

## 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>		(biography) means that there is a biography of some kind available in the Biography Section.
Political Affiliation, if known		
Type of Surveyor	Credits and sources for photos can be found in the Photo Section.	
First Contract or Engagement	Year	See the end of this section for a list of abbreviations.
to		
Last Contract or Engagement	Year	

<p><b>Sanderson, Edward Wavell</b> <i>1844-1913</i> Dem Rep IJSDS 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 Hepner. The second was for two townships West of Hepner and four more South of Hepner. 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 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

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.

**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.

**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 Forest Service 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



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.

1883

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

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



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

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.

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### **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.

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**Sherwood Daniel****Andrew  
"Andrew"***1848-1933*

Prohib

USDMS

Mineral Surveys 1906

to

no more




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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.

1933

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.

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**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

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.

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**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.

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**Shook, Robinson****Smith "Robert"***1828-1884*

Comp

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

to

no more

1859

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.

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## **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.

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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

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**Simons, Nelson  
"Doc"**

1861-1920

USDS

Claim Contract 32

to

no more

1854

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

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.

**Simpson,  
Benjamin  
Franklin**

1818-1910

Dem

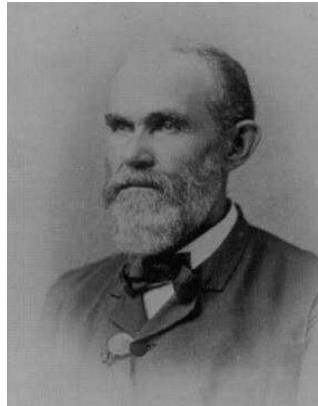
Rep

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.

**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.

**Simpson, Grover  
Benjamin**

1858-1934

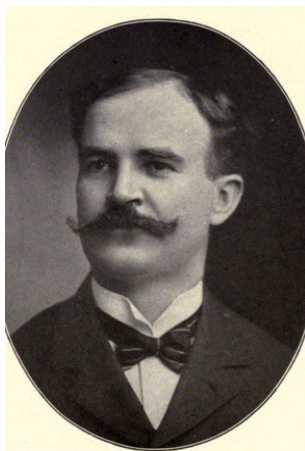
Dr/Clerk

Clerk

1874

to

no more



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.

1902

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 Ravena, 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

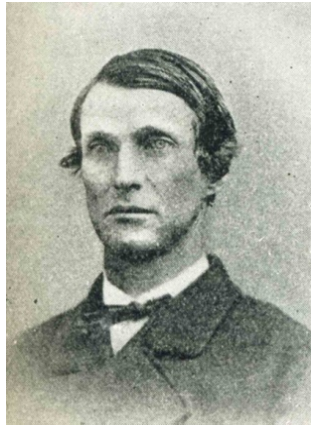
USS

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 Quinault 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

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)

to

no more

1871

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)

to

no more

1856



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

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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)  
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.

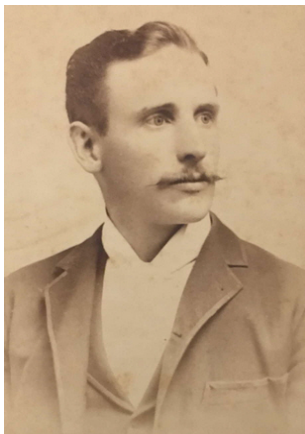
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### **Smyth, Sidney**

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

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.

**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

**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.

**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****Sumner "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 1835, and 1940, with Sidney listed as a special agent for the U S. Government. He was still with the Department of 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.



**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

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.

**Stout, Ray Lewis***1885-1984*

USDS

Contract 753

1904

to

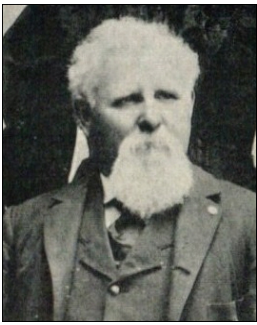
no more



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 Ray's cousin and William H.' son, William F. Byers, 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.

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**Stowell, Alfred  
Wilson**

1841-1907

Ch Clerk  
Chief Clerk

to

no more

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

Draftsman

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.

