



Northwest Trails

Newsletter of the Northwest Chapter of the Oregon-California Trails Association

Volume 36, No. 1

Winter 2021

Oh, the Pandemic: Chapter Membership Report

By Chuck Hornbuckle, Membership Chair

It appears the pandemic may have affected our Northwest Chapter membership. But we are still in good shape.

Since July 1, 2020, NWOCTA membership stands at 233 members. On the minus side, there have been 29 members not renewing their membership. Even though those 29 are lagging behind, we will send this newsletter to them hoping they will renew. I won't mention names.

During that same time period, 38 new members joined our wagon train. In addition, eight "new to OCTA" members have been invited to join the Northwest Chapter, with five actually joining our Chapter.

If you are hanging in there with us, thank you for your continued and very valued support during these trying times. Things *will* get better.

Treasurer's Report

By Glenn Harrison

NW OCTA Financial Report for the first quarter of the 10/1/20–9/30/21 Fiscal Year:

Beginning Balance \$20,286.03
Income \$6,370.00
Expenses \$2,279.99
Ending Balance \$24,376.04

The Beginning Balance includes carry over of an Oregon Community Foundation transfer of \$11,109.32 from the Oregon Historic Trails Advisory Council and a \$1,050 grant from the Oregon Community Foundation Trails Fund that we will match for trail markers.

Income includes \$5,000 from Capital Power.

Expenses include \$1,000 to OCTA and \$1,000 to the Stop B2H Coalition.

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President's Message

We have finally made it into 2021, and I hope that we can look forward to some tours of the trail in the late Spring and early Summer. Some of our OCTA chapters have worked out safe methods of getting out to work on signage and hold tours on the Trail. We will get their advice and proceed with caution.

I am looking forward to holding our Annual Chapter Meeting in late February or the first Saturday in March (the 6th). We should be able to hold a Zoom meeting if we cannot meet in person. I would like you to contact me if you have any ideas on topics for this meeting. We need informational and fun presentations. I know some of you have "slide shows" that our new members may not have seen.

I am saddened by the passage of Kathy Franzwa. I met her several years ago at Alcove Springs, and she was just as enthusiastic about the trails as her husband Greg Franzwa. The OCTA E-News has also been keeping us informed of the loss of several of our long-time members. When we miss our usual yearly conventions as we did this last year, we miss the greeting of our friends in the other chapters. I do hope we can have the Elko Convention this year in September.

My thanks go to Chuck Hornbuckle as he continues to entice new members for our Chapter. He has been successful in his approach, and we are gaining new folks at a steady rate. Gail Carbiener has been working on B2H for most of this past year and is now working to mitigate the installation of transmission towers in front of the trail museum in Baker City. Hearings will go on through January.

We will be voting for new Directors for our Chapter this month and I hope that all of you will participate. The directors help in decision making for the board and in approving funding requests.

Stay safe,
Sallie K. Riehl, Chapter President



NW OCTA received thank you letters from both OCTA and Stop B2H Coalition for our donations. The letter from the Stop B2H Coalition sent to NW OCTA and individuals dated December 30 said:

Since Thanksgiving, over 130 contributors rallied to Stop B2H through contributions to multiple fundraisers. . . . You answered the call and gave over \$30,000 to support our legal challenges. Contributors like you renewed our energy to continue the fight to our land and historic Oregon Trail.

NPS Studies Online

*Two completed NPS studies are available online at
nps.gov/oreg/learn/historyculture/research.htm*

Overlanders in the Columbia River Gorge, 1840–1870: A Narrative History

AUTHOR: Historical Research Associates, Inc.

DATE ACCEPTED: September 2020

Most who followed the Oregon Trail did not traverse the Columbia River Gorge, if they could help it, because the gorge posed numerous dangers for travelers unfamiliar with the rugged terrain and raging river. When Samuel Barlow opened a road around the southern side of Mount Hood in 1846, overlanders going to Oregon City more often chose that route, rather than braving the Columbia River.

This report centers on the Columbia River and its banks, from the confluence with the Snake River (near present-day Pasco, Washington) to the confluence with the Willamette River (near Portland, Oregon, and Vancouver, Washington), from 1840 to 1870. Using maps, historical documents, and images, it examines change over time in the landscape of the Columbia River Gorge, hydrological hazards of the river, methods of navigating the river, historical livestock and wagon tracks, American Indian settlements and businesses along the river, interactions between American Indians and overlanders, the Hudson's Bay Company's role in overland travel, calamities and deaths that befell overlanders, alternative routes and how they altered travel on the gorge, and commercial transportation.

NOTE: Several NW Chapter since several members helped review the draft.

