination Contracts, he apparently obtained a job as Chief Draftsman for the Montana Surveyor General. He was indicted and arrested in 1908 for fraudulently creating and signing survey notes and for forging the signatures of U. S. Deputy Mineral Surveyors. His fellow conspirators were the Chief Clerk, Oliver C. Dallas and U. S. Deputy Mineral Surveyor and former Clerk, A. S. Hovey. Hovey pled states evidence and was dismissed after testifying, and John and Dalles' trial ended in a hung jury in 1908. John was never-the-less elected County Surveyor in Helena, Montana 1908-1910. He was a Helena City Commissioner 1920-22, and Helena Fire Chief in 1923, after removing the former Fire Chief while he was a Commissioner. John was County Surveyor again from 1926 until his death in 1938.

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**McQuinn, John  
Anderson**

1855-1928

Dem

Comp

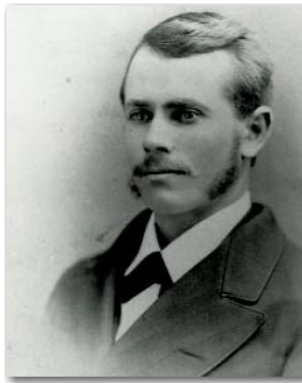
USDS

USDMS

Contract 411                      1881

to

Special Instructions            1910



John was born and raised on Sauvie Island, Multnomah County, Oregon. He graduated from the University of Oregon in 1879, and in 1881 married another classmate, Nancy Caroline Cornelius. By 1881 he was a Deputy Surveyor in Oregon at Bridal Veil, and also the Multnomah County Surveyor. He received Oregon Contract 466 for at least 4 townships near Glide, and surveyed them between April and June 29, 1883 with George Collier as compassman.

There were errors and distortions of over 1300 feet in his work, as disclosed by subsequent surveys. Benson Surveyor James K. Hull, probably fictitious, listed John as the compassman for all 7 townships under WA Contract 290 in 1883, Northeast of the Spokane Indian Reservation. It is John's signature on the oaths. Either he did the work, or he signed several pages of blank oaths to be later filled in by the Syndicate. There were gross distortions of over one half mile in the East Boundary of the Reservation that were corrected in a later survey. He began this survey one week after finishing the previous one in Oregon, and continued into December. This association with the Benson Syndicate and the gross distortion in Oregon Contract 460 place a dark cloud on his legacy.

The year 1884 brought him Contract 103 in Idaho for 8 townships 100 miles East of Boise. It was finished by the end of the year, but he was still in Boise in 1885. He was not paid until 1888 because the Surveyor General lost the oaths, and the Commissioner would not accept the survey without them. The oaths in the field notes are not original signatures, so he must have prevailed. John is most known for the "McQuinn Line", the result of an 1886-89 Oregon GLO Resurvey of the West and North boundaries of the Warm Springs Reservation. In the middle of this survey, he received a Joint Contract with Frank Campbell to survey the townships adjacent to the North boundary. The new line added about 80,000 acres to the Reservation from the previous survey.

It was not settled until 1972, with the basic result of affirming McQuinn's line, and deeding most of the area to the Warm Springs Indians. There is no record of any of his work being examined up to this point, but this work was examined by Henry Martin and Alonzo Gesner. He continued to receive small Oregon Contracts from 1891-96, and all were examined. John maintained a survey practice in Portland until 1928 when he died, forming partnerships along the way with Tom Hurlburt in 1887, Herman Gradon in 1889, Eugene Schiller and Robert Bonser in 1897, C. G. Powers in 1928, and others. He had 3 children, with one son dying as a child. He was separated from his wife by 1892, and ultimately divorced. She worked as a teacher until at least 1930, and never remarried.

The one Contract in Washington was in partnership with Ralph Hardenbrook, who lived with John and his second wife for awhile afterwards. It was for 4 fractional townships in 1897 at the very Southeast corner of the state. They were inspected by A. W. Morris, and the survey needed correction of the notes. Both McQuinn and Hardenbrook were in Alaska at that time (1898), and the corrections were done through their attorney by David P. Thompson, a former Deputy Surveyor. After two sets of corrections, they were approved in 1899.

John was a U. S. Deputy Surveyor and U. S. Deputy Mineral Surveyor in Alaska until at least 1907, and remarried in 1907 to Mary. In 1904 he acquired land on Cook Inlet for a colony of Finns, maybe something to do with the reindeer experiment. John received two Contracts in 1910. The first had a huge crew, and Ralph Hardenbrook was listed as an axman. The second was canceled for unknown reasons. He received Special Instructions from the Surveyor General to serve as compassman for John Wherry, who had refused to do a 14 mile survey East of Seaside under Contract 778. John also failed to perform.

John and his new wife sailed to Ketchikan in December 1912 for some reason. Later comments on the quality of McQuinn's work have been negative, claiming that search areas for his corners are very large, although he only used an acknowledged compassman on his second Contract. One of his original field books is at OHS. Mary died in 1926, and John died in Portland in 1928. Both are buried in Riverview Cemetery, a cemetery he surveyed in 1883. See WA GLO Surveyors for the maintained version of this information.

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**Mealey, George  
Frank**

1857-1904

Comp

Contract 477 ( as  
compassman for  
William B. Barr)  
toContract 481 (as  
compassman for  
William B. Barr)

1883

1883

Born in Oregon, George was the son of a tavern keeper in Albany in 1860. His father was a cabinet maker in 1870, and George worked in the shop. A 19 year old girl was living in Albany to go to school, and she managed to get pregnant by George, age 17. George's father took her to Portland to live in a Catholic Home, but she secured someone that would give her an abortion. She got an infection and soon died, and George's father was charged as an accomplice, results unknown. George married Hulda R. Edwards shortly before 1880. The extended family was both in Sweet Home in 1880, and also living with a brother in Prineville, where George was a carpenter. George had been a chainman at Florence for William Barr in 1879, before working as his compassman on Contract 477 in 1883 for one township East of Sweet Home.

Later that year he was again the compassman for William Barr for eight townships Northeast of Malheur Lake. George died at age 48 in 1904, and is buried in Sweet Home.

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**Meldrum, Don  
Edwin**

1884-1947

USDS

Comp

Contract 730 (with  
Stephen Hungate)

to

no more

1901

WA PLS 1496. WA PE. OR PE 402. CA PE. Don was born in Oregon, the son of Henry Meldrum, and attended Pacific University and the University of Oregon, followed by San Francisco Law School. He received his only Contract at age 17 in 1901, a Joint Contract with Stephen Hungate for ten townships in very Southeastern Oregon, awarded by Surveyor General Habersham just before his father took over as Surveyor General. Hungate obviously had something going on and needed another Deputy to get more townships in the survey. Hungate surveyed all of the work. The notes were submitted in the mimeo format in 1901, and between 1901 and 1913, it was examined by D. W. Kinnaird in 1901, Henry L. Chandler in 1902, N. B. Sweitzer in 1903, S. E. Blout in 1904, D. D. Kirkpatrick in 1907, W. B. Douglass in 1908, and J. Scott Harrison in 1909.

The Contract was suspended in 1903 and soon questioned by Senator Fulton and Senator John H. Mitchell, later indicted, advocating for Hungate. Six out of the ten original townships were rejected, and the plats for the other four were not filed in the Land Office until 1913 for settlement. Henry L. Chandler was hired as compassman to fix the survey, but that did not happen, and the six townships were surveyed by the Direct System in 1912. Don was charged with survey fraud for knowing of the filing of false applications for survey of this Contract

Don was a compassman for Rufus Moore for 17 townships in Contract 744 in 1902 South and West of Harney Lake. In 1910, Examiner Scott Harrison noted that the work of Moore was done by "young man by the name of Meldrum". Harrison found two townships with significant errors, but in general the work was well done. All were approved after the indictments were dismissed in 1909.

This was going on at a time that Don's father was being indicted and convicted of fraud connected with his surveys. Don married Doris Parker in 1903 in Baker City, Oregon. He was a forest engineer in timber in 1920 in Portland and was in Seattle in 1930, working as land and timber supervisor for Crown Willamette Paper Company. He was a senior land appraiser for the Corps of Engineers and the War Department from 1933 until he died in 1947. He was noted as a civil engineer on a government project in 1940 in Portland. In addition to his surveying and engineering registrations, he was a member of the California Bar.

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**Meldrum, James  
Henry "Henry"**

1852-1928

Rep

Comp

USDS

USDMS

SFS

Contract 129 (as 1869

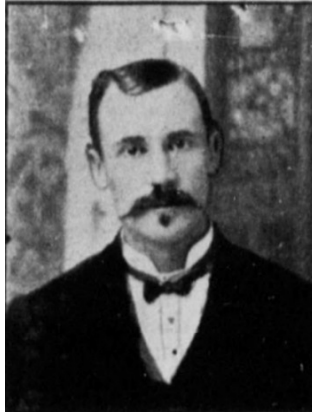
compassman for John

Meldrum and John

McClung for portions)

to

Surveyor General 1901



Henry was born in Pacific County, Washington, where his family had a Donation Claim. He was the brother of John W. Meldrum, the father of Don Meldrum, the brother-in-law of David P. Thompson, and the uncle of Rufus Moore and Malcomb McCown. At age 17 he was a chainman for his brother John and John McClung in 1869 near Bend, and was the compassman on one township. He attended Pacific University and went on to survey 20 Contracts involving 129 townships over a 30 year period.

Henry was a chainman for Samuel Campbell in Idaho in 1871 received his first Contract on his own in 1872 for two townships East of Sandy and five townships West of McMinnville. He surveyed T1S R6E East of Sandy in 1872, but made errors and had to redo the subdivisions in 1873 with a different crew, which included future Deputy Surveyor and nephew, Rufus S. Moore. The other townships West of McMinnville were surveyed in 1873 with Charles S. Moore, Rufus' brother, as a chainman. Henry's brother John Meldrum surveyed the exteriors as a compassman. Henry surveyed five townships on the Coast Indian Reservation as compassman for his brother, John, in 1872.

Henry married Eugenia "Jennie" LaForest in Oregon City in 1874. He received Contract 205 for six townships just West of Ontario in 1874 and Contract 226 for six townships at Ironside in Malheur County in 1875, again using teenage Rufus Moore as a chainman for both. Henry and Rufus were awarded a Joint Contract for 24 townships East of Malheur Lake in 1876 that were all surveyed by Henry in 1877. This was the first Contract for Rufus, who had just graduated from Willamette University.

Henry had two Contracts on his own in 1879, with five townships at Pacific City and nine East of Chemult in the big pine country. Next in 1879 came a Joint Contract with Rufus Moore and Frank Campbell for 27 townships from Bend, South to Fort Rock Valley. They shared the work. Henry and Rufus were awarded another Contract the same day for 15 townships in the same vicinity, and they also shared the work. Henry and Jennie were living with Jennie's mother in 1880 in Oregon City, with Henry listed as a surveyor.

Henry's last Joint Contract for 14 years was Contract 380 with Frank Campbell for nine townships Southeast of Heppner and six townships Northeast of Enterprise. They shared the work. It appears that they surveyed T1,2N R47E overlapping the townships to the West by 1/4 mile as surveyed by Joseph Gray in 1867. Gray had a 1300 foot error in his work leaving a jog in the range line on the West boundary of T1,2N R47E. Henry had retraced that line and found no corners North of the Southwest corner of Section 18, T1N R47E. BLM stepped up in 1913 and made whole those who had patented land in good faith. They obliterated the old Range line and created metes and bounds tracts to give the existing patentees the land they thought they owned.

Contract 436 in 1882 for one township at Bull Run and ten townships South of Rowena were surveyed by Robert Hays as compassman. Another Contract for five townships at Elgin was surveyed by Henry, also in 1882. Nine townships on the Wilson River in Tillamook County were surveyed in 1884, again by Robert Hays as compassman. One township at Christmas Lake in Eastern Oregon was his last Contract for six years, probably because the Democrats were in control. He was elected Clackamas County Surveyor in 1884-86. Henry resumed in 1890 for two townships on the upper Clackamas River. Fellow Deputy Surveyor William Odell gave him his first examination without issues.

Henry was awarded Contract 583 in 1891 for five townships in the Nehalem River Valley in Tillamook County. His crew included future U. S. Deputy Surveyor and Assistant Supervisor of Surveys, Ernest P. Rands, and he was examined by his nephew Rufus Moore. According to S. A. D. Puter, Henry had surveyed this Contract in 1889, but because the funds had been spent, he had to resurvey it in 1891. There is nothing in the record to back this up. Stephen Puter approached Henry and offered him \$5 per person to show Puter's paid entrymen in his notes and on the plats of T3N R7,8W. Henry agreed and showed all 80 of them on 160-acre Claims in prime old growth fir.

Puter was cheated out of the scheme by his partner, Willard Jones, and F. P. Mayes, the U. S. Attorney for Oregon, and Puter asked Henry if he had been paid. Henry said no; the partner, Willard Jones, said I am not paying; and Henry threatened their scheme and got paid by Jones and Mayes. Puter managed to salvage some of the Claims he had arranged. The names are all on the plats and in the notes of both townships. When Puter was asked about Mayes pushing him out of the "3-7" deal, he said, "That rascal stole three jacks off my knee". Contract 590 for five townships on the upper Clackamas River was surveyed in 1892 using future Deputy Surveyor Ernest Rands as a chainman and future Deputy surveyor S. A. D. Hungate as an axeman. Henry was examined by Alonzo Gesner who also used future Deputy Surveyor S. A. D. Hungate as a crewman for the exam.

Henry was Clackamas County Surveyor from 1894-96 and surveyed nine Mining Claims in a cluster East of Stayton in 1895. S. A. D. Hungate was a chainman, and future Deputy Surveyor George Nickerson was the Notary. Later that year he received a Joint Contract with Rufus Moore for 14 townships North of Klamath Falls, partly on the Reservation. They shared the work, and Henry used S. A. D. Hungate, and future Deputy Surveyor and nephew Malcomb McCown as crewmen and George Nickerson as Notary.

Henry received Joint Contract 645 with George Waggoner in 1896 for nine townships Northeast of Summer Lake in Lake County. They shared the work and also shared the same crew, but were not there at the same time. They were examined by T. R. Hinsdale in 1897 and again by C. J. Hayes in late 1897. All townships except two of Henry's townships had been suspended until approval in January, 1898. Henry was a special Examiner of Surveys in Minnesota and North Dakota in 1897-98 and surveyed the Blackfoot boundary in 1897 in Montana. Joint Contract 704 with Rufus Moore was all surveyed by Henry. There were four townships North of Christmas Valley and four townships at Summer Lake.

Joint Contract 713 with Rufus Moore in 1899 was also all surveyed by Henry, for four townships Southeast of Newberry Crater and eight townships at Lake Albert. Gustave Klaetsch was a chainman on the crew of both Contracts and was later indicted along with Henry and others. Henry apparently had forged false applications for the survey from fictitious entrymen with Senator Brownell as the Notary. Brownell was later indicted for those notarial seals, but cleared a few years later when Henry admitted he forged Brownell's signatures. This Contract was examined by David Kinnaird in 1900, and he reported the work was "executed as first class." His notes showed that Meldrum's corners fell within a few links of his under nearly all situations. Henry surveyed 18 Mining Claims Northeast of Madras in 1900, and that was his last activity as a Deputy Surveyor.

From 1900-03, Henry Meldrum had created a group of surveyors and notaries to forge entryman applications for surveys to create the need for survey Contracts in arid worthless areas. A Contract would then be awarded out of the group, and the Notaries would be paid. Contract 714 to George Nickerson and William Elliott was one of those Contracts, with 18 applications for survey for 10 townships. George created 14 of those applications and forged the signature of the applicant on at least one. Frank Van Winkle also forged one. Nickerson, Elliott, George Wagoner, and Henry Meldrum were all charged with criminal fraud for this Contract.

In April, 1901, Henry was appointed Surveyor General of Oregon, and started issuing some Contracts that would be his downfall. Contract 730 by his son, Don Meldrum and Stephen Hungate had been just awarded, as was Contract 732 to his nephews Rufus Moore and Malcomb McCown. Contract 730 to Stephen Hungate and Don Meldrum followed a similar pattern with Henry creating 19 applications for survey and forging the signatures on 20. Hungate created 12 applications and forged one. At the same time was Contract 732 to Rufus Moore and Malcomb McCown in 1901. Henry created 21 applications and forged 23. Rufus created three and Stephen Hungate forged four. The field notes were in the mimeo format and in the handwriting of Henry and Don Meldrum.

	<i>N 89°56'E on a random line bet. secs. 26 and 35</i>
<i>4000</i>	<i>Set a temp. ¼ sec. cor.</i>
<i>8000</i>	<i>Intersect N and S line 5' lks. N of the cor. of secs. 25, 26, 35 &amp; 36</i>
	<i>Thence I run</i>
	<i>S 89°58'W on a true line bet. secs. 26 and 35</i>
	<i>Over rolling land, through undergrowth of sagebrush.</i>
<i>39,50</i>	<i>Descend hill across N and S,</i>
<i>4000</i>	<i>Set a basalt stone, 13 x 8 x 6 ins., 8 ins. in the ground, for ¼ sec. cor., marked ¼ on N face; and raised a mound of stone, 2 ft. base, 1½ ft. high, N of cor.</i>
	<i>Pits impracticable</i>
<i>43,80</i>	<i>Scram led across N, 75 ft below top of hill + ascend 75 ft to:</i>



Both of those were under the investigation of the Land Fraud Division for nine years, eventually being partially accepted in some form. On those Contracts occurred the first noted use of the Benson style mimeo notes in Oregon. Henry awarded 17 Contracts during his two years as Surveyor General, including Contracts 739 to Stephen Hungate, Contract 748 to Gustave Klaetsch and Benjamin Minton and Contract 744 to Rufus Moore, for which all involved were indicted. The mimeo note style shows up in all three Contracts.

Contract 739 had a dependent survey done in 1987 by BLM that showed the marked stones were found in relatively the correct positions. Henry forged five applications while Hungate forged one. For Contract 744, Henry created one application and forged one also. Frank Van Winkle created 16 and forged five on this Contract. John Hamacker notarized most of the applications, with the Clerks in the Surveyor General's Office saying it was not his signature. Henry was caught with a desk drawer full of semi-completed forms. J. Scott Harrison examined the Contract in 1910 and noted the survey had been done by "young Meldrum", most likely Don Meldrum, Henry's son, acting as compassman.

Contract 748 to Klaetsch and Minton followed the same pattern. George Waggoner created three applications, Henry Meldrum three and Stephen Hungate three. George Waggoner forged four signatures, Henry three, and Stephen Hungate four. The investigation determined that all the field notes were written by Henry Meldrum on the mimeo forms. The Contract was in the very Southeastern part of Oregon, with several townships in the Owyhee Desert, having no value.

Henry proposed David Kinnaird as Examiner, but was overruled by the Commissioner, who chose Marion McCoy. In 1904, McCoy stated the following at the close of his exam: "This survey is almost perfect in every particular and should be accepted." McCoy was convicted of fraud while an Examiner of Surveys in Washington State in 1909 and also served time at McNeil Island. There have been no subsequent dependent resurveys by GLO to verify the work. All of this activity with the forged applications may have had something to do with the "Panic of 1893" and its aftermath, with surveyors looking for work.



Henry Meldrum  
at trial

The Oregonian reports that Henry was following the Benson Syndicate style of creating phony applications for surveys, not doing the work, making up notes on mimeo note forms, and bribing Examiners and Notaries to play along. They reported that this had been ongoing for a period. The discussion in the examination file of Contract 748 of Klaetsch and Minton noted an expert reporting that all the field notes filled in were in Henry Meldrum's handwriting. Henry was convicted in 1904 of 21 counts of forgery for the phony applications for survey on Contract 732 and others, and sentenced to three years in McNeil Island Penitentiary in 1906, after losing in an attempt for a new trial at the Court of Appeals.

Rufus Moore appealed his indictment before trial to the U. S. Court of Appeals and after losing was remanded back to District Court for trial in 1909. The prosecutors were tired and ready to quit, and the trial never happened. His case was dismissed, because the prosecution had been picking on the big names and the rest of the individuals were never tried. The only fraud mentioned at the Court of Appeals was that of forging the signatures of survey applicants, awarding and accepting a survey knowing that had happened, defrauding the government by making said survey, knowing that it was unauthorized because the land was worthless, and remaining silent for the others involved. There was no mention of falsifying notes.

Henry came out of prison briefly in 1908 to testify against Senator John Mitchell. During that testimony, he also admitted that he forged the notarial signatures of State Senator George C. Brownell, which dismissed Brownell's indictment. Coincidentally, Brownell had been Henry's defense attorney at his trial. In 1909, Henry was pardoned so that he could testify against Congressman Binger Hermann. Henry admitted that he was addicted to drink, and that he would be absent from office for several days. He was a civil engineer and surveyor in private practice in 1910 and a surveyor in 1920 in Oregon City. Jennie died in 1911 and Henry in 1928. (unfinished)

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**Meldrum, John**  
**William III**  
**"Jack"**

1839-1919

Rep

USDS

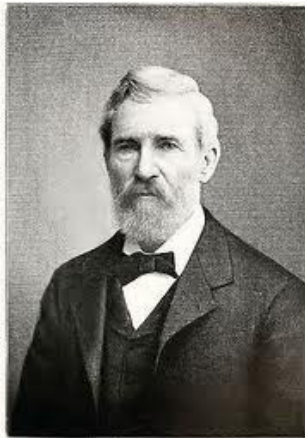
Comp

Contract 115 (with 1866

Bynon J. Pengra and  
 David P. Thompson)

to

Contract 662 1883



John was born in Iowa, and crossed the Oregon Trail with his family in 1845 to Oregon City. His father filed a Claim at Ilwaco, Washington, but returned to Oregon City in 1856. John was the brother of Henry Meldrum, the brother-in-law of David P. Thompson, and the uncle of Rufus Moore and Malcom McCown. John taught school, read law, and worked a little at mining. After returning to Oregon City in 1857, he taught school and read law for two years, before spending four years in the mines at Florence.

He began surveying in 1865 as a chainman for David Thompson, and spent the next 20 years mostly as a Deputy Surveyor in Oregon and Idaho. He received his first Contract in 1866, a Joint Contract with brother-in-law, David Thompson, and former Surveyor General, Bynon Pengra. John and Thompson shared the 27 townships, but left eight of them unsurveyed. The work was in Northern Klamath County. Thompson began the surveying heritage of the family by surveying Contracts just after the appointment of John Preston as Surveyor General in 1851. John was awarded a Contract on his own for 11 townships at Coos Bay in December, 1866.

From 1868-70, John was awarded several Contracts, all but two as Joint Contracts, with various individuals for a total of 113 townships. He surveyed his share with only one township of his surveyed by Henry Meldrum as compassman. All but three townships were on the East side. John was the compassman for David Thompson in 1871 for two townships South of Biggs, and two townships West of Willamina. Henry Meldrum was his compassman for the boundary of the Coast Indian Reservation, and for surveys for allotments in 1872 near Cape Lookout. He married Georgiana Pope in 1872, a niece of the Governor. Their son, D. Thompson Meldrum was a long time Clackamas County Surveyor.

John continued with 21 Contracts in the next nine years, with many using Henry Meldrum, Rufus Moore, Nicholas Walden and George Grace as compassmen. All but three were on the East side. From 1880-1883, nine of those Contracts involved George Grace, with George acting as Joint Contractor on one and as compassman on five. John was elected Clackamas County Surveyor in 1888, and two years later he was elected as a Judge, and as such, served as Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners. Together with another Commissioner, he changed the road tax system to improve County roads in 1892. He was a delegate to the National Republican Convention that nominated McKinley.

For some reason, 13 years later in 1896 he was awarded a Contract for one township 20 miles East of Coos Bay. The newspaper reported this as a Joint Contract with Ira Hoffman, but that is not reflected in the records. Ira was a chainman then, but became a Deputy Mineral Surveyor later. It was a beehive of activity, for William Heydon had a Contract to the East, and Haskell and Lackland had a Contract to the West, all awarded at the same time. John did not have control of the common boundaries. Future Deputy Surveyor, Edward Heydon was a chainman, and was also a chainman for his father on the adjacent work.

John was examined and had to do corrections in the field the next year, mostly with a different crew. Ira was gone but Edward Heydon was still the chainman. The record said John retraced the East line, but William Heydon did that also. The Contract was approved in 1897 after unknown miles of corrections. John was 57 when he was awarded the Contract and this was tough terrain. He may have used Ira as a compassman the first time, and Edward on the corrections.

John was appointed a Special Examiner of Surveys, in 1898-99, working in Wyoming and Nevada, and in 1902 he was elected Clackamas County Surveyor again. He was Oregon City Engineer in 1908. John had his home on the banks of the Willamette River, just downstream from the Clackamas River. He is the namesake of Meldrum, a village near Milwaukie, Oregon, Meldrum Avenue, Meldrum Bar (on the river), Meldrum Bar State Park, Meldrum Bar Park Road, and of Meldrum Station, a transit stop. Surveyors later retracing his work reported him as a conscientious surveyor. There are diaries and manuscripts of John Meldrum on file at OHS.

**Mensch, Fred****Taylor**

1872-1932

Rep

USDS

USDMS

HFS

Contract 751 (with

Henry Perkins and

Albert Keating)

to

Mineral Survey

1902

1910

Fred was born near Grants Pass, Jackson County, Oregon, and his mother died there in 1880. Fred became editor of the Rogue River Courier from at least 1899-06. He received a Joint Contract with Albert Keating and Henry Perkins in 1902 for nine townships North of Diamond Lake in the Southern Cascades. These were townships which included the route of the Oregon Central Military Wagon Road Land Grant (by Pengra), and deposits had been posted by Booth Kelly Lumber Company, who had purchased the land. Perkins signed all the oaths but Mensch and Keating were on the crew as chainmen all the time. Fred married 25-year-old Clara Agnes York in Grants Pass in 1904, the same year he received a Contract on his own. The Contract was for a small survey of a fractional township near the State line 30 miles East of Klamath Falls.

In addition, there were three fractional townships near Canyonville, and one fractional township North of Drain. The township near the State line had only six miles of survey, but Fred surveyed another five miles of retracement to prove his survey. He was suspended and had to return in 1908 to correct two miles of line. The three townships near Canyonville were similar, covering a half a township, 8 miles of line and six miles of line. He had to return in 1907 and correct six, one and one miles of line respectively. Again Fred was retracing existing surveys to probably prove his own, whether he was paid for them or not. He was elected Josephine County Surveyor in 1908-10, after losing in 1906.

His third Contract in 1906 for eight townships in Southwestern Oregon from Brookings to Madras had similar results. All were fractional, and most were for less than 20 miles of line. They were "cleanup" of infill townships of areas skipped by previous surveys, usually mountainous. He retraced most of the existing adjacent surveys, whether required or not is unknown at this time. Even considering that, the Contract was examined and suspended, requiring corrections. His last two Contracts in 1908 and 1910 went well and included three townships in the Cascades and one near Grants Pass. One in the Cascades was a full township and the rest were fractional. There is a note on the plat of T38S R3W that there are rejected notes of Fred for the OR/CA border in a drawer at BLM with the Ray Stout rejected notes.

Fred surveyed the townsite of Three Pines, North of Grants Pass, in 1909. He surveyed a Homestead Entry Claim in 1910 and one Mining Claim in 1910. He went on to survey 24 more Mining Claims in Josephine County in 1912-13. Fred resigned as County Surveyor in 1910, and was replaced by his long time chainman, Robert A. Dean. He joined the Direct System in 1911, and became an Employee of the General Land Office in 1912. While there, his surveys included resurveying the Oregon /California Border in 1915, receiving an assignment in Arizona in 1916, and resurveying the disputed Warm Springs Indian Reservation Boundary in 1918.

Fred surveyed based in Oregon at least until 1925 when he was with Groups 96 and 114. He was then assigned to Washington, D. C., which is where he died in 1932. Clara died in Portland in 1943. Clara was listed as married, but living alone in 1920 and 1930 in Portland, and is buried in Portland. They were living together in Portland in 1919 during the winter when Fred was in the office.

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## **Mercer, George**

1829-1914

Rep

Union

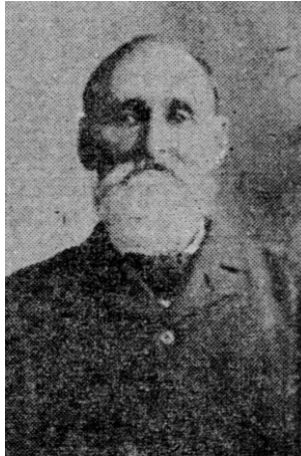
USDS

EX

Contract 113                      1865

to

Special Instructions            1885



George was born in Ohio the son of a farmer, but was orphaned at a young age. He crossed the Oregon Trail in 1853 in a train that included the Starr Family, and was in Benton County, Oregon by 1854, where he filed a Claim near Bellfountain. He married Elizabeth Hileman Starr in Benton County in 1857, the young widow of Joseph Starr with a small child. He was a merchant and taught school, even though he "was not favored with schooling," and then was elected County Surveyor of Benton County in 1858.

George served as the County Surveyor, consistently but not continuously, for almost twenty years, beginning in 1858. He received a Contract to survey the Second Standard Parallel South, North of Florence in 1865. He was among a group of individuals that received a 60,000 acre grant of land to build a military wagon road from Corvallis to Elk City in 1865. They were reporting on construction expenditures and tolls from 1868-1873. The existence of the 60,000 acre grant is unknown. He was living in Eddyville in 1870 on this route, listed as a surveyor.

In 1867 he surveyed one DLC at Corvallis and six townships around Newport, followed by another DLC South of Corvallis and three more townships at Newport in 1870. George shifted to the East side in 1871 with a survey of the perimeter of the Klamath Indian Reservation, followed the same year with surveys of four townships in the same place. The next year he surveyed allotments on three townships on the Klamath Reservation. He surveyed a lighthouse reservation for Cape Foulweather in 1872 and was named to do the preliminary survey of the Corvallis and Yaquina Bay RR also in 1872.

George surveyed two DLCs South of Corvallis in 1873 and one fractional township at Alsea in 1877. He received a Contract for nine plus townships and a Standard Parallel North of Florence on the coast in 1878. Albert Buttolph, Herman Gradon and Victor Hurt were chainmen, and Herman Gradon was the compassman for both the Standard Parallel and the exteriors. A small Contract for one township just North of Corvallis was surveyed in 1882. He received his last Contract in 1883 for five townships West of Junction City and one at Yachats. The townships West of Junction City and the one at Yachats were surveyed by Victor Hurt as compassman. Some twenty years later, Victor, his wife, daughter and son would become involved in the sensational "Holy Roller Sect" and murders in Corvallis.

George was still being elected County Surveyor in 1896 and 1898. He continued his residence in Benton County until he died at his farm at Bellfountain in 1914. He was selling a house in Corvallis in 1879 and was living on a farm South of Philomath from at least 1893-1900. Elizabeth died in 1910. He was the namesake of Mercer Lake and Mercer Creek a few miles North of Florence.

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**Merryman,**

**Herbert Eugene**

1869-1947

USDMS

HES

Mineral Surveys

1907

to

Special Instructions

1909

Herbert was born in Illinois and lived there until 1883, when he went to Denver, Colorado. He graduated from Ashland High School and Colorado School of Mines in 1895. That year he married Mary Putman in Denver in June. He was an assayer in Durango in 1894, a surveyor in Smuggler, Colorado in 1896, and a mining engineer in Cripple Creek, Colorado in 1900. He relocated to Wallowa County, Oregon in 1907, where he surveyed eight Mining Claims in the Imnaha Mining District. Herbert was in Enterprise, Oregon in 1908 and was Wallowa County Surveyor in 1910. He was back in El Paso, Colorado by 1920, in Colorado Springs in 1922, in Montrose, Colorado in 1930 as a surveyor, in Montrose in 1940 as a draftsman for the State Highway Department at age 71, and died there in 1947.

**Meserve, William****Nelson "Will"**

1867-1953

Rep

USDS

Special Instructions 1897

to

no more



1923

Born in Ohio, the son of a physician, William moved with his family to Iowa and then Nebraska by 1880. It is unknown when they came, but they were in Delena, Columbia County Oregon by 1892, with William arriving about 1880. William was surveying city lots in Rainier in 1892, proving up on a Homestead in Columbia County in 1894 and surveying two DLCs as a Deputy Surveyor by Special Instructions in 1897. He was the County Surveyor from 1894-98, doing a good job according to this author.

William ran for Columbia County Sheriff in 1898, and probably lost, because in January, 1899 he was the contractor building the Grays River logging railroad. He married Harriet Alta Smith, a 22-year-old college graduate, in Wahkiakum County in 1900. In partnership with his brother, Lincoln, he had purchased the general store in Grays River, including 400 feet of river frontage at the head of navigation. William was operating a general store and post office in Grays River from 1899 to 1922 and was elected to the Washington State House of Representatives in 1920 and 1922. By 1908 William had constructed a wharf and a dance hall, and was a merchant at Grays River in 1930 and 1940. Alta died in 1951 and William in 1953 in Vancouver, Washington. He was the brother-in-law of Special Examiner of Surveys, A. B. Little. There are papers of William on file at OHS.

**Metcalf, Robert****B.**

1825-1905

USDS

Special Instructions 1855

to

no more



Robert was the son of a farmer, but attended Jefferson College for two years and Medical School for one year. Along with his father and brother, he travelled the Oregon Trail to California in 1849, and had modest success in gold mining. By about 1853 he became the common law husband of Kitty Applegate, who was the daughter or granddaughter of Chief Applegate of the Shasta Indians. He had filed his Claim in T35S R2W, but the U. S. government took all or some of it in 1853 for the Table Rock Reservation, for which he received \$350.

He was appointed an Indian Sub-Agent in 1854, and surveyed the Fort Lane Military Reservation by Special Instructions in 1855. His brother James was in Jackson County at the time, and provided some of the details in the probate of Robert's estate in 1906. Robert was mining most of the time on Jackson Creek, and James noted that was where his Claim was located. During the Indian War, he served as a go-between between General Lane and the Indians. Robert was appointed the Indian Agent at Siletz from 1856 until he resigned in September 1859, noting he was going to Texas. He commanded the soldiers that moved the Shasta Indians from the Rogue to the Siletz Reservation, including Chief Applegate.

Kitty and Robert had three small children, which were left with relatives or friends without Kitty's consent, by giving them each a \$1000 in gold. The Shastas were on the Siletz Reservation, and Kitty died shortly after that. The Table Rock Reservation was voided, and Robert's improvements in T35S R2W appear to have been patented by an Edward C. Pelton. Robert did go to Texas and was living with his mother's relatives in 1860, before serving with the Texas Cavalry in the Confederate Army, with the rank of Colonel. He married Anne E. Montgomery in 1863 in Texas, and they had no children together.

He was living in New Mexico for awhile before he remarried to Vienna Phillips Berry in 1877 in Kentucky, and they had three children. When he died intestate, he left a 300 acre farm in his estate, worth a lot of money. The three children of Kitty showed up to claim their share, and the newspapers reported it all. It appears they were unsuccessful.



**Millar, Allan P.***1824-1904*

Whig

Rep

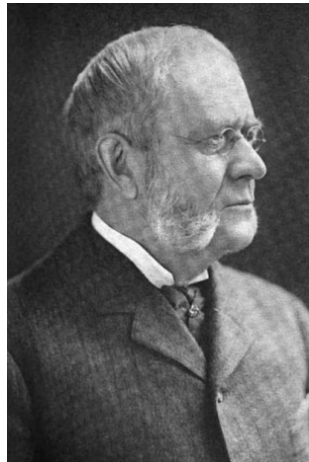
Dr/Clerk

Clerk

1851

to

no more



Allan was born in Genesee County, New York, the son of a tanner. He was educated in the district schools in Buffalo, New York, until he and his wife joined the party of John Preston on the way to Oregon as the new Surveyor General. Allan was a family friend, and Preston promised him a job as a Clerk at Oregon City. They travelled via Panama, and he started at work upon arrival. In 1852 Allan was appointed the Clerk to the Territorial Supreme Court at Oregon City, with fellow Survey Clerk, Allen Seymour, as his assistant.

Allan returned East in 1853, never to return, and left Seymour in charge, with orders not to turn the records over to anyone until Allan got back. Seymour had to go to jail before he relinquished the records, which were hidden in the Surveyor General's Office.

Allan was in Buffalo in the leather business in 1860, married to Betsy, but she died there that year. Somehow, he had a son, Frank, born in 1862. He married again to school teacher, Emily Arnold, in 1863, who was childless, and they, and his business, moved to Chicago in 1867. He stayed and prospered there in the tanning and leather business until his death in 1904 in New Mexico, while on his way to vacation in California. He belonged to many social clubs and was affiliated with the Chicago Board of Trade. (biography) This is the maintained version of this information.

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**Miller, Edwin****Silias**

1859-1924

Dr/Clerk

Clerk

1883

to

no more



Born in Iowa, Edwin was a teacher, living with his parents in Iowa in 1880. He was a Transcribing Clerk in the Surveyor General's Office of James C. Tolman in 1883 in Portland, and married teacher Ella Tout Dickinson in Portland in 1886. His mother's maiden name was Tolman. Edwin was bookkeeper for the Portland Savings Bank in 1887 and a Real Estate Broker with his brother, Charles, in Portland in 1891, just before the Panic of 1893. His occupation from 1897 until 1914 was that of a salesman, at all times living in Portland.

For a period, he was the Manager for the Russell Milling Co. and the J. A. Campbell Co. from at least 1914-18. Edwin and Ella had one daughter that died as a child in 1898, but they adopted a daughter, Marjorie, in 1909 and a son, Edwin, in 1914. In both adoptions, they legally changed both the given names and surnames in court. Ella died in 1919, leaving Edwin to care for two young teens, and Edwin died in 1924, leaving the two children on their own.

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**Miller, John S.**

Special Instructions 1910

(cancelled)

to

no more

The reason for placing the name of John S. Miller on this list is temporarily unknown. Morton Island at Ontario was surveyed by USDS Paul Jones, Oregon two months after the date of the cancelled survey of John Miller in 1910.

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**Miller, William L.**

Dr/Clerk

Clerk

1907

to

no more

Born in Minnesota. William was appointed a Clerk for the Chief of the Field Division of the Special Agents of the General Land Office in June, 1907. Not necessarily the Surveyor General's Office. A William L. Miller was accepted by the Portland Police Department as an officer in 1910.

**Minthorn, Henry****John "John"**

1846-1922

IAA

Special Instructions 1888

to

no more



John was born in Canada, the son of a farmer, and came with his family to Iowa in 1857. He enlisted in the Iowa Volunteers in 1864. He graduated from the University of Iowa College of Medicine in 1874 and Thomas Jefferson Medical College in 1877. He married Laura Ellen Miles in about 1878. The Quakers were pretty much given charge of the Indian Schools, and John was at the Mission near Arkansas City. He was then transferred to the Indian School at Forest Grove, Oregon, but moved to Chenawa near Salem when the school was moved.

John facilitated the move in 1885, but did not take charge. Instead he was named the first President of Pacific Academy, the predecessor of George Fox University. John was named an Indian Allotting Agent on the Warm Springs Reservation in 1888, but accomplished little because of Reservation boundary problems, and the fact that most Indians were working off the Reservation. In 1888, his sister Hulda died, leaving an orphan named Herbert Hoover, and John volunteered to raise him. Herbert attended Pacific Academy for three years before attending and graduating from Stanford University. He became a mining engineer and would become President of the United States long after John died.

John Left Pacific Academy about 1890 and developed thousands of acres of prune orchards in partnership with B. S. Cook. John and his partner built a hotel at Hot Lakes, near Union, Oregon in about 1900. They ran it as a sanitarium and served about 1500 patients until they sold out. Since 1900, John made many trips to Alaska as physician to Duncan's Mission, sometimes staying for years. Newberg always remained his home, but he did live in Newport, Oregon where he conducted a bible class. Laura died on a return trip from Alaska in 1916, and he remarried to Matilda Atkinson in 1918, a Quaker missionary worker with an impressive resume. John's home in Newberg is known as the Hoover-Minthorn Home and is a National Historic Site. After John died, Mathilda continued his work in Alaska for many years.

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**Minton,  
Benjamin F.  
"Ben"**

1866-  
USDS

Contract 748 (with  
Gustave Klaetsch)

to

no more

1902

Born in Wisconsin the son of a farmer, Ben worked on the farm until at least 1880. He was a U. S. Government Surveyor in Minnesota in 1900, living next door to Nelson B. Sweitzer, and received Joint Contract 748 with fellow Wisconsin surveyor, Gustav Klaetsch, in 1902 in far Southeastern Oregon. Klaetsch had been a chainman for Surveyor General Henry Meldrum prior to this. The Oregonian reported that Surveyor General Henry Meldrum had arranged many fictitious requests for surveys in these townships, and arranged for Ben Minton and Gustav Klaetsch to just sign the oaths without doing a survey.

From 1900-03, Henry Meldrum had created a group of surveyors and notaries to forge entryman applications for surveys to create the need for survey Contracts in arid worthless areas. A Contract would then be awarded out of the group, and the Notaries would be paid. Contract 748 was one of those Contracts, with 23 applications for survey for 12 townships. Henry created at least three of them and forged the signatures on at least three. Hungate created three applications, and forged four. George Waggoner created four and forged four. Local postal employees had no knowledge of any of the applicants. Klaetsch, Minton, Don and Henry Meldrum, and Chief Clerk George Waggoner were all charged with criminal fraud for this Contract.

Henry reportedly would make up the notes, and Chief Clerk George Waggoner, and the Examiner would do their part. The notes were in the Benson Syndicate mimeo style. Marked stones were called at nearly all the corners, but there are no BLM resurveys to show whether they were really placed. Stephen Hungate surveyed some of the exteriors a few months earlier, using the same field crew as Minton.

Meldrum notified the commissioner that the survey was ready for examination in September, 1902, and the Commissioner appointed David Kinnaird (complicit) to the job. Meldrum supposedly sent the survey data to Kinnaird in October. In March, the Commissioner changed examiners, and asked that the data be sent to Marion McCoy. In April, Meldrum informed McCoy that he has no notes from the Deputies yet. In May, McCoy became impatient, and Meldrum sent him crude diagrams. The first returns of the notes were recorded as received in August, 1903, in mimeo format, all written by Henry Meldrum, who was no longer Surveyor General, having been replaced for fraud. Both Minton and Klaetsch were requested to come in to the Surveyor General's Office to sign all documents, and then the package was sent to the Commissioner.

Special Examiner of Surveys, Marion P. McCoy, examined several of the townships in 1904 and reported, "This survey is almost perfect in every particular and should be accepted. The country is almost dead level with scattering sage brush from 1 to 3 ft. high...except for Owyhee Canyon" McCoy was sent to Federal Prison in 1908 in Washington State for defrauding the government as Examiner. Special Agent Sidney Stoner took over in 1907 in a criminal investigation. Apparently the signatures of the field crew were also forged. All were indicted in 1904, and Henry was convicted and sentenced to 34 months hard labor at McNeil Island Penitentiary and fined \$5200 for similar crimes on a previous Contract survey.

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### **Mitchell, Israel**

1796-1873

USDS

EX

Claim Contract 3

1852

to

Special Instructions

1857

Israel was born in Kentucky, graduated from a college, and studied but did not pursue, both medicine and law. He married Elizabeth Howard there in 1817. They had two children in Kentucky, but Elizabeth died in 1838. He remarried to widow Mary Arnold Ross in Iowa in 1845, and she brought four children along with her. They had one daughter born to them before they crossed the Oregon Trail in 1847. Another son was born in Oregon in 1850. Israel was a surveyor at least in Iowa and Oregon. He surveyed the townsites of Newark, Iowa and Vancouver, Washington among others.

He first lived on the Willamette, at the present position of the East end of the Ross Island Bridge, where he had a horse powered ferry, but soon moved to Milwaukie, where he had a decent house. He was a probate judge in 1850, was elected to the Oregon Legislature in 1852 and was appointed Multnomah County Surveyor in 1854. He filed a 640 acre Claim at Mount Sylvania, just Northeast of Tigard, near I-5 and the Community College. The first township corner South of the Initial Point was on his Claim. Israel received two Claim Contracts for 21 Claims in Northern Washington County. In 1853 he was awarded Claim Contract 10 for 85 Claims covering most of Washington County. He received Special Instructions to correct or resurvey 12 Claims under Claim Contract 46 for Abraham Sulgar about 1855.

In 1855 he was given Claim Contract 62 for 16 Claims and also the job of fixing or resurveying 17 Claims of Reuben Ford, all in Washington County. He examined the Claim Contract of Abraham Sulger in 1857 and surveyed two more Claims in 1859. The family had moved to Mount Sylvania by 1852, and Israel spent the rest of his life there, at one time being the Postmaster of that place. Mary died in 1858, and he remarried to Ann Stewart Willis in Lane County in 1863. Israel was a Trustee of Willamette University. He left an autobiography and other papers at OHS.

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**Mohr, August****Walter**

1867-1920

Fusion

USDMS

Mineral Surveys 1904  
to

Mineral Surveys 1904

OR PE 241. Born in Ohio the son of a distinguished scientist and geologist, August graduated from the Ontario Agricultural College in Ontario, Canada in 1883. After surveying for RRs in the East for 6 years, he came West to survey for the Seattle Lake Shore & Eastern RR in 1889-91, and then for the NPRR at Grays Harbor from 1891-93. He had the contract to slash the R/W and grade 25 miles of RR South from the Canadian Line. August married Jesse Rice in Bellingham in 1890. He came to The Dalles in 1893 as engineer for the Paul Mohr (brother) Portage RR.

The Panic of 1893 caused him to become the superintendent of a fish hatchery at Bellingham until 1900, when he returned to finish the RR at the Dalles. The RR went bankrupt when the Celilo canal was constructed in 1915, and then became part of the SP&S RR. He ran for Klickitat County Surveyor in 1896 on the Fusion ticket, lost to Jacob Richardson, and later was the County Surveyor there in 1902. August surveyed 11 Mining Claims in Baker and Grant Counties in 1904, proposed on a city water system for Condon, Oregon in 1905 and was billing Condon for surveying in 1908. In addition, he designed water systems in Wasco and Bellingham. While City Engineer of Hood River in 1908, he surveyed a road from The Dalles to Mosier.

He was County Surveyor of Wasco County in 1914 and replaced Deputy Surveyor Roy Campbell as County Surveyor in 1917. August owned the Harrison's Auto Camp at Lindsey Creek West of the current Starvation Rest Area in 1916. He enlisted in the Marine Service for World War I, serving from 1917-1919. August was recently reelected as Wasco County Surveyor in 1920 when he died, having served a total of 16 years. He was listed in The Dalles as a surveyor in 1910 and 1920.

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**Moody, Albert J.**

1835-1883

Comp

Mineral Survey 1875  
to

no more

Born in Maine, Albert was in Coos County by 1862. He was elected Assessor of Coos County from 1862-63 and then served as Sheriff until 1870, when he was named U. S. Marshal for Coos and Curry Counties. He owned a gold mine in the Hinchey Mining District North of Bandon in 1870-74 and was listed in the 1870 Census as having a personal net worth of \$15,000. He acted as a compassman for Simon B. Cathcart when his Claim was surveyed in 1874. By 1880 he moved to Florence on the Siuslaw, where he had the only store and was Postmaster. He died there in 1883 with no relatives, leaving an estate to three friends and an orphan's home. It appears he was never married.

## Moody, Zenas Ferry

1832-1917

Whig

Rep

Comp

IJSDS

Contract 16 (as  
compassman for  
James Freeman for  
portions of the work)

1852

to

Contract 245 (by  
George W. Renoe as  
compassman)

1875



Zenas was born and raised in Grandby, Massachusetts until he was 16, when he went to Chicopee to attend Union School for three years. He was the cousin of U. S. Senator and future acting Vice President, Thomas W. Ferry, which probably secured him a position with John Preston's staff on the way to Oregon in 1851, traveling with Preston and James Freeman, among others. He was an axeman for Freeman on the Southern leg of the Willamette Meridian in June 1851. Moody worked with Freeman until James left for California, and then lived on his Claim near Brownsville, marrying there in 1853 to school teacher, Mary Stephenson.

He formed a survey partnership with Origen Thomson and kept a general store until 1856. He received Claim Contract 39 in 1854, and Origen was his compassman. In 1855 he was awarded Oregon Contract 51 for 6 townships along the Santiam River that included the future city of Sweet Home, and again, Origen was the compassman. At that time he was appointed Inspector of United States Surveys in California, maybe because Freeman was there, or because of his political connections back East.

After a year, he left for Illinois for four years, where for part of the time he was County Surveyor for Morgan County, and then went to Washington, D. C., where he resided when the war broke out. Zenas defended D. C. briefly as a volunteer, and then returned to Oregon, settling at The Dalles in 1862 in the Mercantile business.

Zenas opened a store in Umatilla in 1863 to serve the expanding mining business. He built the steamer Mary Moody in 1866 to operate on Pend d'Oreille Lake, and then organized the Oregon and Montana Transportation Company which built two more steamers, constructed portage roads, and in general tried to divert Kootenai mining business to the Columbia River. Zenas founded Pend Oreille City at the Southerly end of the Lake. He lost money. In 1867 he opened a store in Boise for 2 years, and then disposed of all his Idaho interests, and returned to The Dalles to act as Wells Fargo agent there. In 1871 Zenas received two Contracts in Oregon near Umatilla involving the Boundary of the Umatilla Reservation and 40 nearby townships.

They were surveyed in 1871 with his son Malcomb and future Deputy Surveyor, Ewing Henderson, working as chainmen. He also received Contract 144 in Washington in Washington to survey 102 miles of Standard Parallels and 6 townships, and that was surveyed in 1872. This included the entire North line of Adams and Whitman Counties. The 6 townships were just South of Oakesdale. He received three more Contracts in Oregon through 1875, totaling 23 townships in Eastern Oregon, and using George W. Renoe as compassman for the Contract in 1875. He quit Wells Fargo in 1874 when he received the mail contract from Portland to The Dalles, establishing a line of steamers, but sold that and returned to running his store at The Dalles in 1875.

He ran unsuccessfully for the State Senate in 1872, but was elected to the Oregon House in 1880, and also elected Speaker of the House. The Republican Party nominated him for Governor in 1882, and he won, serving one term until 1887. Moody returned to Eastern Oregon, where he became a leading wool shipper and president of The Dalles National Bank. He was a delegate to the Republican National Convention in 1888, nominating Benjamin Harrison. He lived off and on in Salem, Oregon and died there in 1917. His son Malcomb was a U. S. Congressman from 1899-1903. Zenas is the namesake of Moody Island at the mouth of the Deschutes River, and of the Moody Covered Bridge over the Luckiamute River in Benton County. (biography) This is the maintained version of this information.

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**Moore, Charles**

**E.**

1861-1957

USDS

Contract 561

to

no more

1890

CA PLS 174. Born and raised in Maine, Charles only graduated from high school per the 1940 Census. He was in California by 1890 where he married Alice Augusta Boyd. Charles received Contract 561 for one fractional township in 1890 in Lake County at Lake Albert and surveyed it in 1891. He received CA PLS 174 in Santa Clara in 1894 and was living in Lakeview, Oregon in 1900-05 as a surveyor. By 1907, he lived in Alameda, California and was a civil engineer in Los Angeles in 1910. Nearing retirement, he continued in Los Angeles as a janitor in a church in 1920, a repairer in 1930 and was retired in 1940. Charles patented 480 acres in Central California in 1924. Alice died in 1943, and Charles died in 1957 in Los Angeles at age 96.



## Moore Rufus Scudder

1855-1931

Rep

USDS

Comn

Contract 253 (with 1876  
Henry Meldrum)

to

Contract 744 (by Don 1902  
Meldrum as  
compassman)



Rufus was born near Mount Angel, Oregon and moved with his family to Salem at age 7. His father was a millwright, and the family moved to Klamath Falls in 1874, where his father and brother built a sawmill. Rufus stayed in Salem and attended Willamette University, until he also moved to Klamath Falls in 1877. Between 1876 and 1891, Rufus received ten Contracts, all on the East side. His first Contract in 1876 was a Joint one with Henry Meldrum for 20 townships in Malheur County that was surveyed by Henry.

That same year he was a compassman for his uncle, John Meldrum, for 5 townships South of Burns. In 1879 he was part of a Joint Contract with Henry Meldrum and Frank Campbell for 20 townships, and they shared the work. In 1881 he shared 18 townships at Bend with Henry Meldrum. His uncle, David Thompson held a Joint Contract with Rufus for 18 townships with five at Ukiah and 13 at Elgin. Rufus surveyed them all. He cleaned up a Contract for Jacob Cooper for 28 townships East of Pendleton and was a compassman for William Turner at Ashland in 1882. Also included were the extension of the Baseline, a Standard Parallel, and an Auxiliary Meridian. From 1882-84 Rufus surveyed 18 townships on his own in Three Contracts, all on the East side, near Klamath Falls and Southeast of La Grande.

Contract 504 in 1884 for one township at Klamath Falls and six townships South of Grants Pass were surveyed by Rufus except for the one at Klamath Falls that was surveyed by John Hamaker as compassman. Rufus was Klamath County Surveyor from 1884-86.

Rufus bought out his father's interest in the sawmill in 1887, and Rufus and Charles continued the sawmill until 1910, eventually accumulating 20,000 acres of timberland. They sold most of the timberland to Weyerhaeuser Land & Timber Company, and temporarily owned the Klamath Falls Light and Power Company. Rufus was appointed a Special Examiner of Surveys in 1892, and examined seven Contracts in 1892-93, including one done by Henry Meldrum.

Rufus resumed surveying Contracts in 1895 with Contract 637 for 2 townships near Klamath Falls and Contract 639 for 13 townships North of Klamath Falls. He was examined by T. R. Hinsdale with no negative results. A Joint Contract in 1900 with Henry Meldrum in Central Oregon was surveyed by Henry. They were examined by David Kinnaird and had two sets of Supplemental Special Instructions issued. Rufus' brother and partner, Charles S. Moore, was elected State Treasurer in 1898. Teddy Roosevelt appointed Henry Meldrum to be the Oregon Surveyor General on April 26, 1901. Rufus had received Joint Contract 732 from Surveyor General Robert Habersham with cousin Malcomb McCown on March 13, 1901.

There were 13 townships, with two near Klamath Falls, and 11 East of the current Hart Mtn. Antelope Refuge. Rufus surveyed the ones near Klamath Falls, and Malcomb surveyed the rest. Henry Meldrum had created a group of Deputy Surveyors and Notaries to facilitate the fraudulent applications for surveys. Henry created 21 of the applications and forged the signatures of 23. Stephen Hungate created one application and forged the signatures on three. Rufus created three and did not forge any. The field notes were in the Benson purple mimeo or stamped field note format, and the land was in fact arid and unusable. John Hamaker notarized the Klamath Falls surveys, and George Brownell notarized the other of Malcomb McCown. Rufus Moore, McCown, Hamaker, Henry Meldrum and George Wagoner were all charged with fraud.

Two chainmen testified before the Grand Jury and were later charged with perjury. Rufus and Malcomb were examined by David Kinnaird (indicted in 1902) in 1901 and A. W. Barber in 1904, who was involved investigating the land fraud cases. The plats were withheld from filing until 1909 while the investigation was ongoing. Newspapers reported that this had been going on for a period of time, with Henry, Rufus and John Hamaker being involved. They would split the profits after supposedly turning in fictitious survey notes and plats. The investigation did not charge this, but it was hinted at in the evidence, stating that the field notes of some townships were in the handwriting of Henry Meldrum, when not even on his Contract.

Henry awarded Rufus Contract 744 for 29 townships West and Southwest of Harney Lake in 1902. Henry had forged one application for that survey from fictitious entrymen, and Frank J. Van Winkle had forged five applications. In fact the land was arid and nearly uninhabitable. Again the Oregonian reported that Henry made up the notes in his office, and the notes were in the mimeo or prestamped format.

Special Examiner of Surveys, J. Scott Harrison, examined the survey in 1909. He reported no problems except for gross errors in two townships. Also, the work had been done in the field by "young Meldrum." Rufus and the Notaries signed the notes and notarized the crew signatures. Everyone involved was indicted, and Rufus appealed his indictment to the Court of Appeals. Clerk Charles Dustin and newly appointed Chief Clerk John Rowland assisted in the prosecution with testimony.

The only fraud mentioned at the Court of Appeals was that of forging the signatures of survey applicants, awarding and accepting a survey knowing that had happened, defrauding the government by making said survey, knowing that it was unauthorized because the land was worthless, and remaining silent for the others involved. There was no mention of falsifying notes. Henry received 34 months at McNeil Island Federal Prison for 21 forged applications, accumulated from previous Contracts. Rufus used Governor Lord as his attorney, and the Court of Appeals denied his appeal and directed the case back to District Court for trial in 1909. The prosecutors were tired and did not do a trial, and the survey was ordered approved.

Rufus married Clara A. Shaw, a native of England, in 1900 in Portland. He was active in Republican Politics, served on the local committee, the State Republican Committee, and attended the National Republican Convention in Philadelphia in 1900 that nominated Teddy Roosevelt. He accumulated great wealth through investments in real estate, and travelled in Europe with his wife. Rufus and his brother Charles are the namesakes of Moore Park in Klamath Falls.

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**Moores, Isaac  
Ross, Jr.**

1831-1884

Rep

USDS

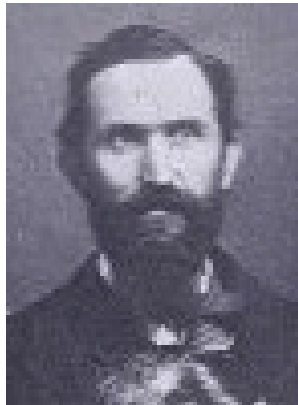
Claim Contract 27 1854

(with William Logan)

to

Claim Contract 45 1854

(with William Logan)



Isaac Moores, Sr. was born in Illinois, clerked in a store in Danville. He served in the Seminole War, commanded a regiment in the black Hawk War, and took part in the Mexican War. He crossed the Oregon Trail for gold in 1850 to California, and after returning, crossed it again to Oregon in 1852 with his family. He was in El Dorado County, California in 1850, mining with his future brother-in-law, Robert Lamon.

Isaac settled in Yamhill, and was a chainman on 25 Claims for William Logan, where E. S. Barnes was the compassman and Alleck C. Smith was a chainman. He received two Joint Claim Contracts with William Logan for a total of 87 Claims in 1854-57, all in the Willamette Valley. They were all signed by both, using only two consistent 2-3 man crews. Isaac moved to Salem and married Ellen R. Lamon in 1861. In the same year Isaac signed up with the Oregon Volunteers and served as a Colonel, though he remained in Oregon. He was a Trustee for Willamette University, a Salem City Councilman for several terms, an Oregon Legislator in 1863-65, and the Oregon Speaker of the House in 1864-65. His father and two brothers also served in either the Oregon House or Senate.

Isaac was appointed Clerk to the State Board of Land Commissioners 1867-70. He was an original Director and the first President of the Oregon Central Railroad, that became the O & C RR under Ben Holiday. He served as an O & C Land Commissioner from 1870-84 and died of a stroke in Salem in 1884.

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**Morrill, Alfred**

**Alonzo**

1850-1927

Rep

USDS

Contract 755

to

no more

Born in Clairmont, New Hampshire, Alfred came to Oregon in 1879 and married his wife, Julia B. Orr, in about 1880 in Washington County, and they had five children. He operated a photographic studio in Corvallis from 1880-81, and was listed as a resident of both Roseburg and Glenwood, Washington County in 1889. He was a chainman for Lincoln Wilkes on the coast at Otis in 1896. Alfred was the Washington County Surveyor in in 1898-1900, 1902-06, 1909-11, and 1921-24, and was a deputy county surveyor in 1920.

Alfred received Contract 755 in 1904 for two townships near Fiona in Northeastern Willowa County on the State line. He was examined in 1906 by William Douglass, and the survey was suspended. He made field corrections in 1907 of 30 miles of line, and was reexamined by J. Scott Harrison. He had to return to the field in 1908 to resurvey 4 more miles of line, and was approved in 1909. One of his sons was on the crew in 1904, and the other two sons were on the crew for corrections in 1907. Alfred was noted as working under the Direct System in Oregon in 1911.

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**Morris, William**

**T.**

-1878

USDS

Special Instructions 1869

to

no more

William first showed up in Portland records in 1867 as assistant city surveyor under City Surveyor George Belden. William became Portland City Surveyor from at least 1868-69 and during that time received a Contract under Special Instructions to survey Toe Island in the Willamette River just South of Portland in 1869. He was a civil engineer in Portland in 1874, boarding in the Clarendon Hotel and was in Pendleton, Oregon in 1878 as a civil engineer when he was found dead in his bed of an apparent heart attack.

**Moulton, Herbert****George**

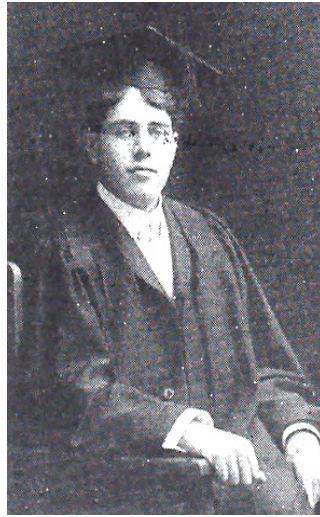
1883-1967

USDMS

Mineral Surveys 1905

to

no more



1905

National President of AIME. Member ASCE. Born in Idaho the son of a prospector, Herbert would accompany his father prospecting when growing up. Herbert was listed at school in 1900 in Baker City, where his father was in mining and a County Commissioner. Herbert graduated from the University of Oregon in 1905 in Mining Engineering and surveyed 7 Mining Claims at Wolf Creek in Josephine County in 1905. He was a mining engineer in Baker City in 1906 and also a civil engineer in Portland in 1906.

Herbert married Alice Edith Merryman, a recent University of Oregon graduate, in New York in 1906. From 1908-1910 he worked in mining and railroad work in Oregon, California, Nevada, New Mexico and Ontario. During the War, he served on the War Industries Board and later was Chief Examiner for the War Finance Corporation, carrying the rank of Lt. Colonel.

Herbert lived in Manhattan as a consulting mining engineer from 1910 until at least 1943. In 1942, he was hired by Henry Kaiser to help in the refining of chromium for airplanes. Herbert examined and reported on many types of mining properties, including metal, coal, petroleum and nonmetallics. He was widely known as a valuation expert on railroads. Herbert consulted on subway construction as it related to tunnels, and later in his career concentrated on copper mining. He made trips to at least Puerto Rico and Argentina. It was in 1940 when he was elected President of AIME, and he travelled all around the country giving speeches. He died in New York at age 86, and Alice died in Oregon at age 90.

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**Murphy, Andrew  
Daniel**

1826-1896

Comp

Contract 71 (with  
portions as  
compassman for  
Daniel and Matthew  
Murphy)

1857

to

Contract 72 (with  
portions as  
compassman for  
Daniel and Matthew  
Murphy)

1857

Born in Illinois of Irish immigrant parents, Andrew came West with Daniel Murphy and his family to Oregon in 1852 via Panama. He was the nephew of Daniel and the cousin of Matthew and Daniel Raphael Murphy. He was a chainman for Robert Elder and Kimball Webster in 1852 in Washington County. Andrew was a chainman for Daniel and Mathew Murphy in 1853-54 in the Willamette Valley before he was promoted to compassman by those two in 1857 on the survey of the Coast Meridian and adjacent townships South of Coos Bay. He married Elizabeth Cosgrove in Salem in 1856 and had 10 children, while living in St. Paul and Champoeg. He was a carpenter in 1860 and a farmer in 1870, 1880 and 1895.