**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.

**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.

**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 1833 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 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.

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**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 Alonzo Gesner) 1875

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 Eugene McCornack) 1879

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.

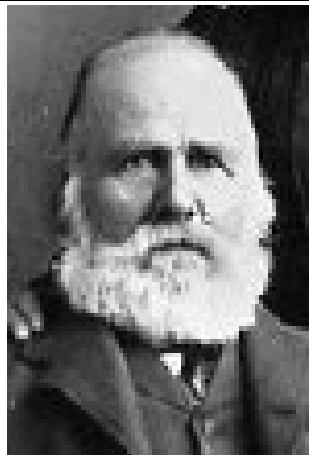
Contract 260

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 his 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**

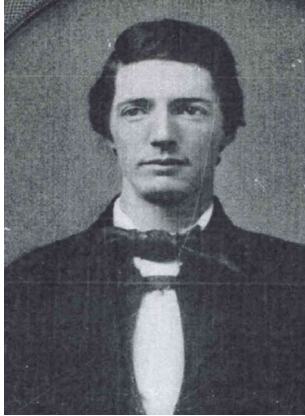
*1834-1901*

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.



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.

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**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.

**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.

**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

1871

1873

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.

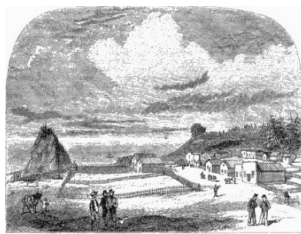


Battle Rock at Port Orford  
with Humbug Mountain in the distance

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.

**Tolman, Emma F.**

*1866-1924*

Dr/Clerk

Clerk

1881

to

no more



1887

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.



**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

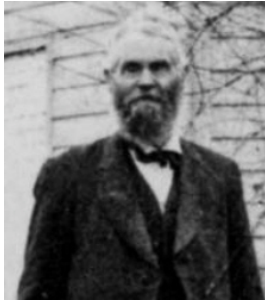
Surveyor General 1878



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 1861  
compassman for  
LaFayette Cartee for  
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	1853
compassman for	
Anson G. Henry for	
portions)	
to	
Contract 80	1859



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 Sewell 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, Sewell 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.

**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



Willett House

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.

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.

**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.

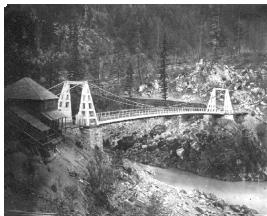
They received another Joint Contract in early 1856 to survey an offset Standard Parallel to Astoria, Oregon, the Coast Guide Meridian, and several townships along the way. They again shared the work, and Joseph used the following compassmen: Charles T. Gardner, the son of the new Surveyor General; David 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.

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**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

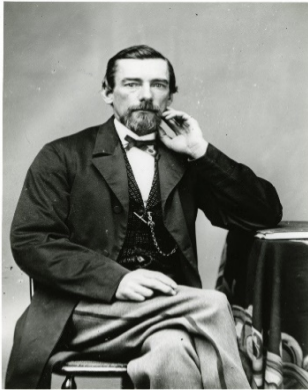
Rep

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.

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**Underwood,  
James Benson  
"Benson"**

1838-1882

Rep

Dr/Clerk

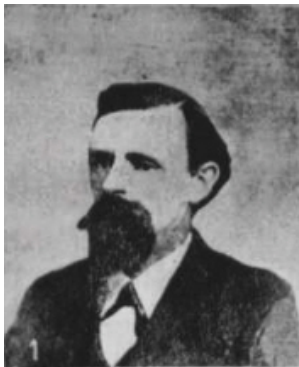
USDS

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 reelected 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.



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. (biography) See WA GLO Surveyors for the maintained version of this information.

**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

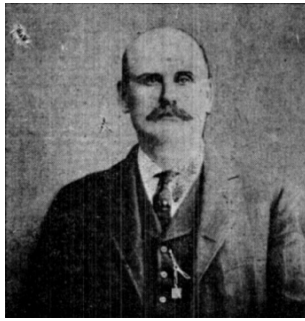
USDS

Contract 211

1874

to

no more



Born the son of a farmer in Coberg, 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.