Sweet Freedom's Plains: African Americans on the Overland Trails 1841–1869

AUTHOR: Shirley Ann Wilson Moore, PhD.

DATE ACCEPTED: January 31, 2012

Dr. Shirley Ann Wilson Moore, Professor of History at California State University, Sacramento, worked with the National Park Service, National Trails Intermountain Region to create this groundbreaking study about the African American emigrant experience on the Oregon, California and Mormon Pioneer national historic trails. Read her engaging study on this little-known component of American history.

African American men, women and children were western pioneers too. Enslaved or free, they were an integral part of the human tide that undertook the long journey across the continent. "Black people, like their white counterparts, crossed the plains for myriad personal, economic, social, and political reasons. The lure of free land, new business opportunities, and individual autonomy were aspirations shared by both groups.

Clearly, the lives, hopes, and expectations of nineteenth century black people differed in critical ways from those of white people. As a result, African Americans understood and experienced the westering journey in ways that white emigrants could not. The study of the African American experience on the trails broadens our understanding of the nature, scope, and meaning of westward migration. The experiences of the thousands of black men and women who came west compel us to reconsider the traditional narrative of our nation's history.

Excerpt from the Diary of Americus Savage

By Sallie Riehl

Americus Savage traveled the Oregon Trail in 1851 and settled in the Willamette Valley.

On Nov. 23d, I again started in search of a home. I traveled for 12 days through the tall wet grass raining nearly all the time. I could see no object for a guide. I finally selected a place on the Calapoosa about 12 miles south of Albany. I built me a cabin and walked back taking my oxen with me (to Clackamas). Again hitched up and started up the valley with Mary and the family through the rain and mud and sometimes snow for five days when we finally landed at our little cabin home with puncheon floor, a dirt fireplace, on the 25th day of Dec. 1851. That day we took our dinner sitting around a box for a table and all sitting on the floor. It was the second happiest day of my life the anniversary of our wedding day. I shall never forget the looks of five pairs of bright eyes when I told them we would now stop traveling I hoped as long as I lived. I believed we were in a good country and I was satisfied.

When we were working on Paper Trail we found just half of Savage's diary. The other half is lost somewhere in Maine. The Savage homestead is near Boston Mill, south of Tangent. He farmed for many years, and then sadly one day he committed suicide on his land. We will never know what the cause was, but he certainly contributed to the settlement of the Valley.



Excerpt from the WPA Linn County Cemetery Survey, researched & prepared by Leslie L. Haskin on 1/4/1939, on the cemetery on Savage Butte near Shedd, Oregon (also known as Bunker Hill):

Americus Savage. 1815–1876, established this cemetery. He took up the surrounding land as a donation claim. He owned the land on the opposite side of the Calapooia River and sold a portion of it to Richard C. Finley and P. V. Crawford for a site for a flouring mill, then known as the Boston Mill, which was built some time during the 1850s. That was the second flouring mill in this region. After a trip to his home in the East, following (reputed) marital troubles, he returned to this butte on August 9, 1876. He first cleared a spot on the north slope of the hill for a grave. He then proceeded to the foot of the hill, wrapping himself in a red blanket, and committed suicide by shooting himself. In a last message he instructed that he be buried in the cleared grave site and with his head to the southward so that he might look out over the pleasant northward scene. That his request was complied with may be seen by visiting the grave. In his will he set apart ten acres to be perpetually reserved for cemetery purposes. The fenced cemetery is only a small part of this tract, but all ten acres is still reserved in perpetual trust.

Seed, Weed, and Feed in the Northwest

By Roger Blair

When early Northwest pioneers began settling their new lands, they generally tried to re-establish the way of life they enjoyed back east. This included social and cultural activities, farming and other occupational practices, and governance. When possible, they adapted these earlier activities, values, and tastes to their new locations. These adaptations included importing dietary favorites if their new homes did not provide ready availability. Some of these introductions were hugely successful; some hugely successful in a negative sense with introduction and spread of noxious species.

The story of Hudson's Bay Company's Governor Simpson's planting of the first apple seeds in the Northwest at Fort Vancouver is well known. The fort's orchard was the embryonic start of today's Northwest apple industry. Several pioneers are known to have brought bare root stock, seeds, and starts of some of their favorite fruit trees, vegetables, and ornamentals. Pioneer Henderson Luelling carted more than 700 one-year-old grafted fruit trees from Iowa to Oregon in 1847, including several varieties of apple, cherry, pear, and peach trees.