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**Murphy, Daniel**

1789-1866

USDS

Claim Contract 12

1853

to

Contract 93 (with  
Matthew O. Murphy  
as Compassman)

1860

Daniel was born in Ireland, and came to the United States in 1799 with his family. He was in St. Louis by 1828, when he married Catherine Dillon, 21 years younger than he was. He had been a U. S. Deputy Surveyor in Illinois, and then was a surveyor for a military road to Santa Fe. From 1832-1845, he suffered from ups and downs in business, but in 1845 Daniel obtained a Contract for government surveying in Missouri. He was in law enforcement until at least 1849. Son Matthew returned from California, and in 1851 Daniel and his family left for Oregon with Matthew and nephew Andrew via Panama.

Daniel soon found work as a surveyor, receiving Claim Contract 12 in 1853 for 60 Claims in T3,4S R4W from McMinnville to Yamhill. He used Mathew and Andrew as chainmen for the whole Contract. The same year he received another Contract for five townships South of Willamina, and Matthew was a compassman for two of those, and Andrew was a chainman on all. Eight townships were surveyed by both in 1854 North of Springfield. With the calming of the Indian hostilities in 1857, Daniel received two Contracts South of Coos Bay. One was for the extension of the Coast Guide Meridian for 66 miles, and he used nephew Andrew as compassman for that work. Also another Contract was given for seven adjacent townships. Andrew continued as compassman for four of those, and Matthew was compassman for the rest.

Daniel was 70 years old when he received a Contract for six townships surrounding The Dalles in 1859. He also received Special Instructions for 25 DLC surveys near The Dalles, including those of Justin Chenoweth, the Catholic Mission and the Methodist Mission. His last Contract in 1859 was for the Deschutes Guide Meridian South from about Wasco to near Prineville and a Standard Parallel just North of Prineville. Considering Daniel's age, Matthew was the compassman for all the work at The Dalles and for the Guide Meridian. Catherine died in 1864, and Daniel died a little over a year later in 1866 at age 77

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**Murphy, Daniel  
H.**

1833-1913

Dem

DS in WA

Clerk

to

no more

1858 Daniel was born in Louisiana and came to Oregon with his family in 1851, via Panama. He was a chainman near Eugene for his father, Daniel, and brother, Matthew, in 1854 along with a cousin, Andrew. He was a chainman for Claim Contracts 43 and 55 for Matthew in 1854 and 1855. James Tilton awarded him a Joint Contract with his brother, Matthew, of 4 townships between Chehalis and Tenino. They were surveyed in 1855 and examined by A. M. Poe. Andrew again was a chainman. Daniel was listed as an examiner of Dominick Hunt for his Contract 22 on Whidbey Island in 1856. That Contract was postponed until 1858, due to the Indians. Daniel was a Clerk in the Oregon Surveyor General's Office in Salem from 1858-1860, and married his wife, Susan, at that time.

He served on the State Democrat Central Committee in 1870, was elected Marion County Court Clerk from 1872-78, and then moved to Portland with Susan and children by 1880, where he was a liquor dealer. He was living with his daughter, Marion, in Portland in 1910, with both of their spouses having died. He died in Portland in 1913 at age 80. Genealogy sources indicate his name was Daniel Raphael Murphy, but in Oregon he always went by Daniel H. Murphy. The second oldest son of Matthew is named Daniel Raphael Murphy. The truth is unknown at this time. This is the maintained version of this information.

**Murphy,  
Matthew  
O'Connell**

1830-1906

Dem

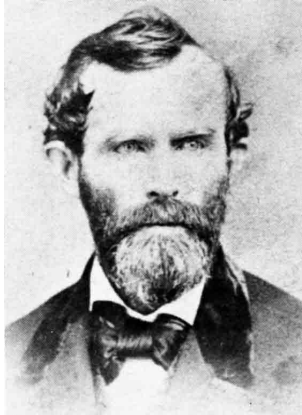
USDS

EX

Comp

Contract 36 (as  
compassman for  
portions for Daniel  
Murphy) 1853

to  
Contract 122 (with 1867  
portions as  
compassman for  
Bynon Pengra and  
David Thompson)



Matthew was born in Illinois, the son of Daniel Murphy, an Irish immigrant and a Deputy Surveyor. He had to quit school at age 14 to support the family, and went to California in a small party in 1849. He had moderate success, and returned to St. Louis. He then came West in 1851 with his parents and siblings via Panama, and staked a claim next to his father's at Champoeg, one mile North of St. Paul, Oregon, on the Willamette River. Matthew worked as a chainman for Robert Elder in 1852, ending up by managing the compass on Joint Contract 20 for Robert Elder later in the year. Beginning in June of 1853, his father Daniel received a Claim Contract in the Willamette Valley and used Matthew and his nephew, Andrew, as chainmen.

In September, Daniel was awarded another Contract, and this time Andrew was still a chainman and Matthew was compassman. The Oregon Surveyor General gave a Joint Contract to Daniel and Matthew in April, 1854 for eight townships near Eugene, with Andrew and brother, Daniel H. Murphy, as chainmen.

Some of the work had been originally awarded to Joseph Hunt who was killed when the Gazelle exploded. The report stated that one of the Murphys was severely injured, but it is unknown which one. They both worked on this Contract and both signed the oaths. The Washington Surveyor General, James Tilton, gave a Joint Contract to Matthew and his brother, Daniel H., for 4 townships between Chehalis and Tenino in 1855. Again, Andrew was chainman. They shared the work and both signed the notes. The exteriors had been surveyed from the wrong corner by Joseph Latshaw, and they were redone by the Murphys.

Matthew married Mary Ellen Costello in early 1856, and later in the year, the first of his 14 children was born. One of them, Daniel R., graduated from St. Mary's in San Francisco, became a lawyer, and eventually State Attorney for Oregon, 1893-97. Matthew was awarded Contract 41 in 1858 to finish the surveys of Dominick Hunt on Whidbey Island after Hunt had been killed by the Indians.



Matthew received Claim Contract 55 in 1855 for several Claims on French Prairie, near St. Paul, including the Claims of Daniel and Matthew Murphy. He used Andrew and Daniel H. Murphy as chainmen. Claim Contract 77 in 1855, in the same location, was surveyed by Matthew with Andrew as one of the chainmen. Joint Contracts 71 and 72 with his father were to survey the Coast Guide Meridian, T26S to T36S, and several townships adjacent. Andrew served as both a chainman and as a compassman for some of the work. Daniel the father, shared the work with Matthew. Daniel the father also received two Contracts in 1859-60 for six townships surrounding The Dalles and for the Deschutes Guide Meridian. Now 60 or 70 years old, he used Matthew as compassman for the work.

Matthew was living on the farm with his father and mother in 1860. On December 12, 1861, the Willamette River crested 55 feet above normal level and washed away all of Matthew's possessions and farm animals, along with the town of Champoeg. His wife, Ellen, had to be rescued on a mattress from a second story window with her two-day-old child. He spent the next 30 years on the farm, moving to Portland on Macadam Avenue in 1890. He died in Portland but is buried in St. Paul with most of the Murphys. He sired 14 children, with 11 achieving adulthood. Two of the sons went to St. Marys in San Francisco, another to Stanford, and the girls went to St Marys Academy in Portland. Two daughters became Sisters. This is the maintained version of this information.

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### **Murray, Lillie**

**Cora**

1857-1923

Dr/Clerk

Clerk

1883

to

no more



Lillie was born as Lillie Johnson, the daughter of Orlena Cardwell Williams and Charles F. Johnson. Orlena remarried to George W. Murray in 1863, and both had existing children, but it is uncertain whether George adopted Lillie. Orlena was a widow in 1880, and she and Lillie were living with Orlena's mother, Mary Cardwell. Lillie listed herself as Lillie Johnson in the 1880 Census.

Orlena's brother was Byron P. Cardwell, one of the most influential Republican politicians of the time in Oregon, and Byron's wife was the sister of U. S. Deputy Surveyor David D. Clarke. Lillie was appointed a Copyist in the Surveyor General's Office of Republican James C. Tolman in 1883, which was understandable, since Lillie needed a job. She married Physician James M. P. Chalmers in 1887, eight years her junior, and they had a daughter, Louise Cardwell Chalmers. They were all together in Vancouver, Washington in 1900, but they divorced in about 1905 and James remarried in 1907 to Edna Barton, age 31. He had been elected to the Washington State Senate in 1901, and Louise was living with James and his new wife in 1910. Nothing is found about Lillie from 1906 until she died in Portland in 1923.

## Myer, Benjamin Franklin "Frank"

1821-1896

Rep

Comp

USDMS

USDS

Contract 137 (as 1870

compassman for Jesse

Applegate for

portions) (Daniel

Applegate as

compassman for Jesse

Applegate for

portions) (with Peter

S. O. Applegate and

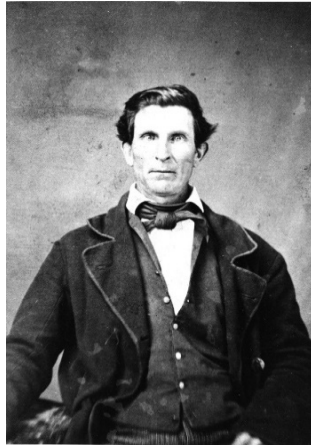
B. F. Myer as

compassmen for

portions)

to

Contract 316 1879



Born in Ohio, Benjamin came across the Oregon Trail with his parents and siblings in 1853. He had married Dorathea Perkins in Iowa in 1849. His father was a millwright and surveyor and filed a DLC near Ashland, becoming a farmer and rancher. Benjamin joined in the family farm and was regularly a surveyor near and in Ashland. He was a compassman for one township in 1870 for Jesse Applegate West of Klamath Falls. He advertised his new appointment as a U. S. Deputy Mineral Surveyor and surveyed 6 Mining Claims in the Coyote and Galice Creek Mining Districts from 1872-74 in Jackson and Josephine Counties. Benjamin also surveyed two small Contracts near Ashland in 1878 and 1879, using Robert A. Emmitt as flagman for one of the surveys. The "town house" he built in 1881 at 142 Main Street in Ashland is on the National Historic Register.

Benjamin was involved in Republican politics in the 1870's, was a Bankruptcy Commissioner in Auburn, California in 1870, a delegate to the Oregon State Republican Convention in 1872, the Klamath County Surveyor in 1880 and the Jackson County Surveyor at some time. He fell off a roof while shoveling snow in 1880, breaking a leg and ankle. He drew a map of Ashland in 1883 and incorporated an irrigation ditch building company in Ashland in 1884. Benjamin suffered a stroke in 1896, recovered somewhat, but had another that killed him in January, 1897 while he was helping his son in his hardware store.

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**Myers, Joseph D.***1840-1929*

Dr/Clerk

Clerk

1869

to

no more



Joseph was born Switzerland, came to Oregon by 1867 and was naturalized in 1869. He was a chainman for Bynon Pengra and David Thompson in Wasco County in 1867 and then was appointed as Messenger in the Surveyor General's Office of Elisha Applegate in 1869. He married recent German immigrant, Rosina R. Metzger, in 1869, and they had eight children. He lived in Eugene from at least 1869-1910 as a gardener, and died there in 1929.

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**Neal, John Henry***1857-1837*

Rep

USDS

Contract 529

1887

to

Contract 634

1895



1923

John was born in Ohio and moved from California to Oregon in 1876, where he opened a newspaper in Washington County. Two years later he then purchased the Grant County News at Canyon City and ran it for several years. He married Dorcas Nina Johns in Grant county in 1885 and served two terms as Grant County Surveyor. John then moved to Burns, helped set up the first government of Harney County, and was County Surveyor in 1892-96. He ran again but lost.

He received Contract 529 in 1888 for 13 townships Northeast of Lakeview at Warner Lakes, where he extended the subdivisions and meanders around the lakes. He was examined by H. B. Martin out of Washington, D. C. with the comment that his survey was unusually good. At the same time John was awarded another Contract for four townships on the North shore of Malheur Lake. In 1895 he was awarded Contract 634 for 12 townships to resurvey the meander line of Malheur Lake further towards the Lake and to subdivide the new area into lots for the Court of Appeals. He was examined by Henry W. Newby, and the survey was protested by citizens, probably because of the relocation of the meander line.

John was a sheep farmer in Harney County in the censuses of 1900 and 1910, and founded a Post Office called Folly Farm Southeast of Burns, named for his lack of success in irrigating. He had moved to Portland by 1920, and in 1923 he and Dorcas requested a passport to travel to Europe, China and Japan, leaving from New York. He was a farmer again in Aloha, Oregon in 1930. John died in 1937 in Aloha, and Dorcas died in 1943, with both being buried in Burns, Oregon.

**Neill, Catherine  
C. Miss "Cassie"**

1865-1947

Dr/Clerk

Clerk

to

Clerk

1895

1902

Catherine was born in Oregon, the daughter of Irish immigrants and attended college for four years. Catherine's brother had attended St. Michael's College in Portland. By 1895 she was a Temporary Transcribing Clerk in the Surveyor General's Office of John Arnold, with the job of facilitating the allotment process on the Klamath Reservation. She continued in the position for Robert Habersham until about 1898. She was replaced by Ethel A. Cotter, a temporary Clerk, in about 1898 and filed a civil service complaint along with fellow Clerk, Florence Swope. Civil Service declassified the position in 1899, and Ethel kept the job under Habersham.

Catherine was a bookkeeper, living with her widowed mother in Portland in 1900, and returned to the Surveyor General's Office in 1902 as a Clerk for Henry Meldrum. Her mother died in 1909, and Catherine moved to Seaside, Oregon by 1920 and lived there until her death in 1947, living with her single brother until he died in 1934. She apparently never married.

**Nelson, DeWitt  
Clinton**

1851-1945

Rep

USDMS

Mineral Surveys

to

no more



1912

Born in Illinois, Dewitt came to Oregon over the Oregon Trail to Portland in 1852 when still a baby. They lived there until 1865 when the family moved to LaGrande and then to Baker City in 1867. His father was a trustee and director of the Baker City Academy, and it is likely that DeWitt attended at some time. He finished high school before working at bookkeeping in Portland and Astoria. He married Mary McNutty in Portland in 1877 and then began a career as a civil and mining engineer in Baker in 1878.

DeWitt continued his engineering and surveying work for 67 years until his death in 1945, always in Baker. The Oregon Department of Geology published a short obituary that said he was a U. S. Deputy Mineral Surveyor along the way. He was a stockholder of the Baker Iron and Supply company for a time and was a practicing Christian Scientist for much of his life.

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**Neville, Thomas  
W.**

USDMS  
Mineral Surveys  
to  
no more

1900

The Morning Oregonian on May,11, 1900 reported the following: "Surveyor General Robert A. Habersham has commissioned the following named persons as Deputy Mineral Surveyors for Oregon: Thomas W. Neville, of Portland, who will operate in the Bohemia district Mr. Neville is lately from Colorado";...(lists others). No individual in Oregon or Colorado has been found that can be linked to this individual at this time. The closest is a bookkeeper in Grand Forks, North Dakota that came to Portland in 1913 and died there of diabetes in 1915. He had been selling tons of coal in North Dakota. This surveyor also looks a lot like USDMS Herman L. Neville of Washington State, who was from Colorado and came to Portland in 1900.

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**Newby, Henry  
Ward**

1858-1905

SES

Special Instructions

1895

to

Special Instructions

1896

Henry was born and raised in Warrentown, Fauquier County, Virginia, the son of a wealthy merchant. He was a law student in 1880, and the Commandant of Cadets of the St. Johns Academy in Alexandria, Virginia in 1883. From 1886-1887 he was City Surveyor for Alexandria, VA and surveyed subdivision plats in Alexandria and Washington, D. C. He married hometown girl, Sally English, in 1887, and they had a daughter in 1888. In 1891 Henry was the secretary for the Virginia Assn. of Engineers and Architects, and was listed as the Construction Engineer for the Roanoke and Southern RR.

In July of 1893, he received an appointment as a Special Examiner of Surveys out of the Washington, D. C. office of the General Land Office from the second Grover Cleveland Administration. Headquartered in Spokane, he examined 37 surveys through 1897. He provided accurate examinations, and many of the surveys he examined were suspended or rejected. He was doing examinations in Arizona in 1895, in Oregon in 1896-97, and then was a Deputy Surveyor in Nevada in 1900, living in Elko. In 1902 he defaulted on a Contract for 11 townships, and they were finished by a compassman. His wife and daughter were living with her sister in Maryland.

From 1902-1905 he was Humboldt County Surveyor in Winnemucca, NV. He died there in November of 1905, at age 47 of some illness. His wife and daughter were in San Francisco in 1930, and his wife lived until 1945. He was listed as single in the 1900 census, but his wife was listed as married. (biography) See WA GLO Surveyors for the maintained version of this information.

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## **Newman, George**

**W.**

1842-

Rep

Comp

USDS

Contract 141 (by John 1870

Meldrum as

compassman)

to

no more

Born in Iowa, George was in Oregon by 1864 when he was a chainman for Daniel Chaplin at Pendleton. The next year he was a chainman for David Thompson, also at Pendleton. From 1866-68 he was a chainman for David P. Thompson and John Meldrum for several Contracts East of Upper Klamath Lake, East of Florence, South of Boardman, South of Coos Bay, and East of Klamath Lake. In 1869, George worked for John David at Irrigon as a chainman and at John Day as a compassman. He received Contract 141 on his own in 1870 for six townships East of Eugene. In a bizarre fashion, he used John Meldrum as the compassman and future Deputy Surveyor Rufus Moore as a chainman for all of this work. George was listed in the 1870 Census in Portland as single and as a watchman.

He worked again for John David in Portland in 1871 as a chainman for one DLC. He was reported in the newspapers as having served the surveying season in Idaho in 1872, returning to Portland in late November. George received Contract 37 in Idaho in August, 1872 for four townships in Southeastern Idaho. In 1874 he received Contract 43 and Contract 49 for 12 townships in East-Central Idaho that was partially along the Snake River.

George surveyed Contract 52 in Idaho between July and November in 1874. David Thompson used him in 1875 as a compassman on his survey of the Fort Hall Reservation in Idaho. He was paid \$4861 in 1876 for Contract 63 in Idaho. A letter to the editor in Idaho in 1877, critical of Surveyor General Lafayette Cartee, noted George was given some employment by the Governor as a prison guard.

One family tree notes that George came across the Oregon Trail in 1845 and married Adeline Foster in 1875 in Oregon. His father was killed by Indians in 1848, and his mother soon remarried. He was living with an older brother and sister in 1850 and next to his mother's new family in 1860 with a younger brother in Marion County. The tree noted that he died in 1879 in Portland. A George Newman, right age, was killed in a construction accident in Portland in 1869. In contrast, the 1880 census shows another George W. Newman as a prison guard in Boise. There was a chainman for Henry Meldrum in Oregon in 1890 with the same name, but the signature was somewhat different. Nothing is found after that.

**Newsom, John****David**

1879-1942

USDMS

Mineral Surveys 1903

to

no more



Born in Prineville, Oregon, the nephew of John William Newsom and the son of a surveyor and realtor, John graduated from the local schools at age 11. He graduated from the University of Oregon in 1898 and enlisted in Company C of the Volunteers in the Spanish American War from Lane County. He served 15 months in the Philippines and returned to Prineville before graduating from Law School in Portland in 1902.

While in his Senior year, he caused a professor to discipline him, and the whole Junior and Senior Classes rallied to strike if necessary. He was the Crook County Surveyor living with his parents in Prineville in 1900, and was listed as a U. S. Deputy Mineral Surveyor in 1905. He purchased a new solar compass in 1902 and used it to survey the townsite of Bend.

He married Nellie Day in Prineville in 1905, but they were separated by 1914 after two children and divorced by 1920 when Nellie remarried. John and Nellie were in Denver in 1910 where he was a practicing civil engineer. John was an engineer in Portland for Pacific Railway, Light and Power Co. on the construction of a large power plant, and in 1912 he was promoted to chief engineer for field construction. He left for Detroit Michigan in 1916, where he became Plant Superintendent for Detroit Steel Products, a manufacturer of auto parts. This lasted until at least 1920.

John admitted himself to the Old Soldiers Home in Roseburg in 1926 and stayed there until 1933. He was in Bend from 1935-42 which is where he died. Nellie remarried and lived until 1967, and his one daughter committed suicide two weeks after her mother died. His son was a doctor and served in the Medical Corps in WWII as a Lt. Colonel.

**Newsom, John****William**

1828-1902

Rep

Comp

USDS

Special Instructions 1872

to

no more

John was born in Monroe County, Virginia, and moved with his family as a baby to Springfield, Illinois, where they lived for 23 years. His father, David Newsom, was a friend and client of Abraham Lincoln, who later honored him with an appointment with the Department of Agriculture in Oregon. The family lived on a 375 acre farm in Illinois, and David platted part of it into 42 lots called Newsomville, which later became part of Springfield. The family crossed over the Oregon Trail in 1852 and settled on Howell Prairie, East of Salem, OR, where David purchased a 325 acre claim. John's education is unknown, but he was trained in surveying, and started out as a chainman in Oregon and Washington early in the public land surveys. His father was an intelligent man that wrote letters about Oregon to newspapers back in Illinois that are now published as a book by OHS.

John was a chainman and compassman for John Trutch for several townships North and South of Battleground, WA in 1857, and a chainman and compassman for William Strong and Lewis Van Vleet in 1857-58 near Cathlamet. He had Joint Contracts with Lewis Van Vleet in 1858 surrounding Silver Lake in Cowlitz County and in 1859 along the Columbia River between Washougal and Stevenson.

His brother Sam was a chainman on the crew for the townships near Silver Lake. Sam graduated from Linfield College and became a surveyor, rancher and realtor in Prineville, OR. U. S. Deputy Mineral Surveyor John David Newsom was his son. John and Lewis shared the work and both signed the oaths. Matthew Murphy of St. Paul, OR was the examiner of the surveys near Silver Lake. In 1861, John went to Idaho to mine, and returned by 1864 to Oregon, where he married his wife, Olive Greenwood, the daughter of a neighboring pioneer, in 1865.

John patented a Claim South of his father's Claim on Howell Prairie, just East of Salem in 1866. When he married, his father gave him some of his farmland as well. John was Marion County Surveyor from 1868-88 with some minor gaps. During this period, he had a Contract with the Surveyor General of Oregon in 1872 by Special Instructions for \$20 worth of work. He was not well the last 15 years of his life and moved to South Salem. He suffered a stroke in 1897 which disabled him, and another in 1902, which killed him. His will left 1028 acres of farmland, divided between his son and daughter, with the balance of the estate left to his wife. He was described as "tall, broad-shouldered and of rugged construction, which served him well for the long and tiresome stretches of Donation Claim surveys." (biography)



**Nickerson,  
George Sumner**

1857-1926

Rep

USDS

Contract 714 (with  
William Elliott) (12  
people involved in  
fraud) 1899

to  
Contract 752 1902



George was born in New York, the son of a Methodist clergyman. His family moved to Virginia by 1868 and then Klamath Falls, Oregon by 1879. George came to Oregon as a young man, studied law, and practiced for ten years in Klamath Falls. He switched careers, studied engineering, and abandoned law. He married Jennie Rebecca Anderson at the Klamath Indian Reservation in 1883, and they had their first of four daughters 9 months later in San Bernardino, California.

George was there as a druggist until at least 1888. His family was back in Klamath Falls both in 1895 and in 1900 while George was off surveying. In 1895 and 1900 he was noted as an assistant prosecutor and an attorney respectively, and a delegate to the State Republican Convention in 1896. He received Joint Contract 714 with William Elliott in 1899 for ten townships South of Harney Lake, and they were all surveyed by George during the season in 1900. He used two distinct crews with his brother Will as a chainman for one of the crews. The newspapers noted he arrived with 12 assistants, but finished the work with seven, the number in the field notes. There were no compassmen listed. He was examined in 1902 by David Kinnaird and the Contract was suspended, although probably not because of the exam.

Kinnaird noted it as good work, and the corners were marked well. In the ten townships examined, the corners fell within links of where Kinnaird showed them. A dependent resurvey of one township in 1940 showed good work. He returned in 1902 to make a few miles of corrections in the field, but he was not approved until 1907, probably after the criminal charges were dismissed. The examiner, David Kinnaird was also one of the co-conspirators. Between 1901 and 1905, the government identified six Contracts in which they claimed that the applications for survey by entrymen were fictitious and fraudulent. George and the other alleged forgers were charged with conspiracy to defraud the government by forging applications for surveys of lands that were totally worthless, against the law, and at that time being arid and desert. The intent was to enrich themselves with profitable Contracts.

This was the only one of the six to not use the mimeo style of field notes. Of the 20 listed applications, George forged one signature, Henry Meldrum forged another, and Deputy Surveyor Frank Van Winkle forged two. This was verified by two handwriting experts. Of those 20 applications, the body was in the handwriting of Notary Charles Umbach for one, Frank Van Winkle for one, and George Nickerson for 14. The handwriting of the others was unknown. He received another Contract on his own in 1902 for one township at Lakeview. He was examined by Carl Caudle and again told to do corrections. He retraced seven miles of line in 1905 and was examined again by William Douglass in 1906. He was approved in 1907 after George got an attorney involved, and the charges were probably dismissed.

He had transitioned his residence from Klamath Falls to Lakeview between 1900-1903, and began surveying a large cattle ranch and an irrigation canal. He was again a Deputy District Attorney in Lakeview in 1903. George and his family were in Winnemucca, Nevada in 1910, where he was a civil engineer in general practice. Shortly after that, he moved to Sacramento, where he operated as a civil engineer until he died there in 1926 of a heart attack. During that time he worked for and represented the water project interest in the Sacramento Valley. During his whole career, he was blessed with musical talent and played several musical instruments, sang, and gave recitals with his sister Caroline.

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### **Nicklin, Arthur**

#### **Ingram**

1828-1902

Rep

USDS

Claim Contract 99      1859  
to

no more

Arthur was born in Virginia, the son of a physician. The family moved to Iowa in 1842 and then came to Oregon in 1850 over the Oregon Trail, where they settled on a Claim in Polk County on Salt Creek. After six years they moved to Salem. Arthur enlisted in 1855 in Oregon for the Indian hostilities, for which he eventually received a pension in 1900. He began studying medicine in Virginia and Iowa and attended Willamette Medical School in Salem, graduating in 1872 even though he was officially in the Class of 1868.

Arthur received Claim Contract 99 in 1859 in Polk County. The only Claim involved was the family Donation Claim of his father John H. Nicklin in 1860, and that was the only survey he did as a GLO Surveyor. He operated the Rector sawmill with his father until 1866 and was a merchant in East Salem in 1870. After graduating from Medical School in 1872, he was named the physician for the Klamath Indian Reservation during the Modoc War, and then set up private practice in Eugene until 1883.

He had married Lavina C. Draper in 1862, and after several children, she died in 1870. He remarried to Nancy J. Harris in Eugene in 1873, but she died there in 1876 after one son and is buried in Eugene in an unmarked grave. Arthur remarried to 19 year old America A. Calloway in Eugene in 1876, and she died in 1879 after one son in 1877. There was an A. I. Nicklin indicted for assault with a deadly weapon in 1876 in Eugene, but the case was dismissed. Arthur moved to Portland in 1883 and for one year was the physician for the Oregon State Insane Asylum in East Portland. He married Sarah C. Cleveland in Eugene in 1885 and continued his practice of Medicine in Portland until a few years before he died in 1902. He was an original Member of the Oregon Medical Society.

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**Nicklin, Carl  
Shirley**

1875-1966

USDS

Contract 653 (with  
Winfield Chapman)

to

Contract 664 (with  
Winfield Chapman)

1896  
1896

Carl was born in Oregon, the son of a dentist and attended two years of high school. He was a chainman for Manius Buchanan East of Pendleton in 1895 before he received two Joint Contracts in 1896 with Winfield Chapman. Chapman had not had a Contract in 20 years, but had just endured the Panic of 1893, wiping out most of his assets. He was now 46 years old, and used his history as a Democrat to get the Cleveland administration to award two Contracts. He made a deal with 21 year old Carl Nicklin to do the work. The first was for one township near the Southern Oregon Border near Klamath Falls, which was surveyed by Nicklin and examined with apparently no negative consequences.

The second was in the Cottage Grove vicinity for nine townships, also surveyed by Nicklin. It was examined by H. L. B. Atkinson in 1897, J. S. Howard in 1897, and David Kinnaird in 1898 and 1899, and Supplemental Instructions were issued twice for corrections, with Carl returning to the field twice. In addition, he was awarded three miles of line by Special Instructions in 1897 which were paid for. In 1895, he was 5' 8", 130 lb., and had light hair. He was in Real Estate in Portland in 1910-15 and the same in Seattle in 1920-1940, dealing in real estate loans and mortgages. Carl opened a real estate trust company in Portland in 1909 with his sister. He died in San Diego and is buried with his sister, Lelo, in Bonita, California. It appears that neither ever married.

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**Noland, James****Elias**

1861-1940

USDS

Special Instructions 1887  
(with James Currin)

to

no more



c. 1890

James was born in Oregon on a farm, near Creswell. Along with his older brother, George, he became a chainman for James Currin South of John Day, beginning in 1880 at age 19. He was a farmer most of his life, and married Clara M. Stanbury in 1886. About that time he became Lane County Surveyor, before being elected Lane County Sheriff from 1890-94. While sheriff, he was charged with diverting money from tax collections to the Sheriff's office, until he proved the law required just that, contrary to what the Commissioners were doing.

James received a Joint Contract with James Currin in 1887 to survey the Boundary of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, survey 16 townships within the Reservation, and survey 40-acre allotments in at least three of those townships. They discovered that there were 10,000 too few agricultural acres to satisfy the allotment promises to the Indians. Currin received another Contract to create those allotments and expand the Reservation. Both signed all the oaths, and they used Laban Wooley as compassman for all except the allotments. James returned to Creswell as a farmer, where he lived the rest of his life.

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**O'Connor, James**Comp  
Contract 20 (as  
compassman for  
Robert Elder and  
Kimball Webster)

1852

to

no more

Kimball Webster, in his autobiography "Gold Seekers of 49", noted that his crew for his Joint Contract 20 in 1852 with Robert Elder used James O'Conner as the compassman. Kimball noted James was a young man and a resident of Oregon. The field notes of Contract 20 listed no James O'Connor. No James O'Connor of the right age has been found living in Oregon at the time. Robert Elder had a chainman named Nicholas O'Connor during this Contract. There was a carpenter living in New Orleans in 1850 named James O'Connor, born 1808 in Ireland, with a son named Nicolas who was born in Ireland in 1832. Also a college student, Nicholas O'Conner born 1831 in Ireland, was attending Cape Cinque Theological Seminary in Perry County Louisiana in 1850, and likely died there in 1863.

A Nicholas O'Connor was listed in Clackamas County in the 1850 Census, born 1831, Ohio. He had a carpenter father named John, born in Ireland, also living in Clackamas County. These are the likely candidates for compassman James O'Connor. Kimball was relying on memory for his names. Nicholas was on the crew and may have been promoted to compassman, or his father John was the compassman and his name was incorrectly remembered.

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## **Odell, William**

### **Holman**

1830-1922

Comp

USDS

S G

SES

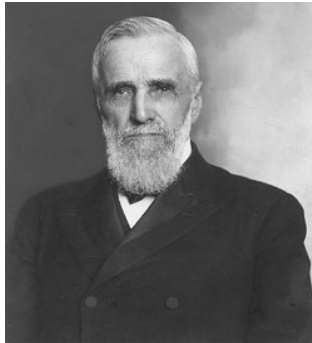
Contract 55 (as 1855

Compassman for  
Ambrose N.

Armstrong for a  
portion)

to

Special Instructions 1893



William was born in Indiana, one of eleven children. They all crossed the Oregon Trail in 1851 and settled in Dayton. In 1853, he entered Willamette University for two years to study civil engineering. He was a chainman for Ambrose Armstrong in 1854, and a compassman in 1855. William received a Contract to resurvey seven Donation Claims in Yamhill County in 1860 that had been erroneously surveyed by William Logan. William married 39 year old Elizabeth McClench Thurston in 1855, the widow of Congressman Samuel Thurston, 14 years his senior.

They had charge of Santiam Academy in Lebanon for three years, then moved to Albany to be School Superintendents there, before moving to Eugene in 1864. William received 12 Contracts from 1863-1880, many as Joint Contracts with prominent Deputy Surveyors and politicians. During that string of Contracts, he served as Oregon Surveyor General from 1871 to 1874. Contract 105 for the Grand Ronde Guide Meridian' between R39,40E, running about 100 miles South from Baker, was surveyed in 1864.

William assisted B. J. Pengra in surveying the route of the Oregon Central Wagon Road in 1864. It began at Eugene and followed the route of the present highway to just South of Willamette Pass, at Pengra Pass. The route went then to Klamath Falls, to Lakeview, to Alvord, to a crossing of the Owyhee River at Rome, and finished at Silver City, Idaho. The Company received a Grant for some 2,000,000 acres in 1865, and Pengra began construction. A biography of William noted that he superintended construction from Crescent Lake, East to Idaho. B. J. and William named landmarks along the way of their survey, naming a few after themselves.

Contract 108 for two townships just East of Eugene was in 1865 as was Joint Contract 110 with William Lewis. They shared 20 townships Southwest of LaGrande with Odell using Walter W. Johnson as compassman for his portion. William extended the Baseline for 42 miles in 1867 in Wallowa County and surveyed 10 townships Northeast of Pendleton. The same year he teamed with Joseph Gray for ten townships at Wallowa, and they shared the work.

His last Contract before being appointed Surveyor General was for 28 townships with John Meldrum, Joseph Gray and William Pengra. William's share was 30 miles of Standard Parallel and eight townships. He also had a Joint Contract with David Thompson six months after he was appointed Surveyor General, and he let Thompson do the work. William took his share of assault from the partisan press, the most serious of which was their claims that he gave Contracts to Legislators and politicians, who then sold the rights to the Contract. They charged that John Meldrum, as an example, paid \$2000 for a Contract under Odell. The press reported that a Legislator could sell a \$5000 Contract for \$1500.

Shortly after leaving office, new Surveyor General Ben Simpson awarded him a Contract for six townships Southwest of John Day. He used Henry C. Perkins as compassman for all the work. Six townships in the same vicinity followed the next year. William was elected a Presidential Elector in 1876 in a statewide vote, going to Washington D. C. for the winter of 1876-77, and he attended the inauguration of President Rutherford Hayes. Vanison Gesner was his compassman in 1879 for a Contract for five townships East of Prineville. James Currin was his Joint Contractor in 1880 for four townships North of Madras and 11 townships Southwest of John Day. They shared the work and William used Levi Walker as compassman for his share.



**Carrie Bright  
Taylor Odell**

William purchased the Salem Statesman newspaper in 1877, and was elected State Printer until he sold the paper in 1884. At that time he was named the Postmaster of Salem until 1888. Elizabeth died in 1890, and he began surveying allotments on the Siletz Reservation. While there, he was made a Commissioner for the sale of the remainder of the Reservation Lands by the Indians to the government. He was appointed a Special Examiner of Surveys in Oregon from 1890-93, examining 11 Contracts in Oregon during that time. William remarried to widow Carrie Bright Taylor in 1894, a graduate and instructor from Columbia University. William was President of the Board of Trustees for Willamette University at the time, and remained on the Board until his death.

In 1895, William was appointed Clerk to T. B. Geer of the State Board of Land Commissioners. Geer was a half brother to the Governor. From then until 1900, William was selling the right to purchase State School Lands, and pocketed nearly \$100,000 according to Oswald West, his successor. The land was worth up to \$5.50 per acre and was sold for \$1.50 per acre with another \$1-2.00 per acre going to Geer and Odell, if not more under the table. He left office in 1900, and soon after he left office, a dispute arose as to what happened to the "base". Whenever township plats were created, all of the Sections 16 and 36 in the survey belonged to the State, subject to some restrictions, such as Indian Reservations and mineral lands.

The state was allowed to select from other Federal lands to replace those Sections. That pool of many thousands of acres was called the "base". It was sometimes sold unselected to speculators, who then found the best Federal land to choose from. The charge was that Odell sold about 50,000 acres of the "base" to a syndicate for \$1.25 per acre before he left office in 1900, collecting his fee of \$1-2.00 on each acre because he had the only current list. His predecessor, William Davenport, had left a large inventory of "base" when he left office in 1895. If the State had made selections, they would have averaged \$2.50 in value, but Odell said that he had been unable to get the Feds to allow that. Stephen Puter bought some "base" from Odell, but he found out it had already been sold. He did not get his money back and was offered no substitutions.

William later went into the mineral land adjudicating business in Eastern Oregon. A competitor claimed he stole the only copy of the State database of potentially available lands when he left. There was some process that if it was shown that lands were mineral, they could be substituted by the State and put into the "base". Some 73,000 acres of Land in Oregon went through this process through Odell, but eventually 72,000 acres were rejected by the Commissioner. William caused the end of the loophole when he attempted to sell land already owned by settlers, who then appealed to the Commissioner of the GLO. Former Deputy Surveyor, lawyer, and wannabe Judge, William M. Bushey, wrote an article very critical of Odell in the press in 1902, asking questions about his private list and the fees he charged.

A legislative investigation was initiated, and Odell denied all charges, calling the investigation, "A legislative farce, conceived in envy, prosecuted with malice, and executed with criminal stupidity". A small class action suit was brought by the rejected purchasers in 1905 of Odell mineral lands that had unknown results. They had the \$1.25 per acre to the State refunded, but not the Odell fee. William was a strong Republican, attending conventions and serving on the state central committee and outlived his wife. He contributed regular articles to the Oregonian in his later years. He was the namesake of Odell Butte, Odell Lake and Odell Creek at Willamette Pass, and named Crescent Lake in the vicinity.

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**Odeneal, Arthur  
Johnson**

1861-1945

Dr/Clerk

Clerk

to

no more

1883

Born in Oregon, the son of a Judge, Arthur attended good schools, including Willamette University in 1873. He had many political connections, for his father was the Superintendent of Indian Affairs for Oregon under President Grant; he was a nephew of Senator Doff of Oregon; and was a cousin of Senator Mulkey, also of Oregon. Arthur was appointed to West Point in 1877, but declined because he didn't think his grades were good enough. He served at least from 1883-85 as a Transcribing Clerk in the Surveyor General's Office of James C. Tolman.

Arthur worked for the government the rest of his life, working at Tacoma in 1889-92, before getting a job in Washington, D. C. as a government clerk by 1899. He married Alice Hall in about 1910, and was an immigration agent in New York in 1915 before moving to Norfolk in 1917 and working as an inspector of immigration, evolving to Assistant Director of Immigration for the Hampton Roads Area of Virginia. He had held various positions in the U. S. and Europe of a secret nature and was associated with the Consular General's office of Belgium in 1926. He was still working in Norfolk in 1930, but was retired there with Alice and two daughters in 1935 and 1940. He died in Norfolk in 1945.

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**Oliver, Charles E.**

1857-1944

Dr/Clerk

Clerk

to

no more

1889



OR PE 479. Born in Iowa, Charles came to Oregon with his parents by 1864 via the Oregon Trail. He attended 5 years of college, and his obituary noted that he had studied business and engineering. He was working as a bailiff in Portland in 1880, and was a chainman, rodman and assistant City Surveyor under W. S. Chapman and D. W. Taylor from 1880-84. From 1884-86, he was a reporter and sold ads for the Daily Standard.



Charles began working for the City of Portland Water Bureau in 1886-87, when he surveyed the route for the Bull Run Conduit, and continued nearly continuously until his retirement in 1942. He married Josephine Ramsey in Oregon in 1889, the same year he was working part time as a Special Clerk in in the Surveyor General's Office of D. W. Taylor. From 1890, when the go-ahead was given for Bull Run, until at least 1940, he was an assistant engineer in the Portland Water Bureau. Charles wrote an article on "The Portland Water supply" in "The Pacific Engineer" in 1930. His son Edward, who, was a teller in a bank, was still single and living with Charles and Josephine in 1930-40. Josephine died in Portland in 1943, and Charles in 1944. He was the brother of USDMS Emery Oliver and Idaho USDS Albert Oliver.

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### **Oliver, Emery**

1863-1954

SES

USDMS

Special Instructions 1893

to

Mineral Surveys 1900



Member ASCE. Born in Iowa, Emery crossed the Oregon Trail in 1864 as a baby with his family to Eastern Oregon, and then to Portland in 1865. He had a position in the Portland City Surveyor's Office in 1882. He graduated from the Vander Nellen School of Engineering in Portland and then took a job as an axman on a government survey for Henry Cook, South of Celilo.

Emery then went to the engineering department of ORN and UPRR in 1887, and worked there off and on for 18 years, working in four states on railroads and bridges. He was in charge of locating the California Midland RR to Bakersfield in 1892 and later surveyed a RR from Salt Lake to San Francisco that was never used. Emery is credited with discovering the pass used by Southern Pacific on its RR from California to Klamath Falls. In 1892 he partnered in an engineering firm with H. D. Gradon, the Portland Superintendent of Streets at the time.

Emery became assistant engineer on many portions of the Bull Run Construction in the 1890's. He was a Deputy Surveyor in Idaho in 1898, where he surveyed two Joint Contracts. One was with his brother, Albert Oliver, and the other with Henry Klippel. He was also the brother of Charles E. Oliver, a Clerk in the Oregon Surveyor General's Office in 1889. Emery was an Examiner of Surveys for one Contract by Manius Buchanan in Oregon in 1893, and surveyed seven Mining Claims in Crook County in 1900.

He married his first wife Annette Elma Sylvester in 1893. He was one of many to have surveyed a route from Skagway to Lake Bennett in 1897. In 1905 Virgil Bogue hired him to locate the \$12,000,000 RR down Feather River to Marysville. He was a civil engineer in Portland, Oregon in 1900 and moved to Sacramento in 1910 to be the chief engineer for the Natomas Company, involved in reclamation and irrigation. Emery continued at that until his retirement in 1929. Anna had died in 1915 at Oroville, after four children, and he remarried to Mary Gabriel Lindsey of Sacramento in 1930. They made a trip around the world in about 1932. Emery was the namesake of Oliver Street in Oroville. Mary died in Sacramento in 1940, and Emery died there in 1954.

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**Omeg, Robert  
Fred**

1879-1973

USDS

Contract 761	1905
to	
Contract 786	1909



Born in Oregon, Robert was the son of a Prussian immigrant that first came to Pennsylvania, moved to North Dakota, and then filed a Claim on 8 Mile Creek in Wasco County, Oregon. Robert was raised in Wasco County near the Campbells, Riddells, Sharps and Homer Angell, fellow Deputy Surveyors. He was an axman for Ed Sharp in 1895 and 1898, and a chainman for him 1898, 1899, 1904 and 1908 all over the state. Robert received a Joint Contract with Edward Sharp in 1903 for three fractional townships Southwest of Mount Rainier.

Robert was a chainman for Homer Angell and Clyde Riddell in 1904 and 1905 in Washington. Robert received his own Contract in 1907 for three fractional townships in Northeastern Washington. He received very small Contract 761 in Wallowa County in 1905, but had to return for corrections in the field in both 1906 and 1907. Another Contract in 1909 in Malheur County for one township was surveyed successfully. He worked as a surveyor out of The Dalles and Portland under the Direct System until he graduated from dental school in 1912.

Robert was a bachelor until he married in 1925 to Lora F. Foster, a spinster school teacher that had graduated from Pacific University. They lived in the Laurelhurst neighborhood in Portland until he retired as a dentist in 1950. His 1942 draft card noted he was working for the William Burns Detective Agency in Portland. His wife, Lora, died in Portland in 1958. His sisters, Lucy Lindsay and Ida Omeg lived in Camas or Washougal, WA. Ida died there in 1967 and Lucy in 1982. Robert moved to Camas in 1961 and died in Washougal in 1973. He was 5' 11" with brown hair and blue eyes. (biography) See WA GLO Surveyors for the maintained version of this information.

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### **ONEEL, Albert C.**

*1865-1943*

Rep

USDS

SES

Contract 575                      1891

to

Special Instructions            1894



Oregon PE 285. Albert was born in Iowa, the son of a farmer, and he completed grammar school and at least one year of high school before leaving for Oregon. His sister, Lucy, had married in Iowa and moved to Oregon by 1870, and was living in Oregon City. Albert came to Oregon in 1884, locating in Eagle Creek where Lucy lived at that time, and in 1888 he married Lucy's step daughter, Olive Glover.

In 1886 while teaching country school, he purchased all of the books for the curriculum for Civil Engineering at the University of Oregon and "mastered the subjects himself". He was teaching geometry, trigonometry and calculus in Lents, OR from 1887-89. By 1890 he was the principal of Russellville School in East Portland, and was a GLO Surveyor beginning in 1891, with Oregon Contract 575 for two townships near Marys Peak, West of Corvallis.

Albert was in charge of location and construction of the Portland, Chicago and Mt. Scott RR in East Portland 1891-92. He was appointed a Special Examiner of Surveys in Idaho in 1892 and Oregon in 1893-94. He was after that a construction engineer for the Vancouver & Yakima RR heading towards Battle Ground, WA in 1896 and 1898. He worked as a deputy county surveyor in Clackamas County from 1891-93, and a deputy county surveyor in Clark County, WA 1895-96. A volume containing some of his boundary surveys exists in Clark County.

While in Vancouver in 1895, he was asked to complete the Contract of William Marye South of Eatonville, WA, with another portion just South of Mossyrock. Arthur Chapman, who lived in Vancouver, had partnered in a survey with his nephew, William Marye, with Chapman being the financier and surety. Marye failed his examination and had to redo the survey, but instead he quit and fled to California, leaving Chapman to finish the survey, by hiring Albert as compassman. Albert surveyed T11N R2E and retraced the North line of T15N R4E in 1895. He turned in the notes in December and the next March was notified that his survey of T11N R2E was incorrect.

Since the South township line as surveyed by Samuel Lackland in 1892, and as disclosed by Albert, was long by about .5-1.5 chains per mile, Albert should have set new corners at 40 and 80 chains, etc. and subdivided his township from those corners. He returned in 1896 to resurvey the entire township, but it is uncertain whether Chapman paid for the resurvey or not. An inspection by F. H. Brigham in 1898 was satisfactory. Albert was awarded Contract 497 on his own for a township adjacent to the one he had just surveyed South of Mossyrock. F. H. Brigham examined it in 1898 and reported no issues.

Albert was a locating engineer for ORN in the Palouse from 1898-1900, and was Vancouver City Engineer in 1901. The current BNSF RR in Fruit Valley in Vancouver was laid out by Albert as chief engineer for W&O RW, and he designed and built the existing steel bridge over the Lewis River. Albert made the tests and studies for the foundations for the existing RR bridge over the Columbia. He lived in Vancouver until about 1904 when he got a job with SPRR and returned to Portland, where he lived until he died. He went back to W&ORW from 1906-08 as Bridge Engineer.

Albert was a civil engineer in private practice in Portland from 1904 to 1920 when he was not employed by a RR, including being one of the 12 selected, but unsuccessful, bidders for the design of the Interstate Bridge. He formed a development company with fellow surveyor Fred Schuele, and created a placer mining company.

Albert was in Cordova, Alaska in 1908-12 as Steel Bridge Construction Superintendent for the Copper River and Northwestern Railway line from Cordova to Kennecott, Alaska. This was a 196 mile RR built in four years involving 129 bridges, many of them very long. J. P. Morgan and the Guggenheim family built this RR to the copper mines at a cost of \$20 million, but hauled out \$200 million of ore.

The most famous bridge was the Miles Glacier Bridge across the Copper River, known as the "Million Dollar Bridge", costing \$1.4 million to build at that time, or about as much as the Interstate Bridge over the Columbia River. It was 1550 ft. long, included 4 spans, and had piers that were solid concrete and steel, 85 feet in diameter and buried 65 feet to withstand the icebergs from the glaciers floating down the river. It could only be built in one place on the river, with Childs Glacier flowing into the river on the Northwest, and Miles Glacier flowing into the river on the Southeast, leaving only less than a mile to squeeze in a bridge.

The piers were built in 1909, and the superstructure was constructed in the winter of 1909-10. A forest of falsework was placed on top of the frozen river to hold up the bridge during fabrication. Span 3 was lowered into place hours before the melting ice carried the falsework down the river in the spring breakup. Span 4 was out of the threat of icebergs, and was completed soon thereafter. He took his wife, daughter, and sister-in-law to the bridge for the dedication in 1910. Nearby Mount O'Neel, overlooking the bridge, is named for Albert.

Between 1913-17 he was the contractor for a cantilever RR bridge over the Monroe Street bridge and the Spokane River at the lower falls. It was built in 1914, and removed in the 1970's for EXPO 74. He indicated he worked for the OWRN from 1917-1931. The 1920 census showed him as a civil engineer for the USRR Administration. By 1926 he was an engineer for OWR&N, lasting until 1929, when he was an engineer for the UPRR. He was back at OWR&N in 1931, and from 1935-36 was an assistant engineer for construction at Bonneville Dam. In 1936-37 he was chief engineer for construction work at the Portland-Columbia Airport. He retired in 1937 for health reasons.

Albert was the model for a character in the novel by Rex Beach , "The Iron Trail", and was featured in another book by George Whiting, "Grit, Grief and Gold", a biography of M. J. Heney. He was featured in another book, "The Copper Spike", a story of the Copper River RR. His five children all attended at least 2 years of college, with three graduating, two of which as civil engineers from the University of Washington. See WA GLO Surveyors for the maintained version of this information.

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### **Osborne, John**

#### **Thomas Jr.**

1856-1921

Rep

Comp

Special Instructions  
(as compassman for  
Thomas S. Lang for  
portions)

to

no more

John was born at Fort Vancouver in 1856, the son of soldier, John Thomas, Sr. The father, who was a veteran soldier, was killed by a drunken soldier on the parade grounds at Fort Vancouver in 1858 while he was trying to restrain him. The man named Sweeney was court marshalled and shot. John's mother, Martha, remarried to Henry Whitmore, a stone mason, and they moved to The Dalles and lived inside the Fort. Henry helped build many of the sandstone buildings, some of which are still existing in The Dalles. Martha was a nurse who worked for the benefit of the early residents. John Jr. was listed as an apprentice engineer in The Dalles in 1880 in two residences, one with an architect, and one with his family.

Thomas S. Lang of The Dalles received a Contract by Special Instructions in 1881 for the resurvey of The Dalles Military Reservation and the creation of an extension of the townsite of The Dalles into lots and blocks within the Reservation. John was one of four named a compassman under Thomas to survey a portion of the townsite extension. He worked 16.5 days in that effort. John was a laborer in The Dalles in 1900, an engineer for a railroad in 1910 and died in Wasco County in 1921. It appears that John never married.

**Owen, Jason****"Jase"**

1828-1886

Rep

USDS

Contract 179 (by  
Jeremiah B. Welsh as  
compassman)

1900

to

Contract 194 (by  
Josiah Burnett as  
compassman)

1873

Jason was born in Missouri, and was a hunter in Yuba City California in 1850. He filed a 160 acre Donation Claim just West of Eugene, South of Coyote Creek and married 16-year-old Mary Ann Kinney in Benton County in 1860. Jason announced a stock raising and wool growing business with two partners out of Eugene in 1866. He was elected Eugene City Councilman in 1867, Lane County Recorder in 1868, and in 1878, was referred to as a "wheelhorse in the Republican Party in Lane County for years". The 1870 Census noted him as a farmer in Eugene, before he sold his house and reported on his farming success in Jackson County the next year. Jason received Contract 179 in 1872 for four townships North of Upper Klamath Lake and two townships South of Grants Pass. They were all surveyed by Jeremiah B. Welsh as compassman who signed a final oath for all six townships.

Three of the townships North of Upper Klamath Lake have no notes on file, with one being rejected, and the other two were likely the same. An individual, J. W. Owen, was a chainman for the two townships South of Grants Pass. Jason was noted as returning from a surveying expedition in Eastern Oregon in late September, 1873. He received Contract 194 in 1873 for seven townships West of John Day, and used Josiah Burnett as compassman for all of the work, using a consistent crew. By 1875 Jason had moved to San Diego for family health reasons. He returned to Benton County, Oregon in 1878 before moving back to his Claim West of Eugene in a few months. He was still a strong supporter of the Republican Party and served as a Delegate to the State Convention. He was living in Crook County by 1886 when he was ill, and died in October of inflammation of the liver.

**Owen, William****Octavius "Billy"**

1859-1947

Rep

SES

Special Instructions 1900  
to

Special Instructions 1900



Born in Utah, Billy's parents separated when he was a child because his mother refused to join the church. He lived with his grandparents in Utah for three years. His mother accumulated enough money to take the family to Wyoming on a wagon train in 1868, where the family ran a restaurant and a store. Billy became acquainted with two Deputy Surveyors, Mortimer Grant and William Downey, who owned a surveying business in Laramie and were city and county surveyors.

Billy was a crewman for both Downey and Grant, along with Thomas Medary, and was admitted to West Point in 1877, continuing at Wyoming State University in 1890. He received 20 Contracts, his first in 1881, and his last in 1894, including a Contract in 1891 for the Jackson Hole Valley going West to the state line. Retracement surveys note that he used petrified mastodon bones as corner monuments on one survey in 1881. He toured Yellowstone on a high wheeled bicycle in 1883, and won a race with a stagecoach to Cheyenne. Billy was elected State Auditor in 1894 and served until 1899. He was County Surveyor of Albany County, Wyoming for 12 years, and a Special Examiner of Surveys from at least 1899-1914. He was also a U. S. Deputy Mineral Surveyor in Wyoming. He examined five Contracts in Oregon in 1900, and served as an employee of the GLO until 1914.

He was the leader of a party to make the first documented ascent of the "Grand Teton" in 1894, and had a nearby peak named after him, "Mount Owen." He had tried twice before, and was nearly killed in his second attempt. The claim about "the first" has been in question, but the members of the Haydon Expedition in 1872 possibly only reached a saddle, short of the final ascent, and did not document their summiting in 1872, if they did. Billy again summited Grand Teton in 1924, 25 years later.

His nickname, "Billy", came from his small stature, only five feet tall. He married his wife in 1888, Emma M. B. Wilson, the daughter of surveyor Downey, and they had no children. She weighted 250 pounds and baked him cakes. Billy and Emma moved to Los Angeles by 1920, and lived there until they died, sometimes spending the summer in Wyoming. In 1929, probably with Billy's encouragement, Emma gifted to the Governor of Wyoming a plaque commemorating the first ascent of Billy of the Grand Teton, after which causing it to be placed on the mountain. Emma died in 1935 and Billy in 1947. His personal solar compass, with his name engraved on it, was for sale on eBay in 1921 for \$18,000.

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**Palmer, Mary  
Belle "Maymye"**

1872-1958

Dr/Clerk

Clerk

1892

to

no more



The Special Instructions to Steven L. Lovell in 1892 for two DLCs in Oregon contain the note at the beginning, "copied by Miss Palmer". This is in obvious reference to a copyist in the Surveyor General's Office of William H. Byars. There were Jessie Palmer, the daughter of Willis Palmer, the publisher of a paper and the four daughters of Peter P. Palmer, a hotel keeper and legislator out of Scottsburg in Douglas County as contenders.

Peter was the brother-in-law of Surveyor General William H. Byars, and one of the daughters, Maymye Palmer, had a four year degree from the State Normal School at Drain, Oregon, would become a stenographer for the Customs Inspector for the Port of Portland, and lived in Portland at the time.

Until more is known, this is the biography of Maymye. William had also appointed another niece as a Clerk. Maymye was born in Oregon, the daughter of Oregon Trail Pioneers, and was raised in Scottsburg on the Umpqua River until she left for Portland. She graduated from the State Normal School at Drain. By 1892 at age 20, she was a copyist as described, and by 1900, she was a stenographer in Portland.

Maymye married Frank Schlegel, a Democrat attorney in Portland in 1903 at age 31, and they had one child. She was active in Republican politics for years, and in 1948 filed the name of Thomas Dewey for President in the Oregon 1948 primary election. Frank died in 1930, and their son died in Military service in North Africa in 1951. Maymye died in Portland in 1958 at age 86, survived by only two siblings.

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### **Parsons, William**

#### **Walter**

1840-1873

Dr/Clerk

Clerk

1868

to

no more



Born in Ohio of a bookseller, he crossed the Oregon Trail with his family in 1854, ending up in Eugene, Oregon. Over time, his father also was a justice of the Peace, Collector of Customs, and Postmaster, suggesting some political activity. William was a Clerk in his father's bookstore in 1860, and married Phoebe E. Martin in 1860, with whom he had seven children. He was a Clerk in the Surveyor General's Office of Elisha Applegate in 1868.

The 1870 Census noted him as a farmer in Mohawk, Lane County, Oregon. About this time he was diagnosed with TB and eventually sought treatment at McKenzie Hot Springs in Eastern Lane County. William died of TB there in 1873, two months before his last son's birth. Phoebe remarried to Alvin Hughes in 1876, a blacksmith, and had two more children.



**Patterson,  
Andrew Wilson**

1814-1904

Dem

USDS

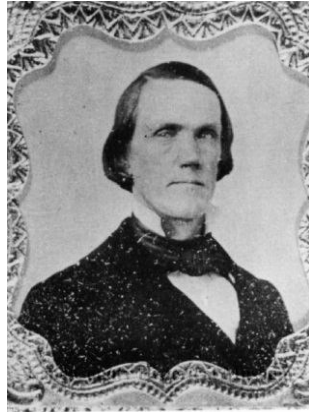
Ch Clerk

Claim Contract 36 1854

to

Contract 97 (By 1861

Samuel L Campbell as  
compassman)



Andrew was born in Pennsylvania, attended Western University of Pennsylvania, and graduated from Pennsylvania College of Medicine in 1841. He practiced medicine in Indiana and Pittsburg, worked as a travelling salesman for surgical instruments, and published the "Northwest Literary Magazine." His bindery burned down, and his wife and baby died after only a year of marriage. Wanting a new start, he came across the Oregon Trail in 1852 on horseback and settled at Eugene, OR, where he filed a Claim about a mile West of town.

Andrew platted the City of Eugene in 1853, and received a Donation Claim Survey Contract North of Eugene in 1854 from Democrat C. K. Gardner, using Joseph Latshaw as compassman for part of the work. Later that year he was awarded a Contract by Gardner for 6 townships East of Cottage Grove, OR, and again used Joseph Latshaw as compassman for part. Contract 64 for 6 more townships near Oakridge in 1856 was mostly surveyed by Ebenezer Haft as compassman. Andrew served in the Territorial Legislature from Eugene in 1854.

He received Contract 6 from James Tilton in Washington in July of 1855 for the 2nd Standard Parallel North, running from Longview to Cathlamet. Also included was the 3rd Standard Parallel from Onalaska to Mossyrock. There are no notes in the records for either of those surveys, but he did survey them, and the exterior plats exist. His second Contract in Washington was for T12N R1E, South of Onalaska, which he surveyed in August of 1855, just before the start of the Indian hostilities. He went back to Eugene and formed a Company of Volunteers for the Rogue Indian War, with himself as Lieutenant. In April of 1856, he was named the Surgeon for the Volunteers.

Andrew was married to Amanda Olinger in 1859, who had arrived in Oregon in 1843, and William Chapman named him his Chief Clerk from 1859-1861 in the Oregon Surveyor General's Office. In 1861 he was given a good Contract on the East side for 6 townships at Wasco, and he used Samuel Campbell as compassman. Andrew returned to his profession as a doctor in 1862 and continued practicing medicine until a few years before he died. He was an incorporator of the Oregon Military Road Company, which obtained a generous land grant to construct a wagon road from Eugene to Boise via Klamath Falls and Lakeview. Andrew was elected to the Oregon Senate in 1870-74, where he was instrumental in the locating of the University of Oregon at Eugene in 1876.

Andrew wrote a set of school readers and wrote a book of poetry. His house in Eugene was ultimately used in the movie, "Animal House." He was the namesake of Patterson School, Patterson Street in Eugene, Patterson Mountain in the Cascades, and Patterson Island in the Willamette. (biography) See WA GLO Surveyors for the maintained version of this information.

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**Patton, Francis R.**

**"Frank"**

1861-1947

Rep

USDS

Contract 526

(cancelled by new  
Commissioner)

to

no more

1885

Frank was born in Oregon, the son of a farmer at Sublimity. He was educated in Oregon and attended four years of college. Frank was an axeman for Henry Cooke on two townships South of John Day in 1884. He received Contract 52 South of Baker in 1885, but it was cancelled by the Commissioner for Special Deposit Reasons and was reissued two years later to Henry Cooke. The Pattons and Cookes were related by marriage. Frank married Maud Saffarrans in Newberg in 1891, a lady that had attended the University of Oregon. Her sister, Juliette S. Saffarrans had married Deputy Surveyor John David in 1871. Frank was in Astoria to participate in organizing the Astoria Savings Bank in 1889, and was Cashier and Manager from the start.

In 1893 Frank and H. C. Thompson sold the Astoria and South RR and equipment for \$137,000 after purchasing it at a sheriff's sale the year before for \$52,550. Frank built a new sawmill in 1895 at the mouth of the Nehalem River on an island, but it burned to the ground very soon after it began production, causing an uninsured loss of \$25,000. It was unusual that the Bank survived the Panic of 1893, but Frank continued as Cashier and Manager of the Bank until at least 1921, promoting the interests of the Bank and Astoria.

Frank built a very large house overlooking Astoria and the river in 1902, trying to outdo a neighbor, and lived there until he died. That house is now on the Historic Register and is currently a drug treatment center. He was named to a seven member board to redo State Government in 1917 and was a Port Commissioner and the Treasurer of the Port of Astoria in 1921. The bank burned to the ground in the great fire in Astoria in 1922, but was rebuilt in the same location in 1923. Frank was named President of the Bank by 1925, continuing until at least 1930. Frank was also co-owner in 1925 of the Freeland Table Company, a furniture manufacturer.

The bank failed after the stock market crash in 1929, which caused a run on the bank, and non-preferred depositors appear to have received about 35 cents on the dollar. The building was converted into Astoria City Hall in 1936-39, continuing to present. Frank was also a Director of Northwestern Pulp and Paper, another company that went bankrupt in 1930 mostly due to fraud, and Frank was sued, along with the other directors, by investors citing mismanagement. Maud died in 1936, and at age 76 Frank remarried in 1937 to 36-year-old Hazel Jewel Leshar Thompson, a lady with two children. The Thompson surname was also that of a former business partner of Frank. Frank died in 1947 and is buried in Warrenton, Oregon.

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## Payne, Dolphus

### Skinner

1831-1894

Union

Rep

USDS

Contract 100

1861

to

no more



1895

Born in New York, Dolphus was a teacher in German Flats, New York in 1855 in his home county. He paid his way to attend Fairfield Seminary and Union College, and after studying law, he was admitted to the bar in New York in 1867. He was first in California in 1859, and then in Oregon when he was named a proxy for the Republican Convention in 1860 from Yamhill County.

He received a Contract for three townships between Pendleton and Hermiston in 1861. William B. Pengra, the brother of the Surveyor General and a future Deputy Surveyor, was a chainman on the crew, and Dolphus had no known surveying experience. Dolphus was in Eugene in 1862, but was noted as returning from the East Coast in May, 1863, when he was appointed State Marshal of Idaho Territory from 1863-65. One of his first duties for the newly appointed Territorial Governor Wallace was to organize the Territory East of the Bitterroots in what is now Montana and to take a census. That did not go well, because the locals began to distrust Dolphus. He was caught manufacturing several hundred votes from Fort Laramie when he was in charge of the vote count in 1864. Dolphus had aspirations to be Governor when Governor Wallace was elected Congressman, but that ended after his scandal.

