

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

William H. Byars (1839-....)

From: Oregon Historical Quarterly: Over the Brush and Through the Trees: Surveying, 1900-1909, by Ray L. Stout. Volume LXXIII, No. 4, December, 1972.

W. H. Byars was born in Iowa in 1839 and came to Douglas County, Oregon, with his family in 1853. He carried mail in the mid-1850s from Oakland, Oregon, to Yreka, California, and studied to be a teacher at Columbia College (Eugene), Willamette University (Salem), and after visiting the Idaho mines in the 1860s and serving with the Oregon Volunteers, completed his studies at Wilbur Academy in Douglas County. After teaching there he was elected county school superintendent, later county surveyor, and was a U.S. deputy surveyor from the early 1870s through 1909. He also published the Roseburg Plain Dealer for some years, and was elected Oregon state printer. He served as Salem city surveyor, and was appointed U.S. Surveyor-General for Oregon about 1890. His last surveying work was in northeastern Washington, and is described towards the end of the present account.

(Narrative of Ray L. Stout follows this short biography in the OHQ.)

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Editor's note: See the Biography of his son, William F Byars on this web page.