Luelling established his nursery near Milwaukie, Oregon, where it became the source of fruit orchards planted throughout Oregon Territory. In 1850, Henderson's brothers, John and Seth, arrived in Oregon by way of California. Brother Seth Lewelling (he changed the spelling) introduced the "Black Republican" cherry and another variety named for his Chinese work foreman Bing. Today, Oregon supplies 11 percent of the U.S. cherry market, with Bing cherry the favorite. Seth also introduced other fruits for the settlers' tables, including other cherry varieties, a grape, a prune, and almond.

Scotch Broom creates a splash of color when in bloom, especially through the Columbia River Gorge, and many homes today use Scotch Broom as a landscaping accent. Although there is some dispute as to how Scotch Broom was introduced to the Northwest, many attribute its introduction to the Scottish employees of Hudson's Bay Company, who planted it about their homes at Fort Nisqually as a reminder of "home." From there Scotch Broom was planted around others' homes until today eradicating it from unwanted areas can be a chore.

While foxglove is now considered a beautiful flower breaking up the monotony of roadside scenery, it was not always welcomed. Reportedly two English brothers, William and John Hobson, settled on the Clatsop Plains in 1843. Seeking to have a reminder of home, they sowed foxglove seeds, from which the plant rapidly spread over the Northwest. However, its poisonous nature made it an unwelcome pest by pioneer farmers. It became so pestiferous that in 1871 the city of Astoria enacted an ordinance "to prevent the careless and wanton growth and cultivation and indifferently casting of a plant or vegetable called digitalis and commonly known as foxglove, within the corporate limits of the town of Astoria." ["Flowers Played Part in History of Pre-Oregon," *Sunday Oregonian*, October 18, 1936, p 5, c 4] Violators were fined \$10 for the first offense of growing the plant for either ornamental or other use. Subsequent violations carried a \$20 penalty.

Introduction of the dandelion in the Northwest has been attributed to three different individuals: Nineveh Ford, Dr. Perry Prettyman, and Catharine Broshears. Ford came west in the first 1843 wagon train. Departing Platte City, Nebraska, Ford is documented to have personally admitted to having brought along a supply of dandelions to plant at his new residence. He reported that he loved greens in his diet and was afraid that Oregon would not have dandelions to harvest. Catharine Broshears, an 1850 emigrant, is credited by biographers for introducing them to the Puget Sound area. She was the sister Michael Simmons and later the wife of Dr. David Maynard, both important characters in Washington and Puget Sound early history.

But the one person best documented, at least based on legendary stories, for introducing the dandelion—and perhaps other invasive species—to the Northwest was an early Portland herbal doctor and farmer. Perry Elgin Pettyman was born March 20, 1796, in Georgetown, Sussex County, Delaware. He married Elizabeth Hammond Vessels in Georgetown on October 23, 1824. Four years later he studied medicine at the Botanic Medical School in Baltimore, Maryland. Botanical medicine was, and yet is, a medical discipline utilizing plant roots, bark, leaves, flowers, seeds, shoots, buds, and sap.

In 1839, Dr. Pettyman and Elizabeth moved to Mount Pleasant, Missouri, where they resided for eight years. On May 7, 1847, Pettyman decided to better his lot by emigrating to Oregon. In the party was a Mr. Doty, John and Hugh Harrison and families, Hadley Hobson and family, a Mr. Thompkins and family, the Prettymans, two McKinneys, Major Magoon, and the aforementioned Henderson Luelling with his wagon load of nursery stock. John William Bewley acted as captain. According to Stephenie Flora's website for 1847 trains:



It joined later with the Cornelius Smith train that had left from St. Joseph, Missouri, per an account by John Cullen. Capt.

Bewley was elected the permanent Captain after a shakedown period of several days. Included in the party were the Isaac Bewley family, the Campbells, Crisps, Danforths, Greens, Prettymans, Youngs, and the Victor Wallace family. This train appears to have joined up at some point with the rear company of the Oskaloosa split led by Capt. Kees. There seems to have been a split because part of this train joined with the Rev. Jolly train at Ft. Bridger. [oregonpioneers.com/1847_M_Z.htm.]

Arriving at the mouth of the Umatilla River on October 10, 1847, several members of the party set off in different directions to establish themselves in Oregon Territory. Some, including the Bewleys among others, went to Waiilatpu to spend the winter, where on November 30, the Cayuse attacked the occupants at Whitman's Mission and took Mary Ann Bridger and Esther Lorinda Bewley hostage.

Pettyman and his family traveled on the Willamette Valley, from which Perry traveled over the territory, including an examination of Puget Sound, seeking a good site for a land claim. Thinking Portland's potential for navigation, being situated on the Willamette River and near the Columbia River, was boundless, he concluded to settle in the Portland area. In 1849, he placed a 620 acre claim under the Oregon Donation Land Claim Act (Certificate#1536, Section 6, Township 1 North, Range 2 East), three miles east of the Willamette River at the western base of Mount Tabor. The claim today is bounded on the north by Stark Street, on the south by Division Street, and extended east-west from 39th Street to 60th Street. It included Paradise Springs at the foot of Mount Tabor. [National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, John and Sarah Sheffield House, Paradise Springs Farm, March 1, 1991.]