He continued his term of office, although he never was in Idaho after December 1863, by some accounts. The Union Party had basically booted him out by 1864. He did receive \$8800 in 1865 for the Census he completed in 1863. Before his term was up, he traveled to New York and married Rosa Dow in 1864, and they had five children. They immediately moved to Santa Rosa, California, where Dolphus practiced law and eventually became a Superior Court Judge of Santa Cruz County from 1871-80. In 1871, he was elected a Director of the San Jose and Santa Cruz RR. Dolphus was a Delegate to the 1880 Republican convention that nominated James Garfield. Dolphus also advocated an anti-Chinese agenda on the Resolutions committee. Rosa died in March, 1894, of a spell of unconsciousness while visiting the office of Dolphus.

Dolphus was feeling ill that year, and a doctor told him to take an ocean voyage. He died on a sailing ship, the S. S. Wilder, between San Francisco and Hawaii in December, 1894, tended to by a daughter. A Mary Irvin filed a claim against his estate, claiming that when acting as her attorney, Dolphus hypnotized her into deeding him property and signing some notes that no longer existed. In a biography of him in 1893 in the San Francisco Chronicle, he completely forgot about the years in Oregon and Idaho. He owned a 165 acre fruit ranch 12 miles South of San Jose.

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### **Pearson, Horace**

#### **Greeley**

1858-1910

USDMS

Mineral Surveys

to

no more

1902

Born in Springdale, Iowa, the son of a Quaker farmer, Horace was trying to pay for a homestead in Kansas in 1888, the same year he moved to Pasadena, California. He married his wife Eliza M. Howells in 1898, a school teacher who had attended two years of college. He was in Baker City, Oregon by 1902 where he began surveying Mineral Claims, totaling 64 in the next eight years, all out of Baker City. He was listed as a Director in at least three mining corporations locally. In 1905 he was an engineer and draftsman for the Eagle Valley RW, out of Baker City.

Horace was in Pendleton in early 1910 at a time he was an engineer for the Western Land and Irrigation Company. Horace died in September of 1910 at age 52 of unknown causes at this time, leaving a wife and two children. He is buried back in Iowa with his parents and brother. Eliza stayed in Baker City, working as a school teacher, and then ran for Baker County Treasurer in 1916 and won. She was elected County Clerk in 1918, but reverted to County Treasure in 1920, continuing until at least 1930. She remained in Baker until she died in 1945 and is buried in Mount Hope Cemetery there. Besides her two children, she cared for her parents for several years.

**Pengra, Bynon****Johns "B. J."**

1823-1903

Rep

S G

USDS

Surveyor General 1861

to

Contract 131 (with 1869

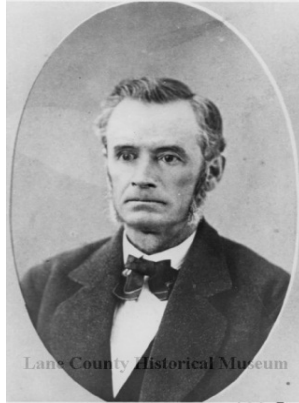
John David and David

P. Thompson, with

portions by George W.

Newman as

compassman)



Bynon came over the Oregon Trail in 1853 with his wife, daughter and brother, and settled Southeast of Springfield, OR at Natron. He was known as the first Republican in Oregon when he started the first Republican newspaper in 1860, the Oregon State Journal; canvassed the state for the Republicans; and became a Presidential Elector for Lincoln and Hamlin. He returned and campaigned for Col. Baker for the U. S. Senate and won the fight, receiving the appointment of Surveyor General as a reward. After four years as Surveyor General, he went to the State Legislature where he was a "dominant spirit, stubborn and immobile."

He secured a grant for the Oregon Central Military Road, from Eugene Southeast, crossing the Cascades near Willamette Pass, at Pengra Pass, and then running through Southeastern Oregon to Idaho. He had surveyed the road in 1864 with William H. Odell, a future Surveyor General of Oregon, and was the superintendent of construction until being named President of the Company.

Bynon received a Joint Contract with David Thompson and John Meldrum in 1866 from strong Republican Oregon Surveyor General Elisha Applegate. It was for 30 townships in the Klamath Valley area, through which his wagon road was located. The survey was completed by Thompson and Meldrum, with no apparent surveys by Pengra. He was part of five more Joint Contracts with several competent Deputies in the next three years. The only work under his signature were three townships in Contract 119, surveyed by Matthew Murphy as compassman and seven townships in Contract 122 in 1867 where he used Deputy Surveyor John Meldrum as compassman.

The road was eventually built and certified by 1874, and for payment the owners received three square miles of adjacent land for every mile of road they built, totaling more than 2 million acres. The road meandered through the most valuable land they could find, through the valleys of Klamath Falls and Lakeview, crossing the Owyhee and Rome and ending at Silver City, Idaho. Reports noted it wasn't much more than a trail, and the Oregon Legislature conducted an investigation, 15 years after it was constructed and sold, to determine if it was really built. Bynon was part owner of a flour mill and a sawmill in Springfield in the 1860's and 1870's.

He lobbied for the O & C RR to use his route to go to California, but they refused, and Congress adopted the Medford route, making Pengra very angry. Later on, another party helped Bynon with a RR on his route, and actually constructed a portion, but then sold out themselves for a lot of money. Pengra went insane and spent at least a year in the insane asylum in 1891. Charlotte divorced him in 1889, and he married two more times. The Salem Capital Journal wrote in November, 1898: "B. J. Pengra, a former Lane County man, now 75 years old, and Mrs. Lucretia Begelow, were married in Portland last week. They had never heard of each other until a few days before, Pengra having gone to Portland after a wife. He has been married twice before."

Bynon died at the residence of his son at Coberg, OR. He would have been satisfied that in 1926 the mainline railroad from Oregon to California would be built by Union Pacific over Pengra Pass on the route he had selected. Bynon is the Namesake of Pengra Road, Pengra Mountain, Pengra Pass, Pengra Lake (now called Waldo Lake for probable political reasons), and the Pengra Covered Bridge in Lane County. He also named Crescent Lake and Odell Lake. Bynon is buried in an unmarked grave in Laurel Grove Cemetery, Springfield, Oregon. There are letters of Bynon on file at OHS. (biography) This is the maintained version of this information. He has papers at OHS.

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### **Pengra, William Burnham "Billy"**

1834-1895

Rep

Contract 130 (with  
Horace F. Stratton)  
(by Henry H. Gilfrey  
as compassman)

to

Contract 483 (by  
Sidney S. Stearns as  
compassman)

1869

1883

Born in New York, William followed his family to Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, and Illinois before he crossed the Oregon Trail in 1853 with his brother Bynon. He lived with his brother in Springfield, and then went to Jackson County in 1854, where he built a sawmill. He engaged in mining in Yreka, California until 1858 when he returned to Lane County and Springfield, where he remained, owning a sawmill and flour mill. Bynon was appointed Oregon Surveyor General for Oregon from 1860-64. Along with three other Deputies, including William Odell, Joseph Gray and John Meldrum, he received Contract 123 in 1867 for 40 townships in the Klamath Falls/Lakeview area near his brother's wagon road. This survey was intended to facilitate the wagon road land grant. William surveyed 11 of them.

Another Joint Contract with Horace Stratton for 19 townships followed the next year in the same area. Except for seven left unsurveyed, they were all surveyed by William using Henry Gilfry as compassman and Joseph Gray as an axeman. Joseph was a Joint Contractor on the previous Contract. William married Louise S. Stearns in 1871, the sister of Bynon's wife. Contract 143 in 1871 was a Joint Contract with John McClung, with the work shared individually and together just Northwest and Northeast of Eugene. Contract 216 in 1874 was for one township in Fort Rock Valley and six townships at Lake Avery, all in Central Oregon.

Contract 223 for 28 townships and 42 miles of Standard Parallel at the Hart Mountain Game Reserve in 1875 was surveyed by a crew that included Deputy Surveyors Joseph Gray as a chainman and James Evans as the Notary. Both had Contracts of their own in the vicinity at the time. There were liberal substitutions of townships on the Contract. Contract 239 in the same place in the same year for 13 townships continued with the same crew. Eight years later he used his nephew, Sidney S. Stearns, as compassman for a Contract with one township near Oakridge.

The final notes of that survey included the notarized signature of Sidney, but there was a strike-through over his signature on both the preliminary and final oaths. William always used consistent three man crews, and it appears none of the Contracts were examined. He and his brother were noted as controlling the principal interests in Springfield in 1878, a town of 100-150 residents. William was the co-owner of a flour mill in Springfield with his brother and A. Wheeler in 1885. In a separation of ownership, William became the owner of the grist mill in 1888. William was a Springfield Alderman in 1888, and was elected Lane County Surveyor in 1894, but became ill with bladder problems and performed little of his duties before he died. He was the namesake of Billy Creek near Sinker Mountain in the Cascades, where he had mining interests.

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**Perkins, Henry  
Clay "Clay"**

1844-1918

Rep

Populist

Dem

Comp

USDS

Contract 155 (with  
William R. Walker)

to

Mineral Surveys 1871

1910

Henry was born in Indiana, the son of Joseph Perkins, and crossed the Oregon Trail in 1844 as a baby with his family. They stayed in Portland for a year, then went to Albany, and then to Lane County, where they took up a Donation Claim. Henry was a farmer and nurseryman in 1860 and 1870 on the Claim of his father. He was a chainman for George Mercer in 1867 and then received two Joint Contracts in 1871 with William Walker, one for 6 townships in the Coast Range of which two were surveyed by Henry and the rest unsurveyed, and another for three townships in the Cascades which were surveyed by both. Henry also was a compassman for John Kincaid for two Contracts in 1871-72 for 12 townships at Monument and Mitchell. These seven townships were surveyed by Henry Perkins as compassman, using future Deputy surveyor, Eugene McCornack, as chainman for portions.

He married Lillias Llewellyn Bristow in 1873 in Eugene, and they were together for 43 years. She was the postmistress and namesake of the Llewellyn Post Office West of Eugene. They had a son, Charlton Bristow Perkins that travelled the world and died in Shanghai in 1925. A Contract on his own came to him in 1873 for three townships near Bend. Henry teamed up with Joseph Perkins, probably his father, for a Joint Contract for five townships in the Central Coast Range in 1874, and Henry surveyed them all.

Henry was a compassman for William Odell for five townships North of Riley in 1874, and one week later received his own Contract for the adjacent five townships. The crew was the same. Henry surveyed nine more Contracts between 1874 and 1882, totaling 59 townships, with all but one township situated between Malheur Lake and Christmas Valley in nearly desert conditions. Former compassman Robert Pritchard was a crewman on four of those Contracts, and future Deputy Surveyor T. Cy Judkins was a crewman on five Contracts. He testified in a lawsuit later about the location of the shore of Malheur Lake.

The examinations of Contract Surveys began in 1884 with the appointment of Commissioner Sparks, and Henry's Contract in 1884 for four townships at Waldo Lake was examined by Henry Martin and rejected in 1887. He did not survey another Contract for 16 years. Henry was Lane County Surveyor for six years as a Republican and moved to Grants Pass in 1896, where he was Josephine County Surveyor for another six years as a Populist. Henry ran again in 1902 as a Democrat. He was elected a Grants Pass City Councilman in 1902.



Henry received a Joint Contract with Albert Keating and Fred Mensch in 1902 for nine townships North of Diamond Lake in the Southern Cascades. These were townships which included the route of the Oregon Central Military Wagon Road Land Grant (by Pengra and others), and deposits had been posted by Booth Kelly Lumber Company, the successor to a portion of those grants. Perkins signed all the oaths but Mensch and Keating were on the crew as chainmen all the time.

His last Contract was in 1905 for one townships with 12 miles of line right on the outskirts of Grants Pass. It was examined by William Douglass, suspended, corrected by Henry for two miles, reexamined, and approved in 1908. While in Grants Pass, he surveyed 38 Mining Claims over a 14 year period, using Deputy Surveyors Fred Mensch and William P. Wright frequently on the crew. Henry and Fred Mensch were reported returning from Briggs Creek, where they had surveyed six Mining Claims, on December 14, 1910, and they had to traverse two to three feet of snow and cold winds to get home.

Henry suffered a stroke in about 1912, and the partial paralysis plagued him the rest of his life, with Henry being confined to bed the last five years of his life. Henry's tombstone in Granite Hill Cemetery, Grants Pass, Oregon is unique. All of the lettering is crudely done, except for the death date. It is like Henry did it himself, using the techniques he would use to carve a stone, or embellish a witness object. There is no other stone like it that this author has seen, certainly from the 20th Century. The death date is tidier and slightly different, and may have been added after the original work.

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### **Perkins, Joseph**

1806-1894

USDS

Contract 203 (with  
Henry C. Perkins)  
to  
no more

1874 The most likely candidate for the Joseph Perkins that shared a Joint Contract with Henry Perkins would be his father, Joseph Perkins, but he would have been 68 years old at the time. There was a younger farmer near Cottage Grove that was also named Joseph Perkins. The answer will wait for research into the Contract documents. Joseph did not officially participate in the survey, so left no signature. The survey was in the vicinity of the father's Donation Claim, West of Eugene.

This biography will for now be of Joseph Perkins, the father of Henry Clay Perkins. Joseph was born in Ohio, and as a young man moved to Indiana, where he stayed until he travelled to Oregon in 1852. Joseph had married Mary Charlton by 1833, and they took up a Claim on the Long Tom River near Smithfield. for many years he ran an extensive nursery business, selling trees all over Oregon, Washington and California. He lost a son, William, in the sinking of the Brother Jonathan off California in 1865. He was living on the nursery in 1870 with his wife and two children, including Henry. Mary died in 1872, and Joseph was living with Henry in Llewellyn.

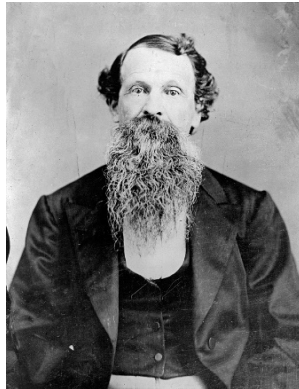
In 1874, Henry devised a plan to have Joseph become his Joint Contractor for five townships in the Central Oregon Coast Range. Henry surveyed them all, and Joseph did not participate officially in the survey, but may have supplied funding and logistics. Joseph was an inventor late in life and died at the home of Henry in 1894 at age 88.

**Pershin, George****S.***1833-1910*

USDS

Contract 154 (with 1871  
George Williams)

to

Contract 728 (part 1900  
finished by William  
H. Bell as  
compassman)

George was born in Pennsylvania and was still there in 1860. He graduated from California Normal School in San Jose in 1865, noting his residence had been Humboldt County, and was teaching at San Bruno School in San Francisco the same year. He was the only male in the graduating class of fourteen. His next job was as the first Principal of North School in North Portland, which he continued for two years. He was a merchant as part of Dolan and Pershin in Portland in 1869.

He received a Joint Contract with George Williams for six townships in Umatilla County in 1871. It appears that Pershin did all of the work and was running the compass on his own crew. George was an axeman for Samuel Spray near White Salmon, Washington in 1874. He continued by surveying 18 small Contracts for 50 townships between 1873 and 1882 on both the East and West sides of the Cascades. The latter half of that work had a heavy emphasis in Umatilla County. He used consistent small crews for each Contract, frequently using them for multiple Contracts. Young future Deputy Surveyors were sprinkled in along the way, including Pierce Gearhart, William Gradon, and Herman Gradon.

George married Zerrildea "Zerra" Jane Gossett in 1883, the sister of engineer, Chauncey Gossett, with whom he would later share a Contract. They lived in Portland, with no children born to them, until George died in 1910. In the ten years after their marriage ended, George was an engineer in Portland, and at some time was a surveyor employed by the State of Oregon, working on the boundaries of State Lands. Zella was a real estate agent in Portland from at least 1890-1910. George resumed surveying Contracts from 1893-1900 into the examination era, but struggled with endless examinations and corrections, although all were eventually approved, sometimes involving the intervention of two Senators.

George received Joint Contract 606 with his brother-in-law, Chancey Gossett, for three townships East of Silverton and one township East of Lebanon at Green Peter Lake. All were in steep country and were surveyed by George. He was examined by B B. Herrick and made field corrections before approval. Two townships on his own North of Cascadia were examined by T. R. Hinsdale, suspended, and then approved. Three townships at Suttle Lake were examined in 1896 by Charles J. Hayes and T. R. Hinsdale in 1897 and approved. By the time George took his last Contract in 1900, he was 67 years old. It was Contract 728 for three townships in the rugged, isolated Coast Range East of Port Orford on the upper Coquille River. These townships were paid for by Special Deposits from the O & C RR.

He was examined by David Kinnaird in 1901, H. L. Chandler in 1902, N. B. Sweitzer in 1903, Sidney Blout in 1904 and William B. Douglass in 1905. There are many references to letters from U. S. Senators John Mitchell and U. S. Charles W. Fulton in the Journal. Oregon Surveyor General Henry Meldrum approved the Contract in 1902, but not the Commissioner. Meldrum hired William R. Bell as a compassman, working for the Surveyor General under Special Instructions in 1905 to make 14 miles of corrections, and after that, the Contract was approved in Washington, D. C. in 1906. Other than the corrections, the notes on file are those of George.

George was a U. S. Deputy Mineral Surveyor in Alaska in 1900. George and Zerra divorced sometime after 1900, and in 1904 George was living with his brother Harvey and his family. Harvey petitioned the court for guardianship over George in 1906, saying he was incompetent, was an invalid for some time, and was about to come into some money. George died in 1910 at the St. Joseph Home for the Aged in Portland. Zerra resumed her Maiden name, died many years later in the Napa State Hospital, was cremated, and is buried in a common plot with many others at Napa Valley Memorial Park.

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### **Philbrick, Arthur**

*1864-1932*

USDMS

Mineral Surveys

to

Mineral Surveys

1892

1903

Born in Massachusetts, the son of a newspaper editor, Arthur attended the schools in Massachusetts and then attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, graduating at age 17 in 1881. His paternal uncle was the author of the noted book, "American Sanitary Engineering" and was a leading sanitary engineer. After graduation Arthur went to California to be an engineer for California southern RR for four years. He surveyed subdivisions and irrigation works in the real estate boom of Los Angeles and San Bernardino in the 1880's, before locating in San Francisco briefly.

Arthur moved to Portland in 1887 where he was an assistant engineer on the UPRR line in Southwest Washington for 1 1/2 years, before transferring to Astoria for another year. He married Hetty Ione May Hudson in Portland in 1889, and they had a daughter in Walla Walla in 1890. He moved to La Grande in 1891 where he was a U. S. Deputy Mineral Surveyor and the City Engineer of La Grande. As City Engineer he superintended water works, a pumping plant, and a reservoir at La Grande. Among others, he surveyed 18 Mining Claims in the Wallawas while at La Grande. He was a Mineral Surveyor in Idaho, Baker City and Sumpter, Oregon by 1899, and moved to Portland in 1902 while still maintaining a partnership with Charles H. Fenner as Philbrick and Fenner.

Overall, Arthur surveyed 101 Claims while living in La Grande, Baker and Sumpter, between 1892 and 1904. He usually used a different crew on each Mineral survey, but occasionally carried over a crew while working in the same vicinity. He was still operating as Booker, Philbrick and Fenner in Tonopah, Nevada in 1907. Hetty died in Los Angeles in 1908, and their daughter was living in Los Angeles in 1910. By 1920 Arthur was an engineer for the government in Galveston, Texas and had a wife named Catherine that was born in Texas. Arthur was an inmate in the San Antonio State Hospital for the insane in Bexar County, Texas in 1930, and died there in 1932 of tuberculosis.

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## Pickler, Lemon

**Albert**

1852-1921

Dem

USDS

Special Instructions 1898

to

no more



Born in Indiana, Lemon moved with his family to Iowa, and then Missouri by 1867. He enlisted in the Army in 1870, serving until 1872 when he deserted. Lemon married Ella Minerva Wilkes in Missouri in 1874. They were in Elko, Nevada in 1875 and Resting Springs, California in 1879-83, where Lemon worked nearly two years for the Geological Survey in Death Valley. He also worked on the Folsom Canal at Sacramento and other ditches in the state.

They moved to Paradise, Clark County, Nevada in 1884, staying until at least 1886. Lemon was an incorporator of Vale, Oregon in 1891, and was elected County Surveyor of Malheur County in 1892 and 1894, running as a Democrat without opposition. He had charge of the Malheur Ditch, and the plans were his. Lemon received a Contract by Special Instructions from the Oregon Surveyor General to survey Duncan Island in the Snake River at Ontario in 1898. He was in Battle Ground, Custer County, Idaho as a civil engineer in 1900, and the family was living in Mineral City, Idaho, a really isolated mining town. They lost two daughters in Mineral City in 1900, ages 21 and 18. A son was born in Portland in 1902. Lemon was a civil engineer in Weiser, Idaho just before he moved to La Grande.

Lemon was living in La Grande from 1905-09, advertising as a civil engineer in the newspaper. In 1906, he surveyed the townsite of Minam. While in La Grande, he was appointed City Engineer and City Surveyor. He surveyed, designed and constructed a new water system for the city, including a 14 mile water line and a reservoir. He also surveyed an irrigation canal from near La Grande in 1908, beginning near the Oro Dell reservoir.

They were all in Portland in 1910, where Lemon was a civil engineer for a railroad. Later he owned a meat market with his son in St. Johns and a liquor store at 6th and Stark. He was retired in Portland in 1920 and died there of skin cancer in 1921. He was 5 ft. 11 1/2 in. tall with blue eyes and brown hair. At least two of the children attended college. Both Lemon and Ella were buried without grave markers, but Lemon's family installed a gravestone 97 years later at his grave.

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**Porter, Andrew  
Lee**

1865-1946

USDS

Contract 578                      1891

to

Contract 764 (with              1905  
James Sears)



1894

OR PE 455. Born in Oregon, the son of a farmer that arrived after 1862, Andrew was raised on a farm in Kings Valley, Benton County, only attending six grades. His first job was carrying mail from Corvallis to Elk City. He was an engineer for the Corvallis and Eastern Branch of SPRR at age 16 in 1881, and was Benton County Surveyor from 1888-1890. He married Felicia Philista Aikey in Lincoln County in 1888 and they had two daughters.

Andrew received ten Contracts for 23 townships, all but one in Western Oregon, from 1891 to 1905, including three Joint Contracts. His first Contract was for two townships East of Lincoln City in 1891, and he was examined twice. From 1892-94, he received three Contracts for three townships in the same vicinity and was examined on all three. There is a photo of Andrew and his seven man crew in 1894 on Contract 630, including Deputy Surveyor Zachariah Derrick, but his official notes only lists three of them, leading to suspicions of a second crew and a compassman. Obviously, one of the crewmen is a cook.



**Field Crew of Contract 630 of Andrew L. Porter, T8S R8W, 1894. From Left: Jime Hume, Dick Derrick, Hubert Derrick, John Allen, Cine Young, Jim Derrick, Andrew Porter and Jim Fowler. Based on the scribing on the post, it appears they are at a closing corner and chopped a face that penetrated the bark of the tree on the BT. (Thanks to John Waffenschmidt, Lincoln County Surveyor)**

A Joint Contract with Zachariah Derrick in 1898 in the same place was not surveyed but was surveyed by Andrew the next year in another Contract. Another Joint Contract with Zachariah Derrick in 1899 was for one township Southeast of Cottage Grove and was surveyed by Andrew with two examinations. He had charge of the L. V. & W. RW from Falls City to Dallas in 1899.

Another township was surveyed by Andrew, again East of Lincoln City, in 1900 and was suspended but later accepted after the survey of five miles of corrections. A Joint Contract in 1901 at Enterprise with Charles Branson was surveyed by both with corrections to the plats only. A Contract in 1902 for ten townships at Oakridge was accepted after two examinations. His last Contract was a joint one with James Sears in 1905 and it was surveyed by both. They left Lincoln County with enough crewmen for two crews, including County Surveyor John Van Orsdel. T11S R4E was officially surveyed in 1906 and had two miles of correction surveys in 1908 before being accepted.

T12S R4E was surveyed in 1906, and had several examinations and attempts at correction, but was finally rejected in 1911. Polk County Surveyor John Van Orsdel was listed in the newspapers only, and probably was involved in T12S R4E, for which there are no notes. Fred Mensch redid the survey in 1912, showing the gross distortion of over 1000 feet left over from Ernest Rands, the previous surveyor in the township. Mensch surveyed a Sectional Correction Line and created closing corners nearly surrounding the work. Andrew had managed to survive ten Contracts during the years of the most aggressive examinations, and completed all but one township. Andrew surveyed for the Coast RR in Tillamook county in 1906 and surveyed a logging RR in 1909, West from Philomath up Woods Creek. He was a civil engineer for a RR in 1910, living in Lincoln County.

Andrew continued as a civil engineer off and on until he died in Newport, Oregon. He was appointed Lincoln County Roadmaster in 1916 and constructed many Siletz and Lincoln County bridges. Andrew was employed by the Spaulding Logging Co. in 1917, was the Lincoln County Engineer in 1921-22, and at sometime built the South Jetty at Yaquina Bay. He qualified as an Oregon Professional Engineer in 1921. One of his other accomplishments was the steel bridge across the Willamette River at Corvallis. He was a surveyor in Newport in 1930 and was retired in Newport in 1940.

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### **Porter, David**

#### **Arthur**

1871-1903

USDMS

Mineral Surveys      1902

to

Mineral Surveys      1902



1894

Born in Massachusetts, David's father died in the Battle of Little Big Horn when David was a child, and David was living with his mother in his grandparents house in 1880. David graduated from the University of California at Berkeley in 1894 in Civil Engineering. He was a mining engineer in Kellogg, Idaho in 1896, married a fellow Berkeley student and the daughter of a California rancher, Augusta Lawton Nye, in 1898, and they had two children.

He was a mining surveyor in Wardner, Idaho by 1899, living with his mother, wife and child. He surveyed 19 Mining claims near Susanville in Grant County, Oregon in 1902 and was elected County Surveyor of Shoshone County, Idaho. His life was cut short when he was found dead in his bed at age 31 in the bunkhouse of the New Jersey Mine in April, 1903 three miles below Wallace, the cause presumed to be a heart attack. He is buried in Palo Alto, California, next to his parents. Augusta never remarried and is buried in Colma, California in Cypress Lawn Memorial Park, sharing a gravestone with unknown individuals.

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**Porter, William****Miller**

1865-1940

Rep

USDS

Contract 768

to

no more

1905

William was born in Missouri, completed four years of high school, came to Oregon after 1899, and was a teacher in Camas Valley, Douglas County, Oregon in 1900. He had married Mary Jane "Jennie" Smith in 1888, and they eventually had six children. He purchased a 160 acre Timber Claim South of Camas Valley in 1902 and was the Republican nominee for County Commissioner for Douglas County in 1906. William received Contract 768 for one township in the Coast Range West of Camas Valley in 1907, and his wife Jennie notarized all of the crew oaths. After it was examined by J. Scott Harrison in 1908, Surveyor General George Westgate challenged the exam as defective, asking Harrison to do a new examination.

Harrison did not do a new exam, but William reconsidered, and "in accordance with the suggestions of the Commissioner" he returned to the field by himself and replaced eleven posts with stones at those corners. The survey was then approved with corrections to the plat and notes. In 1910, William was a Land Agent for a timber company in Eugene, at which time he closed a timber deal for \$500,000 in Coos and Douglas Counties, where he was part owner. In 1920 he was a dairy farmer in Waterford, California. He operated a sawmill back at Camas Valley, Oregon in 1930, and was a farmer near Eugene in 1940.

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**Powers, Albert****Smith**

1833-1909

Rep

Contract ??

to

no more

1873

The Oregon City Enterprise reported in the Dec, 26, 1873 Issue that A. S. Powers received a Contract recently. He was the Speaker of the House. No record so far has been found of that Contract, but at least two other contemporary Legislators that were mentioned received Contracts, in spite of having no surveying experience. This record is a placeholder until the facts prove this one way or another. Albert was born in New York and at 19 years of age in 1852 crossed the Oregon Trail with his family.

They came to Lane County, where his father and all four sons filed individual Donation claims. Albert was first in Springfield, where he was a cabinet maker, and married Rachael Harris there in 1869. His father was also a cabinet maker. In the 1860's he was Captain of the McKenzie Rangers, a military unit at Camp Creek, near Thurston.

With the opening of the McKenzie Road, Albert was a mail contractor and toll collector. He had been an officer of the Road Company, and moved to McKenzie Bridge by 1880, where he lived for many years. His son was a prominent merchant at McKenzie Bridge. Albert served in the Oregon State Legislature in 1872, and was named Speaker of the House. He moved to Eugene in 1903 where he died while working in his garden.



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**Pownall, J.****Addison**

1820-1860

Dem

USDS

Comp

Claim Contract 35 1854

to

Claim Contract 82 1857

Addison was born in Indiana and was a college student in Montgomery County, Indiana in 1850, possibly Wabash College. He came to Oregon by 1851 when he was a chainman for James Freeman in the Willamette Valley. Soon, he was a chainman for Joseph Hunt in 1852 from Vancouver, Washington to Molalla, Oregon. He received Claim Contract 35 in 1854 for 60 Claims between Portland and Molalla and finished them that year. Compassman Robert S. Short was a chainman on portions of the work. His next Claim Contract was number 61 in 1855 for 12 Claims between Woodburn and Silverton, and he used Deputy Surveyors Ezra T. T. Fisher and Isaac Moores as chainmen.

Addison was an Assistant Quartermaster in Oregon in the Indian Hostilities in 1856, and was criticized for not accounting for all the horses and provisions at the end. He sold 430 horses, 48 cows, and 10 oxen for a total of \$1323 without appraisal, deemed by most to be a very cheap price.

His last Claim Contract was for 34 Claims near Gresham in 1858. He was a Delegate to the 1857 State Constitutional Convention and was elected Clackamas County Surveyor in 1858, serving until his death in 1860. Addison was a chainman for David Thompson on the Columbia Guide Meridian near Umatilla in 1859 and a compassman for Nathaniel Gates for three townships nearby in the same year. Future Deputy Surveyor Alan Thompson was his chainman. Addison produced an Oregon Map for sale in 1859. He had contracted tuberculosis and died from it in March, 1860 in Oregon City. It appears he never married.

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**Preston, John****Bower**

1817-1865

Whig

S G

Surveyor General 1851

to

no more



Born and raised in New York, John studied bookkeeping, mathematics and surveying before moving with his family to Illinois. He married Lucy Hyde in 1838 and inherited her siblings as part of his family. He worked as an engineer for the Illinois-Michigan Canal in Lockport from 1839-1843 and 1845-48. In 1845 he was back in New York, where he surveyed a subdivision in Albany. When the Canal was finished, he went into business at St. Louis until December, 1850 when he received his appointment as the first Surveyor General of Oregon.

He brought his wife Lucy, his daughter, Lucy's brother, George Hyde, and Lucy's sister, Julia Hyde, with him to Oregon, arriving in May, 1851. They travelled via Panama before the railroad, and were packed by mules over the isthmus. Samuel Thurston, Oregon's U. S. Congressman, was on the trip North from Panama, and died before reaching Acapulco. Just before arriving at Oregon City, their small boat went aground on a bar on the Willamette, causing the women and children to overnight on the river. All had to walk the last portion of the journey.

He was a Whig appointee in a Democrat Territory, and was scorched relentlessly by the press while he occupied the office. Soon after arriving in Oregon City, he was allowed to practice law in the local court. His brother, Josiah, arrived a year later, after graduating from college, and received Contracts. John was Surveyor General for two years before being politically removed in April, 1853. His replacement, Charles Gardner, did not arrive until August, 1854, and John occupied the office until then. John stayed in Oregon until February, consulting and protecting his family. George was by then a U. S. Deputy Surveyor, and Julia had married Joseph Trutch, another Deputy Surveyor. John formed a partnership with John and Daniel O'Neill in the wholesale grocery business in Oregon City from at least May, 1854 until February, 1855 when he left Oregon.

John returned to Lockport, Illinois, where he first published a map of Oregon that he had been compiling. He then became principal engineer for the Illinois Canal, owned a founding interest in a flour mill in Joliet, was a Secretary for the Chicago and Joliet RR, and was a Commissioner of the Illinois State Penitentiary. Joseph Trutch followed him to Lockport and worked on the canal as assistant engineer. John was elected President of the Lockport Board of Trustees by 1860. He finished his canal work, and moved to St. Louis as a commercial broker in 1864. He was visiting his parents in Lockport, and drowned at age 48 at night in the Illinois-Michigan Canal on April 13, 1865, the night Lincoln was assassinated. This is the maintained version of this information.

## **Preston, Josiah Walker**

1832-1886

Whig

Comp

USDS

Contract 26 (as 1852

Compassman for

Robert Elder)

to

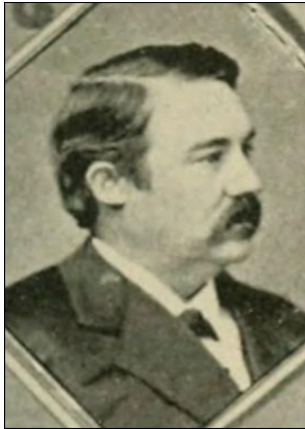
Contract 40 (with 1854

Harvey Gordon) (with

John Trutch and

Francis M. Wheatley

as compassmen)



Born in New York, Josiah moved to Illinois with his family in 1838. He was a student at Shurtleff College in 1850, graduated from there in 1852, and later that year travelled to Oregon to work for his brother, John Preston. After getting some experience as a compassman for Robert Elder in the winter of 1853, he received a Joint Contract with George Hyde in April, 1853 to extend the Willamette Meridian North from the South end of Puget Sound. They were to extend it for 11 miles, survey 36 miles of Standard Parallels, and survey 12 adjacent townships around Olympia.

They brought along Timothy Davenport, a medical doctor converted to surveyor, to be Compassman for the Willamette Meridian and the Standard Parallels. This may have been to help triangulate across the several lengthy crossings of the Sound. Davenport would go on to have several Contracts of his own in Oregon. Included in the 12 townships were surveys of Anderson, McNeil, Hartstene, and Squaxin Islands, along with the townships around the cities of Olympia and Tumwater. They both were present and shared the work somewhat equally.

Josiah received another Joint Contract near Corvallis with Harvey Gordon in 1854. It was for the exteriors and subdivisions of 6 townships in the Willamette Valley, and they shared the work. John Trutch was the Compassman for Josiah and Lewis Van Vleet was a chainman for a portion of the exteriors. By 1855 Josiah was back in Alton, Illinois, where he married in December, 1855 to Emma Clawson.

By 1862 he was a prosperous merchant in Chicago, and in 1865 represented the company John Preston was working for in St. Louis. He was President of the Board of Trade in Chicago in 1872 after the Chicago Fire and again in 1875. Two of his brokerages went bankrupt in 1881 when one of his investors in Cincinnati failed to make his calls on margins. Josiah continued as a commercial broker in Chicago until he died of a stroke at age 54. Emma later moved to California. (biography) This is the maintained version of this information.

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**Prichard, R. W.**

Comp  
Contract 195 (part as 1873  
compassman for  
Jeremiah Dick)  
to  
no more

There were no persons in the 1870 or 1880 censuses in Oregon that fit this individual, although his name is correct per his signature in the oaths. He was a chainman for John David East of Cottage Grove in 1869 and for William Pengra in 1871 near Eugene, and was a compassman for Jeremiah Dick East of Florence in 1874. R. W. Prichard was an axeman for Henry Perkins on four Contracts from 1875-77 between Malheur Lake and Christmas Valley. He was an axeman for William Pengra in Fort Rock Valley in 1875. Signatures verified that these were all the same person.

There was a R. W. Prichard that was committed to the State Asylum in 1885 from Umatilla, but was released several days later. He returned to Umatilla, but remained despondent, gave away his money, and went to the river to end his life. They apparently found him and put him in jail until the judge returned to act. He was returned to the asylum and the outcome is unknown.

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**Putnam, Charles  
Frederick Jr.**

1848-1908

Comp  
USDS  
Contract 144 (with 1871  
Daniel Applegate and  
Jesse Applegate)  
(with Charles Putnam  
and Peter S. O.  
Applegate as  
compassmen for  
portions)  
to  
CA Contract ?? 1879



Charles F. Putnam, Sr. arrived in Oregon from the trail in 1847, where he met and soon married 15 year old Rozelle Applegate, the daughter of Jesse. Charles was a printer and taught Rozelle to set type on the small paper Charles published, making her the first female typesetter in Oregon. Charles F. Jr. was the first of their nine children. Charles Sr. had a farm in Polk County, but moved to a new farm near Yoncolla with Jesse and his family. It was in Putnam Valley, his namesake. Rozelle's sister died of TB, and Rozelle eventually contracted it. She was sent to be nursed by Jesse's family, but she died in 1861. Charles Jr. and his siblings were mostly raised by Jesse and Cynthia Applegate, with apparently some help from Charles Sr.'s mother.

Charles Sr. and his Applegate brothers-in-law went to the Idaho gold fields in 1862, taking Charles Jr. along. Charles Jr. was in the regular Army fighting Snake Indians in Eastern Oregon from 1864-66, and was back at Yoncalla in 1870, living with his father.

Jesse finally received Contract 137 in 1870 for 14 townships in Klamath County. He began his survey, using Charles Jr. as a chainman for part, but became ill and went home. He turned the work over to his son, Daniel Applegate, and his son-in-law, Martin McCall, as compassmen. The Surveyor General threw a fit, asking "Who authorized this?" Everything was rejected but the part surveyed by Jesse. The Commissioner finally relented and gave new Contract Number 144 for the same work to Daniel and Martin, plus a few bonus townships. They mostly refiled the existing rejected notes. Charles was a Compassman for Daniel Applegate, setting closing corners on the State Boundary.

It is unclear if this work was performed by Charles the son, age 23, or Charles the father, age 47. The father was a printer and practically lived with the Applegates, while Charles, Jr. did live with the Applegates. The signatures of record show it was only one person that signed all the oaths. The Surveyor General's report to the Department of Interior in 1887 listed the identified Benson Syndicate Surveyors in California, and C. F. Putnam was noted as an associate or employee, who had received six Contracts for \$38,000 from 1878-83. This was likely this Charles F. Putnam, which would point to the son, who had been living in California. The California field notes burned in the San Francisco fire, and there are no signatures or oaths to compare.

One of the Contracts in California was for a fractional township adjacent to one he had already surveyed on the State Line just Southwest of Klamath Falls. Another was for at least one township between Alpine Meadow and Squaw Butte Ski Areas at Tahoe where White Wolf Ski Area was proposed. One corner was called as a large rock buried 22" in the dirt, in an area that was flat bedrock with no dirt. No surveys from 1931 to 2012 were able to verify the property's boundary lines. The corner now set is affectionately referred to as "barstool station".

Charles Jr. married Elizabeth A. Hutchinson in 1874 and named his first son, Jesse Applegate Putnam. He was: in Modoc, California in 1875, where he was also a scout for General Davis in the Modoc War; a farmer at Klamath Falls in 1880; the first Sheriff of Klamath County 1881-84; and a carpenter in Redlands, California in 1900, after moving there in 1890. His father died in 1903, and Charles had a stroke in 1908 and another a month later that killed him.

**Rands, Ernest****Paul***1868-1940*

Rep

USDS

USDMS

Contract 641 (with Hezekiah Johnson) 1895

to

Special Instructions 1913



Ernest was born in Iowa, the son of a farmer, and came to Oregon with his parents in 1877. His oldest brother, Edward M., owned newspapers, the Oregon City Enterprise and later the Vancouver Independent. He was very active in Republican politics in both states, and served in the Washington Legislature. The family first settled in Beaver and then moved to Oregon City in 1886. Ernest attended Pacific University at Forest Grove, OR.

Ernest was in the Clackamas County Surveyor's Office off and on as a deputy from 1890-1898. By 1895 Ernest did his first GLO survey, when he teamed with fellow Oregon City surveyor Hezekiah Johnson for Idaho Contract 174 for 4 townships Northeast of Moscow. They were examined by H. P. B. Hollyday. He received Joint Contract 641, again with Hezekiah Johnson, for 8 townships East of Albany, and they shared the work. Part of that was the South 2 miles of T12S R4E as surveyed by Rands. He left the North line of that work 1200 feet out of alignment, causing the ultimate rejection of a later survey by Andrew Porter in 1905. Ernest received Oregon Contract 677 for two townships in Malheur County, on Succor Creek on the state line.

He continued in Idaho: Contract 191 for 7 townships Southeast of McCall in 1897; Contract 200 for 9 fractional townships Southeast of the Coeur d'Alene Reservation in 1899; Contract 209 for 3 townships Northeast of Moscow in 1900; and Contract 226 for 2 townships North of Lake Pend Oreille, which was examined by Oregon City resident, Thomas Hurlburt. He teamed again with Hezekiah Johnson for 9 townships in Southeastern Oregon in 1900 in Contract 731, sharing the townships, and both signed the oaths on the state line. Future Deputy Surveyor Norman White was a chainman on Contract 765 for one township East of Albany in 1901.

Ernest was elected Clackamas County Surveyor from 1898-1902, and Oregon City Engineer from 1902-06. He continued in Idaho with 13 townships in Contract 231 in 1902, and 15 townships in Joint Contract 251 with his brother, Harold, in 1904 in the very Northern tip of Idaho. His only Washington Contract was Contract 639 with his brother, Harold, in 1906. They shared the work, and both signed the oaths. There were plenty of crewmen to have two crews, including 3 nephews. He surveyed seven Mining Claims East of Molalla in 1908. He was appointed a compassman in 1909 to perform Contract 775, that had been awarded to Geary Kimbrell, after Geary did not perform for reasons unknown. He surveyed it in 1911, and it was examined and approved. Contract 790 in Oregon in Douglas County in 1909 was surveyed in 1910 and included Norman White as moundman.

Ernest was elected Oregon City Councilman in 1906. His last Contract was Joint Contract 800 with Norman White in June of 1910. They did not do the work, and it was probably cancelled by the Commissioner, and ultimately given to Charles Collier the next year. He lived with his parents in Oregon City until 1903, when he built his house. He married Clara Fisher in 1906. With his brother, Harold, he ran a surveying and engineering business out of Oregon City, called Rands Bros., up until 1909. He was named Surveyor for the Blackfoot Indian Reservation in Montana in 1909 and a Special Examiner of Surveys in 1910, at least serving in Oregon from 1912-23.

When the direct system of government surveys came into effect in 1911, Ernest was appointed to head the Field Survey Division for Oregon and Washington for the GLO, with the title, Assistant Supervisor. Ernest continued in this role, through various transformations, until at least 1938 when he received congressional approval to go beyond the mandatory retirement age. At some time before 1917, he was also given the charge of classification of the O & C timber lands. He died in Oregon City in 1940. This is the maintained version of this information.

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**Rands, Harold**

**Alva "Hal"**

1871-1952

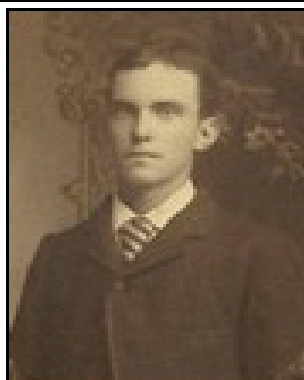
Rep

USDS

Contract 697 (with 1898  
John David)

to

Contract 791 (with 1909  
Ernest Rands)



OR PE 525. Member ASCE. Harold was born in Iowa, the son of a farmer, and came to Oregon with his parents in 1877. His oldest brother, Edward M., owned newspapers, the Oregon City Enterprise and later the Vancouver Independent. He was very active in Republican politics in both states, and served in the Washington Legislature. The family first settled in Beaver and then moved to Oregon City in 1886.

Harold's first Contract was a Joint Contract in 1897 with Hezekiah Johnson, South of McCall, Idaho, and they shared the work on 5 townships, with both signing the notes. Harold entered Cornell University in 1897 and graduated in Physics in 1901, taking many civil engineering electives. He was in graduate school at the University of California at Berkeley in Chemistry in 1902.

With his brother, Ernest, he ran a surveying and engineering business out of Oregon City, called Rands Bros., up until 1909. While still in Cornell, he surveyed a Joint Contract for eight townships in Malheur County with 58 year old John David. They both signed all the oaths. He also surveyed 4 townships near Bonners Ferry, Idaho in the fall of 1900. Harold received Idaho Contract 221 for 3 townships along the North Boundary of the Coeur d'Alene Indian Reservation in January, 1901, specifically to solve a boundary dispute with the town of Harrison. He surveyed it in that summer, and it was approved in 1902.

Oregon City resident, and future engineering partner, Thomas Hurlburt, was the Examiner. The next year he was awarded Idaho Contract 230 for 12 fractional townships South of the Reservation. Idaho awarded him Contract 236 in 1903 for 7 fractional townships North of Coeur d'Alene, a Joint Contract with his brother in 1904, Joint Contract 260 in 1905 with Herman Gradon, which appears to have been surveyed by Harold, and his last Idaho Contract, Contract 276 in July of 1906 South of Coeur d'Alene Lake. Harold's only Washington Contract, and his last GLO Contract was Joint Contract 639 with his brother Ernest on the Colville Reservation in November of 1906. They shared the work, and both signed all of the notes. There were plenty of crewmen for two crews, including three nephews.

The 12 townships took most of the seasons of 1907 and 1908. They were examined by Marion P. McCoy just before he was indicted and sentenced to McNeil Island Federal Penitentiary for fraud against the government. The Rand brothers were writing to the Surveyor General about how this might affect their examination, and when they would be paid. It appears that all of Harold's Contracts were obtained by competitive bid.

Harold lived with his parents until he married Florence Graham in 1911 in The Dalles, and soon moved to Estacada, where he designed and supervised the grouted cut-off wall of the Estacada Dam, a model to be followed across the nation. He was part of Hurlburt and Rands in Portland in 1914 and on the Oregon City School Board in 1915. In 1914-15 he surveyed and designed the 24 mile water line from the South Fork of the Clackamas River to Oregon City. He spent the winter of 1917 making tests and designing the foundations for the railroad bridge across the Tanana River in Alaska. He was an engineer for the State of Oregon in 1920, and for Portland Electric Power in 1925, where he was an engineer for the Clackamas and Oak Grove dams and powerhouses. In 1927 he was in Manifests, British Columbia working in mining.



He was with Crown-Willamette Paper Co. in 1928, and from 1929-1943, he was the senior hydraulics engineer for the Corps of Engineers in Portland, where he did basin studies of most of the Columbia Basin. He determined where the ultimate dams would be placed along the Columbia and Willamette Rivers. Harold was a senior engineer for the construction of the Bonneville Dam and Powerhouse. He also had been an engineer for electric railways from 1909-11, and obtained a patent on a threshing machine in 1899. He was in Nome, Alaska for some time in 1925 & 1926. There are 7 ft. of his records at the University of Oregon, including diaries. He died in Portland. (biography) This is the maintained version of this information.

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## **Rankin, John**

### **Knox**

1837-1913

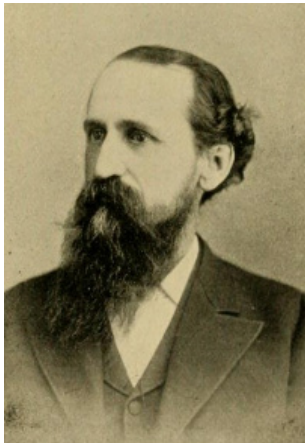
Rep

IAA

Indian Allotting Agent 1897

to

no more



John was born in Indiana, the son of a minister that died when John was three. He was raised by his mother, educated in Wabash College, and graduated from Iberia College, an anti-slavery school in Ohio, before coming to Lawrence, Kansas to join his brother in 1859. He came as a political helper to General James H. Lane, who was elected U. S. Senator in 1860.

John became Doorkeeper and then Enrolling Clerk to the Territorial Council and Journal Clerk to the first State Legislature. When the War started, he mustered in as a Second Lt. and did active fighting for two years until becoming an Aide-de-Camp for General Robert B. Mitchell. John was in Lawrence, KS in August 1863 when it was raided by Quantrill, killing 160 men and boys. He was only one of two that offered active resistance with his pistol. He went to Connecticut in 1865 to marry Laura Finney and returned in 1865 to be appointed Paymaster and Inspector General of the Kansas Militia by Governor Crawford, with the rank of Colonel.

He was: State Legislator 1866 and 1888, Postmaster of Lawrence 1867-71, Mayor 1874-76 and State Treasurer 1877. Laura died in 1875, and he remarried to Augusta Fischer in 1878. When the Sac and Fox Agency was moved to Oklahoma in 1869, John and R. S. Stevens bought 5000 acres of the best land. They platted Quenemo and sold the land in parcels. He was an officer and part owner of the Carbondale RR and the Pleasant Hill Line. He was Cashier and President of Lawrence Savings Bank. He was sued for improperly turning over to a railroad \$100,000 of bonds, held in escrow for Douglas County at his bank in 1873. The bank became insolvent in 1873. Under the name Rankin and Gibbs, he was authorized to trade with the Indians in Kansas and Oklahoma. They went bankrupt in 1879.

John served in the pension office in Washington, D. C., until he was named a Special Allotting and Dispersing Agent for the Office of Indian Affairs in 1889 in Oklahoma, and served for 19 years in Arizona, New Mexico, Washington, Oregon, Montana, and Nebraska. He was assigned to Washington in 1892. John Rankin, acting as Indian Allotting Agent, gave Special Instructions to Oliver B. Iverson while he was working on the Yakima Reservation in October, 1893, to survey two additional sections in his Contract. (Nunc pro tunc) After Grover Cleveland was elected in 1894, he studied law and was admitted to the Bar in Douglas County in 1896. When the Republicans returned to office in 1896, he returned to allotting and was the allotting agent on the Klamath Reservation.

His assignment to the Flathead Reservation in 1906 was anticipated to last a year, even though he was to use two ten-man survey crews for the work. He ran for County Attorney in Lehmi County, ID in 1910. He was back in Lawrence in 1910, where he owned an icehouse, and entered a heated argument with a disgruntled customer, which caused his death in 1913. See WA GLO Surveyors for the maintained version of this information. (biography)

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### **Rankin, Orville**

#### **Montgomery**

1832-1955

USDS

Contract 694

to

Contract 723

Born in Illinois, Orville came to Portland, Oregon in 1880 with his family. His father, Monroe Bennett Rankin, was for a time the partner of Governor Gibbs in real estate and timber interests, and operated a sawmill in 1872. He went bankrupt in 1883 and moved to Montana in 1884 to recoup his losses. 1898 While there he was milling and shipping lumber before he returned to Portland. He was a timber broker for awhile, but then acquired large timber tracts on his own. He sold 50,000 acres in Klamath County, and several others for 3000-20,000 acres until his debts were paid off, and then some.

Orville, the son, attended two years of college at Stanford before graduating from the University of Oregon School of Law in 1897. After graduation, he received three Contracts for a total of 6 townships from 1898-1900 in Southern Oregon. Five townships were in 1898 Northeast of Chiloquin in Klamath County. During this Contract, he interacted with John Knox Rankin and his son Carl, relationship to Orville unknown. John was the Allotting Agent on the Klamath and witnessed an Indian chainman's "X", and Carl served as a chainman on Orville's crew. The other township was just Northeast of Oakridge in 1900, and that one was examined in 1901 and 1902 by David Kinnaird without field corrections being required.

Orville married Marie Caroline Jubitz in 1899, and they were living with Orville's parents in Portland in 1900. He built a new house very near his father's at 19th and Clifton in SW Portland in 1906. He was a businessman in Portland in 1910, and Marie died after childbirth in 1916 at age 44, after giving birth to her fifth child. He remarried to widow Helena M. Koehler Rigler in 1922, the widow of the Portland School Superintendent, and they stayed together until Helena died in 1946. Orville continued as a businessman in Portland, and owned a coal and ice company, at first with his father and then on his own, until at least until 1940. He took a trip to the Philippines in 1940 to visit his two sons and died in Portland in 1952.

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**Ransom, David  
William**

1830-1905

Rep

USDS

Contract 175 (with 1872  
John Fullerton)

to

no more

David was born in New York, and was a millwright in 1850 in Jackson, Pennsylvania. He was a carpenter in Roseburg, Oregon in 1860, and married 16-year-old Charlotte Anne "Lottie" White in Douglas County in 1865. By 1870 he was a saloon keeper in Myrtle Creek with three children. He explored a road from Canyonville to Klamath Lake with John Fullerton in 1869. David received a Joint Contract with John Fullerton in 1872 that included 11 townships at the North end of Upper Klamath Lake. They were all exteriors, except for the subdivisions of three townships, and were all surveyed by David. He mentioned that all of the exteriors of one of the townships were in the Lake or Swamp.

Also included were four townships in the Coastal Mountains just Northeast of Port Orford, which appear to have been surveyed by both of them. There are no final oaths, and both of them are listed in the introduction and approval. John Fullerton was living in Canyonville, and David was a millwright there in 1880. John had been a Sheriff and Judge, and was powerful enough to have his son appointed Receiver in the Roseburg Land Office in 1873. David, in some capacity, arrested a thief in Canyonville in 1873 and sent him to the sheriff in Jacksonville.

The Douglas County Republicans nominated David to run for the state office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, and he lived in Roseburg in 1882 when he was the millwright for a new flour mill. He was on the list of a group that purchased a sawmill and formed a socialist Colony near Bellingham in 1883, called the Washington Colony. It dissolved in 1885, and David was again a millwright in Vancouver B. C. in 1901. He died of old age in Ballard, Washington in 1905 with all of his family there at his death. He had sired 11 children.

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**Raymond, David****C.**

1832-1855

USDS

Claim Contract 23

1854

to

no more

David was born in Indiana, the son of a tavern owner, and worked in the tavern of his father in 1850 in Shanswick, Indiana. His parents came over the Oregon Trail in 1851, presumably with their six children including David. His father, Felix, filed a 320 acre Claim South of Salem, Northwest of Turner. David's younger brother, Phillip, attended Willamette University in Salem, and David may have done so also. There was a course in surveying available at that time. David was a chainman for Butler Ives on Contract 3 and for William Ives on Contract 4 near Portland in 1851.

In 1852 just two years from tavern ownership, David and his father were officers of the Pacific Division, Sons of Temperance, in Salem, and Felix was the leader. David received Claim Contract 23 at age 20 in 1853 for 57 Claim Surveys in Marion and Linn Counties, around Salem from Keiser to Albany. David only used a total of six crewmen on all of those Claims. He finished his surveys in 1853 and died in Salem in 1855. A younger sister died also later in the year. David is buried in Salem Pioneer Cemetery, along with other family members.

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**Reavis, David****Lewis**

1860-1924

Dem

USDMS

Mineral Surveys

1902

to

Mineral Surveys

1903

Born in Missouri, the son of a farmer, David was in Texas by 1870-80 with his parents on a cattle ranch. He married in 1894 to Ida Lee Womack, living in Crowell, Texas, and they had one daughter, born in Oregon in 1898. David's uncle, David Barton Reavis, had moved to Enterprise Oregon in 1877, and David's father moved with his family to Enterprise in 1887. His uncle became a state legislator and judge at Enterprise. David was a Surveyor in Crowell, Texas in 1889 and Foard County Surveyor there in 1891. He was in Enterprise by 1898, was the Wallowa County Surveyor in 1902, and surveyed two Mining Claim in Wallowa County

His father died in 1909, his mother in 1914, and David was a civil engineer back in Crowell, Texas again by 1909. He returned to Enterprise as a surveyor in 1911 and as a deputy County Clerk for Wallowa County in 1914, per the City Directory. By 1916 he was Foard County Surveyor in Texas again, keeping that position until near the time he died there in 1924.

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**Reese, Joseph D.**

1866-1934

USDMS

Mineral Surveys 1903

to

no more



Born in Ohio, Joseph came to Oregon in 1897 and lived in Baker as an assayer in 1900. While he was living in Canada, he married Annie LaViers in 1891, who was a native of England. Joseph was named co-manager of the Present Need Mine near Prairie City in 1900. Annie died in Prairie City, Grant County, Oregon in 1903 after three children. Joseph designed, built and leased a water system to Prairie City in 1904.

Joseph surveyed ten Mining Claims near John Day in 1903 and another nine Claims in 1906, also at John Day. His oldest son, Howard, was a chainman at age 15 on the last four Claims. Joseph was a civil engineer in Prescott, Arizona before moving to California by 1911. He remarried to Ina Mae Wren in 1910 in San Diego, who was the daughter of his landlady in Prescott at the time. They had two children. Howard died in California in 1911. Joseph was advertising in the newspaper in 1918 for a job in mining for himself. Joseph and Ina were in San Antonio in 1921 and in Austin, Texas in 1924, where he was working in operations in the oil business. He was a mining engineer in Inglewood in 1930, and died there in 1934.

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**Renoe, George W.**

1840-1923

Comp

245 (as compassman 1875  
for Zenas Moody)

to

no more

Born in Missouri, George grew up on a farm and came to Oregon in 1871 via San Francisco. He soon began surveying for Zenas Moody and in 1875 was his compassman for Contract 245 Northwest of Malheur Lake. He engaged in steamboating on the Columbia River between Portland and The Dalles, and for one winter, carried the mail on horseback, Pony Express style, between those cities. At times he had to use snowshoes instead of the horse. He married Esther Miller in 1874, and eventually turned to farming. Esther died in 1897 at their home in Mosier of TB. She was buried on the family farm at Mosier, but was reinterred and buried in Hood River in 1909.

There was a threatened Sheriff's Sale on several pieces of real estate within her estate in 1897. They lived all of their married life time in Oregon in Wasco County. George began living with his children by 1900, died in Grant County in 1923 at the home of a daughter, and is buried in Hood River, marked on a gravestone with Esther and several other family members.

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**Riggs, James****Berry, Jr.**

1848-1884

Rep

Contract 405 (with H. 1881  
Ferguson)

to

no more

Born in Oregon of James Berry Riggs, Sr. who was the Captain of a wagon train in 1845 to Oregon, James, Jr. was living in Polk County, Oregon in 1850. He continued in Polk county, and married Sarah Pinkney Hughes in 1868. They lived in Polk County and had seven children, three of whom died as children. James ran on the Republican ticket for Polk County Sheriff in 1872. He was a druggist in Dallas in 1880, and received Joint Contract 405 in 1881 with Harry Ferguson. It was for two townships in Curry County, but there are no notes of that work in the records, and they may have been only partners or sureties. They also cosigned a promissory note for \$300 in 1881 as H. J. Ferguson, M. M. Ellis, Nat Holman, and James Riggs, at the same time as their Contract.

Neither had known surveying experience, and their identification as the Deputies is circumstantial and by proximity, although their signatures exist on the note for future comparison. H. J. Ferguson was an insurance agent in Dallas in 1880. James owned a horse ranch in Lost Canyon in Wasco County in 1884, and was chasing a wild horse that had gotten away from a helper, still wearing a lasso. James tied the rope that was trailing the horse around his saddle, but the wild horse upset his horse, and James fell and broke his neck, killing him.

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**Rinearson,****Abraham Lewis**

1851-1930

Rep

Comp

Contract 196 (as 1873  
compassman for John  
Crawford)

to

no more

Abraham was born in Oregon, the oldest child of an early immigrant that had settled in Gladstone. He was still attending school at age 18 in 1870. He was hired as compassman for John D. Crawford for Contract 196 West of Ontario in 1873, probably because John was in the Legislature and had no survey experience. A subsequent resurvey noted it was done by a conscientious surveyor. Abraham was a surveyor in Boise by 1874 when he received his first Contract from the Idaho Surveyor General, LaFayette Cartee, originally a Deputy Surveyor from Oregon. Abraham was awarded another Contract in 1875, South of Boise, and was loosely affiliated with Deputy Surveyor Allan Thompson on that survey.

Abraham was bonded as a U. S. Deputy Mineral Surveyor by 1880 and completed 15 Mineral surveys in Idaho from 1880-1908. He was the Mineral Draftsman in the Idaho Surveyor General's Office of William P. Chandler in 1882. Abraham married 14-year-old Martha Ellen "Mattie" Minor in Horseshoe Bend in 1882, and they had three children. He successfully sued Mattie for divorce in 1889. Mattie remarried a month later to Joseph Robbins in Boise County, but she died four years later after one child.

He drew a map of a 150,000 acre irrigation project out of the Payette River to irrigate lands near Boise City. Abraham remarried to Anna Woodland in 1892, by whom he had a daughter. He ran frequently as a Republican candidate for Boise County Surveyor, and served from at least 1888-92. He built a bridge across the Payette River at Horseshoe Bend in 1894. The Surveyor General awarded him at least two more Contracts in Idaho, one in 1892 for 13 townships North of Boise and another for Contract 233 with 9 townships North of Boise in 1901.

Abraham was a civil engineer in Horseshoe Bend, Idaho in 1900, and in 1903 he began a series of seven courses in Metal Mining through International Correspondence Schools, completing all. He ran again for County Surveyor of Boise County in 1908, was a civil engineer in Boise City in 1910 and was a surveyor in Jarbidge, Nevada in 1910. Anna and their daughter stayed in Boise. He was a divorced mining engineer in Jarbidge in 1920, the same year he filed a plat of the town. It was noted that the plat was based on a survey by his son Albert.

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**Robb, Bamford**

*1835-1911*

USDS

Contract 357 (with  
Samuel Lackland)  
to

Contract 383 (with  
Herman Gradon)

1880

1881

Bamford was born in Athens, Ohio and attended a Presbyterian college at Athens. He married Maria Jane Eckelson in Ohio in 1858, and was in Jacksonville, Oregon in 1872 when his first son was born. He was in California from about 1875-78, and ran a stationery store in Stockton in 1876. Maria died in 1878 in California, and Bamford was in Portland by 1880 when he was awarded Joint Contract 357. It was with Samuel Lackland for 9 townships South of John Day, and they shared the work. Bamford used future Deputy Surveyor Henry Cooke as a crewman on all of his portion.

Joint Contract 366 in 1880 with Maria's brother, A. O. Eckelson, for nine townships Southwest of John Day was all surveyed by Bamford in two months using three different crews. Joint Contract 383 with Herman Gradon in 1881 was shared by both. The work was just East of John Day. Bamford lived in Portland until at least 1900, when he listed himself as a capitalist. At some time, he was named State Engineer for Oregon. His son, Bamford Albert Robb, graduated from Yale Law School in 1893, cum laude, and lived with his father in Portland until 1895, when he moved to Idaho.

Bamford, the son, was Chief Clerk in the Idaho Surveyor General's Office in 1897-1902 and served as an officer in the Idaho State Militia. Many Contracts in Idaho were awarded to Oregon Deputy Surveyors over the years, causing an issue with local surveyors at one time. Bamford, his son, and the Surveyor General of Idaho were officers of the Hartford and Helena RR, organized in Boise in 1900 to build a RR down the Snake River to the mouth of the Salmon River. Bamford was living with his son in Seattle in 1910, and died there in 1911.

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**Roberts, Charles  
Elmer "Charley"**

1867-1944

Rep

USDS

Contract 759

1904

to

no more



Born in Pennsylvania, Charles moved with his family to Iowa where he graduated from the eighth grade. They moved to Linn County, Oregon in 1885 and then to Douglas County in 1892, where Charles engaged in mining and lumbering out of Canyonville. He was appointed deputy county clerk in 1900 and was elected Douglas County Surveyor in 1902, keeping that position until 1910, minus two years when he was in Panama. Also, in 1902 he married Anna Graham in Roseburg.