1903

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.

**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

1890

to

Mineral Survey

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  
Henry Meldrum)

1896

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.  
Wagner.

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.



**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. Nicolas 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.

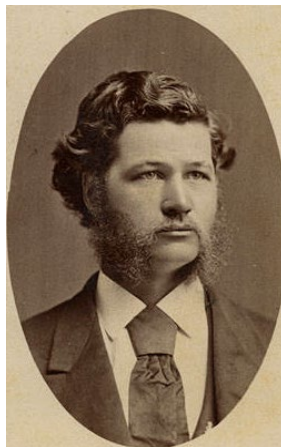
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**Walker, Levi  
Chamberlain**

*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.

**Walker, William****Robert "Billy"**

1844-1911

Rep

Dr/Clerk

Transcribing Clerk 1870

to

Transcribing Clerk 1872



Obituary photo, 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

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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



Obituary photo, 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

Comm

Special Instructions 1870  
to

Contract 717

1870

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 finalized 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  
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 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.

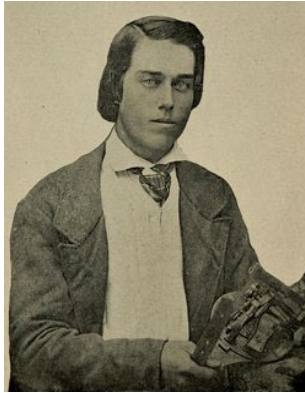
**Webster, Kimball***1828-1916*

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.

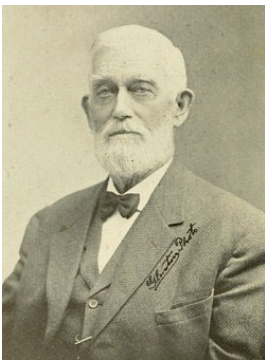
Kimball met up with Robert Elder again in 1851, after Robert had met with John Preston who was travelling through San Francisco on his way to Oregon, and Robert asked Kimball to go to Oregon with him. He accepted, and began studying surveying and trigonometry. Soon after the two arrived in Oregon City, 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

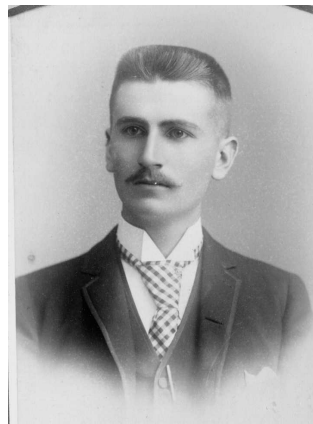
Rep

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.





Puter Land Fraud  
Trials

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.

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

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  
1854 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,

**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.

**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.

---

**White, Hiram  
Foster**

1849-1829

IAA

Allotting Agent

to

no more

1907

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

to

no more

1883

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**

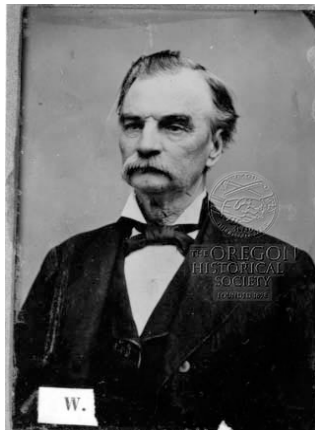
1818-1897

Dem

Clerk 1853

to

no more



William was born in Virginia, and both of his parents died when 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

**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

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. 1902 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.

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**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.

**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. Senate. 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

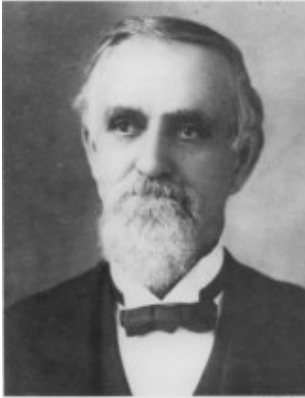
USDS

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)

to

no more

1887

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

to

no more

1896

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.

**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.

**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

1876

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.

**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.

**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) This is the maintained version of this information.

## Abbreviations

Count	Abbreviation	Name
342	USDS =	United States Deputy Surveyor
73	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
743	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