At the time Pettyman asserted his claim, the only residents of East Portland were James C. Stephens and Clinton Kelly. Stephens owned a claim on the Willamette extending north from Hawthorne Boulevard to Stark Street where he started a ferry across to the nascent city of Portland in 1850. Kelly possessed a claim a few miles southwest of Mount Tabor in Section 12. Rev. Kelly was a well-known pioneer preacher that ministered to the ten families in the area in 1853 when they formed a Methodist-Episcopalian congregation. In seeking a name for their church, they consulted the Bible for inspiration, settling on "Mount Tabor." The nearby geologic formation came to be known by the same name. [Lori Summers, "The Chapters of Mt. Tabor," oregonstate.edu/instruct/geo422/Chapter_Mount_Tabor.pdf.]

On his tract, Pettyman cleared the trees and built a large home. It was a log structure, seventy feet long and had an upper story. The large room in the upper story served as a meeting place for area farmers and other neighborhood meetings and parties. The log structure was later replaced by a Classical

Revival mansion that cost \$8,000, situated at the base of Mount Tabor at the end of a road Prettyman carved out of the timbered region west to the Willamette River. This road became today's Hawthorne Boulevard. The home was destroyed and replaced by a new owner in 1908 and is now the site of Portland's Western Seminary.

The name of Prettyman's road was originally spelled without the ending "e." Apparently, the final letter was added under the mistaken assumption that the road was named for another doctor, J. C. Hawthorne, who established the Oregon Hospital for the Insane on Hawthorne Boulevard at Twelfth Street in East Portland near the river, on land donated by J. C. Stephens. But the road actually derived its name from hawthorns that Prettyman ordered from back east and planted along his road in 1859. The hawthorn story is reported as early as the July 1859 issue of *Oregon Farmer*.

After filing a land claim, Prettyman settled down to farm and conduct his medical practice. His son, Henry, in a June 11, 1914 interview with Fred Lockley for the *Oregon Daily Journal*, recalled that the doctor was available for house calls and made trips as far away as Roseburg in southern Oregon to care for patients. His agricultural practice was just as successful. In 1862, as evidence of his green thumb, Prettyman brought specimens of his garden to Portland, displaying them at the corner of Alder and Front Streets. These included several "monster" cabbages, one of which weighed thirty pounds, a dozen quite large beets, and several varieties of potatoes and apples, as well as blackberries, raspberries, several large pears, and seed cucumbers. He also brought along a sprig of English hawthorn and a peck of Scotch Vetch, describing the vetch as "excellent hay or fodder, and will grow anywhere, killing out any other vegetation, even sorrel and white clover." ["Fruit and Vegetable Show," *Weekly Oregonian*, October 25, 1862, p 2, c1.] The hawthorn has invaded open fields and woodlands in the Pacific coast states.

As part of his medical practice, Prettyman ordered dandelion seeds to propagate for his pharmaceutical armament. The dandelion does have known medicinal properties and virtually the entire plant can be used. It is used as a diuretic or mild laxative and is reputed to improve digestion. All parts can be eaten. Leaves are rich in vitamins A, B, C, E and K. The leaves can be eaten as salad. Roots are a good source of fiber and can be used to make a tea. The roots also can be dried for future use. Flowers can be used to make wine, to infuse vinegar, oils, and honey, or make tea. The flowers are also used in desserts, e.g., cookies, cakes, and frosting. Dandelions are used to treat inflammation (arthritis), tonsillitis, bladder infections, and constipation. The stem and leaves can be "milked" and used for indigestion. Dandelions are still harvested for herbal medicament. There are cookbooks with dandelion recipes and Vineland, New Jersey, has an annual Dandelion Festival and Dinner, ruled over by the Dandelion Queen.

So, next time you swear under your breath while ridding your lawn of dandelion plants, try putting it in a more positive light. The plant came to us in the Northwest thanks to one of the pioneers we enjoy learning about. If you decide to make a dinner salad from your front yard dandelions, however, just beware of where you neighbors walk their dogs.



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MASTHEAD: Replica of *The Old Oregon Trail* bronze relief sculpture created in 1924 by Avard Fairbanks for Oregon Trail monuments.



38th OCTA Convention

*Through the Lens of History
- Preserving the Past -
Focusing on the Future*

September 13-16, 2021

Elko, Nevada