Charles partnered with Milton Germond in 1903 to do a rural subdivision just outside Roseburg. He received Contract 759 in 1904 for one fractional township on Little River East of Roseburg. It only involved 14 miles of line, and he did the survey in 1905. Charles was examined in 1906 by William Douglass and in 1908 by J. Scott Harrison and had to return to the field in 1907 to do six miles of corrections. Anna died in 1914. He had been hired as a Douglas County Deputy Sheriff in 1916, when he remarried in Roseburg to Mary Swinney, an assessor's employee. He was a Director of Umpqua Valley Bank in 1923, a tax collector in 1930 and retired in Roseburg in 1940.

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**Robinson,  
Thaddeus Pulaski**

1812-1874

USDS

Special Instructions 1854  
(with A. W.  
Thompson and  
George H. Van Cleft  
as compassmen)

to

no more

Thaddeus was born in Laconia, New Hampshire in 1825, and he prepared for college at Lowell Academy and New Hampton Academy before entering Dartmouth. After graduating as a civil engineer with the Class of 1848, he took a job in Lawrence as a civil engineer. He left for California in 1849 and had mail waiting for him at San Francisco in 1851. Thaddeus settled down in Crescent City, where he was the County Surveyor of Klamath County, California, and while there, he surveyed the 350-acre townsite of Crescent City in 1853. The California Legislature appropriated \$3500 for a temporary survey of the Oregon/California Boundary in 1854. The California Surveyor General tried to find someone to survey that line, and found Thaddeus at Crescent City to do the work for the appropriation under Special Instructions.



He also appointed A. W. Thompson and George H. Van Cleft as Assistants, who were civil engineers and surveyors. Thompson had been a Deputy Surveyor in California, making a name for himself surveying Spanish Claims. Van Cleft was a surveyor and was currently serving in the Legislature. The reason for the survey was mostly political, because the residents of Sailors Diggings and Alt House Creek were ignoring both states. They voted in both states and paid taxes in neither. The budget was only for a survey to answer that question, but yet be credible.

The survey began at a C & GS monument at Crescent City and proceeded North to an Initial Monument on the South Bank of Fountain Creek. It then went East along the State Line for 80 miles to Pilot Rock. Topography along the line was also gathered by Thompson, along with the setting of occasional monuments. The results, including a technical report, determined the two settlements were in Oregon, but Yreka was in California. After Thaddeus finished the report on the State Boundary, he began a survey of the 40-mile plank and turnpike road from Crescent City to the Illinois Valley in Oregon, finishing in November. This road was for the purpose of hauling mining supplies, and was promoted by San Francisco Merchants.

Thaddeus returned to Massachusetts in 1857 and entered Harvard Medical School, graduating with the Class of 1860. That year in June, he married Rebecca Frances "Fanny" Smith, and they had one daughter. He set up his practice in Newton, Massachusetts, where he worked 14 years as a physician until he died there in 1874 at age 48 of kidney failure.

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**Rodolf, Frederick**

**William**

**"Barney"**

1886-1966

SES

Special Instructions 1913

to

no more



1911

OR PE 1462. NV PE/PLS 1227.

Fred Rodolf was a U. S. Surveyor under Groups 14 and 18 in the Direct System in 1913-15 when he was given Special Instructions to make an Examination of the Oregon-California Boundary and the conflicting surveys involved. The confusion had gone on for over 30 years under the Contract Era, in addition to the questions about the Daniel G. Major's survey of the State Boundary in 1858. Fred received Special Instructions on 6/14/1913 and reported on 1/24/1914 for Group 14 for the examination of several ranges.

Most of the surveys examined were within the bookmarks of the author of this work, "Surveyors Associated with the Oregon Surveyor General's Office of Oregon, 1851-1910." Based on that assumption, Frederick William Rodolf and his biography are included in this work. Born in Nebraska in 1886, the son of a carpenter, Fred moved with the family to Iowa in 1893 and lived in Washington, California by 1898.

Fred married Alvena Pearl Kerns in Portland, Oregon in June, 1907, and later that year he was advertising as a private surveyor in Portland in the newspapers. He worked as a U. S. Deputy Surveyor in Arizona in 1909 on a Contract for two townships South of Kingman. He at sometime completed four years of college and was a member of Delta Phi fraternity at the University of Arizona in 1911, at the same time he was an Assistant in Civil Engineering for the School. He was noted as a U. S. Surveyor in Phoenix in 1911. By June 7, 1912, Fred worked under the Direct System in Oregon and received Special Instructions as a U. S. Surveyor, with others under Group 3, to make surveys in the center of Eastern Oregon.

His instructions of June 14, 1913 under Group 14 were to make examinations and retracements of conflicting surveys along the State Line through T41S R6E-12W. He finished the field work in October and filed his report on January 24, 1914. No record of the notes or report have been located yet. Another set of instructions on February 15, 1915 and later under Group 18 asked him to resurvey the Oregon and California state line from MP 145-107 and to resurvey fractional sections along the line, including T41S R12W-6E. Other instructions to him from 1916-18 would continue the corrections all the way to the West.

The notes and plats of these corrections are in the files online at BLM. They show that the State Boundary as surveyed by Daniel Major in 1863 was far from the quality of a job expected from an experienced astronomer. Going West from Klamath Falls to the Pacific, the line varied occasionally by three degrees of direction, both North and South. There was a ten degree variation for two miles South of Cave Junction. and a few other of five to seven degrees.

Notable Deputies corrected were, Jesse Applegate, Eugene B. Henry, Nathaniel Ford, Fred Mensch, Samuel Lackland, H. A. Harvey, James Howard, William Turner, James Tolman, Rufus Moore and Charles M. Collier. Nearly all of the corrected surveys were of a minor nature, with changes mostly to the plats. Those of Samuel Lackland were grossly fraudulent with errors of up to 26 chains (1700 feet), caused by Lackland not finding the State line and then reporting that he did. After a thorough search, the closing corners were not found by Rodolf, who stated that Lackland never ran the closing lines for T41S R3,4W.



1953

Fred continued in the Direct System out of Portland until at least 1919. For 5 years, Fred worked on an invention that he patented in 1917, called Addachine. At 3" x 3", it could very easily add and subtract, and sold for 50 cents. An article noted he was finishing a survey for the government out of Oroville, Washington in 1919 and was being transferred to another state. While on that job, he sponsored a charity dance for a new library for Loomis, and raised several hundred dollars. The census in 1920 listed him in Tacoma as an engineer, and a F W. Rodolf in Portland was taking over the offices of the W. A. Pittenger Company, dealers in logging equipment.

Fred was an engineer for the County in 1930, and in 1936 he was noted as leading a crew of 12 for the Army Corps of Engineers to survey the Umatilla River levee project. By 1939, he was in charge of the survey crew on the survey ship, Robert Gray for the Corps. He continued with the Corps until he retired in 1952, being noted as chief survey engineer in 1943. Fred took a leave of absence to go to Afghanistan with the giant construction company, Morrison Knutson. He had charge of soil tests and other ground work engineering for irrigation projects. Fred coauthored a book on the history, design and construction of jetties in 1951. He retired to Onalaska, Washington until he died there in 1966 at age 80.

**Rowland, John  
William**

1858-1927

Dr/Clerk

Ch Clerk

Clerk

to

no more

1899

Born the son of a farmer in Lane County, Oregon, John moved to Monmouth in 1872 with his family, where was a teacher in 1880, living with his parents. John graduated from the University of Oregon with a law degree in 1897. In 1895, he served as a Special Mining Clerk in The Surveyor General's Office of John C. Arnold. While there, he met and married another Clerk, Harriett Ella Proebstel Sparks. She was a widow, whose husband had recently died of tuberculosis. His father-in-law, Jacob Proebstel, was a Donation Claimant in Clark County, Washington, and in 1875 had moved to Weston, Oregon, where he operated a flour mill. By 1901, he was a State Senator, and was pressuring Henry Meldrum to fire Chief Clerk, George Waggoner, and promote his son-in-law to Chief Clerk. That happened, and the appointment of John was pending for an unknown time.

John was a reluctant witness for the prosecution against Henry Meldrum in 1904. He was appointed the Chief Clerk in the Surveyor General's Office of John Daly after Meldrum was sent to prison. John was still Chief Clerk under Surveyor General George A. Westgate in 1910, under Edward G. Worth in 1920, and continued under Wesley Caviness through 1925. He obviously had a lot of political capital. John again testified reluctantly for the prosecution in the 1910 trials of Binger Herman and others involved in land fraud, because he had made special maps of new undisclosed forest reserves in advance for the defendants.

He was about to be dismissed without a hearing in 1913 for making maps on government time for profit and for letting his relatives profit, but Senator Chamberlin intervened and saved him. When the Surveyor General's position was abolished in 1925, John was still Chief Clerk, but his title was changed from Chief Clerk to Office Cadastral Engineer. John died in Vancouver, Washington in 1927. Ella remarried, died in 1936, and is buried next to John in Vancouver.

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## Rowland, William

**L.**

1860-1930

Comp

Contract 404 (as  
compassman for  
William P. Wright)

1881

to

Contract 442 (as  
compassman for  
William P. Wright)

1882



William L. Rowland was born near Coquille, Oregon, the son of William Barnabas Rowland, and an Indian girl, named Mala Jane. His father had created a family in Illinois that was mostly grown, and left them in about 1850 to come to Oregon. It is unknown whether they were abandoned, or whether he divorced his wife. She was listed as a widow in 1860. William Sr., settled on a Claim on Rowland Creek, in Section 27 and 34, T30S R12W.

The family story is that Mala Jane found William senior badly clawed by a bear in the woods, carried him to her home, and nursed him back to health. They were married by 1857 and had several children, the last in 1869. Beginning at age 16, and continuing for several years, William Jr. was a chainman and axman for William P. Wright, who surveyed mostly in Southwestern Oregon, on Contracts near Coquille. He was appointed as compassman on Contract 404 in 1881 for Wright, and continued again at that for three more Contracts until 1882. He was listed as a surveyor in the 1880 census, living with his sister in Coquille. William was in Humboldt County, California from 1892-96.

**Rudd, Arthur****Horace***1875-1928*

Dem

Rep

HES

Special Instructions 1909

to

Special Instructions 1910



1900

OR PE 354. Born in Illinois, Arthur was in Colorado in 1885 with his family. He attended the University of Chicago, graduated from the Colorado School of Mines in 1900, married school teacher Jessie Sarrell in Golden, Colorado, and ran for City Engineer there as a Democrat in 1905. He was a surveyor in Wallowa County, Ore and surveyed 15 Homestead Entry Claims and 44 Mining Claims out of Enterprise and Joseph.

While there, Arthur supervised the long pipeline of the Joseph Light and Power Company. He was elected Wallowa County Surveyor in 1912, served three terms, and was a surveyor for the Highway Dept. in Wallowa County in 1918. He was also the same in Pendleton in 1919, at a time he was sick for several months. Because of his illness, the family left Pendleton for Portland in 1921, before going to Golden, Colorado in 1921, where Arthur had a job with the Colorado School of Mines. He was a Republican Candidate in Golden for County Surveyor in 1922.

The newspaper noted him returning from Hill Top, Nevada in 1923 where he had been working for several months. The school reported his work on behalf of the school and the Geological Museum. Arthur died in California in 1928 of pneumonia and complications from a fall on ice he took at the Engeis Copper Mine. Jessie died in Golden, Colorado in 1961. His daughter graduated from college, and his two sons were attending college when he died. (name pronounced Rude)

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**Rumsey, James  
Llewellyn**

1852-1933

USDS

Contract 447            1882

to

Contract 487            1883



Born in Grand Rapids, Michigan, the son of a farmer in 1851, James graduated from the University of Michigan in 1876 in civil engineering. He was in Oregon as a chainman for Henry Perkins in 1877-79 for three Contracts between Malheur Lake and Christmas Valley. James would later claim in his University Annual that he was a USDS on this work, and he could have been the compassman since there was an extra chainman.

James was the Superintendent for construction of a RR in Oregon from 1878-82. He received three Contracts on his own for 26 townships from 1882-1883, all in Eastern Oregon. The first Contract was for four townships just Southeast of Government Camp and five townships just inside the North line of the Warm Springs Reservation. The next one had eleven townships at Warner Lakes, North of Hart Mountain. The last Contract was for six townships South of Wagontire. He used a consistent three of four man crew each year. A BLM surveyor noted that James surveyed the exteriors, but may have neglected some of the interiors.

James was single in 1880 in Portland, and a widower in 1900, when he was back living with his aged parents in Grand Rapids. He married Flora May Newton, in 1908 in Syracuse, New York, and they had no children. Flora was a graduate of Cazenovia Seminary in Syracuse, and her sister, also a graduate of Carvenovia, had earlier married James' brother in Grand Rapids. James spent the rest of his career as a civil engineer in Grand Rapids, Michigan until he died there in 1933. James and his siblings donated land for a park in Grand Rapids, then named Rumsey Park before a name change to Clemente Park 50 years later.

**Russell, James****Allen***1861-1931*

Dem

Comp

Contract 503 (as 1884

compassman for  
William Barr)

to

no more



Born in Iowa the son of a blacksmith, James crossed the Oregon Trail in 1862 to La Grande. He was teaching school in Cove while living at home in 1880, and in 1881 began attending Scotts Academy. He was hired as Compassman for Contract 503 in 1884 by William Barr for two townships East of Cove. The work was not examined. In 1885 he took charge of a large cattle ranch for three years until he helped the owner sell it.

James married school teacher Adalade "Addie" Ellsworth Whitmore in 1886. He was the Postmaster in Cove, contracted on RR construction in 1892, and ran a butcher shop in Cove until 1896 before moving it to La Grande and Island City. He was a stock driver in Union County in 1900, a retail butcher in 1910 and 1920, and a buyer for a packer in 1930, all in La Grande. in 1910 James was an officer of a company subdividing irrigation land at Enterprise. A son was killed when hit by a train in 1907, and he owned the Grande Round Meat Co. in 1912. James died in La Grande in 1930, and Addie in 1934.

## Abbreviations

<b>Abbreviation</b>	<b>Name</b>
USDS =	United States Deputy Surveyor
USDMS =	United States Deputy Mineral Surveyor
USS =	United States Surveyor (Employee of another agency)
Astr =	Astronomer
IAA =	Indian Allotting Agent (Employee of Office of Indian Affairs)
Comp =	Compassman
SES =	Special Examiner of Surveys (Hired by the Commissioner)
EX =	Examiner of Surveys (Hired by the Surveyor General)
S G =	Surveyor General
Ch Clerk =	Chief Clerk in Surveyor General's Office
Dr/Clerk =	Draftsman/ Clerk in Surveyor General's Office



Rep	Republican
Dem	Democrat
Whig	Whig
Peoples	Peoples
Union	Union
Ind	Independent
Prohib	Prohibition
Free Soil	Free Soil
Fusion	Fusion
Greenback	Greenback
Populist	Populist
Socialist	Socialist



## Short Biographies S-Z of All of the Surveyors and Individuals Associated with the Surveyor General's Office in Oregon 1851-1910



<b>Typical Format</b>	Photo (if available with permission to post)	Short Biography
<i>Born-Died</i>		
Political Affiliation, if known		(biography) means that there is a biography of some kind available in the Biography Section.
Type of Surveyor	Credits and sources for photos can be found in the Photo Section.	
First Contract or Engagement to	Year	See the end of this section for a list of abbreviations.
Last Contract or Engagement	Year	

<p><b>Sanderson, Edward Wavell</b> <i>1844-1913</i> Dem Rep USDS Contract 368 to Contract 417</p>	<p>1880     1881</p>	<p>Born in England, Edward came to the U. S. in 1851 as a youth, and became a citizen when his father was naturalized. His family settled in Tennessee, and in 1870, Edward was County Surveyor of Blount County, Tennessee. He was a stock farmer in Butte Creek, Wasco County, Oregon in 1880. He received two Contracts in Umatilla County in 1880-81. The first was for five townships South of Heppner. The second was for two townships West of Heppner and four more South of Heppner. They were surveyed with consistent crews each season.</p>
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Edward married Angeline B. "Angie" Hamilton in San Jose in 1883 and was the Sheriff of Gilliam County from at least 1888-91. By 1890, he was in Santa Clara, California, and was listed as a stockman and orchardist there from at least 1892-97; a surveyor in Gilroy, California in 1900; a surveyor in Oakland in 1910; and a carpenter in Oakland in 1910. Angie died in Oakland in 1911, and Edward in 1913. He was successfully sued by a sister in 1895 for the collection of a \$125 promissory note.

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**Sartwell, Dugald  
Stewart "D. S."**

1823-1910

Dem

Contract 241

to

no more

1875

Dugald was born in New York, the son of a physician, and probably was named for the Scotch philosopher. He was a jeweler in New York in 1850, and always was listed as a watchmaker, in 1860 and in the California voter registers from 1867-98. He came to California in 1852 via Panama, and by 1859 he was functioning as an assayer for the recent copper finds. In 1860, Dugald was in Crescent City with an 18 year old Indian girl named Betsey Tatausi and a half Indian 3 year old son. He would sire two more half Indian sons in the next three years. From 1859-62 he was the lightkeeper at Battery Point Lighthouse, and was an elected Supervisor of Del Norte County in 1864.

Dugald stayed near Crescent City the rest of his life, was listed as a surveyor in 1870, a civil engineer in 1880, and from at least 1870-75 was Del Norte County Surveyor. Dugald received Contract 241 in 1875 for one township in Oregon just across the border in Curry County. It was for 10 sections along the Chetco River out of Brookings. A. H. Cleveland surveyed Contract 372 for 2 Sections in 1879 adjacent to Dugald's survey, and those two sections were shown on the official plat of Dugald, without distinction of who did the survey. He used a five man crew that included at least two settlers in the township.

Beginning in about 1877, Dugald was the official weather observer for Crescent City, reporting both to Portland and San Francisco. He was appointed postmaster of Crescent City in 1887. Probably all during his residence in Crescent City, he ran a business from a shop that offered the repairing of watches, clocks, jewelry, sewing machines and musical instruments. Dugald was a widower, living with his two youngest sons in 1910, and died later that year. His oldest son, Henry, died in a rescue attempt of stranded Sailors on the shipwrecked schooner Elvinia in 1882.

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**Saunders,  
William N.**

1829-1901

USDS

Contract 322

to

no more

1879

Born in Ireland, William came to the U. S. in 1851 to California and then crossed the Siskiyou from California to the gold fields in Althouse and Waldo in April 1851. He and 40 other miners drafted the mining code of the Northwest on the bank of Canyon Creek in 1852. and he is credited with discovering the "Caesar Diggings of Southern Josephine County. In 1860 he was a miner in Josephine County, and in 1863 he was the Josephine County Assessor, lasting until 1865. He became a citizen in 1866, and by 1874 he was the Josephine County Surveyor, holding that office nearly continuously until 1888, living in Kirby, Grants Pass and Althouse.

Althouse does not now exist and was a prosperous gold mining town, probably on Althouse Creek Southeast of Cave Junction. It produced record amounts of placer gold in the late 1800's. William received Contract 322 for one fractional township for six miles of line in 1879 in Curry County, just Southeast of Cave Junction. He was single and the County Surveyor in nearby Althouse in 1880. A national publication noted him as the Josephine County Superintendent of Schools in 1882-84 in Kirbyville. He was listed as a widower and a surveyor in Grants Pass in 1900 and died there in the County Hospital in 1901.

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### **Saxton, Willard**

#### **Roy "Roy"**

1881-1910

USS

Special Instructions 1906

to

no more



Roy was born in Wisconsin and graduated from the University of Wisconsin in 1904. After school he went to work for the U. S. Reclamation Service out of Pendleton and then moved to Hermiston when the office moved. He received Special Instructions from his agency to survey some farm tracts along the ORN RR. They were surveyed in 1909 and approved both by USRS and the GLO. He was an engineer in Hermiston in 1910 and died at age 29 at the sanitarium at Hot Lake on July 27, 1910, after five days illness.

Roy's death was caused by polio encephalitis, a form of spinal meningitis, a year after his survey. Newspapers claimed it was from working in the heat of the desert. In his obituary, he was credited with discovering the Cold Springs Reservoir site for the Umatilla Project, and with doing much of the surveying. It was also noted that he was an accomplished violinist and played piccolo in the Wisconsin Band.

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### **Schiller, Eugene**

1855-1917

USDS

Contract 648 1896

to

Contract 673 1896

Born in Germany, Eugene came to the U. S. in 1880 and lived in Oregon by 1886 when he married Anna Maria Jenne Mueller, a recent widow with five children, ten years his senior. Anna had immigrated to the U. S. in 1866, from Germany also, and they had one son together in 1887. Eugene became a citizen in Portland in 1895. He received Contract 648 for one township in Wallowa County and Contract 673 for one township in Josephine County, also in 1896.

Contract 647 was for a full township at the town of Wallowa, with Robert C. Bonser as a chainman. Bonser would become a U. S. Deputy Surveyor the next year and eventually the County Surveyor of Multnomah County for 19 years. Contract 673 was for a full township between Grants Pass and Cave Junction and included Lincoln and Marion Wilkes as crewmen. Lincoln had already surveyed two Contracts on his own as a Deputy Surveyor, and his nephew Marion would be a Deputy in the future.

Eugene was an engineer for a RR at Klamath Falls in 1899, and took out a passport to travel for two years in Europe in 1900. He surveyed the bay at the Port of Toledo in 1910. He was divorced in Beaverton in 1910, and Anna was listed as single and living separately the same year. Eugene died in Sylvan in 1917 and Anna in 1919. They must have reconciled because Anna is buried next to Eugene, and is memorialized on the same tombstone. She was also the executrix of his will and was left some property. Eugene had an estate of \$20,000 with several properties included around the state.

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**Scholfield,  
Socrates**

1831-1914

Whig

USDS

Dr/Clerk

Claim Contract 93 1859

to

Clerk 1859

Socrates was born the first son of Nathan Scholfield, a cotton and woolen mill operator, machinist, civil engineer, and mathematician. In 1833 Nathan wrote an article for the Franklin Institute on the use of a sextant in measuring distance between two points by observations from both ends using mirrors. It was a well documented premise, with ample calculations to back it up. He patented a governor for water wheels that was used throughout the milling industry. In 1845 Nathan wrote a three-volume book on advanced geometry and trigonometry for college level study.

He travelled to Oregon in 1850 as part of a group of investors from San Francisco that wanted to profit from the settlement of the Territory. They hoped to find gold, identify harbors, survey townsites, and promote them. They were headed for the Klamath, but first explored the Rogue where they found hostile Indians which made it not suitable for settlement, and then moved on to the Umpqua. They surveyed the harbor, and surveyed the townsites of Umpqua City, Scottsburg, and Elkton. Nathan published a map of Southern Oregon and Northern California in 1851, that showed potential harbors and rivers in detail.

Socrates does not mention his connection with the surveyors and explorers in his lengthy article in the Oregon Historical Quarterly, nor does he state when Nathan returned to Rhode Island. Socrates was elected Umpqua County Surveyor in 1855 and later that year he was given charge of the containment of 250 Umpqua Indians at Empire City (Coos Bay) in the position of Temporary Indian Agent. He continued that for about 1 year until they were moved North.

Socrates and his father both filed Donation Claims on Umpqua Harbor. Nathan claimed 620 acres with two miles of harbor frontage on the East side of the entrance, and Socrates filed a claim on the North Shore. Scholfield River that flows through Reedsport is named for Socrates. He received Claim Contract 93, for surveying DLC's on the Umpqua River, in March, 1859 from the Oregon Surveyor General, and under that Contract, only surveyed both his and his father's Claims. Nathan received his patent in 1885 after his death, and Socrates received his in 1878. Socrates was a Draftsman in the Surveyor General's Office of William W. Chapman in Eugene in 1859, continuing at least into 1860.

Socrates was a surveyor back in Norwich, Connecticut in 1861, and married Abbie Smith in 1864. He was a producer of water wheel regulators in 1864, and from 1865-68 he was a teacher of engineering at Scholfield College. From 1869-78, he manufactured water wheel regulators, and from 1880-1900+ he was a patent solicitor, all in Providence, RI. He wrote several books, including "The Object of Animal Existence" in 1896, and "The Doctrine of Mechanicalism" in 1907. The latter dealt with the soul and cognitive abilities of animals, and needed a second edition.

He was also issued several patents, including: patent for improved life preserver, 1863; patent for improved method of teaching swimming, 1863; patent for improvements to twist drills, 1869; patent for cigar machines, 1873; patent involving reciprocal and crosscut saws, 1873; and a patent for a lock on removable bay windows, 1889. His last patent in 1914 was for "an illustrative device to demonstrate the relationship between the Supreme Being and his creation." It was for two springs, one shorter and one longer, wound together. Not until 1953 did science determine that the basic structure of human DNA was a double helix, similar to that described by Socrates. However, to this day, this patent is referred to by some as "the most absurd patent ever issued". He died in Providence. This is the maintained version of this information.

**Scoggin, George****R.***1872-1925**USDS**USDMS*

Contract 737 (with William Elliott) 1901

to

Mineral Surveys 1901



OR PE 279. George was born in Oregon the son of a stock raiser, lived in Portland in 1880 with his family, and graduated from Portland High School in 1881. He was a civil engineer in Portland in 1900, living with his mother, and received Joint Contract 737 with William Elliott in 1901 for two townships on the Oregon Coast at Lincoln City. George declined a job with the GLO Forest Reserves in Portland in 1901, and by 1904, they had not begun the Contract. George surveyed 11 Mining Claims in Northeast of Sweet Home and 10 Mining Claims Northwest of Baker in 1901.

From 1902 until at least 1904, William and George were City Engineer and Assistant City Engineer in Portland, with many civil works projects under construction. The first thing to blow up was the cement specifications, which prohibited one of the competitors from selling cement. They were sued, and the newspapers reported all as a scandal. The Tanner Creek Sewer project was constructed very poorly, and the engineering office was charged with not paying attention and signing off on shoddy work. A commission investigated and charged those involved, including William and George, with "Gross Negligence". Both were either dismissed or resigned their public jobs. This process was going on at the time they were to be working on their Contract. The Surveyor General gave up and issued it to others.

William and George formed an engineering partnership called Elliott and Scoggin, and they worked in Oregon and Southwest Washington from 1905-1920. George married former actress Lillian Lovern Davis Kelly in 1906, and they were living in Portland in 1910. However, George was living alone in Portland in 1920, but listed as married. George was Chief Engineer for the Astoria, Portland and Pacific RR in 1920 that ran through Vernonia. William and George also lost a court case in 1924 and had a judgement imposed. George died in Portland in 1925 at age 53, and is buried alone in River View Cemetery.



**Scrafford,  
Eleanor J.  
Seaman**

1847-1940

*Dr/Clerk*

Clerk

1883

to

no more



1883

Eleanor J. Seaman was born in Canada in 1847, completed grammar school, and first showed up in the records in the 1870 Census in Benton County, Oregon, where she was listed as Eleanor J. Scrafford, with a three year old daughter named Diana, born in Iowa. Eleanor was living with an extended Scrafford family, consisting of her husband, James Butler Scrafford, his parents, and two of his brothers and a sister. The 1880 Census had 14-year-old Diana living both with James B. Scrafford without Eleanor, and living with the Scrafford family on another 1880 Census.

James filed for divorce as the plaintiff in 1879-80, and he married Amelia Ann Gore in 1880 , who bore him four more children. Eleanor married someone named Pierce from Wales by 1884 and had two more daughters in 1884 and 1886, born in California. Eleanor worked for the State Legislature in 1882 and from 1883-85 served as a Copyist in the Surveyor General's Office of James C. Tolman. A Marshal Scrafford was a politician and ran for the Legislature, and may have helped her secure this work. She was living with her two Pierce daughters in Tuolumne, California in 1900, and noted as married. Diana had died by then.

Eleanor was a widow in Oakland in 1910 with her daughters, and from 1916 on was alone in San Francisco, residing in the Old Peoples Home there from 1930 until she died in 1940. She had a grandson named Edgar A. Klippel, Jr., who was the nephew of Ida Klippel, another Clerk she worked with in the Surveyor General's Office. He was the son of her first daughter, Diana, and was born in 1895.

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**Sears, James  
Manford  
"Manford"**

1854-1929

Dem

USDS

Contract 764 (with 1905  
Andrew Porter)

to

no more



Born on a farm in Iowa, James came to Polk County Oregon with his family by 1870. He was working on the farm of his sister in Polk County in 1880, but later that year married Ella S. Whitley, a local girl. Ella died in 1889 after three children, and he remarried to Mary L. "Mollie" Dale in 1890. He was a saloon keeper in Dallas in 1900, and received Joint Contract 674 with Andrew Porter in 1905 for two townships Northeast of Sweet Home.

Both signed the oaths, and they were examined by William Douglass in 1907 and Scott Harrison in 1908. Supplemental Instructions were issued, the work was suspended, corrections were made in 1909 of two miles of line, and a after a new examination by Harrison in 1910, one township was accepted and the other rejected. The rejected work was resurveyed under the Direct System later.

James was listed as a surveyor on government land in 1910 and was a laborer on a farm near Dallas in 1920 at the time Mollie died. Molly became ill and had gone to California to recuperate, but to no avail, and she returned to die in Dallas. James was charged in 1923 with moonshining and running a still in Polk County, with results unknown. He died in San Diego in 1929, but is buried in Dallas. His youngest son, Clarence Earl Sears became a hardened armed robber.

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**Seymour, Allan  
M.**

1833-1883

Whig

Dr/Clerk

Clerk

1853

to

no more

Allen was born in Fort Covington, N. Y., the son of a stove manufacturer who was affluent enough to have servants. He was a Clerk, living at home in 1850 in Cortlandt. His sister married a lawyer, Thomas Nelson, and Thomas was appointed to be the Chief Justice on the new Oregon Territorial Supreme Court. Allen was hired as a crewman for the surveys under John Preston in 1851, and travelled to Oregon via Panama with the Preston family, the Nelson Family, and several surveyors. He began on James Freeman's crew on the Meridian South in June of 1851, and then worked for George Hyde later in the fall and in 1852. He would also be a chainman for Robert Elder in Polk County in 1853.

It was on this survey that Allen became seriously ill with cholera-like symptoms. He was temporarily the Assistant Clerk to the Oregon Territorial Council in the fall of 1851. Sometime before 1853, he transitioned to being part time Clerk in the Surveyor General's Office, and part time as Assistant Clerk to the Supreme Court. The Whigs lost and the Democrats won in 1853, and there was a new Supreme Court. Allan Millar, the Chief Clerk to the Court, and a former Clerk in the Surveyor General's office, left for home, leaving instructions for Allen Seymour to not give the Court files to anyone without receiving a receipt. They were stored in the Surveyor General's Office.

After he was refused the files, the new Clerk went to the court and an attachment was issued. Allen still refused to give up the files and was jailed for Contempt. After a while he relented, and the files were given over. Allen was back in New York by 1860, living at home and working as a Clerk. He enlisted in 1861 in the Army as a private, but was soon discharged, and he reenlisted as an officer in September, 1861. With the rank of Captain, he deserted on the way to battle in 1863, and was dishonorably discharged by General Hooker. He was unemployed and living at home in Cortlandt in 1870. He died there in 1883, with the funeral being held at his mother's residence. It appears he never married. This is the maintained version of this information.

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## **Sharp, Edward Franklin**

1865-1954

USDS

Contract 562	1891
to	
Contract 756	1904



Edward was born in Oregon and came to Lower Three Mile in Wasco County in 1871 with his family. His father, brother, son, and Edward all operated farms on Three Mile. Edward graduated from California Military School at Benicia, California in 1884. By 1885 he was in Wasco County surveying roads and the fairgrounds. He was Wasco County Surveyor from 1886-1896, and married Kathleen Jane Ferrely at The Dalles in 1891.

In that year he began as a GLO Surveyor in Oregon with two fractional townships just West of Rainier, using his younger brother and future USDS, Frank H. Sharp, as axeman. He wrote to the Surveyor General that he had finished T6N R3W, and the "the boys" were all in the sack sleeping. This survey was to redo the survey of Deputy Clark Smith in 1878. His Oregon career as a USDS involved 9 Contracts between 1891 and 1904, on both sides of the Cascades. They were all examined and he fared fairly well except for his last, Contract 756 West of Bend, which lasted 4 years and had corrections in the field. A Joint Contract with his brother, Frank, was surveyed by Frank in 1892.

His Contracts were usually very small, and he used future Deputy Surveyors Charles L. Campbell, Homer Angell, George Campbell, W. A. Burt Campbell and Robert Omeg fairly regularly as crewmen, they were all from Wasco County. Edward was a First Lieutenant in the Oregon National Guard in The Dalles in 1894. From 1895-1900, he designed and built three houses on Fourth St. at the Dalles, all of which are on the National Historic Register. He lived in one of them, 404 E. 4th St. He acted as a representative of the Eastern Oregon Land Company in 1900, and surveyed a cemetery at Grass Valley in 1904.

Edward's first Contract in Washington was Number 588 in 1901 for two townships Northeast of Colville and one at Rice, all in Stevens County. The one at Rice was normal and approved right away after an exam. The two Northeast of Colville had the perimeters surveyed by David Thayer of the Benson Syndicate, and had major distortions. The North line of T37N R40E was short by half a mile and out of alignment by 2000 feet. The South Boundary was also short by half a mile. Edward succeeded in avoiding returning to the field, but he redid the field notes several times, getting approval in 1908.

Edward next surveyed 3 townships at Longmire on the slopes of Mt. Rainier in a Joint Contract with his chainman, Robert Omeg. They shared the work and were examined by M. P. McCoy without problems. Frank next received a Joint Contract with Henry Porak for 11 townships, between Omak Lake and Brewster, on the Colville Reservation in 1908. After an exam by Fred Rase in 1906 and corrections to the plat, the survey was approved in October of 1908. Washington, D. C. noted a portion was suspended, and field corrections were made, but there are no notes indicating that.

Edward was a government surveyor in 1910, Wasco County Road master in 1915, a civil engineer in 1920, and a farmer in 1930. He raised Purebred Hereford cows on his ranch, with his son Arthur running it. Edward died in The Dalles at age 89 in 1954, and Kathleen died the next year. This is the maintained version of this information.

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## Sharp, Frank Howland

1868-  
USDS

Contract 597 (with Edward F. Sharp)	1892
to	
Contract 618	1893



Frank was born in Grant County, Oregon, and was the brother of Edward F. Sharp. He moved with his family to Lower Three Mile in Wasco County in 1871, and they were living in The Dalles in 1880. Frank attended four years of College someplace, and was a chainman for his brother in 1891. He held a Joint Contract with his brother in 1892 for one township West of Tillamook, and it was surveyed by Frank.

William Odell did the exam and Frank had to return to the field in 1893 to do corrections. Frank received his own Contract for two townships at Tillamook in 1893, and another Contract in the same year for two townships, with one near Cottage Grove and the other near Grants Pass. They were all fractional townships, and he was examined without major issues. Frank married Carrie E. Parker in Wayne, Indiana in 1895. They lived in Indiana for a few years, but by 1900, Frank was a salesman in New York. He continued that career for nearly 40 years, mostly out of Buffalo, New York, much of the time as a traveling salesman. Frank was last found in Lakewood, New York in 1944, and Carrie was a widow in nearby Jamestown, New York in 1948.

---

**Sherlock, Thomas  
Henry, Jr.**

1850-1918

USDS

Contract 286

to

no more

1878



Born in County Cork, Ireland, Thomas went to New Zealand in about 1870 with his brother, Richard, where another brother was farming. Thomas and Richard left New Zealand and came to Lake County, Oregon in 1880, where other brothers were homesteading, settling near Summer Lake. The brothers joined forces in farming and sheep raising. Thomas received a very small Contract to survey 3/4 mile of the meanders of Summer Lake in 1878 under Special Deposits.

A settler about 10 miles by road along Summer Lake from the Claim of Thomas needed his patent, and put up the deposits. All that was involved was to compass and chain from one meander corner to another, after verifying the meander corners. He finished the survey and was quickly approved. Thomas married Lillian M. Scott, an immigrant from England, in San Francisco in 1889, and they had two sons, the first of which was born in San Francisco. Lillian listed herself as a scholar in the 1871 Census. They lived on the sheep ranch of Thomas at Summer Lake after that. A divorce was filed in 1901 in San Francisco, and Lillian remarried to a James Mitchell Innes in Oregon in 1903. Thomas sold his property at Summer Lake in 1904, and purchased a farm on Davis Creek near Alturas, California, before he travelled to Ireland in 1910.

Thomas began drinking heavily and suffered from dementia and confusion in 1918, resulting in his commitment by his son to the California State Hospital in Mendocino. Thomas had been wandering about trying to buy property and to mortgage his farm. He was sent home on leave, but had a severe cold at the time. It turned into pneumonia and he died quickly. There is no hard evidence connecting this Thomas Sherlock to this survey, except for proximity and lack of other candidates. His signature on the survey would corroborate his identity when another signature is found.

---

**Sherwood Daniel**

**Andrew**

**"Andrew"**

1848-1933

Prohib

USDMS

Mineral Surveys 1906

to

no more



1933

Andrew was born in Pennsylvania and attended the Illinois State Normal school and Old Chicago University. He then spent six years with the USGS in the surveys of Ohio and New York before being named Assistant State Geologist for the second geological survey of Pennsylvania. He married Jennie Lind Knapp in Tioga in 1872, and they had five children. He furnished fossil and mineral specimens to the Smithsonian Institution, the American Museum of Natural History, and the Carnegie Museum, and he was the author of geological works and maps and the writer of songs. Andrew was the Prohibition Candidate for U. S. Congress in 1894 and led an expedition to the Yukon in 1898.

The Alaska Mining and Exploration Company was formed in 1897 and the expedition proceeded from May to September in 1898. Hugh Sherwood, Andrews's son, kept a journal. They explored the Klondike but located no new mines and found only a few samples of gold. Andrew was back in Tioga, Pennsylvania in 1900 as a farmer with his family. While there, he was bonded as a USDMS in Idaho in 1901. He came to Dufur, Oregon by 1902 and was listed as retired in Portland in 1910, living with his son Hugh and accompanied by his wife and one daughter. He was a leading contender for the head of Parks in 1906 in Portland. Hugh had been a school principal in Tioga and received a job as a school principal in Portland by 1909.

Andrew was noted as a U. S. Deputy Mineral Surveyor by the Oregon Journal in 1906 and was drilling for oil in Dufur, Oregon in 1907, when oil stock was selling at a fast pace in Oregon. He was also the representative of the Portland Oil and Gas Company in 1909, when they were promoting oil drilling in the Western foothills of the Willamette Valley in Yamhill, Polk and Washington Counties. Andrew was their expert, and he was commenting on the presence of fossils in the local strata, which were similar to the conditions in the California oil fields. This project warranted a full page ad in the Oregonian in 1909. Andrew continued in Portland until Jennie died in 1932 and Andrew died there in 1933.

---

### **Shipley, William**

**J.**

1838-1915

Dr/Clerk

Clerk

to

no more

1872 Born in Missouri, William crossed the Oregon Trail as a teenager with his family in 1853 to a farm in Corvallis, Oregon. He was a school teacher from at least 1864-70. William received an appointment from Governor Addison Gibbs as a Commissioned Officer in the Oregon Infantry Volunteers in 1864, where he was a First Lieutenant in charge of Company H at Fort Vancouver before becoming Quartermaster at Fort Yamhill. He married Anna Maria McAfee in 1865, and they had one daughter. He mustered out of the Army in 1866, and was a school teacher in Benton County in 1870.

William served as a Clerk in the Surveyor General's Office of William Odell in Eugene in 1872, and then continued in the Office of Benjamin Simpson until at least 1875. During that time, the Office was moved to Portland in 1874, and he was a bookkeeper in Portland in 1880. William left Portland to become Commandant of the Oregon State Old Soldiers Home at Roseburg from 1889 until at least 1900. He retired to San Jose, California by 1910, and died in Oakland in 1915, survived by Anna and their daughter.

---

### **Shoenberg, Peter**

???

unkn

to

no more

Peter Shoenberg was found during research of others and noted as a candidate for this volume. A file was created, but the documentation for his inclusion was not later found in the file, and was probably misfiled. The reason has been forgotten, and it is hoped that he will cross the author's path again.



---

**Shook, Robinson  
Smith "Robert"**

1828-1884

Comp

 Claim Contract 102 1859  
 (as compassman for  
 Ralph Wilcox on  
 portions)

 to  
 no more

Born in Tennessee, Robert was in Oregon by 1857 when he was a crewman for David Thompson for several Contracts, continuing into 1858. He was a compassman for Ralph Wilcox on Claim Contract 102 and surveyed 18 Claims across Washington County. He married Juliaett "Julia" Whitmore in November, 1866 at Beaverton, producing three children, and they lived at West Chehalem as farmers until their death. Julia died in 1881, and Robert in 1884. Robert left his home in the morning in the Spring of 1884, and said he would be back by noon. He left with a bottle of something, which the boys suspected was liquor. He never returned, and it was found out that he committed suicide by an overdose of morphine at Cresswell. He left a memorandum book with cancelled promissory notes and a note to send it to his son.

That act also created three orphans, ages 6-15, and they were still living together on the farm in 1900. One unusual circumstance is that Ralph Wilcox, the Deputy Surveyor for whom Robert acted as compassman in Claim Contract 102, had committed suicide seven years earlier in Portland. He shot himself in the head with a derringer, and had a bottle of tincture of opium (laudanum) in his pocket.

---

**Short, Robert  
Valentine**

1823-1908

Dem

Rep

USDS

 Claim Contract 16 1853  
 to

Special Instructions 1863



Born in Pennsylvania, Robert soon moved with his family to Ohio. His mother died when he was two, and at age six, he was sent to an uncle and aunt in Pennsylvania to be raised. He returned to Ohio at age 16, attended Ohio Wesleyan University for two terms and was self-taught in the Davis System of surveying. He apprenticed as a tailor for two years and became a journeyman, saving money for an eventual trip to Oregon.



Robert came across the Oregon Trail in 1847, driving an ox team for Joseph C. Geer. He ended up in Oregon City, where he temporarily opened up a tailor shop. He married Mary Johnson Geer in 1848, the daughter of Joseph Geer, and aunt of future Governor T. T. Geer, and they had 10 children. Robert soon left for the gold fields in California, and to get there he involved a sailing ship from the mouth of the Willamette and a rowboat from San Francisco to Sacramento. He mined for only three months. After Robert returned to Oregon, he surveyed part of the town of Portland, creating the first plat, which was printed in San Francisco and called the Brady Map. He then moved to Oregon City and bought an interest in a steam sawmill.

He filed on a 641 acre Donation Land Claim on the Willamette in the Western part of Wilsonville in 1851; organized a militia, of which he was Captain; and was elected both the first County Surveyor of Yamhill County and a Justice of the Peace in 1855. Robert received three Claim Contracts from 1853-56. Claim Contract 16 in 1853 was for 31 Claims ranging from Wilsonville to Woodburn. He used future compassman, William V. J. Johnson, as a crewman for some of the Claims. Claim Contract 37 was for 33 Claims in the same area. Claim Contract 72 in 1856 was only for five Claims near Carlton in Yamhill County. From 1860-71, he surveyed four Claims by Special Instructions in generally the same area, mostly fixing errors and doing cleanup.

After he served in the Oregon Constitutional Convention in 1857, the Legislature moved his Claim from Yamhill to Clackamas County. He was forced to resign as Yamhill County Surveyor in 1858, but was elected Clackamas County Assessor in 1862. He was the subject of a potential Sheriff's sale in 1877 for \$225, secured by part of his Claim. In 1888, Robert was elected to the State Legislature. Robert sold his farm and retired to Portland with his family in 1891 and made his home at Sunnyside. He was still doing surveys in 1901, and when they finished the survey through a frog pond, he and his elderly crew "took a gaze at the sun through a bottle to see that all was well". Mary died of a stroke in 1899, and Robert died in 1908, both in Portland. He has papers at OHS.

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**Shunk, Edward  
Reynolds**

1830-1902

Comp

Contract 54 (as  
compassman for  
George Hyde for  
portions)

to

no more

1855

Edward R. Shunk worked as a crewman for George Hyde from 1854-55, first in a Contract with Butler Ives, and then with Wells Lake. He surveyed two full seasons as a crewman, all in Southern Oregon. The first Contract was for the survey of the Southern portion of the Willamette Meridian, through several offsets, ending at the California Border just South of Ashland. The second Contract involved many township exteriors from Ashland to Grants Pass to Cave Junction. Two Standard Parallels and an unnamed Guide Meridian were surveyed. At the end of the second Contract, he ran the compass as compassman for George Hyde on the survey of T40N R9W just Southwest of Cave Junction, including the 9th Standard Parallel North.

A powerful legislator and Clerk in the Surveyor General's office at the time was John Shunk Zieber, and the name was probably more than a coincidence, with the connection is still unknown. John Schunk Zieber was himself appointed to be Surveyor General in 1857, after beating up the then current office holder in the press. Zieber was a politician and newspaper man in Pennsylvania and Maryland before moving to Illinois, where he was in the same capacity.

There are two candidates for Edward R. Shunk, and they may be the same person. One was from Missouri as a trader in The Dalles in 1860 (only time found), and the other was a gambler from Pennsylvania, who dealt Faro all across the West, ending up in Sacramento. Besides The Dalles, Edward Shunk shows up living in early Oregon City, c. 1856-58; in Idaho City in 1863; running a hotel in Walla Walla in 1864 as an expressman; as a Postmaster in Ada County, Idaho in 1869; and as a voter in Pioche, Nevada in 1876.

This biography is of the Edward from Pennsylvania, born in 1830, that spent his last 20 years in Sacramento. He showed up in several of the voter registers there, as first a speculator, and then as a laborer. He was in fact a gambler, and an expert at dealing Faro. A newspaper at his death notes his nickname was the "Nevada Sphinx" because of his quiet disposition. In addition to the states named above, he also dealt Faro in California and Montana.

Edward was named in an investigation in San Jose in 1886 of a Faro game running at the Mills Building and of an assault in Sacramento in 1893, also involving Faro. He was not himself addicted to the gambling habit, and was widely known as a "square gambler" who "never pulled a crooked card." He was highly respected among his peers and was comfortably fixed when he died, leaving an estate to nieces and nephews. He named a sister, Catherine Shunk Slack, in Iowa, and a niece, May Gray, in Denver. It appears he never married. He was 6 ft. tall, and there is a signature to compare to one if found later.

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### **Simmons, Alfred**

**H.**

*1832-1881*

Dem

USDS

Comp

Contract 176 (as  
compassman for  
George Williams)

to

Contract 327  
(cancelled)

Alfred was born in New York, and attended West Point, per his obituary, but he does not show up in their records. There was a miner noted in California in 1852, from New York and of the right age. He married Susan Irby in Clark County, Washington by 1858. In 1859-60 he served in the Washington Territorial House of Representatives, and was a census taker in Cowlitz, Clark and Skamania Counties in 1860. He was listed as a farmer in Lake River in Clark County in 1860, and patented a 160 acre Military Warrant Claim on the West side of Lake River near Shillapoo Lake in 1866. In 1867 he moved to Klickitat County where he was named the first Sheriff by the Legislature, and then again elected as a Representative to the Washington House from 1867-69.

In February of 1867, he was awarded Contract 94 to survey the exteriors of 11 townships. Eight of them were along the Columbia River from Priest Rapids to Vantage, and the other 3 were at Hanford. He was awarded Contract 96 in 1867, a Joint Contract with Henry Cock, for two townships at Lyle, 3 townships just East of Goldendale, and 2 townships between Prosser and Benton City. Alfred did all of the surveying. While surveying this Contract in Yakima County in 1867, he was bitten by a rattlesnake and almost died. Another Joint Contract with Henry Cock, Number 104, was issued in 1868 for 4 townships North of Prosser. Again, Alfred did all of the work.

He moved to Walla Walla in 1869, where he was City Surveyor 1869-70, County Surveyor from 1870-71, and owned a newspaper. His last Contract was Contract 122 in 1871 for 5 townships just East of Walla Walla. Future Deputy Surveyor, Francis F. Loehr, was an axeman. None of his Contracts were examined. He surveyed four townships as compassman for Oregon Deputy Surveyor, George Williams, in 1872 East of Milton Freewater. Alfred was plagued by financial problems in the 1870's in Walla Walla, being sued for money at least 8 times. He had deeded some property into his wife's name, and had judgments filed against him. He was awarded Contract 327 in 1879 in Oregon, North of Elgin, but it was cancelled for unknown reasons.

Alfred was a surveyor in Umatilla, Oregon in 1880, and surveyed the plat of Grange City on the Snake River in Columbia County in 1881. He was living at Simmons Landing on the Columbia River East of Umatilla in 1881, where a wagon road was being built to the South. That was near present Cold Springs Junction at State Road 37. Alfred and was still plagued by financial difficulties at that time. He died in 1881 in Walla Walla at age 49 per his wife's obituary in 1928. Alfred had eight children, all born in Washington. His wife was living with family in Lapwai in 1900 and died in Clarkston in 1928. One of his sons, Isaac J. Simmons was an Oregon U. S. Deputy Surveyor. See WA GLO Surveyors for the maintained version of this information.

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### **Simmons, Isaac**

#### **James "Ike"**

1861-1920

*USDS*

Contract 624

to

no more

1893

Born at Weldon's Point, Clark County, Washington, the son of U. S. Deputy Surveyor, Alfred H. Simmons, Isaac was with his family in Walla Walla in 1870 and Umatilla, Oregon in 1880. He received Contract 624 for two townships Northwest of Jordan Valley in 1893, and surveyed them in 1894. He was examined by Thomas G. Gerdine in 1895, and after failing to correct, the Contract was rejected in 1898. All of the notes and oaths are online on BLM website with only a note on the first page about being rejected. Isaac was always single and died of emphysema in Clarkston, Washington in 1920, where he was living with his sister, Margaret Case, and her family. His mother died in 1928, and is also buried in Vineland Cemetery.

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**Simons, Nelson****"Doc"**

1861-1920

USDS

Claim Contract 32 1854

to

no more

Nelson was born in New York, the son of a farmer with a large family, who was still in New York in 1835. They had moved to Peoria, Illinois by 1839, but Nelson was not part of the household there in 1850. He and the older brothers had crossed the Oregon Trail in 1849. His parents and two brothers crossed the Oregon Trail in 1851, settling in Linn County. One of them, Allonzo, had made the first trip and apparently returned to guide his parents. Nelson received Claim Contract 32 in Oregon in 1854 for surveying Claims in Linn County, but no surveys were found in the record by Nelson.

At times he ran a drug store at Sand Ridge and then owned the first drug store in Lebanon, selling mostly herbs. He was listed as a physician in Harrisburg in 1860 with no family, and was only known as Doc. Simons. Nelson was considered a recluse, and lived in the Sweet Home Valley the year before he died in 1875. He does not appear to have been married.

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**Simpson,  
Benjamin  
Franklin**

1818-1910

Dem

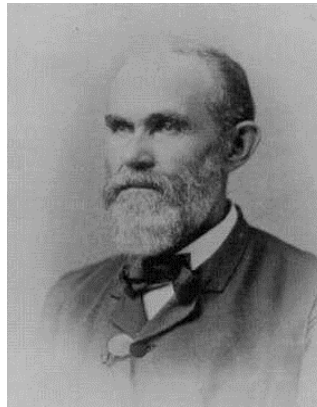
Rep

S G

Surveyor General 1874

to

no more



Born in Tennessee, Ben moved to Missouri in 1820 with his family. He remarried to Elzira Jane Wisdom in Missouri in 1839 and they had one son. Elzira died in 1841, and Ben remarried to Nancy June Cooper in 1843. Ben, Nancy, their three children and Ben's parents and siblings came across the Oregon Trail and Barlow Pass in 1846, with Ben as Captain of his wagon train. He filed a Claim on French Prairie in 1847, North of Salem.

Ben built sawmills on several rivers and sent lumber to California during the gold rush. He fought in the Indian wars, owned stores, owned a steamer, and built a warehouse on the Willamette. Ben went to the Legislature 7 times from 4 different Counties and was the Indian Agent on the Siletz and Grand Round Reservations for eight years by appointment of President Lincoln, beginning in 1862. This was at a time that nearly all the Coast Indians were forced to live on the Siletz Reservation by the government, totally dependent on the Indian Agency. In 1863, Ben enforced a \$0.15 fee per bushel of oysters for the benefit of the Indians out of Yaquina Bay. He built a military road over the Cascades and the lighthouse at Yaquina Bay.

In about 1856, Benjamin was a friend of Phillip Sheridan and promised to manage his finances, and in return, was given Sheridan's sword. After the Civil War, Ben was appointed to the "Committee of Three" to negotiate the treaty with the Coeur d'Alene Indians. From 1874-78 Benjamin was appointed Surveyor General of Oregon, responsible for moving the Office to Portland, and exhibited classical nepotism by having four of his children work in the office at relatively high salaries. He then was Oregon's Postal Inspector for two years.

Nancy died in 1883, having given Ben ten children. He was then assigned to the Postal Department in Selma, Alabama in 1883 and returned to Portland in 1895. Before returning, he married Caroline Gordon in Alabama. They were living in Portland with his daughter Dora in 1895 when they returned, and he was alone in 1910 with his daughter's family when he died. He has papers at OHS.

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### **Simpson, Elnora Thurston "Nora"**

1852-1925

Dr/Clerk

Clerk

1877

to

no more



Born in Oregon, the daughter of Benjamin Simpson, Nora attended enough school to become a teacher by 1870. She was named as a Clerk in the Surveyor General's Office of her father from 1874-77, and was still living at home in 1880. She was named the Enrolling Clerk for the Oregon House of Representatives in 1882. Nora's sister Alice died in 1892, leaving five children without a mother.

At age 42, Nora married William Thomas Burney in 1895, the widowed husband of her sister, and raised the children. William had a law degree from the University of Virginia and came to Oregon in 1878. William was appointed the Registrar of the Oregon City Land Office in 1886 and then continued his law practice in Portland, specializing in land office law. Nora continued teaching school, and they moved to California after 1910 where William died in 1915 and is interred in Whittier. Nora returned to Oregon, where she died in Seaside in 1925.

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## Simpson, Grover Benjamin

1858-1934

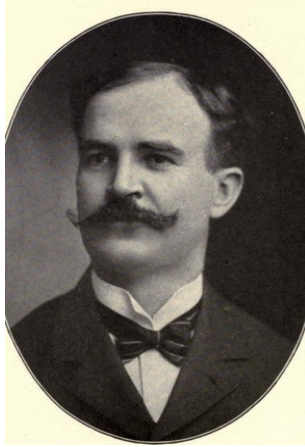
Dr/Clerk

Clerk

1874

to

no more



1902

Born in Oregon the son of Benjamin F. Simpson, Grover was a Messenger in the Surveyor General's Office of his father from at least 1874-77. He was a mailman for Wells Fargo in 1880 in Portland, beginning in 1877; was a agent in Spokane in 1883; married Alma C. Beasley in 1885; an agent in Tacoma in 1886; Route Agent in Portland 1886; The superintendent in Helena, Denver, Kansas City, Omaha and St. Louis; and ended as the Superintendent at Chicago in 1899, all for Wells Fargo.

Alma died in 1912, and he remarried to Mabel Dowse Fleming in Chicago in 1916. He was the General Manager of Wells Fargo Express Company in 1913-20 in St. Louis., and retired in 1930, back in Chicago. He died in 1934, and Mabel was living with one of her daughters in 1940.

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## Simpson, Samuel Leonidas "Sam"

1846-1899

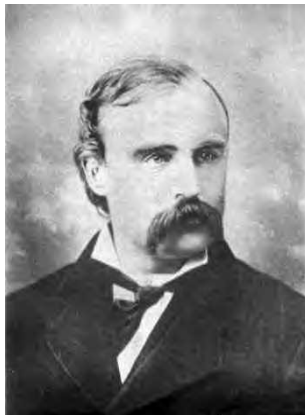
Dr/Clerk

Clerk

1874

to

no more



Sam was born in Missouri, and came across the Oregon Trail with his father, Ben Simpson, and family in 1846. His father had many enterprises in Western Oregon, including 4 terms in the State Legislature. Sam attended Willamette University from 1861-66, and graduated with an A. B., and then studied law and passed the Bar. At that time, he married Julia Humphrey, and in 1871 quit law and purchased the Corvallis Gazette.

That failed, and by 1874, he was a Clerk for his father in the Surveyor General's Office. Sam's brother Sylvester was appointed State Superintendent of Public Instruction in 1873, and one of his functions was to recommend the choice for school readers. He chose those written by Deputy Surveyor A. W. Patterson and Sylvester's brother, Sam Simpson. They were adopted and used for several years. After the Gazette, Sam wrote for many enterprises, from newspapers, to books, to editing readers.

Sam helped to compile Bancroft's "History of the Pacific Coast" for some time. He began writing poetry at the University, publishing most, and had a wide following. "Beautiful Willamette" was one of his most famous poems. He became Oregon's 19th Century Poet Laureate, writing poems and prose about Oregon. Unfortunately, he was an alcoholic for the last 29 years of his life, and died from injuries in a fall in 1899.

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**Simpson, William  
Milton "Will"**

1856-1927

Rep

Dr/Clerk

Clerk

1875

to

no more



Born in Oregon, the son of Benjamin F. Simpson, William served as a Clerk in the Surveyor General's Office of his father in Portland in 1875 at age 19. He married Mary Louise Dickinson in 1879, and they had three children. William worked as a bookkeeper in 1880, a real estate agent from at least 1883-1900, a Justice of the Peace in Albina, , and a publicity agent 1920, all in Portland.

He was selling Albina real estate in Salem with his brother Grover in 1883 and was active in the Republican Party in 1884. William moved to Spokane in 1890 for at least three years. He died in Portland in 1927, the indirect result of an auto accident, and Mary died in 1930.

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**Skinner, Alonzo  
Albert**

1814-1877

Whig

Rep

Dr/Clerk

Transcribing Clerk

1866

to

no more



Born in Ravenna, Ohio, Allonzo studied law and passed the bar there in 1840 before being elected Prosecuting Attorney of Putnam County in 1842. He crossed the Oregon Trail in 1845, arrived in Oregon, and filed a Claim in Jackson County. He filed another in 1846 in Yamhill County, and another again in 1847 at Tualaty. Alonzo was appointed the first Circuit Judge for what would become Oregon Territory, with his jurisdiction being all of what is now Oregon, Washington, Idaho and part of Montana.

Alonzo would travel all of this territory, holding court at least twice a year in each of the eight counties. This continued until 1848 when Oregon became a Territory, and Territorial Judges were appointed. In 1849 Alonzo was named a prosecutor in a murder trial of six Indians at Nisqually. He was part of a three-member-commission in 1850-51 that negotiated the Willamette Valley Indian Treaties. He then served as Indian Agent in 1851 for the Rogue River Tribes. He had an unsuccessful run for U. S. Congress in 1852, losing to Joseph Lane.

Alonzo married Elizabeth Hopkins Lincoln in Lane County in 1853, and they taught school at Astoria before moving to Willamina and then Eugene. They were ages 39 and 42 respectively. She had been one of five school teachers that came West in 1851 via Panama to teach school in Oregon, sent by Vermont. At Eugene, Alonzo practiced law, served as a Clerk in the Surveyor Generals Office in 1866, and was City Recorder and Lane County Clerk.

At the beginning of the Civil War, he was provost marshal, supervising the Draft in Oregon. Upon the death of a Justice, he was appointed temporarily to the Oregon Supreme Court in 1866-67. He was a Circuit Court Judge from 1867-70, and in 1870, he was appointed Collector of Customs at Coos Bay. Alonzo and Elizabeth had four children living with them at different times, whose surnames were not Skinner. Poor health caused Alonzo to go to Santa Barbara, California in 1877, which is where he died on April 30, 1877 and is buried in an unmarked grave in Santa Barbara Cemetery. Elizabeth died in 1894, and is buried in Masonic Cemetery in Eugene. He was written of in *The History of the Willamette Valley* as "a well read lawyer, modest and unassuming, and of good morals and fine feelings".

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### **Slang, Charles**

#### **Albert**

1888-1987

USDS

Contract 793

to

no more

1910

Born in Minnesota, the son of a Norwegian immigrant farmer, Charles was still there in 1905. By 1907 he was an axeman and moundsman for George and Burt Campbell, East of Goat Rocks and East of Omak, and an axeman for their brother, Charles, in Idaho. He was also a helper in a mill in 1907, a clerk for the *Spokesman Review* in 1909, and attended Spokane College in 1909-10. In May of 1910, he received two Joint Contracts with Clarence Payne of Spokane to survey 4 townships East of Chewelah and 3 townships West of Metaline. They shared the work. Charles also received Contract 793 in Western Douglas County, Oregon in 1910 for only three sections of land. The Oregon Contract was examined by Albert Horton and approved without issue. The Washington Contract was not examined until 1912 by Fred Rase, and a portion was suspended.



Charles had left for Canada in 1911, and the 7-10 miles of corrections were up to Clarence. They were reexamined in 1913 and ultimately approved, after getting a Senator involved. Charles lived in Red Deer, Alberta, farming with his parents in 1916, and was in Hamilton, Alberta in 1918 on a farm which he had homesteaded. Charles married Zella Mae Wolfe in about 1920, a school teacher in Weyburn, Saskatchewan, and became a naturalized Canadian Citizen in 1923, when he was a grain buyer in Manitoba.

By 1940, he and his wife had moved to Victoria, and he worked at odd jobs. From 1957 until when he died in 1987, he was retired there. Zella died in 1984 at age 93 and Charles in 1987 at age 98. When Charles died in 1987, he was the last living Oregon or Washington U. S. Deputy Surveyor per these records. See WA GLO Surveyors for the maintained version of this information.

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**Slusher, Thomas  
Winfield Scott**

1848-1890

Dem

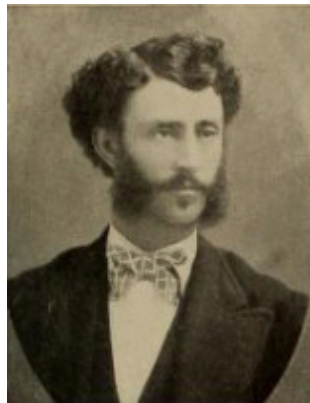
USDS

Contract 284

1878

to

no more



Born in Pennsylvania the son of a farmer, Thomas lied about his age in 1862, and enlisted in the Union Army. He served until he was mustered out in 1865 as a noncommissioned officer, and began attending college. After he graduated, Thomas came to the Willamette Valley in 1870, where he was a teacher. He moved to Wasco County in 1872 and took up a homestead in 15 Mile Valley, and continued teaching for a while.

He was elected Wasco County Surveyor in 1872, and again in 1876. Thomas received Contract 284 at Dufur for two townships in 1878, and surveyed them the same year, noting himself as the compassman. He married Arabelle Hannah Dufur in Wasco County in 1878, and together they had eight children. Their house burned down about four miles above Dufur in 1881, and an old man lost his life. Thomas was named the Receiver in The Dalles Land Office in 1886 when the Grover Cleveland administration took office, and at about that time named a newborn son. "Grover Cleveland Slusher".

In 1890, Thomas was still the Receiver when he died of a "lingering illness" at his home leaving a wife and many small children. The Land Office at the Dalles closed for some time, unable to be open without a receiver. At the time of his death, he left an estate with over 8500 acres of prime farmland in the 15 Mile Valley. Arrabelle remarried to widower William Staats, but is buried with Thomas.

