

*It takes more than a good resume to get a government contract.*

## George H. Belden ( - )

**From: “David D. Clarke, Narratives of a Surveyor and Engineer in the Pacific Northwest, 1864-1920.”<sup>i</sup>**

*George H. Belden who succeeded Mr. Burrage as City Surveyor in 1867, I met only a few times and know nothing of his early history. He was a man of middle age and I think educated as an Engineer. I first knew of him as the Engineer in charge of the construction of the blast furnace at Oswego erected in 1866 by the Oregon Iron and Steel Co. or its progenitor, for the purpose of reducing the low grade iron ore uncovered in the hills bordering the North side of Oswego Lake. The experiment was abandoned after a short trial. The old stack can still be seen on the river side of the highway bridge crossing Oswego Creek. Mr. Belden was kind enough to offer me a position as his assistant when he succeeded Mr. Burrage, an offer which I perhaps unwisely declined, and the next year he aided me in securing employment in the U. S. Engineer party engaged upon the Upper Columbia surveys.*

*I have often speculated upon the probable effect upon my personal fortunes had my sense of loyalty to Mr. Burrage not prevented my acceptance of Mr. Belden's offer to serve under him as Assistant City Surveyor. He was more of a “pushing” type of a man than Mr. Burrage and no doubt would have pushed me faster than Mr. Burrage did but I might not have been able to meet the situation: “Quien Sabe”.*

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<sup>i</sup> Olson, Jerry C. “David D. Clarke, Narratives of a Surveyor and Engineer in the Pacific Northwest, 1864-1920.”, 1995.