**Smith, Alleck C.**

1828-1875

Dem

USDS

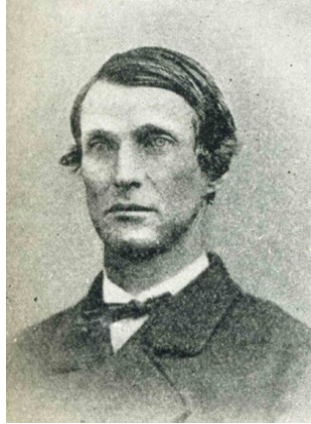
USS

Dr/Clerk

Claim Contract 22 1854

to

Special Instructions 1863



Alleck was born in Kentucky and graduated from Transylvania University with a degree in Law, before crossing the Oregon Trail in 1852. He filed a claim near Lafayette, OR, adjacent to Anson Henry, and married Anson's oldest daughter, Margaret Dunlap Henry. Anson received Claim Contract 13 under Whig John Preston in OR, with Alleck as chainman, and Alleck returned the favor under Democrat Charles Gardner in OR by using Anson's sons on his Contract. Alleck was also a chainman for William Logan for 25 Claims near Lafayette in 1853.

Claim Contract 22 in 1854 was Alleck's first Contract in his name. There were eight townships of DLC surveys near Amity, McMinnville and Yamhill. He appears to have used local settlers for most his crew. He next surveyed Contact 65 in 1856 for 8 townships in the foothills, three West of Gaston, and 5 from Dallas to Corvallis. Gordon Henry and Francis Henry were chainmen, and Milton Robbins was an axeman. In 1858, they both received Contracts from James Tilton in Washington for the survey of the Coast Guide Meridian and several townships adjacent. Alleck's Contract included the Coast Guide Meridian, North to the present Quinalt Reservation, and a row of 7 townships from Montesano to the Pacific Ocean, all North of Grays Harbor and the Chehalis River. Alleck made an error in the triangulation across Grays Harbor.

Anson Henry, Gordon Henry, and Milton Robbins were crewmen on the Guide Meridian. Alleck surveyed the townships West of the Meridian in 1858, and Anson surveyed at least two of his townships also in 1858. Alleck had been a chainman on a Contract for William Logan in Oregon, where E. S. Barnes was the chainman, and Alleck used E. S. Barnes as a compassman for this Contract. James Tilton ordered Matthew Murphy to examine Anson's work and it was rejected. Anson tried bribing Tilton, Chief Clerk Hall, and Murphy, but to no avail. Anson did not return personally in 1859, but used Alleck and George House as compassmen to do the corrections of two townships.

Alleck returned in 1859 to survey the townships East of the Meridian and to resurvey one of Anson's townships. He used compassmen, Milton Robbins and E. S. Barnes on all four townships. In running the North line of T18N R7W, he closed about 10 chains North of the Northwest corner of the township. Instead of correcting the whole line, he put all of the error in the North line of Section 6.

Alleck meandered the whole length of the Washkah River in T18N R9W, but it was corrected in 1875 by Charles Byles because the location as surveyed by Alleck was up to a mile off. He had decided to stay in Washington, and was living on some property on the Chehalis River. As early as 1859, Anson knew he was going to be the Surveyor General of Washington if Lincoln was elected. Alleck was practicing law, and ran for Chehalis County Prosecuting Attorney in 1860. Alleck received a Contract from the Office of Indian Affairs to survey the first boundary of the Quinault Reservation in 1861, and surveyed it in 1862.

Anson Henry was appointed Washington Surveyor General in 1861, and Alleck became a Clerk in the Surveyor General's Office until 1863, when he resigned to take the position of a Supreme Court Justice in Idaho. Anson Henry had been in Washington, D. C. to arrange this with Lincoln. His District was the one including Lewiston, the Capital. Alleck ruled for Lewiston as Capital of Idaho in a fight with Boise, with Boise eventually stealing the State Seal and the records. Alleck's successor eventually ruled for Boise. Alleck was replaced after three years, and came back to Chehalis, Vancouver and Kalama, to practice law and work for the NPRR. He died of TB in Kalama in 1875. See WA GLO Surveyors for the maintained version of this information.

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### **Smith, Clark**

1843-1920

Rep

USDS

Contract 153 (as  
Compassman for  
William E. Smith for  
portions)

to

Contract 307

1871

1878

Born in Illinois, the son of future U. S. Deputy Surveyor William E. Smith and the brother of Columbus Smith, Clark came to Oregon with his family in 1864 via the Oregon Trail. Clark had attended Marshall College and Illinois State Normal School before heading to Oregon, and finished at Willamette University with a Masters of Arts in 1869. He was a teacher in Vancouver, Washington in 1870 at the Vancouver Seminary, living with his younger brother, Columbus, and a sister, Emily, who were both students. He was a compassman for his father for one township at Vernonia in 1871 on Contract 153.

He married Anina Anna Royal, a school teacher, in 1872, and they had five children. Clark took charge of the Rocky Mountain Seminary in Salt Lake City in 1873. He ran a drug store in Cornelius in 1875 and was a compassman for John Campbell on Contract 254 for T3,4N R5W South of Vernonia in 1876.

He received Contract 291 to survey four townships in the Northern Coast Range from South of Vernonia to Rainier in 1878. One of those townships was T3N R5W, which was adjacent to the township he had just surveyed as compassman for John Campbell. In the notes for that township, he reported that he had found errors in the North and West boundaries (which he had surveyed), and because he felt it was impractical to ask for instructions at the time, he did the best he could. John Campbell joined the crew as a chainman for that township. Clark received Special Instructions on April 3, 1879 to do corrections which were incorporated in the notes he turned in in May, 1879, resulting in a plat and approval in 1880. He noted that a "confidential agent" of the Surveyor General accompanied him on the corrections.

There were other errors in the other townships. T5N R5W has no plat, but there are notes. The survey of William Marye to the West shows distortion of over six degrees in the work of Clark. Clark's surveys of T6,7N R3E were cancelled in 1890 by the Commissioner. Deputy Surveyor Ed Sharp received Contract 562 in 1891 and he was directed to survey: "all the section lines in T6,7N R3W alleged to have been surveyed by U. S. Deputy Surveyor Clark Smith..." There are notes online by Clark noted as cancelled, but no plats by Clark Smith in these two townships.

Another Contract followed in the same year for four townships East of Newport, which were surveyed at the end of 1878 and approved in January 1879. His father notarized all the oaths for all the Contracts as a Judge. Clark Smith did as follows: moved to Texas after his corrections and graduated from Texas Medical School in Galveston, Texas in 1881; practiced medicine in Texas; engaged in educational work in various colleges; spent a year as Superintendent of Instruction and teacher at Tule River Indian Reservation; was pastor of the Methodist Church at Tulare, California; moved to Fresno; and became a medical missionary in Central Africa where Anina died in 1885 at Melage.

Clark returned to Cornelius in 1886 to practice medicine and remarried to Regina Stadler in 1888. He was elected Washington County Superintendent of Schools in 1888 and 1890, and created over 20 new districts during his tenure. He was a Physician in Santa Cruz, California in at least 1900-02, a physician in Berkeley in 1910, and a surgeon in Berkeley in 1920 when he died there.

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**Smith, Columbus**

1852-

Rep

Comp

Contract 153 (as  
Compassman for  
William E. Smith for  
portions)

1871

to

no more

Born in Illinois, the son of Deputy Surveyor William E. Smith and the brother of Deputy Surveyor Clark Smith. Columbus came to Washington County, Oregon with his family in 1864 via the Oregon Trail. They settled four miles North of Cornelius on a farm, and the family stayed there until 1892. He was a student at Vancouver Seminary, living with his brother, Clark, in Vancouver, Washington in 1870. Columbus was a chainman and a compassman for his father on Contract 153 in Columbia County in 1871-72. On that Contract he surveyed the subdivisions of three townships at Vernonia and the 1st Standard Parallel North, beginning at Vernonia and running West for 30 miles.

Columbus was the Republican nominee for Washington County Surveyor in 1872, and although he won, he never assumed office. He left Portland on the steamer Oriflamme January 15, 1873, and nothing more is known for now, except that some genealogists note that he was deceased by 1893 when Clark Smith had a biography published.

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**Smith, Hiram  
Wesley Sr.**

1812-1876

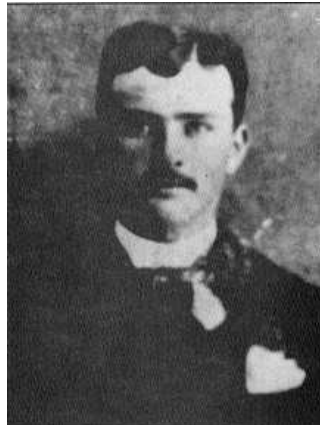
Comp

Contract 67 (as  
compassman for  
Samuel D. Snowden  
for portions)

1856

to

no more



Hiram was born in Ohio and married Mary Bevins in 1834, with whom he had three children. He remarried to Sarah Jane Marshall in 1843 in Illinois who eventually bore him ten more children. He took his family at the time of wife and four children by Sarah over the Oregon Trail in 1852 and settled on a 320 acre Claim near Tillamook. His Claim encompassed the Southern Portion of future Bay City on Tillamook Bay.

Beginning to the North of Goose Point, it was less than a half mile wide on the bay and one and a half miles deep. Hiram was a chainman and compassman for Samuel Snowden in 1856 when Samuel was surveying near Tillamook. Hiram surveyed the Coast Meridian from Tillamook to just North of Nehalem under Contract 66 and T1S R10W, where his Claim was located, under Contract 67. Somehow, he shared the duties of compassman with Leonard Terwillegar on that township.

Deputy Surveyor Charles T. Gardner, the son of the Surveyor General, began on the crew for T1S R10W but quit after one or two days because of the brush and wading the swamps. He may have been the original compassman for that work, causing Hiram to be promoted. Hiram was the Tillamook County Auditor in 1857, a house carpenter in 1860 and served as the Tillamook County Surveyor for the year 1876. He died in 1876 and was buried on his Donation Claim beside a young son, but has a cenotaph in Fairview Cemetery where Sara is buried. A golf course is now built over his unknown original grave location. His original stone gravestone is exhibited at the Tillamook Museum.

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**Smith, Lewis D.**

1846-

Dem

USDS

Contract 426

to

Contract 505 (by

Charles E. Hill as  
compassman)

1881

1884

Lewis was born in New York and lived in Oregon as a farmer by 1870 as a farmer and married to Hulda M. Wheeler, the sister of future Deputy Surveyor Laban Wheeler. He was living as a farmer in Willamette Forks, in Lane County in 1880 and filed a patent for improvements to thrashing machines in 1877. Lewis was active in Democrat politics, and was awarded Contract 426 in 1881 for two townships in the heart of the Coast Range along the Siuslaw River at Swiss Home. His brother-in-law, Laban Wheeler, had just finished the exteriors of one of the townships, and notarized both the preliminary and the final oaths.

The work was finished by 1884 when Lewis received another Contract for one township just North of the previous two. Charles E. Hill was the compassman for that township. Lewis was not examined on any of his work. Lewis co-owned a hardware store in Eugene in 1884 with Thomas Cox, and ran for the House of Representatives as a Democrat in 1894 from Gervais. Hulda was living in Seattle with her daughter Emma from 1889-92, which was where her brother was located. She was a widow in 1900, living with her married daughter in Vallejo, California and was the same in Oakland in 1920. She died in Alameda County in 1931.

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**Smith, Robert  
Glenn "Rob"**

1864-1941

Rep

Dem

Dr/Clerk

Clerk

1880

to

no more



Born in Oregon, Robert graduated from high school in Jacksonville and was living with Surveyor General Tolman in 1880-81 in Portland. Tolman was from Jacksonville and had hired Robert as a Clerk in the Surveyor General's Office at age 16. After 18 months, Robert went to Klamath Falls where he taught School. He moved to Grants Pass in 1884, where his parents were living. He studied law while working as a clerk in a drug store, passing the bar in 1889.

Robert married Emily M. Greenstreet in Grants Pass in 1895, and they were living there in 1900 and had no children. He practiced law in partnership with three other attorneys at times for eight years, before practicing alone. He married again to Ida Violet LaRaut in 1906 in Grants Pass, with whom he had a daughter. Ida's father owned the general store in Wilbur.

Robert practiced law for the rest of his life, and was elected to the State Legislature in 1894 and 1904. He started the Grants Pass Herald in 1904, but it only lasted a few months. He was elected the Mayor of Grants Pass in at least 1911-12. His political career began as a Republican, but he converted to being a Democrat because of his anti-tariff views. Robert was a skilled orator and was on demand on campaign work in Southern Oregon. He was living in Portland by 1930 and died there in 1941.

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**Smith, William**

1826-1899

Dr/Clerk

Clerk

1863

to

no more

Born in England, William came to the U. S. with his parents to New York for a year, then to Cleveland, Ohio for three years, and then to LaPorte, Indiana, where he was raised. He crossed the Oregon Trail in 1847 to Portland and then Yamhill County. William went to California in 1849, and returned and took up a Donation Claim at Fairmount, near Eugene. He married Nancy Adeline Luckey in Eugene in 1851 and was a farmer on his Claim at Eugene in 1860, 1870, and 1880. In 1863 he served as the Messenger for the Surveyor General's Office of Bynon Pengra in Eugene and died in Eugene in 1899. He was a School District Director and for years was a delegate to the Republican County and State Conventions.

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**Smith, William****Edmund***1817-1902*

USDS

Contract 153 (by 1871

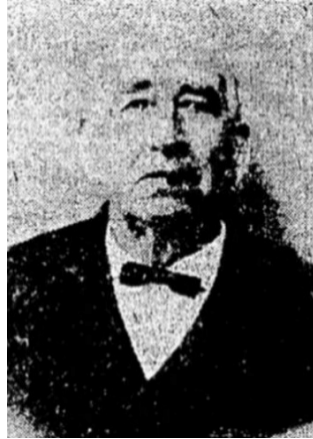
Columbus Smith and

Clark Smith as

compassmen)

to

no more



Born in Ohio, William was a judge, married Nancy Adams, and had ten children in Illinois before coming to Oregon in 1864 via the Oregon Trail, bringing along nine of his children. He purchased a farm four miles North of Cornelius, and lived there until 1892 when he moved to Hillsboro. Nancy died in Washington County in 1870, and William served as Washington County Surveyor 1866-70, 1874 and 1876-78.

William received a Contract for ten townships in Columbia County in 1871, and used two of his sons, Clark and Columbus, as compassmen. Columbus surveyed three townships at Vernonia and 30 miles of the 1st Standard Parallel West from Vernonia, and Clark surveyed one township at Vernonia. Clark discovered coal in the foothills, and reported it in the newspapers. The author notes that William or his compassmen bark scribed only, and left a distinct chaining notch on his witness trees. They were finished with the survey in 1872. William was elected a County Judge from 1878-82 and remarried to his second wife, May, in 1880, 33 years his junior. He was also a Methodist Minister along the way, and died in Hillsboro in 1902.

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**Smith, William P.***1870-1924*

USDS

Contract 675 1897

(rejected)

to

no more

William P. Smith received Contract 675 in 1897 for T16S R11W, and the Oregonian reported that he was from Portland at that time. There was a William Peter Smith living in Multnomah County as a "timber man" in 1907. He was noted as a civil engineer in 1910 and 1920 in Oak Grove. He married Matilda "Tillie" Sophia Johnson in 1907, a lady with a young daughter. This identification is by occupation and proximity only, and there are many William P. Smiths existing at the time. There is a signature to make a positive ID.

William surveyed T16S R11W in 1897-98, and it was inspected by William J. Lightfoot in 1900. He had determined that the South line of Section 36 was 1.5 chains short, but the South line of Section 35 was correct. William proceeded to survey the subdivisions of the full township in the traditional manner. Comments in the field notes by the Surveyor General indicated that William should have used a sectional correction line, because the total South Line of the township was eight chains short.



William surveyed 24 miles of corrections in 1900, but did not do a Sectional Correction line, and David Kinnaird performed another examination in 1902. William was ordered to redo the survey in 1903, while he was living in Salt Lake City, or hire a compassman to redo it. William must have done more corrections, because he was given a new exam by William Douglass in 1905, and after his report, the Commissioner rejected the survey and went after the bondsmen. Charles M. Collier received a new Contract to resurvey the township in 1907, and used a Sectional Correction Line. William died in Oak Grove, Oregon in 1924, and Tillie lived until 1958.

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**Smyth, Hugh  
Hanna Jr.**

1877-1917

USDS

Contract 698 (with Hezekiah Johnson) 1899  
to  
no more

Born in Nova Scotia, the son of an engineer, Hugh came to the United States with his family to Boston in 1881. He was in Oregon City, Oregon by 1899 where his brother Sidney was an engineer. He received Joint Contract 698 that year with Hezekiah Johnson for seven townships in Malheur County with five townships on Dry Creek, one on the Malheur River, and one at Crow Lake. They shared the work except for the exteriors which were surveyed only by Johnson, and both signed the oaths and finished in 1899. There was a somewhat consistent crew for all the work.

Hugh joined the Army in November 1899, serving at Vancouver Barracks, and was discharged in January of 1900. The previous Contract was examined by John McLeod in 1900, resulting in minor corrections in the field, and the work was approved in 1901. Hugh was living in Portland with his brother in 1899 and 1900, but returned to Boston sometime before 1912 when he married Bertha Christine Fellmeth. He died there in 1917 at age 40.

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**Smyth, Sidney**

1864-1934

USDS

Contract ?? (with James F. Case) 1896  
to  
Contract 682 (with Stephen H. D. Hungate) 1898



1892

OR PE 85. Born in Nova Scotia, the son of an engineer, Sidney came to Boston with his family in 1881. He was naturalized in 1886 in Boston, including a name change from Smith to Smyth, with his occupation noted as a surveyor. He came to Oregon City soon after that. He returned to Boston to marry Rebecca "Bessie" Irwin. McGaw in 1890, and they returned to Oregon City. He was Clackamas County Surveyor from 1890-93 and Oregon City Engineer in at least 1891.

He received a Joint Contract with James F. Case in 1896 that was reported in the Oregonian, but that Contract does not show up in the BLM records. He received Joint Contract 682 with Stephen Hungate in 1898 for seven townships along Lake Owyhee in Malheur County, and they shared the work and both signed the oaths. There was only one crew used in the two seasons of the survey. Sidney's Brother, Hugh, and Hungate's brother, Graham, were chainmen for portions. After finishing in 1898, they were examined by David Kinnaird in 1899 and John McLeod in 1900, receiving approval in 1900. Sidney returned to Oregon City and moved his family to Portland. He lived there as a civil engineer and contractor until he died in 1934. At his death he was a consultant to the Los Angeles Flood Control District and the Northwest Roads Company.

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<b>Snowden, Samuel</b>		Born in London, England, Samuel was in Oregon by 1847
<b>D.</b>		when he filed a provisional claim on the South side of
<i>1811-1882</i>		Newberg. He went to the gold fields of California in 1849. He
USDS		filed again after the Donation Act was adopted, and patented
Claim Contract 6	1853	his Claim of 324 acres in Yamhill County in 1873, with a mile
to		of river frontage on the Willamette River, just Southeast of
Claim Contract 98	1859	Newberg. Samuel received Claim Contract 6 in 1853 for 75
		Claims in the central Willamette Valley, from Newberg to
		Salem. He used small crews consisting of several claimants,
		including future Deputy Surveyor Charles Handley, as
		crewmen.

Claim Contract 44 was awarded in 1854 for 118 Claims in the same area and Charles Handley was again a chainman. Following in 1855 was Claim Contract 65 for 28 Claims between Beaverton and Newberg. Charles Handley was there, and he may have been a compassman because of the number of crewmen present. Samuel moved on to regular Contracts with two Contracts at Tillamook. The first was to extend the Willamette Baseline West from R7W to Tillamook Bay and to survey the Coast Meridian from just South of Tillamook to Nehalem. Joshua Elder surveyed the Baseline as compassman, and Hiram W. Smith surveyed the Coast Meridian as compassman. Charles T. Gardner, the son of the Surveyor General, began on the crew of the Coast Meridian, but quit the first day because of heavy brush and wading swamps.

The second Contract was for four townships around Tillamook. Charles Handley surveyed the exteriors as compassman, and Hiram Smith and Lewis Terwilliger jointly surveyed the subdivisions of T1S R10W as compassmen. Samuel wrote to the Surveyor General in 1857, complaining about how unprofitable the work in Tillamook was. Samuel's last Contract was Claim Contract 98 in 1859 for 36 Claims in the Eastern fringe of the Willamette Valley North of Eugene. Hiram had a Donation Claim in that township.

Samuel lived alone as a life long bachelor, and was in Labish in 1860 and in Gervais in 1880, in both censuses as a surveyor. He was elected City Recorder of Gervais in 1876 and appointed a Notary Public in 1880. His obituary notes how orderly and meticulous he was, down to boxes labeled "this box contains 23 8-penny-nails". Another box noted "worn out lead pencils" contained 24 1/2" long lead pencils. He died and is buried in Gervais.

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**Soehren, William  
Lloyd "Lloyd"**

1879-1968

USDS

Contract 750 (with 1902  
Marion Wilkes and  
Lincoln Wilkes)

to

no more



c. 1960

Lloyd was born in Klickitat County, Washington and attended school through two years of high school. His father was born in Germany and was in California with his family from at least 1868-77 before moving to White Salmon, Washington, where Lloyd was born. They soon moved to Banks, Oregon by 1881 and stayed there at least several years. Lloyd was living in San Louis Obispo, California in 1897 and worked as a chainman for his brother-in-law, Lincoln Wilkes in 1898.

In 1901, he travelled to Shasta County California with Lincoln to do some mining surveying. Lloyd shared a Joint Contract for four townships near Roseburg with Lincoln and Marion Wilkes in 1902, and they all signed the oaths. They used several siblings and inlaws as crewmen. William married Clarissa Elizabeth Brown in about 1902, and build a commercial warehouse in 1905 to rent out for farm produce. He also sold gravel, sand and fence posts from the site. By 1905, he was the superintendent of the private water works for Dallas, lasting until at least 1920.

Lloyd was a member of the Dallas School Board from at least 1927-34. He still owned a warehouse in 1930 and headed the City Water Department in 1940. From 1910 until he died in 1968, William and his family lived in the same house at 704 Main Street in Dallas, Oregon. The family had a small farm to the West of Dallas that they lived on during the summers.

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**Sparks, Harriett  
Ella, Mrs. "Ella"**

1870-1936

Rep

Dr/Clerk

Clerk

to

no more

1895

Ella was born in Clark County Washington, the daughter of Jacob Proebstel, a pioneer of 1852, who made a Claim a few miles East of Orchards, at a location now called Proebstel, named for the family. Ella moved with the family to Weston, Oregon in Umatilla County, where her father had a flour mill. He was successful and by 1877, they were living in Portland. The family moved to Tacoma by 1887, and continued there until at least 1891. Ella married John Oliver Sparks in 1893, a bookkeeper in Vancouver. They were married in San Diego, where John had a sister that was convalescing with tuberculosis. She died the next year and John died of tuberculosis in Vancouver in 1895.

In 1895, Ella was the Minute Clerk for the Washington State Senate, and later that year was a temporary Transcribing Clerk in the Oregon Surveyor General's Office of John Arnold. Her father had prospered, and was elected to the State Senate by 1901, accompanied by some influence.

While in the Surveyor General's Office, she met John W. Rowland, another Clerk, and they were married in 1896 and were living with her parents in 1900. They lived in Portland and had one son. Her father lobbied for Henry Meldrum to dismiss Chief Clerk George Waggoner and replace him with John Rowland. This was accomplished, and John was the Chief Clerk for many years for different Surveyor Generals. John died in 1927, and Ella remarried after that to someone named Leaman, but is buried with John in the Proebstel section of Old City Cemetery, Vancouver, Washington.

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**Sperry, Edwin  
Anson**

1857-1935

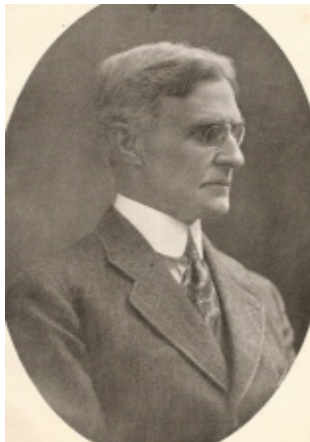
USDMS

Mineral Surveys

to

no more

1899



Edwin was born in Illinois as the son of attorney Anson Sperry and the twin brother of Evelyn "Evie" Pierpont Sperry. He attended Northwestern University in Illinois, Class of 1880 with his brother, and spent many years working as a mining engineer in Colorado and several Western states. He was in Oregon in 1899, where he surveyed five Mining Claims at Granite in Grant County. Much of the time he was living at the mine on location, without his family.

He married Emma Bradley in 1887, and they had a daughter in 1897, born in Denver. He obviously took an ownership position in some mines and offered advice on mining stock in the newspapers. He was the editor of Mining Science journal in 1908. Edwin took a staff position at Pei-Yang University, Tientsin, China in 1911, where he taught as a Professor of Metallurgy. He taught there for 24 years, and they lived out the rest of their lives in the University Compound until they died. Both Emma and Edwin had travelled several times back to the United States in the summers to visit relatives. Emma died in 1934 and Edwin in 1935, and their ashes are scattered in China. He was 5' 10" tall with blue eyes and light hair.

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**Sprague, Elisha W.**

1841-1897

Comp

Mineral Survey

to

no more

1873

Born in Maine, Elisha was in Coos County by 1866 when he married Mary Catherine Loose. He acted as the compassman for Simon Cathcart for the survey of his own Mineral Claim, the E. W. Sprague and John Norman Gold Mine, in Coos County in 1873. John Norman was the axman. Mary died after one daughter, and he remarried to Mary E. Clinkinbeard in 1877, the daughter of compassman John Clinkinbeard, and they had two daughters. He patented his Mining Claim in 1878.

His partner in the Claim, foreclosed a mortgage on Elisha in 1878. Elisha had a dog named Johnny in Coos Bay, and he was loved by all the town. They even passed an ordinance excepting him from the dog tax. Elisha was the owner of the Star Saloon in Coos Bay with his brother, A. W. Sprague, in 1879, when State Senator James Fay committed suicide in the saloon. Elisha was a trunkmaker in 1884 and then opened a restaurant with his wife in 1884 in Coos Bay. Elisha moved to his ranch near Beaver Slough in 1887. Mary and a daughter were in California in 1896 and Elisha died at China Camp, California in 1897. Mary moved to San Francisco with her two daughters.

**Stanley, Frank****Dennis***1854-1929*

USDMS

Mineral Surveys 1901

to

Mineral Surveys 1904



Born in either Canada, Frank graduated from Dartmouth in 1879 with a degree in civil engineering. He married his first wife, Mary Carleton, in 1880 in Vermont, and then worked in Michigan until 1886. After three children, Mary died in Michigan in 1886. He remarried to Caroline Eliza Adams in 1887, and after a brief stay in Missouri, he came to Spokane in 1889. There he formed a partnership in engineering first with Wilbur Waltman, and then Ulysses Hough.

In 1893 Frank operated a shingle mill with Albert O'Donnell, and from 1895-1905 he was a civil engineer and surveyor on his own in Spokane. He surveyed 33 Mining Claims in Washington in Ferry and Pend Oreille Counties from 1898-1904, except for a few North of Cle Elum. Also there were 34 Mining Claims in Grant and Baker Counties in Oregon from 1901-04, nearly all West or Southwest of Sumpter. By 1900, Frank had sired a total of 9 children. Caroline died in 1901 in Spokane, and he married again in 1907 to Anna Lillian Swett in Iowa. They were living in Baker, Oregon from 1908-12 with Frank's youngest son, where Frank worked as a civil engineer.

By 1920 Frank and Anna were in Hermiston where Frank was a farmer. The Oregonian reported in 1925 that Anna filed for Divorce. For some reason, Frank moved to Ware County, Georgia and died there of tuberculosis in 1929, documented by his death certificate. See WA GLO Surveyors for the maintained version of this information.

**Stearns, Sidney****Summer "Sid"**

1856-1923

Comp

Contract 483 (as 1883  
compassman for  
William B. Pengra)

to  
no more



The father of Sidney was a Baptist Minister in Vermont 1837-47, and in New York in 1850 before he crossed the Oregon Trail to Jacksonville in 1853. He was listed as a Baptist Clergyman in 1860 in Jacksonville. Sidney was the nephew by marriage of both Bynon and William Pengra. William Pengra received a Contract for one township on the Willamette River just downstream from Oakridge in 1883, and Sidney was the compassman.

Sidney signed both the preliminary and final oaths for T20S R2E and had his signature acknowledged in both places, but his signature is crossed out in both places. At this date, maybe Pengra had Special Instructions to not use a compassman. Sidney married Francis Elizabeth Day in Cresswell in November, 1887, and they immediately left for Eastern Oregon via The Dalles. They took up a Homestead within the present City Limits of Bend, called Farewell Bend at that time. Frances returned to Cresswell to await the birth of their twins in late 1888, and Sidney came six months later to retrieve the three of them. Cecil, the next son was born on the Homestead at Bend.

They acquired a new home South of Prineville in 1893 and operated a large cattle ranch from 1887-1922 at that location and at LaPine, and Sidney died in 1923. Frances spent six years in Eugene, but returned to the ranch to live out her days until 1949. The Stearns were faithful members of the First Baptist church and a Sunday School addition was named for Francis in 1947. Sidney patented at least three 160 acre tracts near Bend and Prineville. One was on the Deschutes River above Sunriver by Cash Sale, and another was his Homestead in the heart of the present Bend City limits by Homestead Entry. The third was by Cash Sale South of Prineville between the Crooked River and Stearns Butte (named for Sidney). Son Cecil Stearns continued patenting land in that location in 1925. There is an active land promotion called Stearns Ranch at that location, selling acreage tracts.

**Stevenson, Henry****John**

1838-1926

Wkngmn

USDS

Contract 132 (with M. 1869  
L. McCall)

to

Contract 218

1874

CA PLS 1145. Born in Canada, Henry attended Washington County Seminary and Collegiate Institute in New York from 1861-62. From 1862-64 he was a chainman and axeman for George House and George Sloan in Port Angeles. He received his own Contract in 1864 for T20,21N R4E. He corrected the South Boundary for George Sloan, did the subdivisions, and surveyed 17 DLCs. He was awarded Contract 85 in 1866 near Yakima, but did not do the survey.

Henry surveyed a road in King County from the White River to the Duwamish River in 1867. By 1869 he was in Portland, OR, where he married a local girl, Sarah E. Hoyt. Between 1869 and 1874, he received three Contracts in Oregon for a total of 15 townships, all in Columbia County. His first was a Joint Contract with Martin McCall, and he used Thomas Chapman and Joseph Dobbins as chainmen on the later Contracts.

Henry was Portland City Surveyor from 1869-1872. He was advertising as a surveyor in Los Angeles in late 1874, and between 1876 and 1884, he produced beautiful maps of the Los Angeles area, which are selling for high prices on the internet now. He received an appointment as a U. S. Deputy Surveyor in California to examine improvements on Rancho Santa Monica in 1876. A baby daughter drowned in 1878, and in 1879 Henry ran for State Surveyor General of California on the Workingman Ticket and lost. He returned East for a visit of several months in 1882. From 1884-87 Henry was involved in speculative real estate development, selling acreage and lots. He suffered several business and personal foreclosures in 1888-89.

Henry was listed as a surveyor in the censuses in Los Angeles in 1900, 1910 and 1920, and was noted as surveying several large ranches into developments over the years in Southern California. There was a Henry J. Stevenson in Riverside, California convicted of selling obscene photographs in 1894, who served 150 days in jail. By 1900 Henry and Sarah were not living together, but did not divorce. Sarah died in Monrovia in 1923 and Henry in Los Angeles in 1926. See WA GLO Surveyors for the maintained version of this information.



**Stone, John****Harvey**

1839-1922

USDS

Contract 235 (by  
George W.Cradlebaugh as  
compassman)

to

no more

1875

John was born and raised in Vermont, the son of a clergyman. He probably attended college and served in the Civil War before he showed up in the Northwest by about 1870 when he was working as an engineer for the Corps of Engineers in Portland under General Nathaniel Michler. He was in both Tacoma and Kalama in 1874, and may have been working on the NPRR construction at that time. He was awarded surveying Contract 235 by the Oregon Surveyor General in 1875 for ten townships North of Baker and used George Cradlebaugh as the compassman on all the work. He finished in late 1875 to return to Portland to marry Emma Jean Phillips in November. They had one son, Harry L. Stone.

Operating as Grant and Stone with William Grant, he was awarded a contract for rock removal in the Upper Columbia River Basin at Owyhee Rapids and at Squally Hook in 1876. John was involved in land and timber speculation in Southwestern Skamania County in 1879, was a contractor in Portland in 1880, and ran the sawmill at for NPRR at Ainsworth in 1881.

He lived in Spokane the rest of his life, becoming a wealthy man. He was continuously in court involving money, debts, and contracts. John was charged criminally with stealing Federal timber in Idaho in 1892, and after a long trial was acquitted by the jury in eight minutes. He had purchased timber from entrymen who had not yet proved up on their Claims. The Federal government then sued him in civil court, but the outcome is unknown.

John was part of the "St. Paul Syndicate" which distributed funds from the disposition of Northern Pacific Lands from 1890-98. Ultimately it included NPRR executive Paul Schulze, and there were charges of fund misappropriations with legal action following. In 1905 the newspapers in Spokane ran a story about how John's son Harry had abandoned his wife and baby in Northport, Washington. Harry had been sent back east to study music, because he was very talented. The wife and child were reported to be destitute, being helped by a frail mother-in-law.

**Stoner, Sidney****Nicholson***1876-1951*

SES

Special Instructions 1907

to

Special Instructions 1907

Sidney was born in Texas the son of a bookkeeper. He attended college before he began with the United States Geological Survey in about 1896 and first showed up working in California as the principal assistant on a USGS survey crew in the Santa Barbara area of Southern California in 1902. He was a topographer on the Mt. Whitney and Olancho quadrangles in 1905 and had charge of the Olancho quadrangle in 1905. He married Marjorie Fleming Sprague in Florida in 1907, a 1904 graduate of Claremont College in Pomona. He ran a leveling crew for the Troutdale quadrangle in Oregon in 1907. While with the USGS he surveyed many quadrangles as either a topographer or leveler. Sidney was a Special Examiner of Surveys for the GLO in Oregon in 1907, examining nine surveys, leading to several suspensions, rejections, and indictments.

Sidney was named a Special Agent for the General Land Office in in Seattle in 1909 to assist in the investigation of the Cunningham Coal Land Case from Alaska. Several prominent citizens and politicians from Pacific Northwest were involved as investors and consultants, including the Governor of Idaho and F. Cushing Moore, a United States Deputy Surveyor. The plan was to arrange for many individuals to apply for coal lands in one area and then aggregate those Claims and sell them to a mining company that could afford to build a railroad, i. e., the Guggenheim family. (which was illegal)

The GLO prevailed and all lost their Claims and the money they had already invested. By 1913 Sidney was working as a surveyor for the USFS at Riverside, California and mapped portions of the Monterey National Forest. From at least 1918-20 he was working out of the West Coast office of the USGS at Alameda.

By 1928, Marjorie was living in Gulf Port, Florida, and Sidney was a roomer in Sacramento, still with the USGS. They were both in St. Petersburg, Florida in 1935, and 1940, with Sidney listed as a special agent for the U S. Government. He was still with the Department of the Interior, living in St. Petersburg in 1945, while Marjorie was a school teacher. They both reported they had attended college in the past in that State Census. Sidney died in St. Petersburg in 1951 and Marjorie in 1962 in Florida.

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**Stout, Mary****Elizabeth**

1875-1971

Dr/Clerk

Clerk

1893

to

no more



1890

Born in Oregon, Mary grew up on her family's farm at Mehema, near the farm of her mother's brother, William Henry Byars. She was also the sister of Ray Lewis Stout. Mary attended the predecessor of Oregon State University in Corvallis for four years, Class of 1895, majoring in Household Economy, and when her uncle became Surveyor General, Mary was appointed a Transcribing Clerk at age 18 in 1893, a full time position.

She was back on the farm at Mehema in 1900 as a school teacher and married Columbus Andrew Mulkey in Mehema in 1901. He had attended Albany College, and by 1909 they had four children and then transitioned to Salem by 1920. The family continued in Salem or Pringle until at least 1932 when Columbus died. Mary was still in Pringle in 1940 as the caretaker of a church and died in a nursing home in Berkeley, California in 1971 at age 96. The Stout family is the namesake of Stout Creek, which runs through Mehema, and of nearby Stout Mountain.

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**Stout, Ray Lewis**

1885-1984

USDS

Contract 753

1904

to

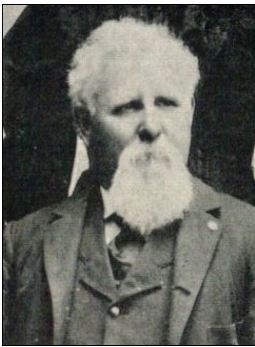
no more



c. 1905

OR PE 160. Ray was born and raised in Mehema, Oregon, the brother of Mary Stout and the nephew of William H. Byars. He graduated from the public schools after the eighth grade in 1900, because there was no high school. That summer he obtained a job as compass carrier for his uncle, William H. Byars, for Contract 560 in the Washington Cascades. They surveyed 5 fractional townships, from Eagle Gorge to the mouth of the Cispus River. William's sons, Will and Rex, were compassmen on parts of the work.

Ray wrote of his experiences on this survey. He took the train from Salem to Eagle Gorge, via Portland and Tacoma, where they set up their first camp. There were 12 men in camp, serving three crews. He discussed how his crew worked, with William leading the way with the solar compass, including the compass carrier, Ray, followed by the axeman who cut brush and blazed the line, with the chainmen following. He also described "laying out", which was taking food, but no bedding, to stay up to several days on the line, sleeping on the ground. The crew was eventually disbanded, and Ray and William surveyed a small part of the job at Longmire, being able to stay in the Rainier National Park hotel for the duration. William was examined by T. M. Hurlburt in 1902 and M. P. McCoy in 1905, and required corrections in the field in both 1903 and 1906.



**William H. Byars, date unknown**

In the fall of 1900, Ray entered Oregon Agricultural College by special permission, without a high school diploma. In 1903, he helped his uncle on the corrections of the previous survey near Mount Rainier. In 1904 he was the successful bidder on his own for Oregon Contract 753 South of Jacksonville, Oregon. His uncle came along as an advisor. There was a lot of brush, including poison oak, and Ray suffered terribly. Their camp was washed away at one time in a thunder storm. He was examined in 1905, and again after corrections in 1906, and again in 1908. The result was a rejection, probably caused by having a poor mentor. A new survey was performed by Ernest Rands in 1909, which looks a lot like the survey by Ray, except for the handling of the residual errors created by David Thompson in 1857.

Ray and his uncle then travelled to Newport, Washington where William F. Byars, Ray's cousin the son of William H., had received Contracts 609 and 613. They worked on them until Ray went back to school. William F. was already trying to get out of the Contract, and in 1905, Ray and William H. were appointed compassmen to do the survey. Ray was listed as a compassman in the notes, but with no date. They were examined by M. P. McCoy in 1905 and 1906, Scott Harrison in 1908, and Morris Chubb in 1910.



**William H. Byars, age 70,**  
**"The General" during**  
**the survey in 1909 at Mt**  
**Baldy near Newport, WA**

Ray returned in the summer of 1909, after graduating from OSU and obtaining a job with the Marion County Engineer. Both Contracts 609 and 613 had multiple corrections, with the final ones being done in 1909. There were experiences encountered, such as a forest fire caused by the camp cook, and one member of the crew being sick enough to be carried out by stretcher for several miles. The work was approved and paid in 1910. Ray published a long article in the December 1972 edition of the Oregon Historical Quarterly, describing his experiences on all these surveys, some of which are related above. Ray was an engineer for a contractor in 1910, and married Mabel Vantress in 1911, which union generated two children. A daughter stayed a spinster and lived with her parents until they died.

He spent the rest of his career until 1950 as head of right-of-way surveying for Pacific Power and Light Co, headquartered in Portland. After retirement, he worked on a large electrical transmission system in Greece from 1950-1953. Mabel died in 1979 and Ray died two months shy of his 100th birthday. The only other Oregon or Washington U. S. Deputy Surveyor that was living at the time was Charles Slang. There is a long autobiography and an oral history at the Oregon Historical Society, and a photograph collection at the Oregon State University Library. (biography) See WA GLO Surveyors for the maintained version of this information.

**Stowell, Alfred**  
**Wilson**

1841-1907  
 Ch Clerk  
 Chief Clerk

to  
 no more

1871 Born in Indiana the brother of George Stowell and the son of a surveyor and farmer, Alfred moved with his family to California in 1856, and then to Eugene, Oregon in 1858. He began his career as a clerk in a store in Eugene, and then opened a store of his own. Alfred married Blandina E. Thurston in 1867, the daughter of the first U. S. Congressman from Oregon. He was appointed Chief Clerk in the Surveyor General's Office of William Odell in 1871, and continued until Odell was replaced in 1874.

Odell was the step-father of Alfred's wife. Alfred's brother George was the draftsman in the office for the duration of Alfred's term as Chief Clerk. Alfred moved to Portland in 1882 and opened a retail business on Front Street with A. H. Morgan. He entered the brokerage business with R. A. Frame in 1888, and continued that until he retired. He also had a farm in Clark County, Washington, and died in Portland.

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**Stowell, George**

1838-1919

Dr/Clerk

Draughtsman

to

Transcribing Clerk

1871

1881

Born in Indiana, the brother of Albert Stowell and the son of a surveyor and farmer, George moved with his family to California in 1856, and then to Eugene, Oregon in 1858. He was a draftsman in the Surveyor General's Office of Elisha Applegate in 1869 and married Janette McCalley in Eugene in 1870. He continued as draftsman from 1871-under the regimes William Odell until 1874, Benjamin Simpson in Portland until 1878, and James Tolman until 1886.

He was named Chief Clerk under Democrat Surveyor General Douglas Taylor in 1889-93 and under William Byars in 1889-93. His wife Jannette was appointed a Copyist by James Tolman in 1883. George had participated in a Washington County map in 1889. He was a draftsman in Sitka, Alaska from at least 1900-1910. Janette became ill in Alaska, and died in Portland in 1916. George died in the Portland Sanatorium in 1919.

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**Stowell, Janette****McCalley**

1847-1916

Dr/Clerk

Clerk

1883

to

no more



Janette McCalley was born in Scotland, came to the U. S. as a child in 1851, and was in Salem, Oregon by 1861, where she was a student at Willamette University. She married George Stowell in 1870 in Springfield, when George was a draftsman in the Surveyor General's Office. She had four children through 1889, and was appointed a Copyist in the Surveyor General's Office of James C. Tolman in by 1883, where her husband was the draftsman.

The family moved to Sitka Alaska in 1899, where George was again a draftsman. They lived in Juneau in 1910, where George was a draftsman. Janette became ill, and later died in Portland in 1916.

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**Stowell, Percy****Eldon**

1872-1959

Dr/Clerk

Clerk

1893

to

no more



Percy was born in Oregon, the son of Chief Clerk George Stowell and his wife, Janette Stowell. He attended college for five years before being appointed a Transcribing Clerk in the Surveyor General's Office of William H. Byars in 1894, where his father was also serving as Chief Clerk. He married Alice Lee Wells, the daughter of a physician, in Portland in 1900.

Percy was a salesman in 1910, a manager in a wholesale company in 1920, a sales manager in 1930, and was retired in 1940, all in Portland. They lived in Astoria in 1953, and both died in Coos Bay where their daughter was residing. Alice died in 1957 and Percy in 1959.

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**Stratton, Horace****Fitch**

1835-1906

Rep

Dr/Clerk

USDS

Clerk

1863

to

no more



1881

Born in Pennsylvania, Horace moved with his family to Indiana by 1838 and crossed the Oregon Trail in 1853 with an older brother and the rest of the family. His father and another older brother had gone West earlier, seeking gold. Horace was a miner at Galice Creek in Southern Oregon when the Indian War of 1855-56 broke out, and he joined the Oregon Volunteers, serving as assistant quartermaster. Horace moved on to the Idaho gold fields, and ran a pack train from Walla Walla to Florence, Idaho for a few years.

He was a Clerk in the Surveyor General's Office of Bynon Pengra in 1863 and served on the Board of Directors in 1867 of the Military Road Pengra was promoting over Willamette Pass leading to Idaho. He eventually came to Eugene where he married Marilda "Rill" Ferris Dunn in 1868, the sister of a future business partner. Deputy Surveyor James H. D. Henderson officiated. Horace received a Joint Contract with William Pengra for 17 townships West of Summer Lake in 1869, and they were surveyed by Pengra using Henry Gilfrey as compassman. Eight townships were left unsurveyed. Horace was elected to the Eugene City Council in 1873. He was a merchant from 1860-79 in Eugene, operating as Stratton and Dunn from 1877-79 with F. E. Dunn.

Horace was a member of the Oregon State Legislature in 1878. He sold dry goods and operated an Indian Trading Post in Farmington in Whitman County, Washington from at least 1880-87, and then expanding to Medical Lake and Cheney. He was elected to the Washington Territorial Council in 1880, serving as President. Horace sold his stores in 1883, and engaged in wheat farming and stock raising until the price of wheat dropped and caused him to lose a lot of money. He then moved to Seattle in 1889 and pursued real estate until that crashed in 1892. Horace went to the Yukon in 1894, working at Forty Mile and Circle City. until the fall of 1895 when he returned to Seattle mostly broke.

When the real gold rush in Alaska started, he returned to Cook Inlet to mine with fair success. Horace was the superintendent of a large mine in Rossland, B. C. in 1899. He joined the stampede to Atlin country in 1900 with no success and then tried an island off Juneau in 1901. He returned broken in health and spirit, and the tragic death of a daughter being killed at a railroad crossing in Kent in 1902 aggravated his negative attitude. He had asthma and suffered a stroke in 1903. He had more strokes, became an invalid, and finally died of a stroke in 1906 in Seattle.

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### **Stump, David**

1819-1886

Rep

USDS

Claim Contract 40 1854

to

Claim Contract 56 1863

(under Special  
Instructions to survey  
ten Claims for  
Thomas Hutchinson)

David was born in Ohio. crossed the Oregon Trail in 1845 by himself with no wagon, and filed a Claim at the foot of Writsman Peak in Polk County, Oregon, about six miles South of Monmouth. He first taught school and then went to California in 1848, and in a year managed to accumulate a small fortune. To those who were there early, gold was easily found in shallow placers. He went back East, purchased 800 sheep, and with several herders, headed back to Oregon. About 400 sheep made it to Polk County, allowing David to accumulate 2300 acres of farmland. He married 15-year-old Catherine Elizabeth Chamberlin in Polk County in 1850, and they had four children. David had been a surveyor in Iowa and received Claim Contract 40 in 1854 in Western Polk County, on which he used his brother Jesse Stump and future Deputy Surveyor Thomas Hutchinson as chainmen.



Thomas Hutchinson went on to receive Claim Contract 56 on his own in 1855 for eight townships in Polk County. He was called to serve as an officer in the Indian War in late 1855 and made an arrangement with David to finish the townships he had started. The Surveyor General gave David Special Instructions in January, 1856 to finish the ten Claim Surveys, which he soon accomplished.



Cassie Stump

David served in the Oregon State Legislature from Polk County in 1874. He donated land to begin Christian College, the predecessor of Western Oregon University, and built a nice home in Monmouth in 1878, now under the Western Oregon University Campus. This allowed his children access to education. His daughter, Cassie Stump, graduated from Christian College in 1876 with a Masters Degree, and then attended Wellesley College in Boston in 1881. She returned and taught at what was to become Western Oregon University until 1886 when her father died. She was an advocate for women's rights and registered to vote in 1913, the first time women were eligible in Oregon.

Mary Stump Campbell graduated from Christian College in 1872 and obtained a Masters from Wellesley. She became the publisher of Monmouth's first newspaper before she ultimately married the College President, L T. Campbell. When her husband died after they had four children, she returned to Monmouth to live with her mother and Cassie.

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### **Sulger, Abraham**

1820-1866

Dem

USDS

Claim Contract 46

to

no more

1854

Abraham was born in Pennsylvania in 1820 and enrolled for his freshman year only in the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia in 1835. He sailed around Cape Hope in early 1849 in the ship, Pacific, whose Captain was dismissed along the way in Rio for mistreating the crew and passengers. Abraham filed a Donation Claim in Washington County in 1849 and was in Oregon as a Merchant and ferry operator in 1850. The survey by Ives and Hunt in 1852 shows his house/store on his 320 acre Claim Southeast of Hillsboro. It was on the road from Lafayette to Portland near where he established a store and a ferry crossing of the Tualatin River. Now his Claim occupies most of the land between The Reserve and Merriwether Golf Courses.

Abraham cooperated with David Hill in founding what was to become Hillsboro in 1850, and was named the first Postmaster. He moved his store to town and advertised it, and the new townsite, regularly in the newspapers. Hill came to Oregon in 1842, was the first elected Governor of Oregon in 1845, and died in 1850. Abraham was elected as assistant Clerk to the Oregon Territorial Council in December, 1855 and was part of a group that got legislation passed that improved navigation on the Tualatin.

He surveyed Claim Contract 46 for 74 Claims in Washington County in 1854, under Instructions dated August 10, 1854, and signed his final oath January 30, 1855 in Oregon City. For some reason, Deputy Surveyor Israel Mitchell resurveyed 12 of those Claims under Special Instructions from the Surveyor General, dated 1855. He was authorized to "correct, remeasure, copy, and in some instances, resurvey those Claims as surveyed by Abraham Sulgar." Both sets of notes are in the records. One of the Claims included was the one of Abraham Sulger for 320 acres in Sections 15 and 16, T1S R2W Southeast of Hillsboro. In the resurvey by Mitchell of the Abraham Sulger Claim as an example, the resurvey showed minor differences of up to one chain, but the corners and witness trees stayed the same.

His father and mother both died in Philadelphia in 1855, and it is unknown how long it took for word to reach Abraham. He sold his store and Claim and soon left Oregon. Abraham was back in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania by 1860, living with two spinster sisters. His father's estate must have paid off, for all three showed a net worth of \$15-26,000. He had just purchased a patent from a second party for convertible benches in sleeping coaches. He occupation was listed in an 1863 directory as "gentleman". Abraham died in 1866 at age 46 and is buried in Laurel Hill Cemetery in Philadelphia beside his parents and siblings. He appears to never have married.

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**Sweitzer, Nelson  
Bowman Jr.**

1869-1958

Rep  
SES

Special Instructions	1903
to	
Special Instructions	1903



1926

Member ASCE. Nelson was born in Nebraska, the son of Brevet Brigadier General Nelson Bowman Sweitzer, Sr. His father was an Aide de Camp to George McClelland during the War, and was brevetted to Brigadier General at the end of the War. Nelson, Sr. was mustered out as Aide de Camp in 1863, and served in line command in the Army until the end of the war. Nelson, Jr. followed his family around the Western U. S. on dozens of assignments.

The last assignment for his father was in command of Fort Walla Walla. Nelson, Jr. was in his third year at Whitman College in Walla Walla in 1888 and probably graduated. He worked for the Corps of Engineers on the Mississippi, the Gulf Coast, and in D. C. until 1898, publishing an article in the ASCE Journal on jetties in 1898.

In 1898 he was appointed a Special Examiner of Surveys in Washington and other western states, serving until at least 1904 in Oregon. He completed 12 examinations in Washington in 1898-99, and 5 examinations in Oregon in 1903. He married his wife Maria Dever in 1898, and they had two children. He was in Minnesota in 1900 as a civil engineer, and again as an Examiner in 1909. He promoted the direct system of surveys and in 1911 was named the head of that system for Nebraska and South Dakota, serving in that position until 1929, when the post was eliminated, and he retired.

At some time he was: topographer, Willamette Valley and Cascade Mt. Rd; engr., San Antonio Water Works Co.; City Engineer, Rockport, Texas and Neligh, Nebraska; and location, Arkansas Harbor RR. From his post in Neligh, Nebraska, he pioneered some of the dependent resurvey philosophy to guide the agency in the future. He was the Vice President of Neligh State Bank and the Mayor of Neligh for two terms in about 1914. By 1933 Nelson had purchased a house in Pasadena that he lived in until he died. Nelson and his wife, Marie, funded an endowed Professor of Law post at Stanford, which continues until present. He died in Los Angeles in 1958.

His birth records, baptism, and some genealogical sources note his name as Nelson MacGregor Sweitzer, but he went by Nelson Bowman Sweitzer as an adult. He was the author of the following works, among others: "The Gulf Stream & Circulation of Waters in the Gulf of Mexico", 1898; "Retracement-Resurveys as Affected by Court Decisions", 1912; and "Retracement Resurveys", 1918.

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## **Swope, Florence**

**A.**

1876-1930+

Dr/Clerk

Clerk

to

no more

1897

Born in Pennsylvania, the daughter of a German Attorney, Florence was with her parents in Portland, Oregon by 1888. She was hired as a Transcribing Clerk in the Surveyor General's Office of Robert Habersham by 1897, but was furloughed for lack of work a short time later. However, Ethel Cotter, a part time Clerk was kept on, which caused Florence to file a civil service complaint in 1898. By 1899, the position of Florence was declassified, and Ethel kept the job. Florence married Harry King Sargent in 1899, an attorney and ex-Mountie from Canada, and they continued to live in Portland.

Florence was still a Transcribing Clerk in August, 1899, after returning from her honeymoon, and initialed notes as Mrs. Sargent. They had a son named Richard in 1902, were listed together in Portland with a son and a maid in 1910. During the first ten years of their marriage, Florence was mentioned many times in the society sections. A letter to the Oregonian in 1902 on "the nature of the soul" enlisted several lengthy responses. She and Harry were separated in 1912, and Florence filed for divorce in 1915, claiming infidelity. She was granted the divorce, custody, and \$50 per month alimony, but kept referring to herself afterward as Mrs. H. K. Sargent.

**Taft, Walter****Dewitt***1832-1917*

Dem

Comp

Contract 120 (as 1867

compassman for

Joseph G. Gray and  
William H. Odell for  
portions)

to

no more



Walter was born in New York and soon moved with his family to New Hampshire and then to Vermont. He is one of only two "Walter Tafts" that can be found to venture West of the Mississippi. He came West in 1860 and hauled freight from the Missouri to Denver for three years, amassing 10,000 miles by ox-team in that time. The other "Walter Taft" was Captain Walter Taft from Boston and North Carolina. He mined for gold in California in 1860 and more, completing a bookkeeping course in Boston in 1855 at Comer's Commercial College.

For now, this is the biography of the Walter Taft from Denver. His obituary noted he went to Virginia City, Montana after 1863 for a period of time before returning to Colorado and marrying Eliza Caroline Frazer in Georgetown, Colorado in 1870. There he was listed as a miner and was a farmer near Fort Collins after that. He was nominated for Laramie County Surveyor in 1877 and 1879, noting he had been a surveyor. Walter may have ventured to Enterprise, Oregon, where he was the compassman for Joseph Gray for seven townships on Contract 120 in 1867. He is the namesake of Taft Hill and Taft Hill Road in Fort Collins, Colorado. His younger brother Louis lived with him all the time in Colorado. The finding of a signature to match the one on his oath will determine which Walter Taft was the compassman in Enterprise.

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**Tallman, Samuel  
Wells**

1817-1902

Dem

USDS

Contract 356

1880

to

no more

Born in Ohio, the son of a farmer, Samuel crossed the Oregon Trail in 1849, settling in Clatsop County. He was a Texas Ranger in the Battle of Buena Vista, being wounded three times. He then went to Idaho and discovered a gold mine that netted him \$50,000, but he lost it all in a silver mine investment. He filed a Donation Claim on Blind Slough in Clatsop County, covering the present site of the town of Knappa. By 1882 he had patented 1242 acres, all by cash sale and timberlands, except for his DLC. Several purchases at Wauna added up to 760 acres, and another 200 acres was three miles West of his DLC on Big Noise Creek. By this time, he was claiming Westport as his residence, the nearest town to his Wauna property. He had a wharf there and was selling cordwood to the steamers.

Samuel received Contract 356 in 1880 at age 63 to survey fractional township T8N R8W, about four miles West of his DLC. It amounted to 23 miles of line. He made his last purchase in 1882, the same year he ran for Clatsop County Surveyor on the Democrat Ticket. He sold his Wauna property in 1885 for \$10,000. Entrymen recruited him in 1890 to survey two townships in Clatsop County because the examinations of the current Deputies, Todd and Lovell, were taking too long, but Surveyor General William Byars refused to interrupt the process. The entrymen had to wait a while longer for their patents, because both Contracts were rejected in 1890 by the Surveyor General. By 1900, Samuel was an old man living with a nephew in Illinois and died there in 1902. He never married, reported himself as a government surveyor for 40 years, and left an estate of \$9000.

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**Tatum, Seth  
Sledge Jr.  
"Sledge"**

1871-1916

Dem

USS

Special Instructions

1898

to

no more

Member ASCE. Born the son of a Harvard graduate, lawyer, and Confederate soldier, Sledge graduated from high school and received private instruction after that. He obviously received some engineering education. In 1886 he worked for the Macon and Birmingham RR and then in private engineering and surveying work. He was elected to the Georgia State Senate in 1894 at age 23, following his father with the same name. Sledge was appointed a Surveyor in the USGS in 1895, first surveying in Oklahoma as a U. S. Surveyor doing GLO surveys for many townships, jointly with U. S. Surveyor, James E. Shelley.

They were using a Burts Improved Solar Compasses, and each had a crew. During this survey, he was reported in POB magazine as visiting and using the Initial Point of Oklahoma in 1897, and his notes showed he had a 10-man crew. He returning to his legislative duties in the fall while he was still in the legislature. Sledge received Special Instructions to survey fractional township T3S R7E in 1898 at Welches, Oregon as a United States Surveyor, working for the USGS. This had far different conditions than Oklahoma. Two years prior, Manius Buchanan had stated that the land in this Contract was worthless and he did not survey it.

Sledge was off up to six degrees in bearing, and up to six chains in distance, and did an awful job, apparently stubbing. The township was resurveyed by George Rigby and Otis Gould under the Direct System in 1932, and those parcels that were patented by that time were held in their original location, in some cases creating "Tracts" to accommodate their bonafide rights. The land still under Federal ownership was resurveyed. After the first draft of this biography, Chuck Whitten pointed out to the author the "rest of the story" on T3S R7E, producing some editing.

Sledge surveyed portions of the North and East Boundary and the Northeasterly one third of the sections. The rest had been surveyed by Samuel Lackland in 1881, who also did a questionable job. Sledge was promoted to a Topographer in 1899, and worked in many states. He made the first ascents of Hozomeen Mountain in the North Cascades of Washington and Snowy Mountain and Frosty Mountain in British Columbia in 1904 while doing the triangulation for the International Boundary. In 1905, he was transferred to the Panama Canal Zone as a surveyor, and was promoted rapidly, eventually being in charge of all the survey parties on the Canal Zone Boundary. From 1908-09 he was in charge of all surveys for the Gatun Dam on the Panama work before requesting a transfer back to USGS.

He married Sarah Richardson, the daughter of U. S. Congressman William Richardson, in 1909 and was put in charge of the Rocky Mountain Division of USGS in 1910, comprising 10 states. In 1915, as a Democrat, Sledge was named Acting Chief Geographer of the United States Geological Survey, succeeding Robert B. Marshal, but served only one month before he died in January, 1916 at age 45 of stomach problems. From 1895 on, excluding his time in Panama, he appears to have worked out of Washington, D. C., being absent for extended periods to do his surveys.

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**Taylor, Alice  
Frances Carr**

1859-1949

Dr/Clerk

Clerk

1889

to

no more



Born in Butte County, California, Alice came to Portland with her parents in 1862. She was listed as travelling with her mother and a sister from Sitka in 1874. Alice married Douglas William Taylor in Portland in 1879 at her parents home in what was reported as a wedding with 100 guests. They had four children. A baby died in 1880 and she had two small children at home when she was noted in 1889 as a Special Clerk at \$4 per day in the Surveyor General's Office of her husband, Douglas W. Taylor.

They lived at 605 SE First Street in Portland in 1900 and at 143 SE 12th in 1910, at least until Douglas died in 1918 during the Spanish Influenza epidemic. Alice died in the Masonic Home in Forest Grove in 1949, where she had resided for at least the last nine years. An 18-year-old son died in 1905 and another in 1919.

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**Taylor, Douglas  
William Sr.**

1851-1918

Dem

S G

Surveyor General

1886

to

no more



Born in Iowa, Douglas came to Portland via Nicaragua in 1854 with his mother, after his father had already travelled there in 1852. He graduated from Portland Academy in 1868 but learned civil engineering and surveying through experience. He was on the survey crew for the City of Portland, and then became a surveyor for the O&C RR in 1872 and 1874. Douglas was named Portland City Surveyor from 1874-78 and 1881-83. In the interval he laid out River View Cemetery, which is where he was eventually buried.

Douglas married Alice F. Carr in Portland in 1879, and they had four children. He was a surveyor for the Corps of Engineers surveying the mouth of the Columbia from 1883-86. President Grover Cleveland, a Democrat, appointed him the Oregon Surveyor General from 1886-1890, and he hired Alice as a Clerk. Douglas had been elected to the Oregon State Legislature in 1886, but had to resign because of his appointment as Surveyor General.

He was Portland Superintendent of Streets 1891-93 and served as superintendent of Trinidad Asphalt Paving Company in 1905 before again being named Portland City Engineer from 1905-1909. A young son, Richard Bruce, died in 1905 of heart failure, an aftermath of typhoid a few years previous. Another son, Douglas W. Taylor Jr., graduated from the University of Oregon in Civil Engineering and became associated with his father in surveying in Portland. Douglas Sr. died in Portland in 1918 in the Spanish Influenza epidemic, and Douglas, Jr. died in 1919. Alice continued in Portland until she moved into the Masonic Home in Forest Grove by 1940, which is where she died in 1949.

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### **Taylor, Lincoln**

1861-1929

Citizens

Union

USDS

USDMS

Contract 690 (with 1898  
Harvey Taylor)

to

no more

Born in Oregon the son of a farmer, Lincoln received a scholarship to the University of Oregon in 1878. He was noted as returning to school in 1883 after a bout with pneumonia, and finally received his Bachelor's Degree in 1890. He married school teacher, Sarah Matilda Powell, "Tilla", in 1896 and received Joint Contract 690 in 1898 with his younger brother, Harvey, for one township in Lake County. It does not appear that they surveyed the township, and the township was surveyed the next year by Robert Emmitt. He was reported in the newspaper as being appointed a U. S. Deputy Mineral Surveyor in May, 1900 out of Cottage Grove. He had been working in Bohemia.

Lincoln was a surveyor in Oakland, Oregon in 1900, the same year that he ran for Lane County Surveyor on the Union ticket. Lincoln was appointed Cottage Grove City Engineer from 1904-05 for the purpose of overseeing sewer construction designed by Charles Collier. He began a contracting career in 1906, evolving into a partnership called Venske and Taylor, while at the same time doing construction staking for Cottage Grove. He was a civil engineer in Cottage Grove in 1910 and unemployed civil engineer in 1920, and died in Cottage Grove in 1929. Lincoln was a practicing surveyor his whole life, doing boundary surveys and subdivisions. His home place was six miles South of Cottage Grove on the London Road to Calapooia Springs.



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**Taylor, William  
Harvey "Harvey"**

1870-1943

Fusion

USDS

Contract 690 (with Lincoln Taylor) 1898

to

no more



1914

Born in Oregon the son of a farmer, Harvey attended school through the eighth grade and received Joint Contract 690 in 1898 with his older brother, Lincoln, for one township in Lake County. It does not appear that they surveyed the township, and the township was surveyed by Robert Emmitt the next year. He ran for Lane County Surveyor in 1898 on a Fusion, free silver ticket.

Harvey was the nominee of the Peoples party in 1896 and the Union Party for Lane County Surveyor in 1898 against Charles Collier and lost. He married Belle C. Baughman in Cottage Grove in 1900, and they started a family. Harvey and Belle lived in or near Cottage Grove until Harvey's death in 1943. Harvey assisted his brother Lincoln on supervising a sewer contract in 1904. He was listed as a surveyor in 1900, civil engineer in 1910, a farmer in 1920, a surveyor for a timber company in 1930, and retired in 1940.

---

**Terwilliger, Lewis**
**Lisha**

1833-1893

Rep

Comp

Contract 67 (as compassman for Samuel D. Snowden for portions) 1856

to

no more

Lewis was born in Pennsylvania, the son of a shoemaker, and was still a student there in 1850. He served as a compassman for Samuel Snowden on one township on Contract 67 at Bay City, Oregon in Tillamook County in 1856. For some reason, he shared the duties of compassman with Hiram Smith. Lewis was the first principal of Central School in its new building in Portland in 1858, which soon had 300 students. Lewis was a teacher in Portland in 1860, but left Portland for San Francisco and attended Medical School in The City. Lewis moved to Delaware, in Leavenworth County, Kansas by 1865. He married 15-year-old Clementine France Abshire there at the home of her father in 1865, and had been boarding at the Abshire home. They had one son and one Daughter.

By 1865 he was listed as a physician, and practiced medicine the rest of his life in Delaware and Lansing. Lewis was active in Republican politics in Delaware in 1876, and his father was living with them in 1885. He died of blood poisoning in 1893 a month after accidentally cutting himself in the thumb during an amputation surgery. He was at the time the President of the Kansas Medical Society.

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**Thatcher, Everett****A.**

1849-1929

USDS

Contract 243 (With 1875  
Alonzo Gesner)

to

Contract 325 1879

Born in Illinois, the son of Deputy Surveyor Henry M. Thatcher, Everett crossed the Oregon Trail with his family, first to California in 1853 and then to Oregon by 1857. He married Mary A. Croft in 1869 in Salem, an immigrant from England, noting himself as a surveyor. He was listed as a druggist in Salem in 1870 and was Assistant Postmaster under his father until about 1877. He received Joint Contract 243 in 1875 with Alonzo Gesner for six townships West of Burns, which were all surveyed by Alonzo. From 1877-79 Everett received three Contracts on his own in Eastern Oregon for a total of 23 townships.

The first in 1877 was for eight townships Northwest of Burns. The second, in 1879 at Fossil in early 1879, was for four townships. The crew used for that work also was the crew used by his father the next month for four townships at Baker in his Joint Contract with Eugene McCornack. Everett Notarized all the preliminary and final oaths for his father on that survey and probably did the survey as compassman. It was also the same crew used by Deputy Surveyor, A. F. York, his former chainman, on his Contract issued the same day in the same vicinity. Everett used the exact same crew on his Contract immediately following at Fossil for two Standard Parallels and seven townships.

Everett was a surveyor in Salem in 1880 and passed the exam for being a Registered Pharmacist Assistant in 1895. He was an attendant in the Oregon State Insane Asylum in Salem in 1900, a druggist in the Asylum in 1910, and the Commissary for the State Asylum in 1917 and 1920. Mary died in 1922 in Salem, and Everett in 1929 in Klamath Falls where he was living with his daughter, Emily. He was 5' 6" and 140 lbs. with light hair.

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**Thatcher, Henry****Martyn**

1826-1900

Rep

USDS

Contract 320 (with 1879  
Eugene McCornack)

to

no more



1876

Born in Pennsylvania, Henry moved with his parents to Illinois in 1837. He married Sarah Little there in 1846, where his son, Deputy Surveyor Everett Thatcher was born, the first of an eventual eight children. Leaving his wife and newborn son in Illinois, he crossed the Oregon Trail to California in 1850 to search for gold. With modest success, he returned to Illinois via Panama in 1852 with a surplus of \$2000.

He crossed the Oregon Trail with his wife and son daughter, this time stopping in Utah in 1852, teaching school during the winter for \$3 per month per student, accepting necessary items for payment. He continued to California in 1853, where he bought a 160 acre farm near San Jose, relocated to Oregon in 1857, and then settled in Albany in 1859. While in San Francisco, he was a member of the Vigilante Committee, and was present at the hanging of Cora and Casey. He was a livery stable owner in 1860 in Salem, the Mayor in 1863, and a stage agent there in 1870. From the beginning, he was involved with the Republican Party.

Henry was appointed Postmaster of Salem in 1876. He met Lou L. Hart, a customer of his drug store and she was the lady he wanted to marry. He divorced Sarah and married 24-year-old Lou in 1878. He was in Klamath Falls in 1878 and wrote of the ongoing Indian Hostilities. He had to resign as Postmaster in 1879 for civil service reasons and also because of his Contract. His son, Everett, and two daughters also worked in the Post Office by his appointment.

He received Joint Contract 320 with the very political Eugene McCornack in 1879. There were six townships, all in Baker County, and Henry surveyed the only three that were surveyed under the Contract. Two were in the valley between LaGrande and Baker, and the other was just East of Baker. He used a three man crew, two of them from the Salem area, and his son, Deputy Surveyor Everett Thatcher, notarized all the preliminary and final oaths of the crew. The work was surveyed in June and July of 1879, soon after the Contract was signed. Everett had another Contract the same year South of Condon, and he used the exact same crew, beginning only a few days after finishing Henry's Contract. It is very likely that Everett surveyed the three townships for Henry.

Henry showed up in the 1880 Census in two places, as a stock raiser living with Sarah in Salem, and also as running a stage line in Boise. There was a biography of Henry M. Thatcher in a Boise history book in 1899. The subject was this Henry with the same parents, although the birth date was different. There was no mention of Sarah. He was noted as living in California, Albany and Salem as described above. However, the biography states he married 24-year-old Lou L. Hart of Portland in 1878 and bought a stage line out of Boise, running it for three years. He had two more children by his new wife, and owned a ranch in Cassia, Idaho from 1881-90. The Wood River Times reported him as "Bishop Thatcher", a member of the LDS Church.

Henry then bought a 440 acre ranch just East of Little Wood River, which he owned until he died. He was elected a Justice of the Peace in 1894, and still held the position in 1899. He was involved in an irrigation project in 1899. His short obituary in the Oregonian in 1900 confirmed that in fact, Henry had gone to Idaho as described and died in 1900 in Hailey, Idaho. He was seriously ill and confined to bed in Hailey the previous November. There was no mention of the second wife or children. Sarah died in Salem in 1910, and Henry is not in Salem Pioneer Cemetery with Sarah and some of their children. Lou was on the ranch in Cassia in 1900 with her two sons, listed as a landlady.

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**Thiel, Oscar****Frederick***1868-1954*

USDS

Contract 658

to

Contract 729

1896

1900

OR PLS 4. Oscar was born in Oregon, the son of William Thiel and spent his youth on the farm at Oakland. He was educated at East Oakland and Oregon Agricultural College and served at least one term as Douglas County Surveyor 1898-99. He married Grace May Reed before 1910 in Douglas County, and they had two children. Being the son of Deputy Surveyor William Thiel, he was taught surveying at an early age and lived his entire life in Douglas County, mostly near Yoncalla. He was a surveyor and farmer, but the Censuses only show him as a farmer.

Oscar received his first Contract, a Joint Contract with his father in 1891 for four townships East of Reedsport in the Coast Range, and his father surveyed all of the townships. His second Contract was on his own for one township in 1896 South of Oakridge, and his brother, William E., was a chainman. He had three more Contracts from 1897-1900, and all were examined more than once, with suspensions and corrections.

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**Thiel, William***1837-1903*

Dem

USDS

S.F.S

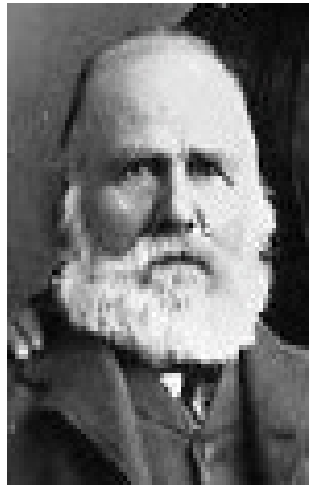
Contract 260

1877

to

Special Instructions

1893



William was born in Germany and was educated there in the discipline of surveying. He came to the U. S. in 1853 and soon left for Oregon in 1854 via Panama. William served in the Indian Wars of 1855-56, for which he was never paid. He married a local girl, Mary Delia Watkins, in 1868, and together they had eleven children, ten of whom survived their parents. Future Deputy Surveyor Oscar Thiel was their first child. William was twice Douglas County Surveyor in 1874-76 and 1884-86, a Justice of the Peace, and a Member of the State Legislature.

William surveyed five Contracts for eight total townships in Southwest Oregon from 1877-79. Three were near Reedsport and two were at Drain. A few years later in 1887, he surveyed the boundary of the Klamath Reservation by Special Instructions, and he surveyed Contract 534 in 1889 with Edward A. Hargraves as compassman, again at Reedsport. His last solo Contract was for three townships just East of Canyonville, where he also surveyed 13 DLCs. Two sons, Arthur and Oscar were crewmen on these last Contracts.

William held a Joint Contract with his son Oscar in 1891 for four townships just Northeast of Reedsport. They were surveyed by William with another son, Arthur, as a crewman. William wrote the Surveyor General that he was suffering from a hernia during this Contract, but he kept going until his "bowels escaped" in late November. He also examined one Contract in 1893 for the Surveyor General. He moved with his family in 1889 to a larger farm North of Yoncalla, which is where they lived until both William and Mary died. He still had nine children at home in 1900.

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**Thompson,  
Abraham Warren  
"Abram"**

*1831-1919*

Whig

Union

Rep

Comp

Special Instructions 1854

(as assistant to

Thaddeus P.

Robinson)

to

no more

Abram was born in Massachusetts, attended the Engineering and Scientific Department of Harvard University, and sailed from Boston to Francisco in 1850 via Cape Horn. When he arrived, he began as a civil engineer, specializing in Spanish Land Grants because of his knowledge of Spanish. It appears he surveyed dozens of them as a Deputy Surveyor for the California Surveyor General. He began studying law and ended up specializing in Land Grant Law for years. Abram was advertising as a deputy county surveyor in Sacramento in 1851, and ran for County Surveyor himself on the Whig Ticket in 1851. The California Legislature appropriated \$3500 for a survey of the Oregon-California Boundary in 1853, and the Contract was given in 1854 to Thaddeus P. Robinson, a Civil Engineering graduate of Dartmouth.

Abram was named by the Surveyor General to be one of the two assistants. The survey began at the Pacific Ocean and ran East 80 miles to Pilot Rock. A C & GS station at Crescent City was used for the Latitude to set a beginning monument some miles North. This was a political survey because the residents along the border were not paying taxes in either State and were voting in both states. There were no astronomical instruments or chronometer used. Latitude along the line was determined by the solar compass. They finished in less than two months, and wrote a report. In the early 1850's, Abram participated in the Vigilante Movement in San Francisco.

Abram soon moved to Petaluma in Sonoma county where he stated until at least 1880. During that time he was a surveyor, a legal expert in land claims, and developed and sold real estate. He married Minerva Loretta Eaton in San Francisco in 1861, and they had four children. By 1890 he had moved to San Francisco, where he continued the law practice. In 1900 he was a member of the Board of Freeholders to formulate a new charter for the City. Minerva died in 1902 and in 1904, he moved to Los Angeles, where he lived with and practiced law with his son, as Thompson and Thompson. At some time, he had charge of the deal whereby the lands of the delta of the Colorado River were bought from Guiliermo Andrade by the Petaluma Syndicate. In addition he had charge of the survey that fixed the boundary between Mexico and California. Abram died in 1919 at age 88.

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**Thompson, Allen**  
**M. "Al"**

1837-1889

Comp

USDS

Contract 94 (portions 1860  
as compassman for  
Lafayette Cartee)

to

Contract 119 (with 1867  
Bynon J. Pengra and  
David P. Thompson)

(with Matthew

Murphy as

compassman for

portions)

Allen was born in Ohio as the brother of future Deputy Surveyor, David P. Thompson. David was in Oregon in 1853, and Allen was in Oregon by 1859, when he was a chainman for his brother on the extension of the Baseline to Umatilla. He was a chainman for Nathaniel Gates at Hermiston the same year and in 1860 was a chainman for Lafayette Cartee at Hood River. He began his career as a compassman for Lafayette Cartee on Contracts 94 and 96 at Hood River and The Dalles in 1860, surveying many townships. He switched to being a compassman for his brother, David, for several townships at LaGrande in 1863. Lafayette Cartee was named Surveyor General of Idaho in 1866, and Allen followed him to Boise. Allen had received a Joint Contract with his brother and Bynon Pengra in Oregon in 1867, but did not participate in the survey.

Peter Bell, Lafayette's brother-in-law surveyed the Boise Baseline both East and West and the Boise Meridian to the South. Allen surveyed the Prime Meridian North to the Clearwater River and the First Standard Parallel North to the Snake River to the West in 1867. He began with Idaho Contracts 3,5, and 7 in 1867. Allen surveyed Contracts in Idaho from about 1867-1885, and his entries account for 39 pages in the Idaho Index. He was living in Lafayette's House in Boise in 1870, along with Lafayette's brother-in-law, Peter Bell and sister-in-law, Henrietta Bell.

David Thompson was named Governor of Idaho in 1875-76 and joined Allen in Boise. One Allen's last Contracts in Idaho was to the extend the Boise Meridian to Township 60N and survey two adjacent townships. Samuel W. Lackland, an Oregon U. S. Deputy Surveyor, was the compassman. Later surveys note finding almost no corners, and the topog calls do not match at all.

Allen married a hometown girl from Ohio, Mary Ann "Mattie" Martin, in 1875 in Tennessee after an engagement of seven years. He continued surveying Contracts in Idaho until at least 1885, but had returned to live in Salem in about 1880. Cartee left as Surveyor General in 1878. Allen was a boarder in Boise in 1880, probably in Idaho only to do a survey. He died of a stroke in Salem, Oregon at age 52 in 1889. Martha and two sons were living in Pendleton in 1900.

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### **Thompson, David Preston**

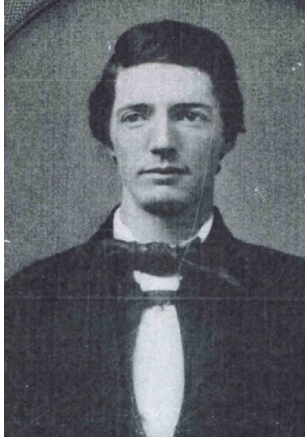
*1834-1901*

Whig

Contract 50 (as 1854  
compassman for John  
and Joseph Trutch for  
portions)

to

Contract 382 (with 1881  
Rufus Moore)



David was born in Cadiz, Ohio, the son of a miller, was trained as a blacksmith, and walked across the Oregon Trail in 1853. He financed his trip on the Oregon Trail by shepherding a flock of sheep all of the way to Oregon. After cutting wood and working as a blacksmith's assistant, he obtained a job in the winter of 1854 as a chainman for La Fayette Cartee, surveying DLCs along the Willamette River between Portland and Oregon City, and surveying the exteriors of the township at Camas.

He received his first Contract in Oregon, a Claim Contract in 1856, and surveyed claims and townships nearly continuously until 1872, receiving 23 Contracts. When La Fayette Cartee, the old friend of David and his brother Allen, was appointed Surveyor General of Idaho in 1867, both of them started surveying Contracts there. David surveyed Contracts in Idaho from about 1869-1875, totaling about 65 townships, with many of them Indian Allotments.

He used compassmen on much of his work, including USDS John David, USDS John Meldrum, USDS Allen Thompson, USDS Matthew Murphy, and USDS George Newman. David stopped surveying when he was appointed Governor of Idaho in 1875, but Allen continued until at least 1883. David held a Joint Contract with his brother-in-law, John Meldrum and nephew, Rufus Moore in 1879, but did not take to the field himself. Nearly all of David's Contracts were on the East side.

In 1859 he extended the Baseline East to the Blue Mountains, and surveyed the Columbia Guide Meridian North, almost to the Columbia River. Right after that, he was a compassman for Jared Hurd and Hamilton Maxon as part of WA Contract 50 to continue the Columbia Guide Meridian North to the Big Bend of the Columbia River in Eastern Washington. At the crossing of the Snake River, he made an error of 7 chains North by 15 Chains East, that is perpetuated today. He returned in 1861 to again be a compassman for Hamilton Maxon on Contract 60 in Washington. David surveyed portions of 8 townships along the Columbia, across from The Dalles and Boardman. As a Republican, he was the wrong political party to get his own Contract in Washington until after 1861.



**Mary Relief Meldrum  
Thompson**

David returned from the surveying season in 1861 and married Mary Relief Meldrum in Portland. She was the sister to USDS John Meldrum and USDS Henry Meldrum and the sister-in-law to USDS Rufus Moore. David's political activities included: Oregon State Senator 1866-72; Governor of Idaho Territory 1875-76; Oregon Legislature 1878, 1882, 1889; Mayor of Portland 1879, 1881; Elector and Delegate to the Republican National Convention 1884; Republican Candidate for Governor 1890; Ambassador to Turkey 1892-93; and ten years a Regent for the University of Oregon.

David was an active and industrious businessman, and those ventures included: built the first RR in Oregon, around Willamette Falls at Oregon City; manager of Oregon City Woolen Manufacturing Co. 1866-68; member of the Willamette Falls and Locks Co., which built the locks in 1873; President of the Oregon Construction Co., which built much of the ORN RR; V. P. and a director of ORN RR; mail contracts 1872-78; organizer and President of Oregon Saving Bank; President of Commercial National Bank; and Director of 15 other banks.

In addition to a luxurious house in downtown Portland, David and Mary maintained a large farm at Fishers Landing in Clark County, WA, where their epileptic son, Ralph, spent much of his time until he died there in 1945. David had just started on a trip around the world, when he became ill, returned to Portland, and died there a short time later of anemia, due to stomach issues. The stock of the D. P. Thompson Company would later be valued at more than \$500,000.





**Thompson Elk**

His son, Ralph managed the farm at Fishers Landing in Washington. Daughter Bessie was, among other things, the European correspondent for Outlook Magazine, and married a prominent attorney. Daughter Genevieve went to several colleges, mostly in Europe, and passed the bar, being qualified to practice before the Supreme Court. He has two statues in Portland in his honor, and claimed the naming of Bully Creek in Malheur County because of his crew shouting "Bully, Bully!" when he fell into the creek. David was 6' 2" tall with black hair. (biography) This is the maintained version of this biography.

**Thompson,  
William Potter**

1822-1907

Dr/Clerk

Clerk

to

no more

William was born in New York as the son of an architect, and was still living at home as a clerk in New York City in 1850. He applied for a passport in 1849, and there was a William P. Thompson that kept a diary from St. Joseph Missouri to California via the Oregon Trail in 1850. He also kept a diary on his return home via Panama in 1852. William was in Oregon by 1857 and in 1859-60 he was the Draftsman in the Surveyor General's Office of William W. Chapman in Eugene, OR. He married in 1860 to Priscilla Page, an immigrant from Canada, and they had no children.

He lived in Boise, ID as a deputy Clerk for the District Court in 1867, just two doors from old friend, La Fayette Cartee. Cartee was appointed Surveyor General of Idaho in 1867, and William was named as Chief Clerk. He also was a reportedly excellent draftsman. He held the post of Chief Clerk until 1874 when he was named Register of the Boise Land Office. In 1873, he was noted as a Director of the First National bank of Idaho. William apparently left Boise by 1882, when he had an unclaimed package from his mother. On the side, he had produced a map of Boise in 1871. He was a surveyor for the U. S. in 1900, living with Priscilla in Front Royal, Virginia. He was 5' 7 1/2" tall with blue eyes and brown hair.

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**Thomson, Origen***1829-1882*

Rep

Comp

Claim Contract 39 (as 1854  
compassman for  
Zenas Moody)

to

Contract 51 (as 1855  
compassman for  
Zenas F. Moody)

Born in Indiana, Origen came West over the Oregon Trail in 1852. He travelled with about 100 other residents including his brother, Orville and they were mostly from Indiana near Greensberg. Origen kept a diary, "Crossing the Plains", that was published a few years after his death by his brother. Origen, along with two other young men took the cattle and horses down the shore of the Columbia West of The Dalles, while the others used the portage. He filed a Claim in Linn County near Brownsville near many others from Greensberg. While in Oregon, he surveyed Claim Contact 39 in 1854 just South of Albany as Compassman for Zenas Moody, one of his neighbors that had married one of the ladies from Greensberg. In 1855 Origen surveyed 5 townships East of Sweet Home as compassman, again for Zenas Moody.

During the time he was in Oregon, he was listed as a civil engineer, and was involved in forming the Republican Party in Linn County. Origen's father died in 1856, and Origen proved up on his Claim before returning to Indiana in 1858. Back in Indiana, he married Arzilla McCoy in 1860 and was listed as a surveyor in 1863 and a civil engineer in 1870. Arzilla died in 1879, and Origen remarried to Mary J. Brown in 1880. He was the secretary of a stone quarry in 1880 and died in 1882. He is buried in Stone Park Cemetery, Greensburg, Indiana with his wife, parents, and several siblings.

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**Thorn, William  
Henry "Bill"***1863-1963*

SES

Special Instructions 1908

to

Special Instructions 1908



Born in Iowa as the son of a farmer, William was in Iowa in 1870 and 1880; lived in Oklahoma Territory in 1890 and in about 1896; surveyed the Black Hills Forest Reserve in 1899 as a U. S. Surveyor; lived in Clifton, Wyoming as a civil engineer in 1900, living in a tent with his crew; was stationed out of Redlands, California beginning in 1902; and surveyed townships in Montana in 1904.

William married Jessie Grant Emmons in Tacoma, WA in 1908, both for the second time. He surveyed the South and East boundaries of Mount Rainier National Park in 1906 as a U. S. Surveyor. Two of Jessie's cousins were on the Rainier survey crew. He finished the Boundaries started by Abner Dunnington in 1908, acting as an Examiner of Surveys. His survey of the Park was acknowledged by the Surveyor General of California. William was a Special Examiner of Surveys for the GLO in 1908-10, in Washington, Oregon and California at least. He made 26 examinations in Washington from 1909-10 and two in Oregon in 1908.

From 1910 until 1912, he worked for the GLO surveying townships on the Fairbanks Meridian, following the controversy between the USGS and the GLO, where the GLO criticized the work of the USGS for using triangulation. It appears he found no discrepancies in the township exteriors surveyed by the USGS. He writes of his trip to Fairbanks from Seattle as taking a month; via Whitehorse, pulling sleds on the ice over Lake LaBarge, where they had to overnight on the ice without shelter; and via the Yukon River to Dawson, and then to Fairbanks. A boat he was on sank below Lake LaBarge, and they were picked up by a steamer.

From 1912 until 1963 when he died, William lived in Redlands, CA, and from at least 1921-1947 he lived in a house with citrus trees in the back yard. He was retired by 1930. He is the namesake of Thorn Point, Thorn Meadows, and Thorn Meadows Campground, all in the mountains of Ventura California. See WA GLO Surveyors for the maintained version of this information

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### **Thurston, George Henry**

1846-1927

USDS

Contract 148 (as  
compassman for John  
S. Kincaid)

to

Contract 191

George was born in Iowa and crossed the Oregon Trail with his parents as a baby in 1847. His father was the U. S. Congressman from Oregon, Samuel R. Thurston, who died off Mexico in 1851 returning from back East. The family had spent the years 1849-50 in Washington, D. C. His mother remarried to William H. Odell, U. S. Deputy Surveyor and future Surveyor General. George was educated in Willamette University. He began surveying as a chainman on Contract 105 for William Odell in 1864 and 1868 in Malheur County, and then also surveyed for Odell and B. J. Pengra, who were locating their Military Road to Idaho.

George attended school in the winter until 1870, when he bought an 800 acre ranch near Springfield. He was the compassman for John Kincaid in 1871 for Contract 148 for nine townships West of Huntington in Wallowa County. From 1871 to 1873, he received three Contracts for 39 townships on the East side, all of which were awarded by his step-father. The first was for seven townships North of Vale, and the second was for five townships at Condon. The last one in 1873 affected 43 townships North of Malheur Lake. There were two Standard Parallels and a Guide Meridian, and the work was mostly for exteriors. The factor motivating the survey was the survey of the Malheur Indian Reservation, which was only in effect from 1872-79. John Meldrum finished the survey of the Reservation in 1874.

George married Marietta Henderson in 1872, built a new house on the farm, which is the subject of a recent historical project, and continued ranching and surveying until 1879. At that time he began reading law and passed the bar in 1882, although he never did actually practice law. He was involved with the management of the Willamette Valley and Cascades Mountain Wagon Road until 1885, when he left Portland for his ranch at Springfield. He began raising sheep in Lake County in 1880, but quit when he lost 10,000 head in a bad winter in 1887. He kept the 3700 acres in Lake County. He is the namesake of Thurston, a census area in East Springfield, Oregon, that once had its own Post Office, and of Thurston Elementary School and Thurston High School.

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**Tichenor,  
William Clinton**

1813-1887

Rep  
USDS

Contract 236	1875
to	
Contract 248	1875



William was born in New Jersey in 1813 and went to sea at age 16. He married Elizabeth Brinkerhoff in New Jersey in 1834, and they had eight children. He was in Illinois in 1848-51 as a State Senator, and at that time was a friend of Abraham Lincoln, who roomed with him for a while and gave speeches with him. He was a Captain on the Oregon Coast in 1850, sailing from San Francisco to Portland on his steamer, the Sea Gull, before he was appointed a harbor pilot on the Columbia in 1851.

William knew the Oregon Coast and desired to found a colony at Port Orford harbor. He hauled 9 men to the beach there in 1851, and when they landed, they were confronted by Rogue River Indians. The Indians demanded arms from Tichenor, and he gave them the signal cannon from the ship and four old muskets. When the ship left to get more supplies, the men retreated to what was referred to afterward as Battle Rock, a fairly defensible position on the beach at Port Orford.



**Battle Rock at Port Orford  
with Humbug Mountain in the distance**

The Indians attacked with a force of 150, and they were repulsed with a single blast of their cannon, killing about 23 Indians. The men held out and escaped during the night with the supplies they could carry. They all made their way through the wilderness up to one hundred miles to the nearest civilization in the Umpqua Valley. Historians state that William was either very stupid or very greedy to put those men in that position.

William immediately filed a Donation Claim at Port Orford as soon as he came back to the Columbia River. He brought 60 more men to Port Orford later in 1851 by promising them gold mining opportunities and a route to the Rogue River gold fields. Per William's instructions, these men started up a mountain, they called Tichenor's Humbug (later shortened to Humbug Mountain), and were disappointed in their instructions and Tichenor. He had promised they could see the route to the gold fields from the top of the mountain.

Tichenor created two parties to attempt to find a route through the hills. The first gave up quickly and returned to Port Orford. Future Deputy Surveyor Loren L. Williams was assigned to a party led by William T'Vault. They started near Humbug Mountain, but soon became hopelessly lost. Half the men returned but the rest continued. They lost their horses and were attacked on the Coquille River in hostile Indian country. Loren and Silas Hedden escaped, but Loren received an arrow through his abdomen. He broke it off and kept it in until he made it to civilization. Silas led and carried him some 40 miles to the Umpqua River where they found help. Loren recuperated for years, and it wasn't until 1859 that both the arrowhead and shaft worked their way out. Silas had been in the original group that fought at Battle Rock at Port Orford the month before. They were friends for life.



**Port Orford, 1856**

A nearly naked T'Vault and a partially scalped Gilbert Brush escaped the Indian attack on the Coquille River that killed five of the explorers, and were eventually rescued. Tichenor moved to his Claim himself in 1851, built blockhouses, and after securing some military support, brought his family to Port Orford in 1852. He took his sailing schooner, Anniston, to Panama to pick them up.

The Sea Gull, William's ship with William in command, was wrecked at Humboldt Bar in 1852, with the loss of the ship, but no loss of lives or cargo. The smokestack was knocked off by tall waves. William succeeded in maneuvering the disabled ship so it would beach itself. William was elected to the Territorial Legislature in 1855 and 1858 from Coos and Curry Counties. Thanks to Lincoln, he was named Customs Collector in 1861 and was then named Postmaster in Port Orford in 1863 and 1883. William was a lawyer in 1860 and 1870 in Port Orford, and a State Legislator again in 1878.

William continued to captain steamers and sailing ships along the coast while living at Port Orchard. Beginning with the Indian Hostilities, he was under direct instructions from the Oregon Superintendent of Indian Affairs. He accompanied or led Army patrols that rounded up many stray Indians to send them to the Reservations. On the internet, there is a lengthy autobiography detailing his exploits in the maritime world along the West Coast and his very exciting adventures rounding up hundreds of hostile Indians.

That military support led to a long controversy, in which William prevailed in 1882. The Army built some log buildings on William's Claim, and after the Indian War was over, abandoned them except for the building housing one agent as caretaker. When William was appointed Customs Collector in 1864, he used the buildings for his work. When he asserted his Claim and ejected the agent in 1864, he was arrested and imprisoned in Alcatraz in San Francisco, and was released only when he promised to let the Army stay.

He contended that the Army was allowed to use his Donation Claim only on a temporary basis. When William returned to Oregon, he immediately proved up on his Claim and received his patent for the entire 640 acres with no mention of the military. In 1880, the Army filed a suit in Federal Court to void the patent, or at least to the 230 acres they were claiming. The U. S. Circuit Court eventually dismissed the suit.

William received two Contracts in Curry County at age 62 from the Oregon Surveyor General. They were about 15 miles East of Port Orford on the Sixes River, and he surveyed 18 Sections in two townships in 1876 in a sea of what would become many distorted surveys. He used the same four-man crew for all the work, and obviously stubbed some lines himself, creating distortion of up to eight degrees. Although he had no known survey experience and may not have done the work, his identity as a Deputy Surveyor is confirmed by his signature.

Elizabeth died in 1880, and William had a stroke in 1881 before remarrying to Elizabeth Romanes shortly thereafter in San Francisco. He married again in 1884 to Arietta A. Lansing and died in San Francisco at the home of his daughter in 1887. William is buried overlooking the ocean in the small Tichenor Cemetery at Port Orford with his first wife and mother of his children, and his gravestone is a flat slab of concrete with the markings etched in by hand when the concrete was wet. His wife has a tall beautiful tombstone. He is the namesake of Tichenor Rock, Tichenor Street, Tichenor Bay, Tichenor Cemetery Road, and Humbug Mountain, all in or near Port Orford.

**Todd, Andrew**

1845-1908

USDS

Contract 541

1889

to

no more



Andrew was born in England, and graduated from the University of Glasgow with a BA and MA in Civil Engineering in 1870. He was the Mathematics Master at Amersham College Oxfordshire, and due to illness, he went to New Zealand. After a few years, he married Blanche Jones and became a government surveyor for New Zealand. They then came to America with their two children in 1883.

Their first home was in Silverton, barely habitable, and then they bought 160 wooded acres at Elliott Prairie near Hubbard. He worked hard to transform that land into a farm and eventually succeeded. He received Contract 541 for five townships in the Nehalem Valley in 1889. During the Contract, he was given Special Instructions to add the Meanders of the Nehalem River to his work. They were examined by P F. Bussey in 1890, and then rejected by the Commissioner as soon as he received the results. The Surveyor General noted that Andrew had failed to make an objection. He had been away from home working on the Contract from July to December.

Andrew continued farming for 25 years and raised seven children on the farm, trying to tutor them in a classic education. In 1908, he was hauling a load of straw, and when the rack gave way, he fell forward beneath the wheels of the horses, causing the wagon wheels to pass over his neck. His wife wrote a beautiful memorial in the Oregonian for him.



**Todd, Aurelius****Abbott**

1857-1929

USDS

Contract 594	1892
to	
Contract 629	1894



Born in Looking Glass, Oregon, the son of circuit riding preacher, Abbott Levi Todd, Aurelius grew up in Douglas County. His father was the cousin of Mary Ellen Todd Lincoln, and he named his first daughter Mary Ellen Todd. Aurelius was the Brother of Thomas E. Todd, and married Sarah Maggie Fouts in 1877 in Coquille, Oregon. He was listed as Caleb Todd in the 1870 census, and his occupation in 1880 was "peddler", the last census where he was shown. After three children, Maggie died, and Aurelius remarried to Delilah A. Bristow at Pleasant Hill, Oregon in 1882. They had one son that went on to become a physician.

Aurelius was a chainman for Thomas E. Todd, West of Roseburg in 1891. He received Contract 594 for two townships on the coast near the California Border in 1892, but he did not do the survey for some reason. The townships were surveyed by John Fitzhugh the next year. He received another Contract in 1894 for one township West of Roseburg, surveyed it in 1894, and was examined and approved in 1896. He was a chainman for Nathaniel Martin in 1894 doing corrections on a nearby township shortly after completing his own Contract 629.

Aurelius was an optician in Cuba in 1898-1905, living with Lila. He stayed in Cuba until 1912, when he traveled in Central America for two years. He lived in Frontera, Mexico from 1912-1915 as a dentist, and sometime along the way, he and Lila were divorced. Aurelius visited the U. S. in 1917, but returned to Mexico at Colima, where he married 26 year old Maria Louisa Urtiz De Casarez in 1918, They had two children, and Aurelius returned to Crescent City with his son and daughter in 1928, and died there in 1929.



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**Todd, Thomas**  
**Emery "Tommie"**

1867-1895

USDS

Contract 574                      1891

to

no more



Born in Looking Glass, Oregon, the son of a circuit riding preacher, Thomas was raised in Douglas County. The family moved to Elkhead, where his father operated a mercury mine. Thomas was the younger brother of Aurelius Todd, and was educated at the University of Oregon from at least 1887-89, becoming a teacher at Elkhead. He was the contractor for Middle Fork Road in Coos County in 1890.

Thomas received Contract 574 for one township half way between Cottage Grove and Reedsport in 1891, and used his brother , Aurelius, and Aurelius' son, Jesse, as chainmen. He was finished in 1892, signed the oath, and was examined by W. F. Briggs from Roseburg. Thomas was killed in an accident shortly thereafter in 1895 in Fallbrook, San Diego County, California, while visiting a brother. He was hauling a wagon load of wood, and when attempting to apply the brakes on a steep grade, he slipped and fell forward and under the wagon and was run over. The newspaper article noted him as a civil engineer and an accomplished musician, and he was headed to town to play with the Fallbrook Band. He had not yet married.

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**Tolman, Emma F.***1866-1924*

Dr/Clerk

Clerk

1881

to

no more



Born in Oregon, Emma was raised in Jacksonville until her father, James Tolman, was appointed Surveyor General of Oregon in 1878, and the family moved to Portland. She was working as a Clerk in the Surveyor General's Office of her father in 1881 at age 15, earning \$1200 per year, a very good salary, even for an adult. Emma graduated from the Ashland Normal School in 1885 and was a instructor there in 1888-89.

She married Otis Orange Helman in Ashland in 1896, and they had one child that died very young. Otis was a bartender in Liberty, California in 1900 and opened Helman Baths, from a sulphur spring on his father's farm, in Ashland in 1910 with his brother Grant. It had several pools, mostly indoor, with one large pool and a long slide. Emma died in Ashland in 1924, and Otis died in 1927, still running the baths.

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**Tolman, James****Clark***1813-1902*

Whig

Rep

USDS

S G

Contract 199 (with 1873

portions by Alexander

McKay, Chandler B.

Watson, Horace G.

Hurlburt, and James

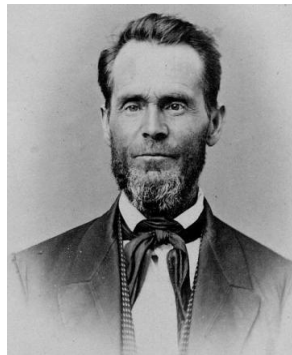
S. Howard as

compassmen)

to

Surveyor General

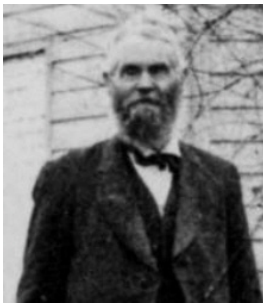
1878



Born in Ohio, James apprenticed in leather manufacturing in 1830, and then attended the University at Athens, Ohio for a year. The family moved to Iowa in 1839, where he ran for the legislature twice as a Whig and lost. James crossed the Oregon Trail to California in 1849, prospered, and returned to Iowa in 1851. He married Elizabeth Emily Coe in Iowa, and in two days started to Oregon via the Oregon Trail in 1852, ending in Jacksonville via Yreka. He bought a Claim and started raising stock, but sold the stock in 1853 in California for fear of Indian hostilities.

He left for Coos Bay and founded the town of Marshfield, named for his childhood home. James returned to the Rogue River Valley in 1854 to raise stock again by purchasing a ranch with the stock included. When the Indians became a problem once more, he took his stock again to California and sold them. After the war he purchased and raised blooded horses and cattle. James was elected a Judge in Jackson County in 1858, and was reelected in 1862.

James received Contract 199 in 1873 for three townships in Jackson County, two townships in Lake County and five townships in Curry County. Two townships in Jackson County and one in Curry were left unsurveyed. He may not have participated in the survey, for he named Alexander McKay, Chandler B. Watson, Horace G. Hurlburt, and James S. Howard as compassmen. T39S R10E just East of Kamath Falls on Lost River and two townships West of Summer Lake in Lake county listed Alexander McKay, Chandler Watson, and James S. Howard as Compassmen on the preliminary oaths, but named only Alexander McKay as compassman on the final oaths. Chandler Watson was listed as a chainman. The four townships on the coast from South of Gold Beach to the California border were surveyed by Horace Hurlburt as compassman.



**1887. James and Emily Tolman after returning to Ashland.**

James was the Republican Candidate for Governor in 1874, but lost by a small margin because of a third party candidate. President Hayes named him Oregon Surveyor General in 1878, and President Arthur reappointed him in 1882. While living in Portland in 1880 as Surveyor General, he was lodging 3 of the Clerks from his office in his home, in addition to his children.

James appointed two of his children as Clerks in the office. He served as Surveyor General through the Benson Syndicate Era, and his leadership may have kept Oregon from most of the scandals. James returned to Ashland in 1886 when he left the Surveyor General's position in Portland, and in 1890 bought property that would become Tolman Springs. It had natural highly carbonated water, and he build a lodge on the site, several miles East of Ashland. Subsequent owners called it Buckhorn Springs. James is the namesake of Tolman Creek, Tolman Creek Road and Tolman Ranch, all near Ashland.

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## **Tolman, John Crittenden "Crit"**

1859-1929

Dr/Clerk

Clerk

1879

to

no more



1913

Born in Oregon, John was raised as a youth in Jacksonville until his father, James Tolman, was appointed Surveyor General of Oregon in 1878 and the family moved to Portland. He was a Clerk for his father in the Surveyor General's Office from 1879-80 at age 20-21, making \$1200 per year. He married Mary Hannah Anderson in Jackson County in 1884, and they had three children. John was appointed a Deputy Customs Collector at Kenai, Alaska in 1889, and Mary followed him there. John bagged a Kodiak Bear at English Bay in 1894 that still is the largest on record, 13' 6", 1656 lbs.

Mary died in 1895 in Ashland, and John and their children moved back in with his parents, where his children could be cared for and go to school. John was appointed a Deputy U. S. Marshal for Alaska in 1905, and was living with his son, Crit, there in 1910. At sometime he was appointed a Game Warden for Kodiak and then Kenai, lasting until the Woodrow Wilson regime in 1913. After he retired, John began a career as a licensed game guide with his son, Crit, working in Alaska in the Summer and returning to Ashland in the Winter. He purchased a homestead in Hawaii where he began spending the time in the Winter.

Crit joined the Army Air Corps in 1917 as a Second Lieutenant, and went through flight school. He wanted to go to France to join the war, but he was good enough for the Army to make him an instructor in San Diego in stunt flying and machine guns. He had been an excellent athlete, playing College ball until transferring to Colorado School of Mines for some time. Brother Chet joined the Naval Air Corps. In about 1918, John moved to San Diego to be with his sons, and was there in 1920. He did announce in July, 1918 that he was going to France to donate his services as a cook for the YMCA. John died in Italy in 1929, and his burial site is unknown, although his name appears in the family plot in Ashland, with an indication that his obituary reported that.

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**Tomkins,  
Josephus Emil**

1839-1928

Comp

Contract 98 (as compassman for LaFayette Cartee for portions)	1861
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to

no more



Born in Ohio, Josephus came to Oregon over the Oregon Trail with his family in 1847, first going to Oregon City, where they occupied a farm there until 1899. He attended McMinnville College (Linfield College) in 1859, but did not finish. He began as a chainman for David Thompson on the Columbia Guide Meridian near Umatilla in 1859. The next year he was an axman for William Campbell, also near Umatilla. Then he was an axman for La Fayette Cartee in 1861 on Contract 98 near Hood River, and soon was promoted to compassman, finishing the Contract in that capacity for several townships.

The work was examined by Republican Bynon Pengra, and Josephus was a chainman for Samuel Campbell, who was charged with the corrections. He married Oregon Native, Sarah Hunsaker, in 1873, and they had seven children and lived for eight years on a large cattle ranch in Grant County, Oregon. At some time near 1880, Josephus was the first County Surveyor of Grant County, and also taught school. In 1906 he moved to Grand Island in Yamhill County, where he remained as a farmer until his death.

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**Truax, Sewell**

1830-1894

Comp

1855

USDS

Contract 38 (as compassman for Anson G. Henry for portions)	1853
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to

Contract 80	1859
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Born in Canada of American parents, Sewell moved with his family to Vermont in 1850, where he attended Norwich University for three years, and graduated in civil engineering. He left in 1851 to engage in surveying for railroads, until 1853 when he came across the Oregon Trail. He worked as a chainman for Ives and Hunt in 1854 in Washington and as a compassman for Anson Henry in 1853 in Oregon.

Sewall then became a compassman for Ives, Hyde and Lake in the Rogue Valley from 1854-55, and after that surveyed three Claim Contracts and four Contracts on his own in Oregon from 1855-58, in the Rogue Valley and the Southern Oregon coast. He served as a Major in the Oregon Cavalry during the Indian hostilities in 1855-56. At one time he was County Surveyor of Jackson County. He was a survey examiner for four Contracts on the Oregon coast in 1857-58. Sewell used small crews from a consistent pool of crewmen, and did the work himself on the surveys.



**Sarah Chandler Truax**

Sewell returned East to marry Sarah Chandler from Canada in 1861, and returned with his new wife to Jacksonville via Panama. In that year he raised a Company of Volunteers for the Civil War, the First Oregon Cavalry, and was named Captain. He was transferred to Fort Walla Walla as Major in charge, and then to Lapwai, Idaho until 1864. He left the Army and owned a store at Lapwai for several years with his brother Charles. He was awarded a small Contract in Idaho on the Snake River in 1868.

He returned to Walla Walla in 1870 and spent two years as Superintendent of Construction of the Walla Walla and Columbia River RR as surveyed by James Tilton, the first RR in Washington. He then moved to a farm North of the high bluffs above the Snake River, where he invented a grain chute to move his crops to the Snake River from the high prairie, ending at the bottom of the steep bluff, where he maintained warehouses on the Snake River.

From 1865-67 Sewall was the engineer for Wellington Bird for the Lewiston, Idaho to Virginia City, Montana Wagon Road. Lewiston was the Idaho State Capital in 1865, and Sewall was twice dispatched to seize the State records to spirit them away to Boise. His nephew Edson Briggs arrived in 1873, and he and Sewall surveyed several joint contracts until 1880. Sewall also partnered with Levinus Swift and John Snow, and surveyed some on his own. In all, Sewall would be involved in 13 Contracts, totaling 247 townships and approximately 14,000 miles of line. They were almost all in Southeastern Washington, surrounded by Clarkston, Spokane, Moses Lake, and Pasco. His joint Contracts were shared in a checkerboard manner, and there is no record of him ever using a compassman. He notarized all of the oaths.

For some reason his last Contract, Number 270, has copies of rejected plats of 40 township exteriors at the National Archives. Sewell's half-brother, Stephen Truax, came to Washington briefly in 1880 and received a Contract. Sewall was a Member of the Washington Territorial Council from Walla Walla in 1883-84, serving as President, and by 1889 he was living in Spokane. He was appointed an Examiner of Surveys by the GLO in 1893, and he examined 9 Contracts in Washington. Sewall died in Spokane in 1894 of cirrhosis of the liver. His children were well educated. See WA GLO Surveyors for the maintained version of this information. He has papers at OHS.

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### **Trutch, John**

1828-1907

Clerk

Comp

USDS

Clerk

1853

to

Contract 62 (with 1856

Joseph W. Trutch)

with David

Thompson, Charles T.

Gardner, and Henry

Gile as compassmen

for portions)



John was born on St. Thomas Island, Jamaica, where his father was a landowner and government official. The family returned to England in time for John and his older brother Joseph to attend school there, including Mount Radford College in Devonshire. Joseph left for California, and then Oregon in 1850, and encouraged John to follow, which he did in 1851. Together they surveyed Milton and St. Helens, OR, and a coal railroad. Joseph accepted the job as Chief Draftsman for John Preston in 1852 and John was named a Clerk for Charles Gardner in 1853.

John surveyed as a compassman for Harry Gordon and Josiah Preston in 1854, probably because he was trusted with the neophyte Josiah, the brother of the previous Surveyor General. John was awarded a Claim Contract in 1853 which was only for a few Claims in the City of Portland, probably politically motivated. In 1854, he was the first to survey Claims in Washington, on the Columbia at Woodland and St. Helens, and near Toledo.

While up in Lewis County, Washington, John was the compassman in 1854 for George C. and Charles T. Gardner, the inexperienced sons of Charles K. Gardner, again taking care of the neophytes. Joseph resigned his position so that he and John could accept a Contract together in 1854, including 13 townships between Forest Grove and Rainier, in which they employed compassmen for portions of the work. John generally surveyed his portions in his own person, while Joseph used David Thompson as compassman for all his work.

Another Joint Contract was given them in Oregon in 1856, including an offset Standard Parallel to the Coast between Rainier and Astoria, the Coast Guide Meridian, 36 Donation Claims, and 15 townships along the way. They employed three compassmen: Charles T. Gardner, the son of the Surveyor General; David P. Thompson; and Henry S. Gile, all existing or future Deputy Surveyors. Charles Gardner wrote to the Commissioner in Washington, D. C. of the struggles of the Trutches, having to pack all their supplies for 100 miles of line on the backs of their crew, because of the vegetation and steepness. Before the end of this Contract, Joseph married Julia Hyde, the sister of George Hyde and the sister-in-law of John Preston, and moved back to Illinois with John Preston.

John continued his GLO career in Washington under James Tilton in 1857 with Contracts 23 and 24 for 8 townships centered on Battleground. That was soon followed with Contract 28 for 2 townships at Yacolt and Chelatchie Prairie. John noted all the settler cabins that were deserted because of the Indian hostilities. Somehow, John surveyed the Saanich Peninsula Northeast of Victoria in 1858 for the British Columbia Government, dividing it into tracts, reserving some for Indians.

John next received Contract 32 in 1858 for 6 townships on Hood Canal near Port Ludlow, and Contract 33 and 42 for the exteriors of 9 townships at Sequim. He continued in 1858-59 with 12 townships near Bangor and Port Gamble. It appears he did all the work himself, with a varied but consistent crew, and notarized all the oaths. Alexander Coffey and John Newsom were occasional chainmen. In the meantime, Joseph had returned to England to lobby for a position in British Columbia, and returned with prospects for significant work. In July, 1859 he was awarded Contracts to do the Public Surveys in British Columbia at \$20 per mile. He asked John to join him, and they started the survey operation in British Columbia, beginning at the Initial Point near the present site of the Peace Arch at Blaine.

In 1862 Joseph was awarded a contract to survey and build a road up the Fraser River, leading to the Cariboo, and a bridge crossing the Fraser River at Alexandria. John helped him with this project, and when Joseph was named Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works for British Columbia, he gave the toll bridge to John, who managed it for years, after building a house at Yale. Costing \$40,000 to build, Joseph was guaranteed the tolls from the road and bridge for 7 years, which amounted to \$10,000 to \$20,000 per year. Internet records show John returned at least to New York in 1864.



**Zoe Musgrave Trutch**

In 1870, John married Zoe Musgrave, the sister of the Governor of British Columbia. Joseph had negotiated British Columbia's entry into the Canadian Commonwealth, and was named Lieutenant Governor of Canada in 1871. He also had a promise that the Canadian Pacific RR would be built, and John had charge of several parties surveying alternate routes for that RR through 1876. Joseph was named Dominion Agent of British Columbia in 1880, in essence becoming Surveyor General, among other duties.





**Willett House**

In 1889 John was named Land Commissioner for the Esquimalt and Nanaimo RW. He stayed in Victoria until his Zoe died in 1894, and by 1896 he was living at Willett House in Somerset, England. John and Joseph were both living at Willett House in 1901 with John's daughter Charlotte, a niece, Josephine Pender, and 6 servants. Joseph died there in 1904 and John in 1907.

The Trutch Bros. set a quarter corner in Clatsop County Oregon very near Fort Clatsop of Lewis and Clark. The corner was remonumented in 1882 with new bt's and rp's, one of which was a corner of a settler house. That settler noted the relationship of his house to Fort Clatsop. The corner was determined lost by a private surveyor in 1905 and set in error by measurement, with a 75 ft. error. The Fort was searched for in the interval with inconclusive results, until in 1993 when a private surveyor found the accessories to the 1882 reestablishment, and all the pieces fell into place. The Trutch's corner would have been within a very small search area, and the reestablished corner in error was illogical. (biography) This is the maintained version of this information.

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**Trutch, Joseph  
William**

1826-1904

Dr/Clerk

USDS

Clerk

1852

to

Contract 62 (with

1856

Joseph W. Trutch)

with David

Thompson, Charles T.

Gardner, and Henry

Gile as compassmen

for portions)



Joseph was born in England, and then moved to Jamaica where his father was a land owner and government employee, but returned to England to attend school, graduating ultimately from Mount Radford College in Devonshire in civil engineering. He apprenticed as an engineer to Sir John Rennie, a prominent British engineer, assisting on the Great Northern and Great Western Railways. He left for California in 1849, and after becoming discouraged there by the vulgar society after four successful months of business, moved on to Oregon.

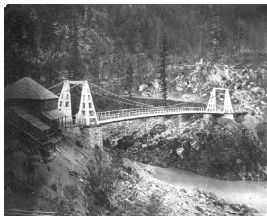
He surveyed the mouth of the Columbia, the townsites of Milton and St. Helens, and a coal RR on the Puget Sound at Skookumchuck. His younger brother John came to Oregon at Joseph's urging in 1851. In 1852 Joseph was named a Clerk and Draftsman in the Surveyor General's Office of John Preston at Oregon City, and continued into the regime of Surveyor General Charles Gardner. He resigned in 1854 to take Contract 50, with his brother John, to survey several townships between Forest Grove and Rainier. They shared the work, and David P. Thompson was a compassman for Joseph on this Contract for all his work.

They received another Joint Contract in early 1856 to survey an offset Standard Parallel to Astoria, Oregon, the Coast Guide Meridian, and several townships along the way. They again shared the work, and Joseph used the following compassmen: Charles T. Gardner, the son of the new Surveyor General; David P. Thompson; and Henry S. Gile, all future Deputy Surveyors.



**Julia Hyde Preston**

Joseph married Julia Hyde, the sister-in-law of John Preston, in June, 1856 while working on the previous Contract, and left for Illinois in late autumn. While there, he developed land with John Preston, and worked as a senior engineer on a canal, again under John Preston. He went to England to arrange for an inheritance of 1000 pounds after his father died, and returned to Illinois to bring Julia back to England. While there, he lobbied for positions in British Columbia, and sailed there in 1859, where he received the Contract to survey the rural lands of the Lower Fraser River Valley, British Columbia at \$20 per mile. He requested John to come help him. Joseph completed a contract in about 1861 for the construction of the Harrison-Lillooet Road.



**Alexandria Bridge**

Joseph was awarded a contract in 1862 to survey and construct the Caribou Road across the Fraser River and up the East side of the river to Boston Bar. He was to receive the tolls for the road for 7 years. The 268-foot-span Alexandria Suspension Bridge was the gemstone of this project. Costing \$40,000 to build, it spun off \$10,000 to \$20,000 in tolls each year. He was elected a member of the Vancouver Island House of Assembly in 1861, and named Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works for mainland British Columbia in 1864. As a condition, he had to dissolve himself of his interest in the bridge, and gave it to his brother John. One of his titles was Surveyor General of British Columbia, and he also obtained that title for Vancouver Island in 1866.



**Fairfield House**

He built Fairfield House on 10 acres on the outskirts of Victoria, which became a social hub. Joseph and John's mother and sister came to stay from England, and sister Caroline married Peter Reilly, a minister in the government. John married the Governor's sister, Zoe Musgrave in, 1870, and at that time, Joseph began representing British Columbia in the negotiations for entry into the Commonwealth. He did well enough to be named the first Lieutenant Governor of B. C. in 1871. One of the promises was for the Canadian Government to build the Canadian Pacific RR to connect B. C. with the rest of Canada. Joseph would have more power if B. C. stayed alone, but he was afraid B. C. would join the United States.

When in 1876, the Conservative Party was not in power, Joseph was not reappointed as Lieutenant Governor, and he and Julia returned to England until 1878, when the political situation changed. In 1880, he was named Dominion Agent for British Columbia, the agent of the Queen. This gave him the supervision of the construction of the Canadian Pacific RR, and control over the distribution of government lands. He retired from that position and all work in 1889, and was knighted by Queen Victoria at that time. Sir Joseph went back to England after that, but came back with his sick wife before she died in 1895, and then returned to England where Joseph died in 1904 at Hartrow Manor in Somerset.

In 1901, Joseph and John were living at Willett House in Somerset with John's daughter, a niece and 6 servants. Joseph was the namesake of Trutch, B. C., Trutch Mountain, Mount Trutch, Trutch Island, and Trutch Street in Victoria. Julia was the namesake of Lady Trutch Passage on the B. C. coast. Julia is buried in Ross Bay Cemetery in Victoria, and Joseph is in the Lydeard St. Lawrence Churchyard in Somerset. They had no children. (biography) This is the maintained version of this information.

**Tucker, Alfred  
Frederick**

1834-1903

Comp

Special Instructions 1881

(as compassman for  
Thomas S. Lang for  
portions)

to

no more



Alfred was born in New York and was an educated man according to his granddaughter. He married Harriett R. H. Parker in New York in 1856 and they soon moved to Hortonia, Wisconsin. Alfred was a farmer and teacher there, at least in 1862. The family moved West, living in Santa Clara, California by 1879. They were in Klamath Falls in 1880, and also arrived in The Dalles in 1880, where Alfred was listed as a farmer.

The family talks of them residing a short time in Portland before The Dalles, where Harriett made a painting of Rooster Rock, and of travelling up the Columbia to The Dalles in a boat, making portages, transporting Harriett's organ. While at The Dalles in 1881, Alfred was hired by Deputy Surveyor Thomas Lang to be one of four compassmen on the survey of an extension of The Dalles townsite into lots and blocks within The Dalles Military Reservation. He worked 18 days in that effort. He always had horses and a wagon, and made a living as a teamster wherever he was. He was in or near Arlington in the 1880's, hauling goods and crops to and from Arlington. He also filed a Claim and borrowed money to raise sheep. A railroad was built to Heppner, taking away most of his business, Also, the price of wool dropped, and they decided to move.

He took the horses, wagons, and family overland to Seattle, through Yakima and Snoqualmie Pass. He hoped he could use his horses to pull street cars up the hills in Seattle, but an electric motor had been invented to do the job. He still had a livery business, and was a grading contractor in the Seattle regrade. Harriett died in 1901 and Alfred in 1903. Harriett was the President of the Federation of Seattle Women's Clubs at her death, and their son Orville was a member of the State Senate. Just before he died, Alfred asked Orville to lead his funeral procession up to Queen Anne Hill with a wagon with his finest horses, cautioning him to not let them run. He loved his horses.

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**Turner, William  
Mclean**

1828-1887

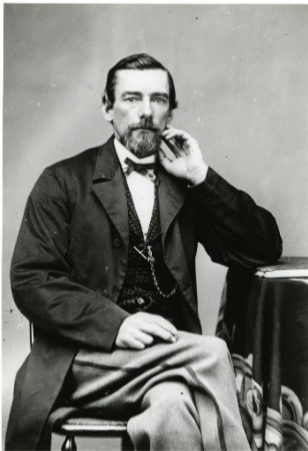
Rep

USDS

Contract 142 (with 1870  
James S. Howard)

to

Contract 393 1881



Born in Ireland, William came to New York with his parents at four years old. They moved to Pennsylvania, but in 1850 William joined the flood of miners to California. He worked in mining, clerking, and the newspaper business, and was a miner in Klamath, California in 1860. He was appointed by Lincoln as Assistant Federal Assessor for the Northern Counties of California, but resigned when he moved to Salem, Oregon in 1865, where he was the Assistant Clerk for the State Legislature.

In 1866 William took over as manager of the Western Union Telegraph office and as editor of the Jacksonville Sentinel. In 1867 he married Emaline Morgan Overbeck, a widow with at least one child, and they had two children together. He was very involved in Republican politics all his life.

He received Joint Contract 142 in 1870 with James S. Howard, a first Contract for both. They surveyed five townships in Southern Oregon, and they shared the work. Two were at Prospect, two on the California Border just East of I-5, and one at Ashland. In 1871-72, he received two more Joint Contracts with James Howard for 15 townships. Nine were East of Klamath Falls, Five were West of Goose Lake, and one on the border East of I-5. His next Contract in 1875 was a Joint Contract with Nathaniel Langell for five townships South of Beatty and four townships on the border, West of Goose Lake. Langell had no survey experience, but he was in the State Legislature.

They used James Howard as the compassman, with Nathaniel as a chainman and William as the axman. Both signed the oaths. There are some field notes in one book at Southern Oregon HS (2005.55.5) in William's handwriting. William was still the manager of the Western Union Telegraph Office in Jacksonville in 1877. In that capacity he was innocently involved in the transfer of several thousand dollars in a Democrat bribery scheme. He was summoned to Washington, D. C. to testify before Congress, but declined to answer any questions about content in telegraphs. He was named Agent for the Malheur Indian Reservation in 1877.

From 1880-82, he received three Contracts for 21 townships. Four were near Ashland, and the rest were generally South of Summer Lake. James Howard notarized all the oaths on the second Contract and Rufus Moore was the compassman on one of the townships near Ashland. William was appointed United States Ganger and Storekeeper for Southern Oregon from 1883-86. He was ill for a year before he died in Jacksonville in 1887. There is a scrapbook at Southern Oregon HS of items collected by William from 1863-83.

**Underwood,  
James Benson  
"Benson"**

1838-1882

Rep

Dr/Clerk

USDS

Clerk

1863

to

Contract 111 (with  
Walter Forward)

1865



James was born in New York, came to Oregon in 1859 via Cape Horn, and then soon asked his fiancé, Margaret Isabelle "Maggie" Charles, to join him. He studied Law in Oregon and was a practicing attorney nearly all his short life. James lived next door to Jesse Applegate in Umpqua County as a School Teacher in 1860. He then was a Clerk in the Office of Surveyor General Bynon Pengra from 1861 to at least 1863, before he was admitted to the bar in 1864.



He received a Joint Contract with Walter Forward from Elisha Applegate soon after Pengra resigned in 1865. There were five townships South of Wallula, but the townships do not appear to have been surveyed in this Contract. Both Walter and James were very political, and this was probably some kind of a payoff. The "also political" William Odell appears to have done the work soon thereafter. James was a Eugene Mayor and Councilman, served in the State Legislature in 1865, and was appointed Postal Agent for Oregon, Washington and Idaho.

James was involved in many business ventures, and became wealthy, building the finest house in Eugene. He died young at age 44 of dropsy and the "too free use of strong drink". Maggie continued in Eugene with the children, converting the house into a boarding house to pay off the debt. She was living with her daughter, Mae, in Tacoma in 1900. James is buried in an unmarked grave in Masonic Cemetery in Eugene.

**Unknown**

USDS  
 Claim Contract 105    1859  
                                   to  
 Special Instructions    1908

There were eight Contracts from 1859-1909 that are unknown. They are generally missing in the numerical order of the GLO Contracts, with no knowledge of whether they were Contracts in any way or had recipients. Another Contract in 1908 by Special Instructions was actually surveyed and examined twice. An examination of the Contract files may clear up the first eight and certainly the last one.

**Utter, Darwin**

**Averelle**  
 1860-1935  
 USDS  
 Special Instructions    1904  
                                   to  
 no more



1914

IDS PLS. Darwin was born in Pennsylvania, raised on a farm in Michigan, and educated at the University of Michigan in Civil Engineering until 1881. He married Margaret "Maggie" Kimbell in Michigan in 1884. He was a surveyor and an inspector of timber and mineral lands in the years after school, before becoming a supervisor of construction for UPRR in the Northwest. He opened his own engineering office in Weiser, Idaho in 1899, where he began the private practice of civil engineering for five years.

Darwin was elected Washington County Surveyor in 1900. His projects included the electric light and power plant, a new sewer system and the Weiser Irrigation District. Darwin expanded to do irrigation-canal projects in other locations of the state, and as Chief Engineer for the Dead Ox Flats District, he refined the process of pumping water from the Snake River. As Chief Engineer for the Chicago and Northwestern RR, he surveyed a railroad from Huntington, Oregon to Homestead, Oregon, up the Snake River. He then continued that survey to Lewiston.

During the Spanish-American War, Darwin was a special agent and visited all the important seaports of the world. In 1904, he received a Contract by Special Instructions from the Oregon Surveyor General to survey Porters Island in the Snake River just West of Weiser. He was examined in 1905 and approved.

Darwin organized the Idaho Society of Engineers and Surveyors in 1908, which transformed into the Idaho Society of Engineers in 1910. He was the first President for two years. Darwin was also appointed the Surveyor General of Idaho in 1908, and was reappointed in 1912. During his first term, it is reported that he perfected the Direct System of Surveying, and had an Idaho Senator file legislation to make it law. This required the surveys to be done by direct employees of the government, rather than Contract surveyors, and required the use of brass caps at corners. It was adopted in 1909, effective in 1910.

In the spring of 1913, after retiring as Surveyor General, Darwin completed a seven-month tour of the Orient. He was sent out by a syndicate of timber interests and capitalists to analyze the possibilities of harvesting commercial timber in the Philippines. They had secured a 1000 square mile concession for timber harvest in The Philippines. Darwin would make several trips to Manila over the years. In 1916, he accepted the office of U. S. Land Commissioner at Mountain Home and had an office there until 1923. He was also a Justice of the Peace, trying many cases, including at least one for murder. During this period, he was publishing poetry in the Mountain Home Republican.

He was still with Maggie in 1920, but was alone in 1930, listed as a widower. After 1920, Maggie and their daughter, Emma, were living in Boise, where Emma was going to high school. Darwin quit his position of U. S. Commissioner in March, 1924 and announced he was moving to Colorado. Maggie did not go with him. After another trip to Manila, Darwin was listed in Colorado as marrying Matilda Hoff in August, 1924, just after his return. That is the only source for his middle name being Averelle. He was absent from Mountain Home until at least 1926. He married again to Emma L. Blunk in Jerome, Idaho in 1931. Darwin was a civil engineer continuously until his death. He died of cancer in Mountain Home in 1935.

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**Van Cleft, George****H.**

1829-1874

Dem

Comp

Special Instructions 1854

to

no more

George was born in New York, the son of the Superintendent of the Poor Farm, and was a Clerk living at home in 1850. By 1853 he lived in Placer County, California and was elected as a Democrat to the State Assembly. That Legislature appropriated \$3500 to survey the Westerly portion of the Oregon-California Boundary, from the ocean to Pilot Rock. Thaddeus P. Robinson, a Civil Engineering graduate of Dartmouth, was given the Contract in 1854 by the Surveyor General, and George and Deputy Surveyor W. W. Thompson were named by the Surveyor General as assistants. Both were identified as Civil Engineers.

The purpose of the survey was mostly political, and the standards reflected that. No astronomical instruments or chronographs were used. Sailors Diggings and Alt House Creek mining camps were near the border. Neither were paying taxes to either state, and both were voting in both states. The 80-mile survey was completed in less than two months, and both camps were determined to be in Oregon and the city of Yreka was in California.

George returned to New York by 1857 to marry Mary E. Valentine, and they had one son. He had a job as a civil engineer in the Navy Yard by 1870, but lost it when his political allegiance was questioned. George was a member of the Liberal Republican party, and was supporting Horace Greeley. He participated in a Congressional Investigation of the issue. He was the National President of the Patriotic Order of the Sons of America movement from 1873 until he died in 1874.

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**Vanderpool,****Medders**

1798-1896

USDS

Claim Contract 17 1853

to

Special Instructions 1865

Medders was born in North Carolina, and ended up in Missouri by 1819 when he opened up the first school in Ray County. He was Ray County Surveyor from about 1830-1846, surveying several towns, including Gallatin and Houston, and married Mary (Polly) Linville in 1830. Mary died during childbirth in 1838 after three children, and he remarried to her younger sister, Margaret "Hannah" Linville in 1842. In 1846 they headed across the Oregon Trail in a wagon train consisting of local residents and relatives. Medders and his brother-in-law, Harrison Linville, were both Captains of separate, but related wagon trains. Brother-in-law Thomas Lovelady was also in the party.

They reached a point at about Fort Hall in Idaho, where they met a representative of Jesse Applegate, who they had known as a land surveyor from Missouri. They were convinced to take the Southerly Route through California, later known as the Applegate Trail, and they completed their journey to Oregon as one of the first wagon trains to use the new trail.



Medders had already gone two days past the junction, but the scouts found a trail up Goose Creek to take as a cutoff to get to the main trail. Harrison was able to take the proper junction. They made their way to Polk County, except that Medders lost all 50 of his sheep to the Rogue Indians one night. Medders settled in Parkers Station in Polk County, about three miles South of Independence, and went to California briefly in 1849 for gold. He received two Claim Contracts for 76 Claims in 1853 and 1854, all in the East half of Polk County. Upon first starting in 1853 in October, Medders wrote the Surveyor General that the going was slow because of incessant rain and short days.

He used his first three sons, Campbell, James and John, as crewmen for part of the work. Harrison Linville was his neighbor and brother-in-law and notarized all the oaths as a Justice of the Peace. Medders reported that at least one axeman left the state before he signed his final oath, and the Surveyor General would not accept that survey, even though the axeman was Medders' son, James. The Claim was surveyed by Dennis Hathorn before Medders could find the chainman. He also received Special Instructions to survey one DLC in Polk County in 1865.

Medders filed a patent for a thrashing machine that would harvest grain without cutting or heading. He lived in Polk County in 1860 and 1870, moved to Linn County by 1880 for the soda springs, and died in Sodaville, Benton County, Oregon in 1896 at age 98. His only occupation listed was that of farmer. He was helpless the last year of his life, living with different children and a granddaughter.

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## Van Vleet, Lewis

*1826-1910*

Comp

Contract 52 (as 1855  
compassman for  
Harvey Gordon and  
Charles T. Gardner)  
to  
no more



Lewis was born in New York and moved to Michigan as a child, and in both places his father was a farmer. He later moved back to New York where he graduated from Oswego Academy, by working his own way through, and then came across the Oregon Trail in 1853. He was a chainman for La Fayette Cartee in 1853, for Anson Henry in 1854, and for Harvey Gordon and Josiah Preston in 1854, all in Oregon.

In 1855 Lewis was a compassman for Harvey Gordon in Douglas County, Oregon for three Contracts and for Justin Chenoweth in Clark County, WA, for Washington Contract Number 1, which began in Oregon in 1855 for a portion. The Indian hostilities began in the fall of 1855, and Lewis served under William Strong's Company of Volunteers in Washington, participating in the non-battle of Battle Ground. He received a Joint Contract with William Strong in Washington in 1856 for 8 townships along the Columbia River from Woodland to Cathlamet. They both signed the oaths, and Lewis used John Newsom and his brother-in-law, Alexander Coffey, as chainmen. William Strong had been, and again would be, a Territorial Supreme Court Justice for Washington.



**Elizabeth Coffey**

Lewis filed a Claim on Fern Prairie for 160 acres in 1856 at a time when he was Clark County Surveyor. He also married Elizabeth Coffey in 1856, and they settled down on his Claim in a log cabin. In the same year, Lewis was elected a Member of the Washington Territorial Council, 1856-57, and in 1859 was elected a Member of the House. A Claim Contract from James Tilton was awarded to Lewis in 1857 for 84 Donation Claims in Clark and Wahkiakum counties, and again he used Alexander as a chainman. He received two Joint Contracts with John Newsom in 1858-59 for 4 townships along the Cowlitz River at Castle Rock and 4 townships along the Columbia River between Washougal and Stevenson. They shared the work and both signed the oaths.

Six townships were surveyed in 1859 along the Columbia River in Clark County, including surveying Hudson Bay Property that had been bypassed earlier. Since Lewis was a strong Democrat, James Tilton gave him two more contracts at the end of his term for 4 townships at Goldendale and 5 townships at Touchet. Brother-in-law Terrel Coffey was a chainman, and also worked as a compassman for one township at Goldendale. With the Republicans coming into office, this ended the GLO career of Lewis for 12 years.

While living in Vancouver, he constructed his classic farm house at Fern Prairie in 1861-62, with some of the parts shipped from Boston. He was a Justice of the Peace at Washougal from 1857-64, and superintended the construction of a bridge across the Washougal River in 1862.



**Van Vleet Farm at Fern Prairie, Washington.**

The Legislature gave him a franchise for a ferry across the Columbia at Parkers Landing in 1864. He left his farm in 1868 and moved to Vancouver before moving to Kalama in 1871, where he stayed until 1878. For four and one half years of this time, he was a land grant appraiser for NPRR at Kalama, helping them with the million acres they owned. William McMicken was employed there from 1871-73, and obviously they worked together. While at Kalama, Lewis served again in the Territorial House in 1871. Even though McMicken was a Republican as Surveyor General beginning in 1873, he gave many Contracts to Lewis until William was replaced in 1886. Lewis had 23 contracts over a 30 year career, surveying about 100 townships.

He received his first Contract from McMicken in 1873 for 2 townships at Odessa and 4 townships at Sprague in Eastern Washington, with Terrel Coffey as a chainman for part of the work. Lewis surveyed allotments on the Swinomish and Port Madison Indian Reservations in 1884, with Ignatius Navarre as a chainman. From 1874-1878, he surveyed 27 townships on 4 Contracts generally near Sprague, and his crewmen were relatively consistent. He had purchased the David Parker Estate at Parkers Landing earlier, while acting as executor, and in 1878 built a fine home on the Columbia River there. Since he owned all the lots in Parkersville as platted by David Parker, he filed a new plat in 1878, changing the lot lines. In 1879-80, Lewis surveyed 13 townships in 2 Contracts generally Southwest of Ritzville.

Clark County surveyor Albert Blackwood was a chainman on all of these townships. Lewis received Contract 262 in 1880 for 7 townships Southwest of Chewelah, again with Blackwood as chainman. The last Contract that he actually surveyed was for 5 townships in 1881 Southeast of Vantage. His last Contract was in 1885 for 11 townships at Grand Coulee, which was cancelled by Commissioner Sparks in 1886 because of its involvement with Special Deposits. Sparks cancelled many Contracts as a precaution against the rampant fraud in the GLO.

By 1880 Lewis and his wife had moved to Portland where they lived at 202 NE Graham St., which is now a historic landmark. His daughter, Louise, who graduated from Medical School at Ann Arbor, moved into the house at Parkersville. Lewis still owned the farm, and it remained in the family. Elizabeth died in 1905 and Lewis died in Portland in 1910. He began receiving a U. S. Veterans Invalid Pension in 1900. He has papers at OHS. (biography) See WA GLO Surveyors for the maintained version of this information.

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**Van Winkle,  
Franklin Jason**

1868-1936

USDS

Contract 692

1898

to

no more



OR PE 186. California C. E. 1255. Frank was born in Weston, Oregon, just after his family arrived there in a covered wagon. He graduated from Weston Normal School, received a Bachelors Degree from Harvard, and from 1891-95 was President and Instructor of Mathematics at the Weston State Normal School. He received his first Contract in Oregon in 1898 for one township Southeast of Cove and reported that he had lost money.

Frank was a Notary and began forging signatures of applicants for survey in 1899 for Rufus Moore and Henry Meldrum. Frank was a school teacher at Port Crescent, WA in 1900 and was awarded Contract 579 in Washington for 3 townships West of Raymond in April, 1901. He filed a patent for a 160 acre Homestead in 1903 just Northwest of Tollgate. Frank was indicted by the Federal Government in 1905 for "conspiring to enter into an agreement to defraud the Federal Government" in Oregon in 1902 in the Henry Meldrum/Rufus Moore Land Fraud Case.

As a Notary Public, he falsely certified the forged signatures of applicants for the survey of their claim and forged several himself. In addition he filled in many fraudulent applications on behalf of fictitious entrymen for the purpose of securing a survey. The case had not gone to trial by 1909, but a hometown newspaper wrote that the case had been dismissed in 1905. However, it was still pending in 1909.

Frank was listed as an Examiner of Surveys for the GLO out of Portland in 1905, 1907 and 1909. He examined 2 surveys in Washington in 1907, resulting in suspension of both Contracts. George Campbell had to resurvey about 15 miles of line, but in one instance he showed that Frank was wrong. From 1908-28 Frank was a government surveyor in Utah, Wyoming and Minnesota for the direct system, surveying Zion and Bryce National Parks, among other surveys.

Frank married 20-year-old Elzoa Steinmetz in 1908, but she died of peritonitis in 1910. While living in Portland he was a hypnotist, magician, mind reader, and wrote poetry for the Oregonian. He became involved with Emma Smith, a married woman, causing her to divorce her husband. After Emma died in 1918, there was a lawsuit brought by Emma's siblings against Frank. They alleged he hypnotized her and had her create a will giving everything to himself. He also had her deed him some property, and when she died four days later, he falsified the death record to try to avoid having the siblings find out that she had died. The estate was only worth \$3500 plus the property.

Frank was a Civil Engineer in Portland in 1920, before moving to Modesto, where he married Emma Deeney in 1921. Frank worked for the Modesto Irrigation District from 1928-1936, serving as Irrigation Engineer from 1932-36. He died of a heart attack walking through a field in 1936. See WA GLO Surveyors for the maintained version of this information.

**Vaughan,  
Benjamin  
Franklin**

1853-1903

Rep

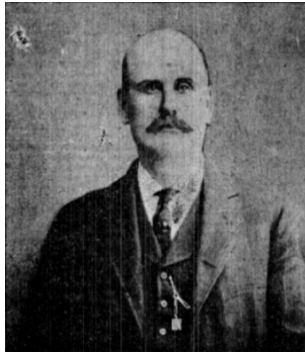
USDS

Contract 211

1874

to

no more



1903

Born the son of a farmer in Coburg, Oregon, Benjamin lived on the farm through 1870. He received Contract 211 at age 22 in 1874 for six townships in Baker County just Southeast of Baker City, and used future Deputy Surveyor Vanison Gesner and his brother, Oren Vaughan, as chainmen. He married Elizabeth "Lizzie" Stevens in 1878.

He was living in Genesee, Idaho from 1879-86 as a stockman and returned to Coburg in 1886. That same year he moved to Heppner, Oregon and at sometime to Ione where he had a livery stable. In 1893 he took a course in the American College of Dental Surgery in Chicago, and returned to Heppner to begin his practice.



**Heppner Flood of 1903**

He married Nannie J. Brians in 1894. Benjamin was appointed Postmaster of Heppner in 1898, and reappointed in 1903, using his Republican ties. He died in Heppner on June 14, 1903, the same day as his wife, when a wall of water 50 feet high came through the town of Heppner. Inspired by thunderstorms, it destroyed 141 structures and took 247 lives, including the Vaughans. It is still today, the deadliest natural disaster in Oregon.

The marriage history of Benjamin is unclear, for records indicate that he married Elisabeth Stevens in 1878, and the 1880 Census from Idaho notes that he was in fact married to Elizabeth Stevens. A Louisa A. Vaughn from near Hepner was committed to the Hawthorne Asylum in Portland in 1886. They had several children from 1879-1883, but the 1900 census notes that he had been married to Nancy Brians for 31 years, and that she had seven children. It appears that he married Nannie in 1894 and they had no children together. Nancy died in the flood and is on his tombstone. She was noted as visiting their sons at OAC in Corvallis in 1902. The oldest daughter was a student at a Catholic School in Pendleton as a child.

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### **Vickers, Leonard**

**B.**

1831-  
USDS

Claim Contract 33      1854

to

no more

Leonard was born in Ohio and was living with his parents in Washington, Indiana in 1850. He crossed the Oregon Trail in 1852 and filed a Claim between Airport Way and the Columbia, East of 148th Ave, which he patented in 1865. He was awarded Claim Contract 33 for Claims in four townships in 1854 near Sandy and Gresham, but there are no surveys by Leonard in those townships. He had obviously undergone an evangelical religious conversion while in Oregon, and wrote two books published in Portland on his inner thoughts. The first in 1864 was called "The Loud Voice and Everlasting Gospel". He wrote: "On my way traveling overland, for to the West, I was much vexed by the wickedness of my companions, which drove me much from their society."

He wrote further, "...one like a man of African color, came and stood in the air some fifty feet from me, and twenty feet up from the ground...." The second book in 1866 was "Civil Theology and an Opening of Heaven; and Unlocking of the Book of Revelations and of Other Dark Figures by the Nature and Figurative Use of the Seven Spirits of God." It goes on for 311 pages, mostly analyzing all of the Book of Revelations. They must have some value for both have recently been reprinted. His brother Perry came to Oregon in about 1865, but soon got into legal trouble about horse thievery at Fort Vancouver. He escaped custody and swam the Columbia River to Leonard's home for refuge. He then left for the East, via Sandy, where he met the owner of the Barlow Trail, and secured a job as the toll gate keeper of the trail.

Perry stayed, filed a Homestead on Summit Prairie, and after climbing Mt Hood solo with 60 lbs. of gear to do a light show, became an alpine guide. Leonard received his patent and left Oregon in about 1865. He travelled back East, with the California papers reporting his death by the hands of Indians on the return journey. The Oregonian reported on a letter in 1865 from Leonard that refuted that story, and that he was in New York

Leonard was in Denver in 1890, when he was committed to the Pueblo Insane Asylum. He remained there for six years, until he quietly walked away. While at the asylum, he wrote critically at length about the conditions and treatment of the inmates, and was noted as a man of education. He was a trustee, and was given significant liberty, because his mania was mild. One would only have to read his writing in the 1860's to see that he had a troubled mind.

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**Voigt, Emil F.**

1857-1927

USDMS

Mineral Surveys

to

Mineral Survey

1890

1894

Emil was born in Germany and was in Baker City, Oregon by 1886 when he married Mary A. Downie, the daughter of a long time miner. He began Mineral Surveys in Oregon in 1888 in Union County in the Granite Mining District, and between then and 1894, completed 32 Surveys involving 49 Mining claims. They were all out of Baker, and most were in the Sumpter Mining area. He usually used a different crew on each survey, and used his brother-in-law, Archie Downie on a few. He surveyed a Placer Claim for his father-in-law, which was named after his mother-in-law. (more)

He then worked as a mining engineer in Rossland, B. C. before coming to Princeton, B. C. in 1898. Emil was noted in the Yale-Cariboo area in the 1911 census. He was a mining engineer at Princeton, and he and his wife filed many Claims, becoming the "King of Copper Mountain". All 52 of their Claims were sold after his death at Princeton, because he had refused all sales while he was alive. Grandby Mining Company had been mining on Copper Mountain for some years before Emil died.

The current aerial photography of Copper Mountain shows a nearly 3000 acre open pit mine. Emil and Mary are buried in a small, remote cemetery near the top of Wolf Hill. Their son, Victor, is buried between them, and Emil's horse is buried nearby. In the next 70 years, over six billion dollars of copper would be extracted from that Copper Mountain site. He is the namesake of Voigt's Camp, British Columbia, and he named nearby Victor Lake after his deceased son.

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**Waggoner,  
George E.**

1868-1939

Rep

Comp

USDS

Dr/Clerk

Ch Clerk

Contract 645 (with 1896  
Henry Meldrum)

to

Chief Clerk 1901

George was born in Walla Walla, Washington, but grew up near Corvallis. His father served in the Oregon Legislature for some time, beginning in 1880, and was instrumental in the start of Oregon Agricultural College. George may have attended there. George became a compassman for John Arnold in 1891 for three townships at Pendleton, and then started as a temporary Clerk in the Surveyor General's Office of John Arnold in 1896. Arnold awarded him Joint Contract 645 with Henry Meldrum in 1896 for eight townships at Christmas Valley, and they shared the work. George returned to become a draftsman in the Surveyor General's Office before being appointed the Chief Clerk to Robert Habersham the same year.

George continued in that role with Henry Meldrum in 1901, but was indicted with Meldrum for fraud in 1903 in two indictments on separate Contracts for land fraud and conspiracy. The fraud was that the applications for the survey from landowners were forgeries, created by the Surveyor General's Office. During this time, he was forced out of office in 1902 by State Senator Jacob Proebstal, the father-in-law of Clerk John W. Rowland, who succeeded him. Meldrum was sent to jail at McNeil Island for forging applications for surveys on worthless land in order for a survey to be created. Waggoner would have participated for this to happen.

When George left, he said he was entering into the business of a land and mining company, and Waggoner's indictment was still pending in 1909. He married Margaret Grace Persham in 1899, and they had a son in 1908. They were reported travelling in New York and Philadelphia for eight months in 1903 promoting mining properties in Oregon. He was the manager of several working mining properties at Blue River in 1905 and was promoting a franchise for the Automatic Telephone Company from Astoria to Colfax in 1907-08.





**Cartoon of road builder  
by George E. Waggoner.**

George purchased 3000 acres of land abutting Sheridan in 1909 along with two other investors. He purchased more rural land and soon began an intensive media campaign to promote good roads, particularly the one between Tigard and McMinnville. He successfully kept it up for three years, chairing the organization, forming auto clubs, and invoking the Good Roads organization. He even used his skill as a draftsman to create political cartoon for the newspaper.

George continued living in Portland, in business investing in and selling real estate. He was active in civic affairs, and owned a nice house in Irvington District. He surveyed the plat and street grades of Creswell in 1911. They were living in Portland in 1914, with George advertising property for sale, and having more than a dozen mentions in the social setting. George and Margaret appear to be living separately after that, and sold their house in Irvington in 1915. At that time, her father was the Cadillac dealer for Montana, living in Butte. By 1917, George appears to be the Secretary of the Great Falls Employers Association.

He moved to Butte in 1918, where he was associated with a Savings and Loan and was the manager of a Savings and Loan in Billings in 1919. Her father mentioned that George was a "prominent oil operator in Wyoming and Texas" in about 1920. George E. Waggoner married Sophia (Kathryn W.) Burg in Sheridan, Wyoming in 1919. they had a daughter, George Ellen, in 1920. In 1920, Margaret was listed as divorced and living with her son in Portland.

A George E. Waggoner was promoting a \$500,000 water diversion project in 1927 near Stockton at Waterville. George was a civil engineer and salesman in Birmingham, Alabama from 1929-35, living with Kathryn and George Ellen. Kathryn ran a sandwich shop. George was a salesman in Miami in 1936. Margaret was in Portland in 1930 with her son, and George and Kathryn were in Los Angeles in 1938. George was retired, and Kathryn was a dietitian, noted as having five years of college. She was a widow living in Los Angeles in 1940 with her daughter, as the owner of a cafe. Margaret was eventually with her son in Roswell, New Mexico and was buried there in 1963. George died in Los Angeles in 1939.

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**Waggoner,  
George Henry**

1858-1948

USDS

Special Instructions    1902  
   to  
no more



OR PE 954. Born in Oregon, the son of a farmer at Harrisburg, George attended the local schools before graduating from Monmouth College. George married Bedo Beatrice Wells by 1891, and they had six sons. The Surveyor General gave him a Contract by Special Instructions in 1902 for less than a mile of line at Philomath. Charles M. Collier of Eugene received Contract 669 for 11 townships in Central Oregon near Christmas Lake.

Collier was examined in 1908 by William Thorp and in 1909 by Scott Harrison. He soon received Joint Contract 771 with George H. Waggoner to retrace and resurvey Contract 669. George is not mentioned in the survey of Contract 771, except for the Contract, but it is now assumed that he also participated in Contract 669. The Contract files will tell the story. George became the Eugene City Engineer from 1908-12. After that he worked as a surveyor and engineer for Lane County until he retired in 1947 at age 80. He received a professional license as a Civil Engineer in 1919 from Oregon. George had an unfortunate accident in 1921, when he hit and killed another motorist that was fixing a tire along the road. Bedo died in 1921 and George remarried to Pauline Marie Kaeding. She died in 1935 and George died in 1948.

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**Walden, Nicolas  
O. "Nick"**

1834-1897

Rep

USDS

Contract 198 (with    1873  
Louis T. Barin) (with  
   to  
Contract 224            1875



Born in Sweden, the son of a lawyer, Nicholas was left a large estate at age 22 when his father died. He visited China, Australia, and Europe before returning to Sweden. He soon left for the United States, arriving in Oregon in 1871, with his inheritance spent. He first cut wood in Milwaukie, and then engaged in building the locks at Oregon City. He received some sort of survey Contract with Johnson and McCown in 1873.

He had a good education, and received a Joint Contract with Louis Barin in 1873 for ten township and two Standard Parallels East of Baker City and four townships Southeast of Silverton. Louis was his next door neighbor, a legislator, and would soon be the Registrar in the Land Office. The townships near Silverton were surveyed by Walden, and the rest were surveyed by Josephus Tomkins as compassman. Nicholas signed all the work, and the newspapers noted that he had purchased the Contract from Barin under the term of William H. Odell.

Nicholas was then a compassman in 1874 for John Meldrum for at least nine townships near Huntington. He was awarded his own Contract in 1874 for six townships in Umatilla County. He used a three man crew for all, including the improbable crew of Rufus Moore and Henry Meldrum as chainmen. Henry had already been a compassman several times and a USDS once, and Rufus was soon to be a USDS. The next year Nicolas surveyed another six townships near Vale which also included Rufus Moore as a chainman..

Nicolas completed a County Map for the Assessor in 1877, and it was noted as a first class job. Nicolas was the Clackamas County Surveyor as a Republican in 1878. He married his wife, Lavina H. "Vinnie" Kershaw in 1878, and they had two daughters. Nicholas was the Chief Clerk in the Oregon City Land Office for several years around 1880, some under Louis Barin. He was the co-organizer of the Willamette Transportation & Locks Company, which is the predecessor of Portland General Electric Company, for which he was a director at the time of his death.

He was also a director of the Bank of Oregon, and had been one of the organizers. He accepted the position of School Director for one term. Nicholas was the developer and surveyor for the townsite of Willamette Falls, now within the City of West Linn. He built a house on the bluff, and the house is now on the National Historic Register. His town was fully electrified in 1898, had a public water system, and a requirement that each household connect to the new sanitary sewer system. Nicholas died in 1897 before his town was done. He died of a stroke and had been showing signs of severe heart disease since 1892. Vinnie died three weeks later. The town incorporated in 1908 to protect its water supply, and a typhoid epidemic in 1918, attributed to the water supply, caused the town to annex to West Linn.

## Walker, Levi Chamberlain

1850-1909

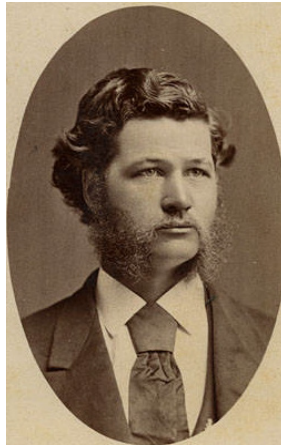
Rep

USDS

Special Instructions 1871

to

Contract 763 1905



Levi was born in Forest Grove, Oregon in 1850, the son of a minister, and married Sarah Isabelle "Belle" Putman, a graduate of Pacific University, in Amity, Oregon in 1875. He had graduated from Pacific in 1873 and taught Mathematics and Chemistry there for two years at some time. His parents were early missionaries and pioneers of 1838. Levi received a Contract by Special Instructions in 1871 to survey The Solomon Richardson DLC just Northwest of Portland.

Levi was named the Principal of The Dalles School District in August, 1873. He was awarded another Contract by Special Instructions in 1875 West of Forest Grove for the David Harper DLC and was writing property descriptions for the Westside RR near Forest Grove in 1879. He received a Contract in Jefferson County in 1879 for one township North of Madras, and surveyed another four townships in 1880 North of Madras and four townships near Burns as compassman for William Odell.



**Sarah "Belle" Putnam Walker, the wife of Levi Chamberlain Walker, c. 1885.**

Levi was living in Bake Oven, Wasco County, Oregon in 1880 in the same town as Mark A. Fullerton and Alonzo Gesner. He in fact received a Joint Contract in 1880 with Mark A. Fullerton for 8 townships on the upper John Day River, and they shared the work. Fullerton surveyed six townships and Levi surveyed two. After nine years he again received a Contract for four township along the coast between Newport and Lincoln City in 1889, and it was examined and approved.

His last Contract after another six year gap was for 3 townships on the West side in 1905, with one township at Detroit, and two South of Scottsburg near the Umpqua. At Scottsburg, he was following William Byars, and had to do a Sectional Correction Line, including two sets of Special Supplemental Instructions for corrections, receiving approval in 1909, six months after his death. T23S R10W was funded by \$1200 in NPRR Deposits.

In a private survey in 1887 at Dixie in Washington County, Levi marked a line that was about 330 feet from the existing occupation line that had been used for some 18 years. Ensuing arguments caused one of the combatants to fatally shoot the other. He and Belle were affiliated with the Siletz and Chemawa Indian Schools at Salem from at least 1891-94 with Belle as a teacher and Levi as Principal, but Levi was fired with others in 1894. Thomas S. Wilkes was the Washington County Surveyor in 1902 when he was appointed by Binger Hermann to be a Clerk in the Colorado Surveyor General's Office. He left right away, leaving the office to his Deputy, Levi.

Levi was a civil engineer in Forest Grove in 1900 and Washington County Surveyor in 1909 at the time of his death. He had been County Surveyor in 1873, 1882-86, and 1906-09, Forest Grove City Councilman in 1895, and was Forest Grove City Recorder several times. He was reportedly one of the state's best mathematicians. Both of his daughters held Phd's and were instructors at the University of Nebraska at the time of his death.

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### **Walker, William**

#### **Robert "Billy"**

1844-1911

Rep

Dr/Clerk

Transcribing Clerk 1870

to

Transcribing Clerk 1872



1911

William was born in Missouri, the son of a carpenter, and came to Oregon with his parents in 1858 over the Oregon Trail, having first gone to California in 1856. From 1860-1910, he was always listed near Eugene and Springfield as a farmer in the censuses. The family did return to California in 1867 for one year, but returned. He was a Clerk in the Surveyor General's Office of William Odell, his next door neighbor, beginning in 1870 and probably continued through the term of Odell until 1874 when the office was moved to Portland.

William received two Joint Contracts with H. C. Perkins in 1871 for seven townships and three townships. The first Contract was mostly near Eugene and was all surveyed by Perkins. They both signed all the oaths for the three townships in the second Contract at Redmond. William was the first City Recorder for Springfield when it incorporated in 1885. He worked for Lane County Bank for several years, and then was Lane County Clerk for two terms about 1890-93. He apparently never married, and moved to the hop farm after being Clerk and lived with his mother until 1911 when he died.

William had been spraying hops in March, 1909 and was feeling poorly from the spray. He drank about a pint of whiskey before Ed Lang, a former employee, came to the farm. Ed had also been drinking and began abusing William's aged mother, asking for money and striking her. William went to the bedroom and grabbed a loaded shotgun, Lang followed, and a scuffle ensued, resulting in Ed being shot in the leg. He lost a lot of blood, and the leg was amputated above the knee at the hospital. He died a day later, and William was charged with Second Degree Murder. William posted bail, and he was acquitted by a jury in July.

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## **Waln, Robert**

### **Hutchison**

1873-1950

USDS

Contract 674

(rejected) (finished by  
William M. Bushey as  
compassman)

to

no more

1897

Robert was born, raised and educated through high school in Iowa. His mother's brother, John Minto, IV had come across the Oregon Trail in 1844 to Oregon and to Salem, where he filed a Claim near the Mission and prospered. He was a member of the Oregon Legislature in 1862, 1866, 1880, and 1890. John was also a promoter of the Santiam Pass Wagon road. Robert was first mentioned in Oregon when he was a chainman and axman for Marion County resident, William Bushey, for three townships on the West side from 1893-96, including at least one at Santiam Pass. Robert was the County Surveyor of Gilliam County, Oregon in 1900, living with a pharmacist roommate. By 1902, he had married Louella Maddock, who was running a millinery shop in Condon.



**Louella Waln, the wife of  
Robert Waln**

She sued him for divorce in 1905, and the reasons and results are unknown. From 1910-1940, Robert would list himself as a widower. Louella was running a millinery shop in Corvallis as a widow in 1910. He received Contract 674 for one township in 1897 on the Grand Ronde River North of Wallowa near the Washington Border. After turning in his notes, the survey was examined by A. B. Little in 1898. He made corrections in 1899 and had more examinations by J. D. McLeod in 1900, and W. O. Owen in 1900. It was approved in 1901 by the Oregon Surveyor General, but was rejected in 1902 by the Commissioner without any payment to Robert. This may have had something to do with his divorce.

The Surveyor General gave Special Instructions to William M. Bushey to completely redo the survey as Compassman, paid for by the bondsmen. Bushey was examined by W. B. Little in 1906 and S. N. Stoner of the Land Fraud Division in 1907, ultimately receiving approval. Robert was a laborer in the woods at Goble in 1910, a logging engineer in Bear Valley in 1930, and retired in Portland in 1935 and 1940. Louella remarried in 1921 and was a widow by 1931, but still showed up on Robert's death certificate as his wife. Robert was 5' 10" tall and weighted 150 lb. in 1895.



**Ware, Joel**

1832-1902

Rep

Dr/Clerk

Ch Clerk

Clerk 1861

to

Chief Clerk 1867



1902

Born the son of a merchant and educated in Ohio, Joel crossed the Oregon Trail in 1852 to California, where he was a bookkeeper and printer for the Sacramento Bee until 1857. He first came to Portland in 1857, and then moved to Eugene in 1858, where he established the first newspaper there, with Harrison R. Kincaid and William Thompson, named the Oregon State Journal, a Republican paper. He married Elizabeth Florence "Bettie" Cochran in The Dalles in 1861, and they went on to have six children.

Joel sold his interest in the paper when he was appointed a Clerk in the Surveyor General's Office of Bynon Pengra in Eugene in 1861. Kincaid went on to run the paper for many years. Joel continued with Pengra and Surveyor General Elisha Applegate, growing from Clerk to Draftsman to Chief Clerk under Applegate. Elisha's term was coming up, and the Lane County Republicans recruited Joel to run for County Clerk. He was elected and reelected for nine consecutive terms in a Democrat County. Also during this time, he was on the Eugene City Council, and served as Mayor from 1873-75. Joel was very popular during all his terms in the Surveyor General's Office and as County Clerk to assist the Deputies in the acknowledgment of all of their oaths.

When Joel retired as County Clerk in 1890 when the Democrats took office, he took up a title and abstract business, helping make public land filings. He ran that until illness forced him to retire, and some time during that tenure, he was appointed a U. S. Commissioner, evidenced by many public notices in the newspapers. His daughter Marie took over the business. Bettie died in 1900, and Joel in 1902.

**Warner, James A.***1834-1920*

Rep

USDS

Comp

USDMS

Special Instructions 1870  
to

Contract 717 1900

Born in Missouri, the son of a prosperous farmer, James was a civil engineer in 1860, still living at home and came to Albany, Oregon in 1863 via Panama. He received Special Instructions to survey 2 DLCs in 1867 at Albany. James was a surveyor and draftsman on the Willamette Valley and Cascade Mountain Wagon Road from about 1864-67, surveying all 376 miles of its length. He was commissioned to do three plats of segments of the road by the Directors, and was a compassman for one township for Joseph Gray at Lakeview in 1868. James was a surveyor in Albany, Oregon in 1870, surveyed another DLC East of Albany, and in that year received Contract 135 for 4 townships and the Second Standard Parallel East of Sweet Home. They were on or near the route of the Wagon Road that needed patents.

He was a compassman for Nathaniel Martin on Contract 188 in 1873 for five townships East of Crater Lake. James was in charge of the construction engineering and surveying for the Santiam Canal sometime in about 1873. He was a surveyor on the Willamette Valley and Yaquina Bay RR sometime between 1872-78. James continued government surveying with three Contracts between 1876-81 for two townships at Newport, one at Waldport, and for 30 miles of Standard Parallel in the Cascades. In that survey, he closed the Third Standard Parallel on the same line run in from the East. That work was to facilitate the surveys for the Cascade Mountain Wagon Road. He was a U. S. Deputy Mineral Surveyor in the Roseburg District in 1878, but never filed a plat.

He was awarded a Contract by Special Instructions in 1884 for a portion of the Boundary of the Umatilla Reservation, but it was neither consummated or surveyed. At age 66 in 1900, still a civil engineer in Albany, he completed his last Contract, a small one for only 5 miles of line near Detroit. James borrowed a solar compass from Deputy Surveyor William Barr in 1900, broke it, and failed to return it. Barr sued all the way to the Oregon Supreme Court and won a new trial. This could have something to do with William defeating James for Albany City Surveyor in 1889. One of James' claims for payment was denied by Albany in 1890.

James was in Albany as a civil engineer in 1910 and a surveyor in 1920, and he was City Engineer and City Surveyor of Albany and Linn County Surveyor for several years. He died there in 1920, and it appears he never married. He was living in a small house at Fourth and Walnut and had no relatives in the West.



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**Warner, John  
Frank "Frank"**

1857-1924

SES

Special Instructions 1902  
to

Special Instructions 1902

Frank was born in Michigan in 1857, the son of a wagon maker. He was living at home in Flushing, Michigan in 1880 as an engineer and received a \$12,000 Joint Contract in Wyoming with Howard B. Carpenter in 1891. He married 28-year-old Mrs. Angene "Jennie" Hollywood Ward in 1897 in Big Horn County, Wyoming, and they had one daughter. Jennie had married in Wyoming the first time at age 15. Frank was appointed the Enrolling and Engrossing Clerk to the Wyoming Senate in 1899 and 1901. He was a U. S. Deputy Surveyor again in Wyoming in 1897-99 for several Contracts, partnering with Sidney Blout and Fred Fink, and was listed as a surveyor in Cheyenne, Wyoming in 1900.

Frank served a Special Examiner of Surveys in at least Oregon in 1902, examining three Contracts and was reported in the newspapers as surveying part of the boundary of Crater Lake National Park. Frank moved on to Alaska in 1903, where he was again a Special Examiner of Surveys, and among other things, reported on the locations needing the extension of surveys in 1904. Howard Carpenter was awarded a Contract in 1904 under Special Instructions to survey over 700 miles of the Boundary of Idaho and Montana that follows the watershed line of the Bitterroot Crest. Frank was his transitman for the 21 man crew, and the survey took four seasons to finish. It appears Frank spent the winters surveying in New Mexico.

Frank joined the Direct System in 1911, and spent a lot of time in Alaska, where he surveyed the plats of Anchorage in 1915 and Girdwood in 1918. Jennie and their daughter were living in Los Angeles in 1920, with Jennie listed as married, but not with Frank, who was in the Register of 1920 as promoted to Assistant Supervisor of Surveys (Head) in some GLO District(s) that included Alaska. Frank died in Los Angeles in 1924, with Jennie eventually buried beside him some 30 years later. Jennie had a widowed twin sister living with her from 1930 on, and she is also buried next to her.

**Watson,  
Chandler Bruer  
"C. B."**

1848-1934

Rep

Comp

USDS

Contract 199 (as  
compassman for  
James C. Tolman for  
portions with others)

1873

to

Contract 603 1892



Chandler was born and raised in Illinois, the son of a farmer that would spent three years in the War. At 13, Chandler was the man of the house until his father returned. He stayed in the cornfields until 1870 when he borrowed \$100 to go to California. He spent seven months in California cutting wood near Woodland, before he left for Ashland, arriving in 1871. He started at Ashland Academy in the Fall and continued until Spring when he began teaching. He worked to pay expenses.

That summer, along with six others, he took a band of horses to Boise City and sold them. He returned to School in the fall of 1872, and taught school again in the Spring of 1873. He was a compassman for James C. Tolman, in 1873 near Klamath falls, and graduated from Ashland Academy in 1875. He was an unsuccessful candidate for State Representative in 1875. Chandler married classmate Ella J. Chitwood in 1875, and they had two children. He was working for Dr. Chitwood in a drug store in 1874-76, and studied law at the same time. Ella and Chandler were the ultimate civic pair, working for women's suffrage, a Carnegie library grant, and the Southern Oregon Chautauqua.



**Watson's Grotto, just inside the entrance to Oregon Caves.**

Chandler took over the "Oregon Sentinel" in 1877 for a year before he went to Lake County and opened the "State Line Herald" with his brother, making it into a formidable Republican paper. He received a Contract on his own in 1878 for nine townships near French Glenn, but surveyed only five townships. Chandler was a prosecutor in Lakeview and a Presidential Elector for Oregon in 1880, resulting in an appointment as a Customs Collector in Coos Bay from 1883-85. During the Elector campaign, his newspaper office was burned to the ground.

He returned to Ashland where he was Ashland City Attorney in the 1890's, and Jackson County District Attorney in 1897. He had one more small township Contract in 1892 on Parker Mtn., between Ashland and Klamath Falls, that he surveyed with a five man crew. Chandler took an interest in natural and historic preservation in the second half of his career, supporting the Crater Lake Reserve, the Oregon Caves Monument, and a large natural park at Ashland. He wrote several books, including "Prehistoric Siskiyou Island and Marble Halls of Oregon" in 1909. He is the namesake of the entry grotto at Oregon Caves Monument. His tombstone at Ashland Cemetery is a granite rock, symbolizing his love of nature.

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## Watt, Ahio Scott

1824-1909

Dem

Rep

USDS

Claim Contract 52      1854

to

Special Instructions      1866



Ahio was born in Ohio and moved to Missouri with his family in 1838. The family crossed the Oregon Trail in 1848 and filed a Claim at Amity. The local settlers organized to create a school, and named Ahio as the school teacher. The location of the school on the farm of Ahio's father was a compromise, resulting in Ahio naming the location Amity, and Ahio and his brother, Joseph, founded a town around the site of the school. Ahio was the Clerk to the first court formed in Oregon Territory sometime in 1849.

As part of his school duties, he organized the second library district in Oregon at Amity in 1849. He married Mary Elizabeth Elder in 1850, an 1849 pioneer, and to them were born seven children. He either filed or purchased a 485 acre Claim just West of Dayton, engaged in farming, and taught school for a while. In 1853, he organized the Yamhill County Agricultural Society, which eventually morphed into a state society in 1961.

Ahio received Claim Contract 52 in 1854 for a survey of his own Claim and ten more near Dayton and Lafayette. He used his Brother, Alexander, and a brother-in-law as chainmen. As a Democrat, Ahio was appointed Clerk to the Oregon State Senate in 1856, and endorsed Stephen A. Douglas for President in 1860. He was elected Yamhill County Surveyor from 1859-60 and from 1864-70, and received a small Contract in 1866 by Special Instructions to adjust two Claims in the same vicinity as his previous Contract.

Ahio kept farming and had moved to Forest Grove by 1873, when he sold his 435 acre farm near Lafayette for \$11,000. From 1873-76, he was President of the Board of Trustees for Forest Grove (Mayor). He was elected to the Oregon State Senate from 1876-80 as a Republican from Washington County, and the Republicans were outnumbered 27-7 in his first Session. He was Clerk to the School District and purchased two farms near Forest Grove, although he kept living in town.

He was hired by the Westside RR to be their Right of Way agent by 1879, and then by OR&N Co. to be their Tax and Real Estate Agent in Portland in 1883, keeping that position until he retired in 1903. He also occasionally represented UPRR. Mary died of a stroke in Portland in 1888. Ahio was a frequent contributor to the newspapers in his later years, being an advocate for women's suffrage among other issues. The year before he died, he purchased an electrical power plant on Hood River with his son, who was a doctor in Hood River.

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**Watts, Alexander  
Innis**

1831-1912

Rep

USDMS

Mineral surveys

to

no more

1875

Alex was born in New York and was brought up in Sagamon County, Illinois. He left for Oregon via the Oregon Trail in 1851 and was a miner from 1851-53 at Sailors Diggings, South of Cave Junction and near the California border. Alex played a part in repelling the Indians from 1853-55, and was slightly wounded. He was a miner in Williamsburg, Oregon in 1860, an area near Williams in the Williams Creek Valley in Josephine County. He began mining on the Horsehead Placer Mine there in 1861, eventually taking out \$250,000 of gold. He returned to Sagamon County in 1866 and married Alexina J. Lander in Jacksonville, Illinois in 1867. They left the same month for Oregon, but Alexina died at Applegate, Oregon in May, 1868. Applegate is near the Williams Creek Valley, and Alexina is buried in Sparlin Cemetery near what was Williamsburg

Alex was a miner in Jackson County, Oregon in 1870, and the County Surveyor of Josephine County in 1874. He was on the Republican State Central Committee from at least 1872-74. He was a U. S. Deputy Mineral Surveyor in 1875-76 when he surveyed two parts of the Scotch Gulch Placer Claim on the upper Illinois River near the California border. It was superseded by a survey by J. S. Howard in 1887.

Alex was still a miner in Williamsburg, Oregon in 1880, a town that no longer exists, and remarried to Elizabeth Emily "Lizzie" Daniels in Josephine County at age 50 in 1881, siring seven children. He patented a 160 acre Homestead near Williams in 1882, near or on his placer mine, and lived there or near there at Provolt with Lizzie until he died in 1912. He ran for County Surveyor in 1888 and is mentioned several times as a surveyor in the newspapers until 1907.

In 1897, Alex was still operating the Horsehead Placer near his ranch, seasonally fed by a ditch and pipe necessary for its operation. He had a partner, James McCarvey, who in a fit of insanity, was destroying the pipeline. Alex tried to stop him but was stabbed in the chest with a butcher knife, and was severely wounded. James was taken on his first train ride to the Asylum in Salem. Alex was operating his mines until he died and was a member of the Provolt School Board in 1910. Alex and Lizzie are also buried in Sparlin Cemetery. He is the namesake of Watts Mine Road, Watts Placer Claim #82, and Watts Topping Ditch in lower Williams Valley, all near his mine and/or ranch.

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**Webber, William**

**T. "Will"**

1849-1916

Rep

Dem

USDS

Contract 258

to

no more

1876

Born in Iowa, Will was in Benton County, Oregon by 1876 when he married school teacher, Louella "Lula" Stevens. They had three children, one of which died as a child. He received Contract 278 for one fractional township just South of Newport on the coast, and surveyed it in that year. At some time, he surveyed the plat of East Portland before it joined with the City of Portland. He was a Notary Public in Dayton in 1878 and a civil engineer in Elk City in 1880. For the next 20 years, he was involved in railroad and development speculation near Newport, beginning with being an incorporator of a RR from Newport to Cape Foulweather in 1886. That same year he incorporated a Water Company to serve the City of Newport. In 1890, Will was also incorporating the Newport & King's Valley RR.

Will was probably without work when he was a candidate for the political plum of Customs Inspector at Yaquina Bay in 1893. He was on the Democrat Ticket for County Surveyor in 1894, and on the Republican Ticket for the same job in 1896, against Jim Derrick. The Panic of 1893 apparently took its toll, and he had significant property sold at Sheriff's sale in Newport in 1899. Will was a recorder on the survey crew for the Corps of Engineers at Newport in 1899.

Lula was living with her children and her father in Medford in 1900, and Will was a consulting civil engineer and surveyor in Hood River in 1903-04. His son, Ward Perry, attended Oregon State in civil engineering from 1901-04, and his daughter, Aileen, was a music teacher. Aileen married Carlyle Denton, a music teacher, who would become the Conductor of the Oregon Symphony. Lula lived in Portland in 1904, and was a widow there in 1920. Will was a civil engineer in Los Angeles in 1909 and died in Long Beach, California in 1916. He was by himself and without funds. The paper said the sheriff were trying to Contact his daughter to notify her of his death. Lula died in Oakland in 1932.

**Webster, Kimball***1828-1916*

Dem

Comp

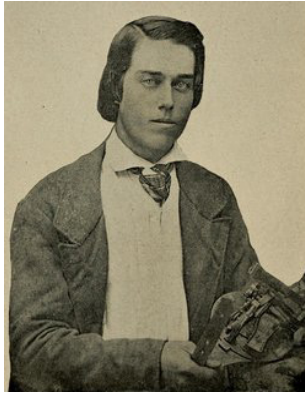
USDS

Contract 5 (as  
compassman for a  
portion of the work  
for James E. Freeman)

1851

to

Contract 37  
1853



1853

Born in New Hampshire, Kimball crossed the Oregon Trail to California in 1849 with a group of men from New Hampshire. He wrote a book, "The Gold Seekers of '49", in the last years of his life, based on diaries he kept in California and Oregon. He did not make much money mining gold, but worked cutting cordwood, mowing hay, digging ditches, and in 1850 worked as a chainman for future Deputy Surveyor Robert Elder. Robert was surveying townsites near Sacramento, took a liking to Kimball, and even taught him some drafting.

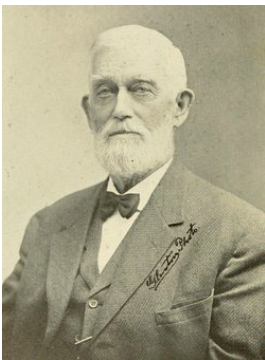
Kimball met up with Robert Elder again in 1851, after Robert had met with John Preston who was travelling through San Francisco on his way to Oregon, and Robert asked Kimball to go to Oregon with him. He accepted, and began studying surveying and trigonometry. Soon after the two arrived in Oregon City, Robert was named Chief Clerk, and Kimball went to work for wages, building a sawmill up the Tualatin River, since there was no field work yet. Work was light in the Surveyor General's Office, and Robert was hired to survey the townsite of Oregon City, and hired Kimball to help him. This was in the townsite that had been platted by John McLoughlin and 195 lot owners needed their patents and title

After finishing that survey, Robert arranged for Kimball to work on a Contract for Deputy Surveyor James Freeman for township exteriors near the Santiam River in the late fall of 1851. Future Deputy Surveyors, Zenas Moody and George Hyde, and Clerk, Seymour Hall were on the crew. Kimball started as axeman, but eventually graduated to doing the trigonometric calculations for Freeman for the river crossings. In late November, it was pouring rain, preventing the use of the solar compass, and Freeman went to Oregon City to turn in some of the notes and to arrange for another township. While he was gone, the crew, with Kimball on the compass, made two private Claim surveys nearby. The sun came out, and he resumed the township lines of the first Contract as compassman, crossing the Santiam River several times in six miles.

Freeman came back with another Contract for the subdivisions of the townships they had just surveyed, which could be done by the needle. The work was between Stayton and Albany, centered on Crabtree, the author's birth place. The Oaths were acknowledged by the Justice of Peace, John Crabtree., and there was a Hiram Crabtree on the crew. Kimbrell surveyed one forested township South of Stayton as compassman. Freeman noted that the weather was terrible all winter, with the Santiam River being virtually unable to be crossed. Kimball wrote of the difficulty getting settlers to put them up and feed them for the night, as they were not camping, because of the weather, There was a lot of wading of water in that time of year, much of it three to four feet deep. They cut holes in their leather boots near the bottom for drainage.

Robert Elder resigned his job as Chief Clerk in March, 1852, and he received a Contract for 10 townships in the Yamhill Valley, from Forest Grove to South of Dayton. Kimball was his compassman, while Robert wrote up the notes. Kimball was named a U. S. Deputy Surveyor in April, 1852, and he and Robert Elder received a Joint Contract to survey 8 scattered townships in Washington and Yamhill Counties. They formed two parties and shared the work. Kimball's party included future Deputy Surveyor Henry S. Gile, and Robert's party included Andrew Murphy, the nephew of Daniel Murphy, and James O'Conner as compassman. O'Connor was not mentioned in the notes, and no one by that name in Oregon can be found. Kimball confused other names, and this could be Nicholas O'Connor, a crewman for Elder.

Kimball received his own Contract in December 1852 for five townships near Albany. He discusses again the difficulty again of rain and wading flooded rivers. He worked through December and January until half done before two men quit because of the rain and wading. He sent the other crewman to Albany to procure supplies and a new crew, which was arranged successfully. Kimball remained in an unfinished log cabin writing up his notes. The survey went on and was finished in March.



1908

On finishing the Contract he returned to find that Elder had secured another Contract in the Umpqua Valley, this time with Henry S. Gile as a joint contractor. Robert asked Kimball to help train Gile to run the compass and run a party. Kimball acted as compassman for about one half of the work, finishing in September. Kimball and Robert had another proposed Contract in the Rogue Valley, but it was caused to be stopped by the Indian uprising. Kimball received another Contract in September, 1853 for 8 townships in Long Tom Valley in the Western foothills of the Willamette Valley near Corvallis. They worked all winter, sometimes being snow bound in their tent for two weeks. He finished the next April and was approached by a man to do a coal mine survey at Bellingham, Washington. He agreed, and went there, only to learn that at that time it was the site of an Indian war. He still did the survey.

Not having any suitable Contracts offered him by the new Surveyor General, Charles K. Gardner, Kimball returned to Hudson, New Hampshire in 1854 via Panama after an absence of five years. He obtained a job in Missouri in 1855 as surveyor and land examiner for the Hannibal and St. Joseph RR Company, and then worked in the granite quarries of Maine until 1857. He married Abiah Cutter in early 1857, and was listed as a farmer of increasing prosperity in 1860, 1870, and 1880, all at Hudson. He was a surveyor part time all along, and was listed as a civil engineer in 1900, 1911, and on his death certificate. For many years Kimball served as a Justice of the Peace, and had a large probate practice. He was in Hudson City government, served in the Legislature, and served on the School Board. He wrote a book on the history of Hudson before beginning his own autobiography. Current surveyors rate his work as excellent. Kimball is the namesake of Kimball Webster School and Webster Road in Hudson.

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## **Welsh, Jeremiah**

### **B. "Jerry"**

*1830-1906*

Comp

Claim Contract 25 (as 1854  
compassman for John  
P. Welsh

to

Contract 179 (as 1872  
compassman for Jason  
Owen)

Born in New York, the younger brother of John P. Welsh, Jeremiah was listed as arriving in Oregon in 1852 via the Oregon Trail. He filed a Donation Claim in 1853 beside the one of his brother in the valley of the North Fork of Coyote Creek, Southwest of Eugene at Lorane. He was the compassman for three Claim Contracts for his brother John P. Welsh in 1854-57. There were 171 Claims in all, including their own, mostly South of Eugene. His father and three brothers went back to Kentucky to bring a herd of purebred trotter mares back to Oregon in 1864. His brother, Deputy Surveyor John Welsh, died on the way back at Fort Laramie, and Jeremiah found out of the death via a letter sent to Governor Gibbs, the sender not knowing how to contact the family.

In 1872 Jeremiah was the compassman for Jason Owen for six townships in Southern Oregon, of which three were rejected. After his surveying career, he was appointed the U. S. Postal Agent for the RR route from Portland to Tacoma in 1873, under the Postmaster General, lasting until at least 1881. In the 1870's, he was racing the family trotting horses along with a brother. He died in Tacoma in 1906.



**Welsh, John P.***1826-1864*

USDS

Claim Contract 25 (by 1854  
Jeremiah Welsh as  
compassman)

to

Claim Contract 67 (by 1856  
Jeremiah Welsh as  
compassman)

Born in New York, the older brother of Jeremiah Welsh, John graduated from the New York State Normal School in Albany, New York in 1847. He came to Oregon in 1853 via Wisconsin and filed a Donation Claim adjacent to his brother in 1853 on the North Fork of Coyote Creek, Southwest of Eugene at Lorane. He received three Claim Contracts from 1854-56, within 21 townships mostly in the vicinity of his Claim, for 171 Claims in all including his own. Included in those were ten townships North of Salem. He used his brother, Jeremiah Welsh, as compassman on all the work.

John was elected Treasurer of Lane County in about 1858. He began an organization, partly with USDS Timothy Davenport, to bring purebred animals to Oregon. He owned a Thoroughbred stud named Rifleman that was bred in Kentucky. He made at least one trip back to the East to buy purebred horses. John was returning to Oregon in 1864 with a string of purebred mares, accompanied by his father and two brothers, but died at Fort Laramie, Wyoming. The circumstances are unknown, but in that year there were significant Indian hostilities around Fort Laramie, and those horses would have been a prize. It is also unknown whether the horses made it to Oregon. The New York State Normal School reports that he had taught school for a total of 15 years before his death.

**Westgate, George****Allison***1870-1948*

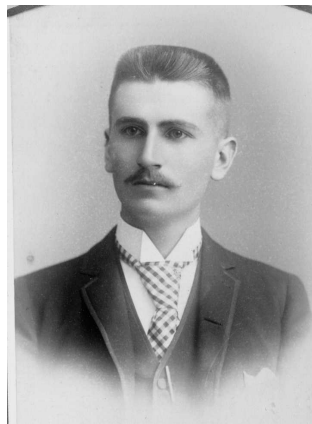
Rep

S G

Surveyor General 1907

to

no more



Born in Rio Vista, California, the son of a dry goods merchant, George graduated from Herald Business College in San Francisco in 1880 at age 20. He was a clerk and accountant from at least 1889-96, all in San Francisco for a grain dealer. He was a grain dealer in Albany, Oregon by 1900, and in about 1901 when he married his wife, Henrietta Whitney. George was the Publisher of the Herald at Albany, a Republican newspaper.



At the same time, he was in partnership with his brother, Albert, in the wholesaling of grain, lime, cement, and building materials at Albany. As a Republican activist, he was elected the State Republican Chairman in 1905 at a time the Party was involved in scandals and fraud. George was successful in getting candidates elected, including Republican Governor Jonathan Whitcombe and Republican U. S. Senator Bourne in 1906. George had been campaigning to be appointed Customs Inspector, but was soon appointed Oregon Surveyor General in 1907 to replace John Daly, who was not reappointed by the new Republicans. While George was Surveyor General, he was named receiver of the Portland Fair and Livestock Exposition. They had gone bankrupt, and they needed to dispose of their assets. He was also involved in breeding and showing Standard Bred Horses.

**Puter Land Fraud Trials**

The Puter Land Fraud Trials occurred during his tenure as Surveyor General, and he had to do extensive testimony in court. George served until the election of Democrat Woodrow Wilson in 1913 and resigned, having led a relatively scandal free office. He returned to grain dealing, and in 1917 was elected the head of the Merchants' Exchange in Portland. He retired in 1927 and moved to Vancouver, Washington, which is where he lived with Henrietta until he died. Henrietta died three years later in California.

**Wheatley, Francis M. (Frank)**

Comp  
Contract 40 (as  
compassman for  
Harvey Gordon and  
Josiah Preston)  
to  
no more

1854 Francis F. Wheatley arrived at San Francisco in 1853 from Panama and was a compassman and crewman in Oregon for Harvey Gordon beginning on March 17, 1855 when he signed his preliminary oath. He signed his last oath on June 25, 1855 He was the compassman for Harvey Gordon and Josiah Preston for four townships near Creswell. Francis continued into 1855 for Harvey for two more Contracts, but only as an axeman or chainman South of Creswell for Harvey on this work. His last work was for Harvey and G. Clinton Gardner in a Joint Contract for seven townships a little further South. Francis showed up on the assessment rolls of Marion County in 1855, and that was his last record in Oregon.

Francis apparently was not in Oregon long enough to be on any census other than the assessment roll. There were at least six good candidates for this surveyor in the other states, but without any specific information about birth and age, no one person could be selected. None were listed on the West Coast in 1850 and 1860 or having any occupation that might separate them. Others were disqualified by having life events in conflict with the surveys in Oregon,

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**Wheeler, Harry  
Kreider**

1863-1925

USDMS

Mineral Surveys	1900
to	
Mineral Survey	1900

CA PLS 358. Member AIME. Born in 1863 in California, the son of a judge, Harry lost his mother when he was a baby, and was sent to live with an aunt in Ohio. His father died when he was 14, and as an orphan, he was put in the guardianship of an uncle in Jacksonville, Illinois. Harry was probably the recipient of a trust that gave him a good education. He was a surveyor in San Diego in 1886, and an engineer in San Francisco in 1892. Harry married Annie Robinson in California in 1897 and was listed as an engineer in El Dorado, California in 1898. They had moved to Baker, Oregon in 1900, where Harry was civil engineer. While in Baker, he surveyed four Mineral Surveys as a U. S. Deputy Mineral Surveyor for a total of six Claims, all at Sumpter.

Harry was a California Licensed Land Surveyor in San Francisco in 1901 and for some reason remarried to Annie in 1903 in Los Angeles. He was in Ely, Nevada in 1907. Harry and Annie divorced, and Harry remarried to 42-year-old Lillian Dubois in 1909 in Los Angeles. She was a graduate of Smith College, and a professional concert and choir singer in New York from 1891-97. Harry was a civil engineer in Los Angeles in 1920, and died there in 1925. Lillian was listed as the farm manager in 1910 and 1920 and died in 1936 in California. Harry was 5' 9" and had blue eyes and brown hair.

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**Wheeler, Laban  
Homer**

1857-1952

Rep

USDS

Contract 375	1880
to	
Contract 482 (with a	1883
portion by Charles E.	
Hill as compassman)	



Laban was born in Wisconsin, moved briefly to California with his parents, and then moved again to Lane County, Oregon in 1869, where he graduated from the University of Oregon in 1880. His sister, Hulda, had married future Deputy Surveyor, Lewis D. Smith, in about 1871 in Lane County. Laban was awarded Contract 375 for two townships West of Eugene in the heart of the Coast Range in 1880, and received three more Contracts between 1881 and 1883 for about 17 townships on both the East and West sides.

The first was for six townships West of Warner Lakes in Lake County. The second was for two townships East of Sutherlin and two townships West of Cottage Grove. His last Contract had one township at Springfield, two South of Arlington and four South of The Dalles. He surveyed them all in 1883 except for T19S R1E, on which he used Charles E. Hill as compassman. Subsequent surveyors retracing his work noted that his bearings and distances were "wild". Laban was admitted to the Bar in Oregon in 1884, before he took a job as a auditor with the U. S. Treasury Department from 1886-87 in Washington, D. C. While there, he received a Bachelor's Degree at Georgetown in law.

Laban migrated to Seattle and was admitted to the Bar in Washington in 1888. He was living in Seattle with siblings in 1889-92, working as a lawyer, in partnership in 1890-91 with Henry McClure, another University of Oregon graduate and Deputy Surveyor. Laban was elected to the Washington State Legislature in 1893 as a Republican.

He married in Corvallis to 36-year-old Claire Gatch in 1899, the daughter of the then President of Oregon Agricultural College, T. M. Gatch. They had two children that died as infants. T. M. Gatch had been the President of the University of Washington from 1887-1895, where he had employed his daughter, Claire, as an Instructor in Art, the Department Head of Art, and the Librarian until his tenure ended. Laban continued to live in Seattle until at least 1949 when he retired, always as a lawyer. Claire died in 1935 in Seattle, and Laban in 1952 in a Santa Rosa, California rest home at age 95.

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## **Wherry, John**

### **Robert**

1862-1940

Rep

USDS

Contract 778 (with  
John McQuinn as  
compassman)

to

no more

Born in Iowa, John moved with his family to Oregon by 1865. They were farmers in Polk County in 1870 and in Clatsop County in 1880. John was still at school in 1880 in Clatsop County, where he finished high school, living with his father as a farmer. John married Edith Jones in 1893 in Clatsop County, but was a widower in 1900, living next to his parents in Elsie as a farmer. He patented 160 acres of timber land East of Manzanita by cash sale in 1893. John was a Republican and received County road and bridge contracts in 1906-09.

He received survey Contract 778 in 1908 for two fractional townships 10 miles East of Seaside, but it was cancelled in 1911 for nonperformance and given to Fred Mensch. There were only 14 miles of line in rough, mountainous terrain near Davis Peak. NPRR had put up \$44 in deposits for the survey. John McQuinn had been given the job of Compassman for Wherry in 1911, but apparently to no avail. John was in Elsie as a widower farmer living with his mother in 1910 and the same in 1920, living alone on his own farm.

At age 61, John married widow Elizabeth J. McKeever Larsen in 1923, a recent widow with six mostly grown children, and long time neighbor. They were still married in 1940, and are both buried in the same local cemetery, but separately. There is no evidence that this John Wherry did this survey except for proximity, education and politics. There is a signature on his marriage certificate that may prove the point when eventually compared to the Contract.

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**Whipple,  
Williams R.**

1846-1930

Pop

USDS

SES

USDMS

Contract 577                      1891

to

Mineral Surveys                1903



Born in Connecticut, Williams was on a farm with his parents in Iowa in 1870 and married Lillie Mae Green there in 1874, and they had 11 children. He was the County Surveyor in Granite, Colorado in 1879 and a U. S. Deputy Surveyor in Alpine, Colorado in 1880. Williams received Contract 577 for one township near Roseburg in 1891 and used his brother Charles as an axeman.

Williams ran for Douglas County Surveyor in 1896 and was awarded Contract 612 for T22S R11W at Reedsport in April, 1893. Apparently, before he actually did the survey, he was hired as a Special Examiner of Surveys to retrace the North line of the township. His survey was done in the summer of 1894, was examined in October by Henry Collier, and suspended by the Surveyor General. He made some explanations and was approved in 1895. There were previous carve-outs that complicated the survey with many closing corners. Again his brother was a chainman.

He surveyed two more townships near Roseburg in 1893-94 and again was examined by Henry Collier. Williams returned the next year with his son, Henry, and made minor corrections or explanations in about 18 different places in the two townships. He also disputed the exam in many places. The corrections were reexamined in 1895 by Thomas Gerdine, and he was approved. One subsequent surveyor rated his work as excellent.

William was a Deputy Mineral Surveyor in 1903 in Josephine County at Waldo, South of Cave Junction, and was one of the incorporators of a mining company. He was an engineer and a surveyor in Grants Pass in 1910 and 1920 and lost in an election for Josephine County Surveyor in 1918. Williams died in Stockton, California in 1930, and Lillie was living with her daughter near Weed as a widow later in 1930. She died there in 1930, and is buried at Mt. Shasta, California next to a grandson and near her daughter. There is an unmarked burial plot next to Lillie.

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**White, Hiram  
Foster**

1849-1829

IAA

Allotting Agent

1907

to

no more

Born in New York, Hiram graduated from Phillips Academy at Andover, Massachusetts in 1867. He was a 20 year old student living at home in 1870, and graduated from Williams College in 1871. He then taught school and worked for a newspaper in Wisconsin. He was ordained in 1877 and was the Presbyterian pastor of a church in Worthington, Minnesota in 1877-78. He graduated from Auburn Seminary in 1879, before he married teacher Mary Louisa Chamberlain in 1879.

They were in Nebraska in 1878-81, where he was a minister, and she was a teacher. Twins were born to them while in Juneau, Wisconsin in 1881-83, and a son in Hoquiam, Washington while there in 1883-85. He was the first pastor of the Presbyterian Church in the Hoquiam area at Cosmopolis. Hiram was in Kelso, Washington from 1886-93, where he also noted himself as a civil engineer; in Buckley, Washington in 1896; and was listed as a preacher in Custon, Lincoln County, Washington in 1900. He was the postmaster of Wellpinit, Washington in Stevens, County from 1903-06. While there he probably ministered to the Spokane Indians and did write articles on the treatment of Indians for journals.

He was named a Special Allotting Agent for the Klamath Reservation in 1907, continuing until 1910. When he left, he said that an engineer would probably finish the surveys. He was delayed because there were to be allotments for some Modoc Indians who were delaying their acceptance of the treaty. While there, he completed a census of the Klamath, Pitt River, and other Indian Tribes. He returned to Stevens County as a farmer in Spring Valley in 1910-12, before returning to New York for a visit in 1912. He wrote an article on the Mormon Road for the Washington Historical Quarterly in 1915, and another on Samuel Thurston for the Iowa Journal of History and Politics in 1916. He was a minister in Tacoma until 1928 when he died in Eugene, Oregon, but is buried in Lakewood, Washington.

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**White, Kate A.  
Neilson**

1853-1905

Dr/Clerk

Clerk

1883

to

no more

This is the same person as Kate A. Nielson White Armstrong. See that biography.

**White, Luther***1815-1913*

Rep

Prohib

USDS

Claim Contract 26 1854

to

no more



c. 1912

Luther was born in Ohio, and moved as a baby with his family to Illinois. He signed on with a survey crew in Mississippi at age 19, became a compassman, and worked for another GLO surveyor in Louisiana. Luther resumed his education, taught school back in Illinois, prepared for the ministry, and then became a circuit preacher in Grundy County, Missouri. He resumed farming in 1843 when he married Martha Ann Mansfield, and they had 11 children. Only two survived Luther. Luther and family crossed the Oregon Trail in 1847 and filed a Claim eight miles East of Brownsville, which is where he lived until 1872. It was still worked by his son in 1903. Luther was in the Oregon Legislature in 1852 and was Linn County Recorder at some time.

Luther received Claim Contract 26 in 1854 for 50 Claims in six townships Northwest of Eugene. He selected from among only six crewmen for the work. He moved to Brownsville in 1872 and was the namesake of White Cemetery, and White Creek near or on his Claim.



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**White, Norman  
Campbell**

1887-1965

USDS

Contract 800 (with Ernest P. Rands) 1910

to

no more



Born in Oregon, the son of an architect and a nephew of Deputy Surveyors Ernest and Alva Rands, Norman lived in Oregon City in 1900. He completed three years of high school, and was a chainman for Ernest Rands on Contract 765 in 1905, and a moundsman on Contract 791 for Ernest in 1910. He received a Joint Contract with Ernest Rands in 1910 at age 23 for five townships in Malheur County, but they were not surveyed under that Contract. This was the next to the last Contract issued under the Contract era, and the Commissioner may have cancelled the Contract. The work was reissued the next year to Charles Collier under Group 7.

Norman was a farmer in Lake County in 1910, but had begun a career with the U. S. Forest Service by 1918 as a Forest Ranger in Lakeview and in Sprague River in 1920. He married Erma Sharps before 1915, and they were divorced by 1930. He was in Medford in 1930 and served as the District Ranger there in 1940. Norman remarried to his second wife, Faye, by 1935. By 1942, he was in Prineville for the USFS, and died there in 1965

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**White, William  
Francis**

1851-1935

USDMS

Mineral Survey 1899

to

Mineral Surveys 1902

OR PE 213. Born in England, William immigrated to the U. S. in 1870 and was a surveyor in Gilliam County, Oregon by 1890. His family from England had immigrated to Papersack, Gilliam County by 1882 and were important sheep ranchers.. He married Minnie A. Slack Dunn there in 1890. Minnie had a young child already, and they had at least one more son together. Minnie died in Portland in 1902 and is buried with no marker in Papersack Cemetery, South of Condon. William was a resident of Canyon City, Oregon in 1898 when he married Anna S. Skivington in Omaha, Nebraska, who also had a very young son.



Also while serving as Grant County Surveyor in 1898, he surveyed one Mineral Survey at John Day. He continued in 1901 with another Mineral Survey Northeast of John Day for four more Mining Claims. William received Contract 725 in 1900 for one township Southeast of John Day. The Commissioner must have overruled, or William cancelled, because it was rewarded to Homer Angell the next spring. William was a surveyor with his family, including his first stepson, in 1900 in Marysville, Grant County.

They moved to McLeod, Alberta, Canada in 1907-11, where they were farming. The family included stepson two, but not stepson one. William was living in Southeast Portland as a real estate salesman and broker in 1920 and 1930 and received his Professional Engineering license in Portland in 1919. Anna was killed by a hit and run driver at 72nd and Foster in 1934, a block from their home. William was noted as being an invalid at that time, and died a few months later.

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## White, William

**Lewis**

1818-1897

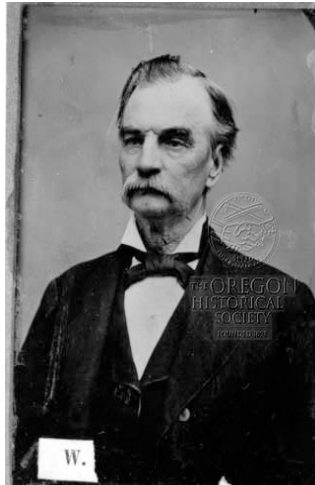
Dem

Clerk

1853

to

no more



William was born in Virginia, and both of his parents died there by the time he was six. He was raised by an uncle, went on his own, and served under Sam Houston in the Texas Rangers before marrying his cousin, Mary E. Partlow, in Tennessee in 1839. He moved to Texas first in 1839, then to Missouri in 1841, and then crossed the Oregon Trail with his wife and three children in 1850 to Oregon City. William kept a hotel at Milwaukie, mined for gold in California, and then returned to keep a hotel at Canemah.

William was injured in the boiler explosion of the steamer *Gazelle* in 1854 that killed Deputy Surveyor Joseph Hunt and many others. William became Chief Clerk to Surveyor General John Preston in 1854, continuing into the regime of Charles K. Gardner until 1860. The last few months of 1859 noted him as a Clerk in the Registrar's Office in Oregon City. In 1860 and 1870, the censuses showed him as an accountant in Oregon City, and also in 1880 as a census enumerator. He patented a DLC in Marion County in 1870 in T4S R2W just North of St. Paul.

William was active in local and state Democrat politics, appointed Clerk of the Territorial Legislature in 1854, and continued as Chief Clerk to the Legislature in the 60's and 70's. He was so partisan, the Republicans wrote of him as "cheering Lincoln's assassination." After the hotel in Canemah, Lewis purchased the Cliff House in 1867, a major hotel in Oregon City, and was a Judge in Clackamas County from 1875-1890. Mary died of cancer in 1887. Somewhere he acquired the title of Colonel. This is the maintained version of this information.

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### **Whitfield, Nathan**

#### **Bryan**

1835-1914

Dem

Dr/Clerk

Clerk

1889

to

no more



Born in Alabama, the son of General Nathan Whitfield, a Confederate officer, Nathan graduated from Chapel Hill College, now the University of North Carolina, and served in the Civil War as a Lieutenant for the Confederacy. His father owned Gaineswood, a 7200 acre plantation with 235 slaves. Nathan married Medora Ann Shackleford in 1862 in Sumpter County, Alabama and continued living in Alabama through a son and two daughters until at least 1867.

The family was living in Fresno, California by 1869, where Nathan was a civil engineer. Twin daughters were born back in Alabama in 1871, and another daughter in San Francisco in 1874. He was in Oregon by 1881, when he was the engineer for the Oregon Railway Company for a route from Dallas to Monmouth. Nathan was an engineer on the RR from Corvallis to Yaquina Bay and another RR near Sheridan. From at least 1887-1891, Nathan was a Draftsman under Democrat Douglas Taylor in the Oregon Surveyor General's Office. He ran, probably unsuccessfully, for Multnomah County Surveyor in 1886 and 1888 as a Democrat. A twin daughter, Daisy, drowned in the Willamette in 1887.

Nathan was in Alaska from at least 1898-1910, where he was both a U. S. Deputy Mineral Surveyor and a U. S. Deputy Surveyor. He stayed on the coast, out of Ketchikan, and Railroad surveys in Alaska were mentioned in his obituary. Nathan surveyed the townsite of Wrangell for the U. S. Land Office before 1910, and when he presented his bill for \$13,000, it was not paid. The citizens were still trying to get title in 1914, and the government mentioned doing a new survey. His son was a dentist and a civil engineer, hosted Nathan in 1900, and remained in Alaska. Medora began living with Nathan in Ketchikan in 1902, but returned to Portland to die in 1910. Nathan was in private practice in Portland in 1912, was severely injured in a streetcar accident in Portland in 1913, and died from those injuries in 1914. The unpaid bill from the Wrangell survey was the largest asset in his estate when it was filed in 1917.

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**Wightman,  
Willard  
Humphrey**

*1852-1889*

USDS

Contract 526 (by  
Albert E. Hammond  
as compassman)  
to  
no more

Member ASCE. Willard was born in New York, and after being educated in the public schools and Mexico Academy, he graduated from Cornell in Civil Engineering in 1881. He was an engineer for UPRR in 1881-84 and then for NPRR in 1884-86 as office draftsman and a Resident Engineer on the Cascades Division. Willard apparently made a deal with 1886 fellow railroad engineer Albert Hammond to get Survey Contracts for 15 desolate townships Southwest of Crowley in Malheur County. The two Contracts were awarded on the same day in 1886, and the townships were intermingled. As it ended up, Albert surveyed his townships and was the Compassman for Willard on the others. They were surveyed in 1886, examined and eventually approved in 1888 after some corrections.

His memorial noted that he was a U. S. Deputy Surveyor in Idaho about the same time in 1886-87. He then returned to UPRR in 1887, where he worked as an Assistant Engineer and Superintendent in charge of construction on the Kennewick Bridge at Pasco. Still with NPRR, he was in charge of construction for the RR from Marshall to Genesee, a distance of 106 miles. In 1888 he was Assistant Engineer on the Spokane and Palouse RW, continuing until he contracted the measles in 1889. It caused a severe cold, which morphed into pneumonia, causing his death in October 1889 in Ashland. It appears he never married.

**Wilbur, William****Henry**

1857-1931

USDS

Contract 542

to

no more

1889

William was born in Michigan, the son of a carpenter, moved to Missouri by 1860, to Illinois by 1870, and still was with his parents in Oakland, California in 1880 as a miner. He arrived at Port Orford, Oregon in 1874, married L. E. Wilcox, and they had one son. William received Contract 542 for two townships immediately North of Port Orford in 1889 and finished the work. When he turned in the notes, they were examined and were found to be grossly erroneous. He was given a time extension, but failed to correct, and the Contract was cancelled by the Surveyor General and given to others.

He remarried to Emma F. Schimmel in Coos County in 1896. William was reported to have a good farm in Port Orford in 1898. By 1900, William had done well. He owned a sawmill cutting 30,000 feet per day in Curry County and was shipping lumber to San Francisco. He had accumulated timber interests on Mussel Creek North of Ophir and sold it to a San Francisco Company. They announced the purchase in 1900, and said they would build a wharf and railroad up the creek. He also had a hydraulic mine on Humbug Creek. By 1900. William, Emma and a new baby were boarding in San Francisco, where William was a "sawmill hand."

William and Emma purchased a ranch eight miles southwest of Alpaugh, California in Tulare County and moved there. Emma would soon announce she had TB, which probably precipitated the change in climate. Emma was an invalid for two years and confined to her bed for two months, before she died in 1896. They had three children, two of which died as infants. At age 53, William remarried in California in 1908 to Candace Brewster Gurnee of nearby Hanover, 30 years younger than he was, and in 1910 he was a farmer in Alpaugh, California. He kept that up, and by 1930, he had five children by Candace. Wilbur is the namesake of the W. H. Wilbur Reclamation District #825 which had the purpose of carrying off flood waters of the Kern River. William died in Tulare in 1931.

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## Wilcox, Ralph, Jr.

1816-1877

Dem

USDS

Claim Contract 92      1859

to

Claim Contract 102      1860

(Portions by William  
V. J. Johnson and  
Robinson S. Shook as  
compassmen for  
portions)



Born in New York, the son of a physician, Ralph studied medicine, and after he graduated from Geneva Medical College, moved to Missouri. While there he practiced medicine and married Julia Ann Fickel. He crossed the Oregon Trail in 1845, and tells of the guide becoming lost causing a loss of six weeks time. Upon arriving in November, Ralph took a 640 acre Donation Claim in Yamhill County, but disliking the isolation, he left it for work in Portland, becoming Portland's first physician and school teacher.

Ralph was elected to the Provisional Legislature in 1847-48, serving as Speaker, and then served in the Territorial Legislature in 1850-51, again elected Speaker. He was President of the Council (Senate) from 1853-54. President Buchanan appointed him Register of the Oregon City Land Office from 1856-58, during which time he also served as the Mayor of Oregon City. Ralph had purchased a farm in Washington County and was soon elected County Judge, which lasted until 1862, when he was again elected to the House of Representatives for two years. He was appointed Clerk of the U. S. District Court of Oregon in 1865 and U. S. Commissioner for Oregon, which he kept until his death.

Just after he had served as Registrar for the Oregon City Land Office, Ralph received two Claim Contracts in 1859. Claim Contract 92 was for 60 miles of line in an undisclosed location, but Claim Contract 102 permitted analysis and was for 22 Claims in Washington County. Claim Contract 92 has no notes of record, and probably was not surveyed. Ralph used Robinson Smith Shook and William V. J. Johnson as Compassmen for all but two of the Claims. He acknowledged the crewmen oaths as a judge, and his final oath was in 1865.

Ralph committed suicide in 1877 by placing a derringer on his right temple and firing. He had just arrived at work as Clerk to the U. S. Court. He had been despondent and drinking heavily of late, and was remarked upon in town. He left a note assigning the cause to strong drink, but there was also a bottle of laudanum (tincture of opium) in his pocket, a very problematic unregulated drug in its time. Julia lived for 38 years after and is buried with him, but without a marker

**Wilkes, Francis****Marion****"Marion"**

1880-1958

Rep

USDS

Contract 750 (with

Lincoln Wilkes and

William Soehren)

to

no more

1902

Born in Banks, Oregon, the son of Thomas Scott Wilkes, Marion was living at home in Cornelius in 1900. He had been a chainman, along with his uncle Lincoln, for Robert Schiller near Grants Pass in 1896. He received a Joint Contract with Lincoln Wilkes and William Soehren in 1902 for four townships South of Oakridge, and they all signed the oaths. Marion attended Oregon State College off and on and graduated with the Class of 1906. He married Florence Maxfield in Corvallis in 1907, a local that had been teaching for a few years. When married, he was an assayer and civil engineer for the Blue Ledge Copper Mine in Southern Oregon.

He was elected Benton County Surveyor in Corvallis in 1908 as a Republican and continued at that until early 1912, when he became a surveyor for the Direct System East of Snoqualmie Pass in Group 11 in Washington. Apparently he had done another survey for them in 1911, South of Bend in Oregon at Fort Rock Valley.

Marion was hired by the U. S. Bureau of Indian Affairs, and spent nearly the rest of his career with them, starting as a forester for the Siletz Reservation in 1918-20. Various assignments took him to Tacoma in 1920, Klamath Agency in 1921-22, Warm Springs in 1923, and Madras in 1925. During this time, it appears that Florence and their growing family was living with her parents in Corvallis. They divorced, and Marion was reassigned to Washington, D. C. and remarried to Marie S. Aldrich in 1930. Florence remained in Corvallis as a teacher. Later that year Marion was back West in Spokane as a topographer for BIA.

Marion was transferred to Albuquerque in 1931-35 and then to Phoenix in 1937-38, again as a topographer. He was a road engineer for the U. S. Government at the Mission Agency at Riverside, California in 1940, and Marie died there in 1941. He continued at Cathedral City, near Riverside, and remarried to Harriett E. Smith in 1951. They were living in the Deluxe Trailer Park in Palm Springs when Marion died in 1958.

**Wilkes, Lincoln****Ellsworth**

1865-1944

USDS

SES

Contract 598            1892  
   to

Special Instructions    1910



1900

OR PE 1046. Lincoln was born in Oregon, lived almost his entire life in Washington County, Oregon, and noted on the 1940 census that he attended college for two years. He married Elizabeth Soehren in 1892 and was Washington County Surveyor in 1894-96. Lincoln received a Contract by Special Instructions for one township northwest of Forest Grove in 1888 and Contract 598 in 1892 for one township in very Northeastern Tillamook County, and he used a brother and two new brothers-in-law on his crew.

A third Contract in 1896 was in Tillamook County. Lincoln and his nephew Marion were chainmen for Eugene Schiller near Grants Pass also in 1896. He and his brother Thomas received a Joint Contract for one township near Port Orford in 1898, using help from two brothers-in-law and Marion. Lincoln received another Joint Contract in 1902 with his brother-in-law, William Soehren, and Marion Wilkes, the son of Thomas. The work was four townships West of Crescent Lake, and they shared the work and all signed the oaths. Again, several relatives were on the crew. Lincoln and brothers, Thomas and Bruce, were running a business called Wilkes Bros. in 1901 in Hillsboro as surveyors and abstractors.

Lincoln was appointed a Special Examiner of Surveys in 1905, and continued in that until at least 1911, examining 22 surveys in Washington in 1911. After the Contract System ended in 1911, Lincoln continued in the Direct System until he retired in 1927, all of the time based in Hillsboro. He had worked all over the Western United States, including the Pacific Islands. Right after retiring, he was elected to the State Legislature as a Republican in 1929, and secured a job as deputy county surveyor in Washington County. He continued surveying until he died in Hillsboro in 1944. Elizabeth died in 1939, and he remarried to Cora Hyer by 1940, who died in 1943. This is the maintained version of this information.

**Wilkes, Thomas****Scott**

1858-1936

Rep

Union

USDS

Special Instructions

1888

to

Contract 689 (with  
Lincoln E. Wilkes)

1898



1900

OR PE 723. Thomas was born in Oregon and was the brother of Lincoln and the father of F. Marion Wilkes. He married Nancy Jane Northrup in 1880, and Thomas and Nancy were still living with his parents in the same year. He was Columbia County Surveyor 1880-86, and somewhere along the way he formed a surveying partnership called Wilkes Bros., with Lincoln and J. Bruce Wilkes. They were surveyors, draftsmen and abstractors in Washington County.

The Hillsboro newspaper reported that Thomas took a position with the Multnomah County Clerk in February, 1888. Thomas received a Contract by Special Instructions West of Forest Grove in 1888 for just four miles of line. Never afraid to write a letter, he wrote the Surveyor General, Democrat Douglas W. Taylor, "...of vast extent, and I'll keep sticking on my autograph as long as it lasts and...hope to get the notes written up inside of the period of my natural life so that they suit the fastidiousness of the General Land Office and fill all their red tape requirements."

Thomas was part of Wilkes Bros. from 1891 until when he retired. He completed the ownership books of the County in 1891. He received a Joint Contract with his brother Lincoln Wilkes in 1898 at Port Orford for one full township, and it was Examined by William Lightfoot in 1899 and David Kinnaird in 1900 and after some corrections, approved in 1900. Both signed the final oath. The Oregonian listed three more townships in the Coast Range for their Contract, but there is no record, and they were given to another surveyor in 1900. Thomas was elected Washington County Surveyor from 1900-02 after defeating fellow Deputy Surveyor, A. A. Morrill, while listed as a farmer in Cornelius in 1900.

After nine children at age 42, Nancy died in March, 1901. Thomas took a job in September as a Clerk to the Colorado Surveyor General under an appointment by Binger Hermann, the Commissioner of the GLO. Thomas was a draftsman in the Office of the Arizona Surveyor General in 1905 when he announced his invention of a cash register. He formed a Corporation to promote and sell the patent, secured investors to create a prototype, and quit his job with the Surveyor General. Results are unknown.



Thomas returned to Hillsboro and finished a complete Washington County Atlas by 1909. He remarried to Louisa M. Blair of Portland in 1915, and she brought one child by her previous marriage, but they divorced in 1921. Later that year, Thomas fell down a flight of stairs at his office building and broke his leg. He regularly wrote letters to the newspapers in his later years. Thomas was living with his daughter in Corvallis in 1930, which is where he died in 1936.

---

**Wilkins, F.  
Mitchell**

1818-1904

Rep

Indep

Dr/Clerk

Clerk

1872

to

no more



Born in North Carolina, Mitchell's father and mother died when he was about nine, and he was raised by relatives. He moved to Missouri, learned the carpenter's trade and built flat bottomed boats for use on the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers. He made trips with them to New Orleans and built a warehouse in St. Joseph. It was there he married Permelia Ann Allen in 1844, and then crossed the Oregon Trail in 1847. They had seven children, all of which were born in Oregon. He lost one of his teams along the way and Mitchell and Permelia had to walk all the way from at least The Dalles to Oregon City.

Their first child was born soon after they arrived at Butte Creek, 24 miles East of Oregon City. He built a small log cabin near Oregon City for the first winter, and then they filed a 641 acre Donation Claim near Coberg. He had just finished a log cabin on his new Claim, when gold was discovered in California. He travelled to Sacramento by horseback, but after 14 days of placer mining, snow and Indians forced him to return home. He returned with enough gold to buy fine cattle that would be the beginning of his eventual herds and prizes at fairs. The original log cabin was soon replaced with a frame structure that lasted until he died.

Mitchell was a prosperous stock farmer, growing his farm to 3000 acres, and was active in the State Farm Association. He was the first Postmaster of Willamette Forks from 1852-57 and became a member of the Legislature in 1862 as a Republican. He was a losing third party candidate for Governor in 1878. His son, Jasper was a U. S. Deputy Surveyor, and Mitchell was a Clerk in the Surveyor General's Office of William Odell for a few months in 1872.



**Centennial Butte from I-5**

He was a Commissioner for the Centennial Exposition at Philadelphia in 1876, for the New Orleans Exposition in 1884, and the Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893. Mitchell suffered a stroke in 1893, and died in 1904, not completely recovered.

They kept their old home on the farm, and moved back there for the summer of 1900 to celebrate 50 years in Oregon. That home was right on the Territorial Road East in 1853, shown on the original survey. It was about two miles North of Coburg and is adjacent to the East side of I-5. Centennial Butte, which is within Mitchell's Claim, was named my Mitchell after he returned from the Philadelphia Centennial Exposition and he planted a circle of fir trees on top to perpetuate the event. Wilkins Road, within his Claim, is named for Mitchell.

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**Wilkins, Jasper**

**W. "Jap"**

1850-1907

USDS

Contract 174                      1872

to

Contract 189                      1873



Jasper was born on his father's Donation Claim near Coburg, Oregon and walked four miles to his first school in Linn County, until a school was started in Coburg. He entered Christian College at Monmouth in 1870, and in the summer was a chainman for J. M. Dick near Crooked River. He returned to school, and in the Spring of 1871, was elected Lane County Surveyor.

Jasper was still in the Christian College records in 1872, but received Contract 174 in 1872 for two townships near Eugene and four townships near Bend. He also received Contract 189 for two townships near Eugene and two townships near Bend in 1873. Future Deputy Surveyor Alonzo Gesner was a chainman on this survey, and Alonzo also had a Contract of his own on adjacent townships. They would at least have to have coordinated. For the next several years, Jasper worked on the farm and did odd jobs at surveying.

Jasper went to Spokane in 1878, but returned and was elected a delegate to the State Republican Convention from 1880-86, and in 1884, assisted in the election of Binger Hermann to the U. S. Congress. He married local girl, Carrie Alwilda Seavey, in 1888, and they had four children. He was elected to the Oregon Legislature in 1890 and served four years. Jasper built a nice home on his farm at Coburg in 1902 and from 1890 until his death, Jasper was a Member of the State Board of Agriculture. In the last years of his life, he was involved in mining interests at Bohemia.

Jasper unfortunately contracted TB and was sick a few years before his death in 1907. He was still living in Coburg and left a \$40,000 estate without a will. Carrie remarried, but returned to the house in Coburg, which is where she died at age 97. Per the gravestone at Rest-Haven both Jasper and Carrie are there in 1964, but Rest-Haven did not open until 1929, and his obituary noted Jasper was buried in Coburg Cemetery in 1907.

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## Williams, George

1839-1910

USDS

Contract 154 (with 1871  
George S. Pershin)

to

Contract 176 (by 1872  
Lewis H. Judson and  
Alfred H. Simmons as  
compassmen)



Among the candidates for George Williams was Major George Williams of Salem, Oregon, who was determined to be the Deputy Surveyor by the fact that his father, Elijah Williams and step father, S. C. Adams were the bondsmen on his Contract 176. George was born in Ohio, the son of a lawyer, and came across the Oregon Trail in 1851 with his family. His mother had died in 1844, and his father remarried to Lucia Lorain Bigelow in Ohio in 1845.

George was living at home in Salem in 1860, but enlisted in the Civil War in 1861 with the rank of Lieutenant, paying his own way to get back East. He was in the battles of Bull run, Antietam, and Fredricksburg before he was hit by a Minnie ball in the leg at Gettysburg, requiring the amputation of one leg below the knee. He was then breveted to Captain for valor. George came West with General Fred Steele, who had been given charge of the troops in the Northwest. George was staff officer and helped with mustering in Oregon until 1870. He received a Joint Contract in 1871 with George Pershin at Heppner that was all surveyed by Pershin.

George married Emma E. Mahala Adams in April, 1872 in Salem just before receiving Contract 176 in July. That was for four townships, again at Heppner, that were surveyed by Lewis Judson as compassman with his father-in-law, S. C. Adams, as a chainman. Also included were four townships East of Milton Freewater that were surveyed by Alfred H. Simmons as compassman. Since George had half of one leg amputated and had no known survey experience, he probably was not doing any of these surveys himself in the field.

George was a banker in real estate in 1880, operating as Williams and England; the Treasurer of State Insurance Company in Salem in 1885; and the Mayor of Salem 1889-91. The insurance company and banking firm both failed in 1895, the victim of the Panic of 1893. George was sued several times, and his very large house across State Street from the Capitol was foreclosed and later sold in 1901 for 40% of its cost. The Legislature considered making it the Gubernatorial Mansion. He moved his family to Portland in 1898, where he was a merchant in 1900. George was a real estate dealer in 1910 in Portland which is where and when he died. Emma enjoyed their grandchildren until she died in 1935.

**Williams, Loren  
Lyman A. "L. L."**

1828-1881

Whig

Union

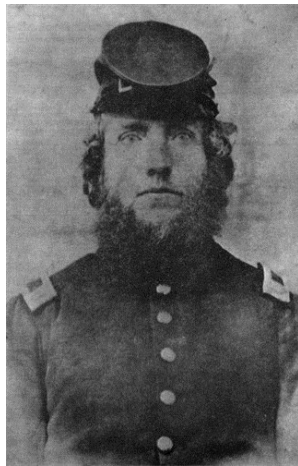
Rep

USDS

Contract 151 (With Addison Flint) 1871

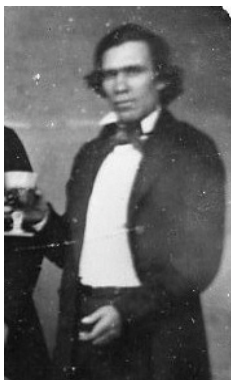
to

no more



c. 1865

Loren was born in New York and moved with his family to Michigan as a child. He travelled to California on the Oregon Trail in 1850, and then went to Oregon in 1851 as part of the 75 man party of William Tichenor. The purpose of this party was to create a settlement at Port Orford and find a wagon road route through to the Oregon Trail at Yreka. This was July, 1851, and Tichenor had failed in his first attempt in June when his small party was attacked, and fled into the woods to make their way 40 miles to civilization.



**Cyrus Hedden**

Tichenor created two parties to attempt to find a route through the hills. The first gave up quickly and returned to Port Orford. Loren was assigned to a party led by William T'Vault. They started near Humbug Mountain, but soon became hopelessly lost. Half the men returned but the rest continued. They lost their horses and were attacked on the Coquille River in hostile Indian country. Loren and Cyrus Hedden escaped, but Loren received an arrow through his abdomen. He broke it off and kept it in until he made it to civilization. He also escaped with no shoes or clothes at all except his shirt. Silas led and carried him some 40 miles to the Umpqua River where they found help. Loren recuperated for years, and it wasn't until 1859 that both the arrowhead and shaft worked its way out. Cyrus had been in the original group that fought at Battle Rock at Port Orford the month before. They were friends for life.

Loren performed many surveys along the Southern Oregon Coast, including the Port Orford area, Coos Bay, and the mouth of the Rogue. He enlisted in the Army in the Oregon Volunteers as a Captain in 1865, and was stationed around the Pacific Northwest. He saw significant fighting against the Indians while naming several features and Army camps in Eastern Oregon. He mustered out in Vancouver in 1866, and spent most of his remaining years in Roseburg.



**Loren L. Williams posed in Montana in 1877.**

Loren opened a saloon in Scottsburg in 1854 and served as Douglas County Treasurer in 1855. He ran for Clerk in 1864 and was deputy clerk for a year before being appointed Douglas County Clerk in 1867. He was a Clerk in the Roseburg Land Office in 1870, and received Joint Contract 151 in 1871 with Addison Flint for 7 townships near Roseburg and three townships South of Coos Bay. Addison was his neighbor in Douglas County, and one of his chainmen was related to the family he was boarding with in 1870. They shared the work, but left three townships without a survey. However, two of those townships, T29S R3,4W, do have rejected notes by them on file at BLM.



**Mary A. Test, C. 1880**

Loren surveyed the new Odd Fellows Cemetery in 1878, only three years before his burial there. He was the statewide candidate for Oregon secretary of State in 1878, but lost by a small margin. When Loren was recuperating from his wounds in 1851, he was ministered to by Daniel and Mary Test for a long time. They were neighbors in 1860. The Tests moved to Linn County, and then to Waitsburg in Washington. He remained friends of the family over the years. In the Fall of 1878, Loren travelled throughout Eastern Washington. He returned in 1879 and visited the Tests in Waitsburg before heading East to Virginia City, Montana and Yellowstone. The Democrat papers back home broke the news that he had eloped with Mary Test, another man's wife.



**Gravesite of Loren L. Williams  
at Roseburg IOOF Cemetery**

Loren denied the charges, but Daniel Test sued for divorce and the newspapers cheered him on. On March 9, 1880, Daniel Test could offer no evidence, Mary Test won the suit, and the press apologized. Six days later Mary Test delivered a baby boy in Junction City. When Loren died the next year in San Francisco, he left an estate worth more than \$50,000. He left \$1000 for a tombstone, a \$1000 each to Daniel and Mary Test and over \$23,000 to their daughter, Mary E. Test, a school teacher born while Loren was their neighbor. Her mother conceived a child during the time of the "elopement" in 1879, named Frances Leslie Test. Loren wrote Cyrus Hedden a letter that made extensive reference to the "baby question", noting potential political fallout. Daniel and Mary were still living together in 1900 in Portland.

**Wilson, Albert  
Peter "Peter"**

1833-1912

Rep

USDS

Contract 552

to

Contract 568

1890

1891

Peter arrived in the United States from Sweden in 1852 and first showed up in the records in Tillamook County in the Census of 1860 in Hoquarton Prairie as a farmer. Peter patented a 160 acre Homestead Claim East of Tillamook, along Highway 6 where the Wilson River emerges from the Coast Range. He was a laborer in Nestocton in 1870 and a farmer in Bay City in 1880, both in Tillamook County. He patented another 80 acre tract by cash sale, astraddle the Wilson River just East of and adjacent to Highway 101. At age 53 he married for the first time to 33-year-old divorcee Nancy Ann Smith Gillam in 1886, a lady that had given birth to seven children prior to this marriage. They had one son together in 1890.

Peter was noted in 1889 in the County when he was keeping weather records. Peter filed incorporation papers with others for the Tillamook and Astoria Telegraph Company in 1890 and was elected Tillamook County Surveyor 1888-90. He received Contract 552 for five townships North of Tillamook on the Oregon Coast in 1890 and also received Contract 555 the same year for two townships on the Coast South of Tillamook.

His last Contract was in 1891 for two townships in the Coast Range Northeast of Tillamook, and after an examination, he had to go back and rechain some line. He used J. A. McCall as "assnt. compassman" for part of the work. There is a notarized affidavit in the record stating that Mr. O. Rood wanted to "knock Mr. Wilson out of his survey". Alfred was the Tillamook County Republican Central Committee Chair in 1895-96. Peter, Nancy and their son, Erick, were listed as farmers in 1900 and 1910 at Hoquarton, which was a small settlement on Tillamook Bay just North of their farm on Wilson River.



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**Withycombe,****John W., Sr.**

1850-1915

Rep

Dr/Clerk

Clerk

to

Clerk

1895

1905

Born in England, John immigrated to a farm near Hillsboro, Oregon in 1871 with his family and was elected Washington County Surveyor in 1874-76. He was the brother of Oregon Governor James Withycombe, who developed agricultural practices on the family farm and became a professor at OAC. John married Annalena Williams from Wales in 1875, and they had three children. Annalena nearly died when her first child died at birth, and she died from the birth of their third child in 1882, John W. Withycombe Jr. John Sr. remarried to Mary Thomas from Wales in 1885 in the home of Governor Zenas Moody, and they had three children.

John was a civil engineer and produced and maintained a map of Washington County from 1876-1895. He secured the job as a Special and Mining Clerk in the Surveyor General's Office of John Arnold in 1895, and by 1897 he was the Chief Draftsman. In 1903, Chief Clerk George Waggoner was forced to resign by Senator Proebstal, and John Withycombe was passed over for Chief Clerk for the Senator's son-in-law, John Rowland. John Withycombe continued as Chief Draftsman until at least 1910 and died in Portland in 1915. John, Jr. studied agriculture under his uncle at OAC and became a wheat farmer at Arlington.

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**Woodworth,****Cyrus Solender**

1819-1901

Comp

Contract 240 (as  
compassman for John  
Q. A. Hurlburt for  
portions)

to

no more

1875

Cyrus was born in Vermont, crossed the Oregon Trail in 1849 to California, and then went overland to Salem, Oregon in 1852. He at once associated himself with W. C. Griswold & Co, retailers, in owning a store on Front Street in Portland. He married Sarah Buckingham in Salem in 1858, and they had four children. He returned to Salem in 1861 where he represented Griswold in a store and remained there until he was appointed Chief Clerk in the Indian Agency Office of J. W. P. Huntington and A. B. Meacham, Superintendents, from at least 1867-73. He was sent by the Agency in 1871 to locate a wagon road from Camp Polk across the Cascades to the Klamath Reservation. This was needed to haul supplies and equipment.

Cyrus acted as a pilot on one of the first steamers on the Columbia and was a civil engineer and an expert accountant. As a surveyor, he reclaimed Lake Labish at the South end of French Prairie from a worthless swamp to fertile land. Cyrus was noted in a newspaper article in the Willamette Farmer as leading a crew with a compass in 1875 on the Siletz Reservation for John Hurlburt. Cyrus' son William was a crewman. This was probably Contract 240 of Hurlburt, but Cyrus and William do not show up in the notes. They may have been under the authority of the Office of Indian Affairs.

Sarah took a trip to Japan and China on a sailing ship with Lillian Applegate in 1888 for her health, but died in 1890 of a stroke at age 54. She was a talented writer that wrote under the pen name of "Chemeketa". She was also the correspondent for the Statesman to the Oregon Legislature. Cyrus died in 1901 of a stroke at age 82.

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## Wooley, Cary

### Allen

1836-1915

Prohib

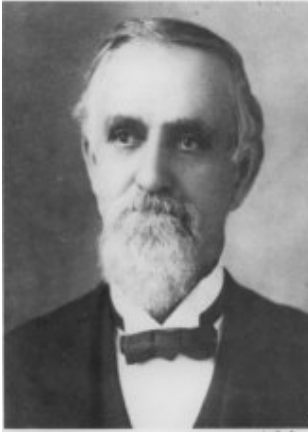
USDS

Contract 414

1881

to

no more



Born in Kentucky, Cary moved with his family to Missouri when quite young. He was ordained in 1859, married Elizabeth Ann Huston in 1859, and headed West on the Oregon Trail in 1863. Illness of his wife forced him to stop for two years in Colorado where he worked in the mines and preached. He completed his journey in 1865 to the Willamette Valley, driving Missouri mules instead of oxen. His parents also came over the trail in 1863-64 to Eugene, but it is unknown whether they travelled together.

His father built the sawmill for B. J. Pengra in 1865, but drowned at Eugene on July 1, 1865. Cary taught school, and for many years was a circuit riding preacher, having a following in at least a dozen small towns from Corvallis to Cottage Grove. He served as pastor and built churches in many of the villages. Cary received Contract 414 for one township in the Coast Range West of Eugene in 1881. He was his own compassman and completed it without issue, but later BLM surveyors questioned whether he ran the lines in rough terrain. Cary organized the Fairmont Church at Eugene, and for many years was its pastor. He almost accomplished the formation of a Presbyterian College at Sodaville, but the consolidation of the churches that he led ended that. He died at his home in Eugene in 1915.



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**Wooley, Laban  
Franklin "Frank"**
*1849-1923*

Prohib

Comp

Special Instructions  
(as Compassman for  
James Currin and  
James Noland)

1887

to

no more

Born in Missouri, the son of minister Cary Allen Wooley, Laban came West with his family across the Oregon Trail in 1863 as a baby. His mother became ill, and the family stayed in Colorado for two years before completing the journey in 1865. They lived in Benton County in 1870, and Laban was still a student in Eugene in 1880 at age 19. He was probably attending the University of Oregon, because he was noted as playing in the University Brass Band that same year. His father continued his ministry, and Laban married Almeda Belle "Belle" Wallace in 1881, siring eight children, with only five making it past infancy. Laban was an axman for his father on Contract 414 in 1881 for one township West of Eugene. There were enough helpers for two crews, and Laban may have been compassman for portions.

Laban was the compassman for James Currin and James Nolan on the Umatilla Reservation doing allotments in 1887. He ran for Lane County Surveyor in 1888 and 1890 on the Democrat ticket with results unknown. Laban was listed as the editor of the Cottage Grove Leader in the 1900 census; working for the California Dredging Company at Shasta in 1901; the surveyor of a lumber flume in 1903; a house builder in 1910; and a laborer in Cottage Grove in 1920, living with his mother. Almeda died in 1905 and Laban in 1927.

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**Worden, Charles  
Elmer**
*1849-1923*

Dem

IAA

Special Instructions

1896

to

no more

Born in Ohio the son of a physician, Charles completed grammar and high school in Ohio. At age 19, he went to the Indian Reservations in Michigan to trade furs and buy timberlands from the Indians on their allotments. He married Emma Clarica Cowley in 1871 and started the first drug store in Isabella County, Michigan in that year. After a year, he sold out and returned to Delta, Ohio, where he engaged in buying West Indian slaves for a firm in Portland, Maine. He then went into the real estate, loan and brokerage business until 1894, the time of the "Panic of 1893". From 1890-94 he served as the Democrat State Congressional Committee Chairman in Ohio. He was elected to Congress from Toledo in 1893.

Charles then secured an appointment as Special Allotting Agent to the Klamath Indian Reservation under the Democrat Cleveland Administration from 1894-1897, where he surveyed 775 allotments. This was at a time that the allotments were challenged by the California and Oregon Land Company. In addition to the allotments, during his time at the Klamath Reservation, he laid out the Agency, named all lots, platted the Agency, named all streets, laid out parks and the cemetery, set apart school lands, named and numbered all Indians, and perfected a Census Roll.

Charles continued to reside and prosper in Klamath Falls after his Agency days, where he referred to himself as a "speculator" in the 1900 census. He platted the Klamath Addition to Linkville, Fairview Addition to Klamath Falls, and Mountain View Addition, all in 1903-04. In 1909 he was a founder and the President of The American Bank and Trust Co. in Klamath Falls. He had moved to Portland by 1919 after Emma died, and Charles remarried to 43-year-old widow Elizabeth M. Frick in January, 1922 in Vancouver, Washington. He married again to Martha E. Cottier in June, 1923 in Vancouver, but died five months later.

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### **Worrick, Elmer**

#### **Oscar**

1859-1940

USDS

Contract 632 (with Alonzo Gesner) to

Contract 669 (with Alonzo Gesner)

Born in Illinois, Elmer was a orphan in 1880 living with another family. He was in Salem, Oregon by 1883 as a carpenter , and in 1894 he received his first Contract, a Joint Contract with Alonzo Gesner, for one township at Eugene that was surveyed by both, and one at Scottsburg that was surveyed by Elmer. After corrections in the field, they were approved. Elmer married Henrietta "Etta" Fetterhoff in Salem in 1894, and they had one daughter. His second Contract in 1896 was a Joint Contract, again with Alonzo Gesner, for five townships in the Cascades South of Oakridge, East of Lebanon and East of Coos Bay.

They struggled through six examinations over a period of six years before all but one township was approved. Before the first two Contracts were done, the pair received a small Contract in 1897 for two townships in Clackamas County. It was examined once by David Kinnaird apparently without issue. In 1899, Oscar joined the Army Infantry as a Captain, before the corrections for the second Contract were done, and served in the Philippines as an Engineer.

He stayed in the Philippines until his death, married Marciana Moreno there in 1908, and they had four children. Unfortunately, he was still married to Etta back in Oregon, and when she found out, she immediately went to Arkansas where divorces were readily available. Elmer was a District IX Engineer in 1906 that had charge of the construction of barracks and the Wright-Taft Road in the Samar and Leyte Provinces. Elmer and Marciana continued living in The Philippines until Marciana died in 1927. Elmer travelled back to the States in 1929 with his children, and the children were living with his brother, Earl, in 1930 in Oklahoma City. Earl died in 1936, and unfortunately, the children must have all travelled back to The Philippines with Elmer, because all of Elmer's younger three children died in the Japanese occupation of 1942. In 1895, Elmer was 5'11" and 175 lbs. with light hair. He died and is buried in The Philippines in 1940.

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**Worth, Edward  
Geary**

1863-1948

Dem

S G

Surveyor General

1913

to

no more

Edward was born in Oregon on the family Donation Claim, and he was educated through high school. His father died when he was four years old, and he was raised by his mother in Linn County. Edward was listed as a Preparatory Classical and Scientific Student at the University of Oregon in 1883. He was a civil engineer in Portland in 1900, and a merchant in Portland in 1910, always living with his mother, Alice Geary Worth. He was appointed the Surveyor General of Oregon by Democrat Woodrow Wilson from 1913-1921, and was living with his mother in Portland in 1920, and living with a sister in Portland in 1930. Edward was still in Portland in 1935, but was on a farm in Polk County in 1940. It appears he never married.

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**Worthington,  
Irving**

1868-1928

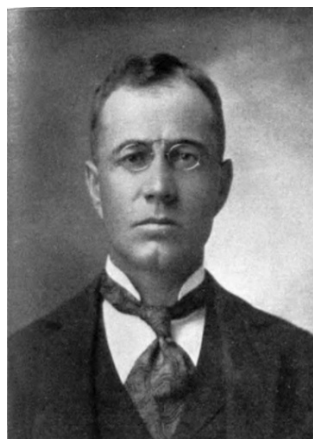
USDMS

Mineral Survey

1904

to

no more



1900

Member ASCE 1914. Born in Minnesota, Irving was in Dakota Territory with his family from 1878 until 1890, where he attended high school and one year of college. He was a chainman for John Ashley at Ruby in 1891, and for Albert Gray for 4 townships East of Grand Coulee, also in 1891. He was one of a group of Deputy Surveyors operating out of the Spokane County Surveyor's Office of John Ashley from 1891-93.

The others included John Ashley, Dekalb Ashley, Harry Clarke, Edward Hooker, Ulysses Hough, and William Maxwell. Both John Ashley and Harry Clarke had strong Benson Syndicate ties. In the Ruby survey, John Ashley made a 35 chain error crossing Lake Palmer. Irving was a deputy county surveyor in Spokane from 1892-93 under John Ashley, and in private practice from 1893-1905 in Spokane, Idaho and Montana as a civil and mining engineer.

Irving received his own Contract in the fall of 1892 for three townships and 18 miles of Standard Parallel on Lake Chelan just up from Manson, and asked for an extension of time. He surveyed it in 1893 and turned in the results. After he corrected the field notes, it was examined by Henry Newby in 1894, resulting in unknown corrections in the field in 1894. There are no separate notes for this, and it may have been remonumentation only. It was accepted in 1896. His brother, William, was a chainman.

He received Contract 458 in 1895 for one township at the same place, and it was surveyed the same year. William was again a chainman as was Harold Hooker, the brother of Ed. Contract 508 for one township at Pateros was surveyed in 1897 and went through several exchanges of the field notes until approved in 1900. A. W. Morris and David Kinnaird were examiners, and Irvin's 15 year old brother, Lewis, was a chainman. There was no exam and it was approved in 1896.

From 1897-1904, Irving surveyed Mineral Claims. He surveyed two at Curlew and one at Northport in 1897; 13 Claims near Cascade Pass in 1898; 20 Claims from 1898-1904 North of Stehekin; 13 Claims at Republic in 1899; 1 Claim in Grant County, Oregon in 1900; and 2 claims on the San Poil River in 1901. His brother, William, was a frequent chainman, and U. S. Deputy Mineral Surveyor Frank Stanley was a chainman one time in 1898.

Irving married Francis Clare "Fannie" Brattain in Spokane in 1900, and they lived in Stehekin in the summer of 1900. She had attended three years of college, and they had four children. He published a map of the Methow Valley the same year. His last Contract was for 25 miles of Standard Parallel and 5 townships at the North end of Lake Chelan. Irving completed the surveys in 1902, turned in the notes in 1903, and was approved the same year. Irving said he had purchased Robert Whitham's compass, and did not need it examined, but lost that argument.

One month after John Wetzel received approval of Contract 599 for two townships at Oroville, he asked for permission to use fellow Spokane surveyor, Irving Worthington, as compassman, and it was granted. Irving made the survey in 1903, and after several exchanges of the field notes, the Contract was approved in 1906.

By 1910 Irving was in Medford, OR, as an engineer for the Rogue River Irrigation Co., and Osgood and Cummings. He was in Umatilla County, Oregon in 1912, and in 1914 he was in Fresno as an engineer on irrigation projects for the Fresno Canal and Irrigation Co. In 1919 Irving was named a field engineer for the Columbia Basin Project on the Wenatchee Lake Project. He was an engineer in Spokane in 1920, and also worked as an appraiser for the Federal Land Bank. He died in Spokane in 1928, and Fanny returned to teaching school, at Tunk Creek in 1930 and Nighthawk in 1940, both in Okanogan County. She died in Marin County, California in 1969 at age 95. (biography) This is the maintained version of this information.

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## **Wright, William**

**P.**

1835-1926

Dr/Clerk

USDS

Contract 249

to

Contract 528

1876

1885

William was born in New York, the son of a sailing Captain, and travelled to Oregon in 1855. He was in Olympia by 1865 and married Maria L. Willard there in 1866. He worked as an accountant in 1870, an auctioneer from 1871-73, and then was appointed as Assistant Draughtsman in the Surveyor General's Office of William McMicken in Washington, serving until at least 1875. While in Olympia, he was the defendant in several collection suits, and one foreclosure in 1876. William received his first Contract in Oregon in 1876 for one fractional township at Myrtle Point, near Coquille. He was living at Coquille and received one Mineral Survey and 13 Contracts from 1876-80 for 21 mostly fractional townships from Coos Bay South to Cape Blanco, and East to I-5.

William used small, 3-4 member crews of a limited selection, and included a beautiful map of his work in the field notes. He was living at Coquille, and many Contracts were near there and Myrtle Point. William was active in Republican politics, serving on the State Central Committee for Oregon in 1876. In 1880, his 11 year old son, John, died, and he moved to Dallas, Oregon, where he ran for Polk County Surveyor in 1882. While living in Dallas, he surveyed 15 more Contracts for 53 townships in the coastal areas of Western Oregon from 1880-1885. He began using compassmen in 1881, beginning with William L. Rowland, a half Indian, living near Coquille, who had been a crewman for several townships.

Contract 513 was examined by Henry Martin from the Commissioner's Office in D. C., who was examining Special Deposit work. It was rejected, and William's work was not accepted or paid. Henry Martin said he "found the work defective and erroneous". Martin stated that Wright used compassmen, using simple compasses with folding sights, and that of Wright, "at the time of the Contract, he was living at a residence of a citizen and at the hotel at Port Orford." (and not on the survey) He was debarred from further GLO work. Martin stated that on Contracts prior to 513, Wright blackmailed settlers for more money to perform the survey, threatening to leave them out of the survey if they did not pay.

The two townships in Contract 486 were both surveyed by compassman, Chester C. Coad from Dallas, Oregon. Of the 6 townships in Contract 514, three were surveyed by Compassman Peter Applegate, one by compassman Chester Coad, and two by William. He used his teen aged son, Willard, as a chainman after 1883. Both Contracts 513 and 514 were funded by Special Deposits from individuals. William was awarded Contract 528 in 1885, but it was not approved by the Commissioner because of its reliance on Special Deposits. He surveyed another Mining Claim in Curry County in 1885. A recent BLM surveyor noted that he was somewhat erratic, but did do the survey and bark scribed the firs.

By 1898 William was a civil engineer in Grants Pass, OR, where he produced many maps for sale of Southwest Oregon and the various Counties. He was in private practice and also the City Surveyor of Grants Pass in 1910, and was still there in 1916. Maria died in Elko, Nevada in 1916, and William was living with his son in Elko in 1920 as a widower, but died in the Masonic Home at Forest Grove, Oregon in 1926. William left papers at the Oregon Historical Society. (biography) This is the maintained version of this information.

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### **Wygant, Morris**

1856-

USDS

Contract 742 (with  
Zachariah Derrick

to

Contract 773

Born in New York, the son of a lawyer, Morris moved with his family to Arkansas by 1870. He entered Annapolis, but had a serious accident and had to withdraw after an unknown time. He married Mary Etta Siver in Iowa in 1885, and they were still in Iowa in 1889 when their second son was born. His parents were in Albany, Oregon by 1897, and Morris was a farmer there with his family in 1900. Morris received a Joint Contract with Zachariah Derrick for one township near the Siletz Reservation in 1902, and they both signed the oaths. When he was Lincoln County Surveyor, he was awarded a Contract of his own in 1904 for two fractional townships on the coast at Otis. He had three examinations and had to return to the field to do corrections and retracements.

Another Contract on his own in 1908 was for a fractional township, again near the Siletz Reservation, and he was approved after an examination. He fought off a cougar that was attacking a woman in her own backyard in Newport, at a time when he was City Engineer. Morris was reelected Lincoln County Surveyor in 1910, and was a surveyor in private practice in Newport the same year. His son Fred, who was living at home, was also listed as a surveyor. Either Zackariah Derrick or the Surveyor General contacted Morris in 1911 to redo and finish two Contracts of Derrick, acting as a Compassman. The first was for two townships near Roseburg and was surveyed in 1911. The second was for one township on the California line in Malheur County near Christmas Lakes. That was completed in 1912, and each of these surveys had another exam.

Morris designed the water system for Waldport in 1918 and was in Salem with his family as a civil engineer in 1920. Morris and Mary were sued for debt in 1922, and Mary died of typhoid in Taft, California in 1923, having resided there for the last five months. Morris was a widower, living with his son in Astoria in 1930, and died there in 1935. Mary is buried in Riverside Cemetery, Albany, Oregon and Morris in Warrenton, Oregon

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## **York, Aaron**

### **Pinkley Fletcher**

1850-1920+

Rep

USDS

Contract 309

1878

to

Contract 394

1881

Born in Indiana, Aaron was in Oregon by 1877 to be a crewman for Alonzo Gesner for four Contracts in 1877 and 1878 and one for Everett Thatcher in 1877. He received Contract 309 in 1878 for 12 townships Southeast of Condon. Deputy Surveyor Everett Thatcher, for whom he had been a chainman the previous year, received a Contract on the same day in the same vicinity. Thatcher and York used the exact same crew on both Contracts. It was also the crew used by Thatcher's father, who also received a Contract farther East in the same year. Thatcher was the Notary on all the work for all these Contracts.

Contract 336 followed the next year for five townships in the same place, and again Aaron used the same crew. In 1880, Aaron received Contract 371 for six townships at Kimberly, Southeast of Fossil. It was a different crew, except for chainman Graves, and included Aaron's brother, John S. York. Aaron married Alice Rebecca Sprenger in Salem in 1880. Her mother's maiden name was Graves, and there was at least one members of the Graves family on all of the Contracts of Aaron.

His last Contract was for two townships at Mill City on the Santiam, and four townships in the vicinity of his previous work. The survey by Aaron, T9S R4E on the Santiam, plays part in Al White's book, "A Casebook of Oregon DLCs. Al is not very complementary of Aaron, noting fictitious notes, stubbing, and fraudulent work. Gesner's North line was off by 14 chains from the plat, but York did not acknowledge that in his retracement. C. A. Graves was still on the crew, but Aaron notarized all of his own crew oaths for the first time.

Aaron was a surveyor in Salem in 1880, and by 1887 he had moved to Kittitas County, Washington at Liberty, Northwest of Ellensburg at a place called Meagersville at that time. He was married but living alone in 1887, and was listed with Alice in 1889, both times as a surveyor. Alice had moved to Lewiston, Idaho by 1887 when she was advertised as a dressmaker. She and her mother opened their own shop in Lewiston in 1892. Aaron was a chainman for Ernest Anderson in 1895 on a Mineral Survey at Liberty. He was Kittitas County Surveyor from 1887-91, 1895-97, and 1905-07. Ernest Anderson was the County Surveyor in the first gap.

Aaron and Alice were divorced by 1892 when Alice remarried in Idaho. Aaron listed himself as a widower and surveyor in Liberty in 1900, a surveyor in public works in 1910 at age 59, and a laborer in Liberty in 1920, and that is the last record of him. He is not listed in the death records of Washington. Aaron and H. M. Bryant built a new store in Liberty in 1899. In 1909, Aaron and Frank Johnson discovered a gold ledge, about a mile and a half North of Liberty, that they had been looking for, having found traces downstream. It was significant, producing an 18" slab with \$300 in gold in the first day. Aaron was reelected as the Director of the Liberty School District in 1912. Alice's new husband died in 1903 and she died in Grangeville, Idaho in 1945.

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**Zahner, Peter**

1835-1891

Rep

USDS

Special Instructions 1883

to

no more

Peter was born in Mifflin, Ohio and graduated from Princeton in 1861 with an A. B. and then in 1863 with an A. M. He was an engineer for UPRR out of Omaha in 1866, and later worked for the Denver and Rio Grande Road. He was with the ORN by 1875, and was an engineer for several branches of the RR out of Walla Walla. One of them was the RR from Walla Wall through Waitsburg and Dayton. While there, Peter was Walla Walla City Surveyor and ran for Walla Walla County Surveyor twice in 1876-78. He began supervision on the mainline from LaGrange to the Columbia via Pendleton in 1879, and moved to Pendleton by 1880.

By December 1881, he was in charge of a RR survey up the Clearwater in Idaho leading to Montana. He was also in charge of a RR survey in Klickitat County from the Yakima to Columbia Rivers. The Oregon Surveyor General hired him to survey a 640 acre addition to Pendleton in 1883 on the adjacent Umatilla Indian Reservation, and it was completed in 1884 for \$2000. He was a deputy county surveyor for Umatilla County in 1885. In 1888 he was Chief Engineer of the Washington and Idaho RR Company on an 87-mile line from Tekoa to Mullen, Idaho, and also of a 60-mile line from Farmington, Washington to Spokane.

To quote from his memorial in the Princeton Annual Report, "...a tall, spare man, Zahner was of quiet and unpretending demeanor, but used to bring down the house in uproarious stamping and cheering with his recitations in mathematics..." He died in Pendleton, and his wife moved to Spokane where she died in 1920. His son, Joseph was a civil engineer and surveyor.



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**Zieber, John****Shunk, Jr.***1841-1864*

Dr/Clerk

Clerk

1859

to

no more



John S. Zieber Jr. was born in Illinois and came over the Oregon Trail with his family in 1851. He was listed as the Messenger in the Surveyor General's Office of William Chapman in Eugene, OR in 1859. John was a bookkeeper in Salem, OR in 1860, the Secretary of the Willamette Woolen Mills, and played in the first string band in Salem in 1862. He married Cornelia Coon in 1862 and died of a "continuing illness" (probably TB) in 1864 in Salem after one child. Cornelia remarried to James W. Cooke, but died in 1867. This is the maintained version of this information.

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**Zieber, John****Shunk, Sr.***1803-1878*

Dem

Dr/Clerk

S G

Clerk

1853

to

Surveyor General

1856



Born in Pennsylvania, John became a printer, and by 1827 he was the editor and proprietor of the "Village Herald", a weekly newspaper in Princess Anne, Maryland, continuing until 1838. He married Eliza Sloan in 1825. In 1838 he owned a steam mill, and in 1840, he sold a newspaper, the People's Press, and moved to Peoria, Illinois, where he started the Peoria Democratic Press, another partisan paper. On the way to Peoria to investigate the town, he was informed that the warehouse storing all his worldly possessions was totally consumed by fire. He continued anyway and brought his family.

John was elected to the 14th Illinois Legislature in 1844, sold his paper in 1846, and was the public printer until 1848. John, his wife Eliza, and their children came across the Oregon Trail in 1851, with Eliza keeping an extensive diary, which has since been published. He came to Salem where he bought the rights to a 320 acre Claim just north of Kaiser, called Fernhazel, which he kept until both he and his wife died there. John was named as a Clerk in the Surveyor General's Office of Charles K. Gardner.

In 1853 his daughter Eugenia married Asahel Bush, the editor and publisher of the Oregon Statesman, the Democrat paper of the state. John would be his printer. The Statesman was very critical of John Preston, a Whig, and even of Charles Gardner, a Democrat, for not being partisan enough. In 1856 John was appointed Oregon Surveyor General, serving until 1859 in a very partisan manner until he was replaced with another Democrat, W. W. Chapman. He kept printing until he retired to his farm, where he died of a stroke while working in the fields in 1878. Eugenia died in 1863; his son, John, died in 1864; and Eliza in 1890. (biography) He has papers at OHS. This is the maintained version of this information.

## Abbreviations

Count	Abbreviation	Name
342	USDS =	United States Deputy Surveyor
74	USDMS =	United States Deputy Mineral Surveyor
9	USS =	United States Surveyor (Employee of another agency)
4	Astr =	Astronomer
4	HES =	Homestead Entry Surveyor
13	IAA =	Indian Allotting Agent (Employee of Office of Indian Affairs)
115	Comp =	Compassman
52	SES =	Special Examiner of Surveys (Hired by the Commissioner)
7	EX =	Examiner of Surveys (Hired by the Surveyor General)
20	S G =	Surveyor General
16	Ch Clerk =	Chief Clerk in Surveyor General's Office
88	Dr/Clerk =	Draftsman/ Clerk in Surveyor General's Office
744	Total	

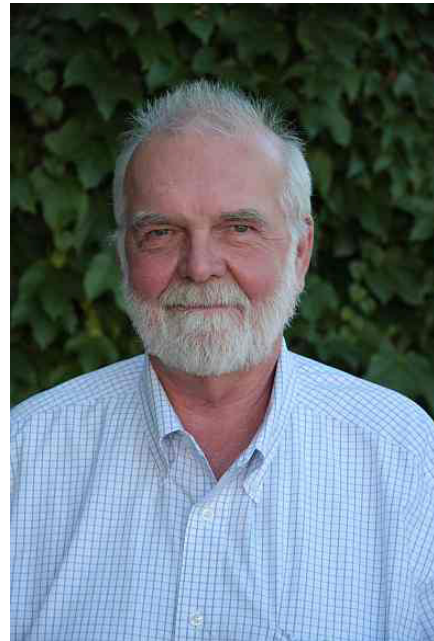
142	Rep	Republican
48	Dem	Democrat
14	Whig	Whig
3	Peoples	Peoples
9	Union	Union
2	Ind	Independent
6	Prohib	Prohibition
	Free Soil	Free Soil
2	Fusion	Fusion
	Greenback	Greenback
1	Populist	Populist
	Socialist	Socialist



# The Author

Jerry C. Olson was born in 1941 in Lebanon, Oregon where his father was the co-owner of a small sawmill in nearby Crabtree. They soon moved to Cherry Grove, Oregon where Jerry was raised around sawmills and logging until leaving for college. At Oregon State University, he received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Forest Engineering in 1962, and a Master of Forestry Degree in 1963, also in Forest Engineering. He took a special interest in surveying all through college, taking all of the surveying courses he could, and doing a special graduate project on surveying.

After OSU, Jerry went to work for the Washington State Department of Natural Resources, spending a year at first in Forks, on the West side of the Olympic Peninsula. He was promoted to Vancouver District Engineer, and then transferred to Larch Mountain Honor Camp as Engineer. In late 1966, he was promoted to Area Engineer for SW Washington, responsible for engineering and land surveying for DNR lands from Goldendale to Naselle.



Jerry resigned in June of 1968, and after taking some time out to travel, he opened Olson Engineering in Vancouver, at first as a surveying company, following the profession he loved. Olson Engineering has added Civil Engineering, Planning, Landscape Architecture, and Environmental Science along the way. In 2018, Olson Engineering celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> year in business.

Jerry was licensed as a Professional Land Surveyor in Washington in 1964, number 9025, and as a Forest Engineer in 1968 and a Civil Engineer in 1971. He has transferred those licenses to Oregon by reciprocity, and also the PLS license to California. When SAF started certifying foresters, he became a Certified Forester.

Governor Booth Gardner appointed him to the Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors in Washington in 1985, a seat he held for ten years, serving as Chairman twice. In 1998 he was named to the Washington State Survey Advisory Board, which he held for ten years also. He founded and chaired the Land Surveyors Association of Washington Historical Society until his Board appointment. In 2007, Jerry was named an Outside Director of Riverview Community Bank, traded on Nasdaq.

He authored a book in 1997, “David D. Clarke”, a biography of a U. S. Deputy Surveyor, another book in 2010, “Surveying North of the River” and maintains a website on GLO Surveyors in Washington, Oregon and Idaho. BLM, both nationally and regionally, honored him in 2014 by conferring on him the title, “Honorary United States Deputy Surveyor”, only the second such designation given.

Jerry resides on a small tree farm in Yale Valley near Mount Saint Helens with his wife, Patti, and their various horses and pets.

This year of publication of *Surveying South of the River, 2022*, marks the fifty fourth year of Olson Engineering, and of Jerry Olson as President and CEO.