

Abraham Landess (1789-1855)

Compiled by Ed, Don and Ron Guenther

Abraham was born in North Carolina where he lived from about 1788 to 1800. He moved with his father to Liberty, Casey County, Kentucky, where he married his neighbor, Elizabeth Conkwright (1795-1876) on February 24, 1811. They remained in Kentucky until 1838. He was a wagon maker by trade. Abraham and Elizabeth had all their children in Liberty, Casey County, Kentucky. In 1838 they moved to Quincy, Illinois, and lived until 1847. In 1847 Abraham and his wife and 4 of his sons set out for Oregon. Some believe he and his Abraham both contracted TB while caring for an ailing minister on the Oregon Trail.



1. Illinois, 1847

Abraham, with his wife Elizabeth probably moved to Quincy, Adams County, Illinois, at the same time as his father-in-law, Isaac Conkwright, in 1831. Isaac settled in nearby Pike County. It is likely that they were neighbors at the county line or at least close to each other. The Abraham

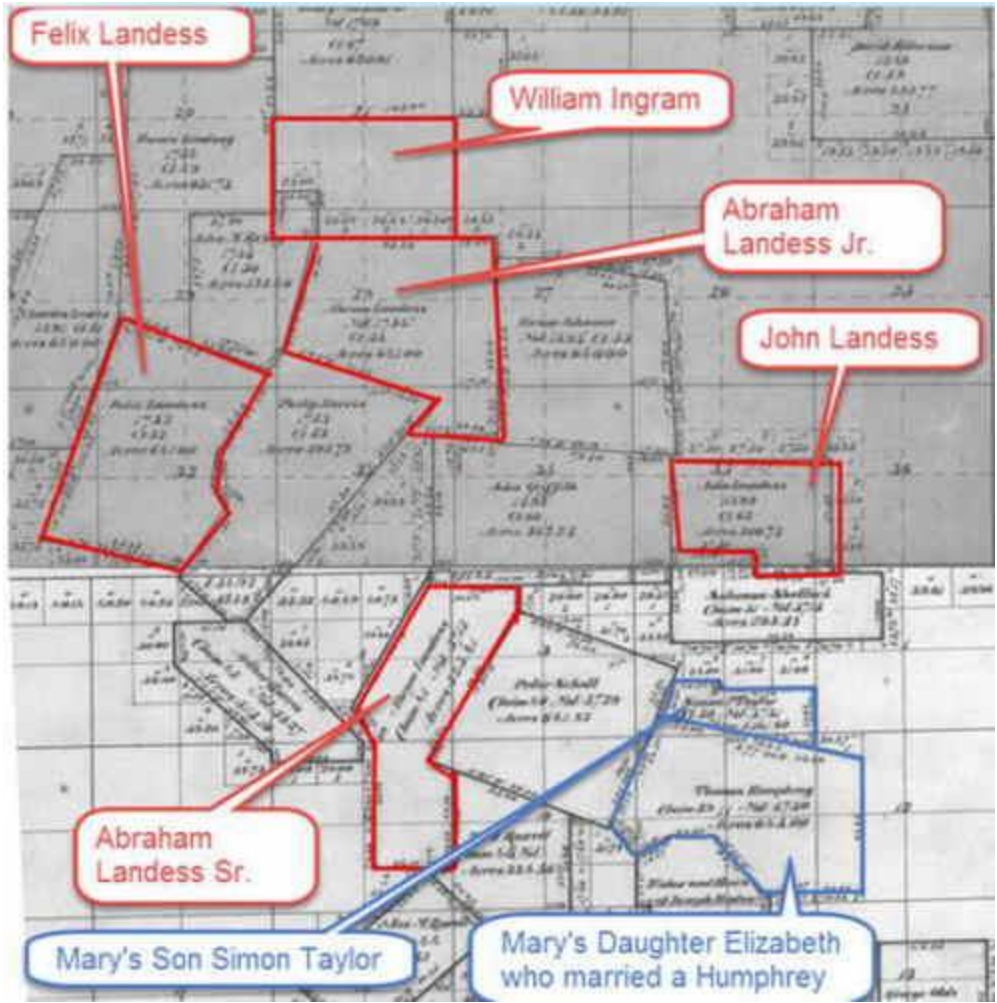
Landess story is a story about a large family that started out in Kentucky and migrated to Oregon. They helped each other out all the way. If one went down another would step in to fill the void. They stuck together as a family.

Oregon Trail

See the Elizabeth Conkwright Story for Abraham's Oregon Trail travels of 1847. Abraham took up a donation land claim near Scholls, DLC #635. Some believe Abraham contracted TB while caring for an ailing minister on the Oregon Trail. This would explain his death 7 years later. The Landess' train may have been a whole church going west, sick minister and all.

Abraham and Elizabeth had a daughter, Mary. Mary Landers, born in 1812, married Mr. Taylor in Casey County Kentucky. They had two children, Simon and Elizabeth, in Casey County, Kentucky. The family moved with the Abraham Landers family to Illinois in 1838 where they had Nancy. They had 3 children: Simon P. (1834-1873), Elizabeth Ann (1836-1875), and Nancy (1838-1882). It appears that Mary and her husband both died prior to 1847, because the 3 children are on the Oregon Trail with the Landess' train but their parents are not. Also on the train was a bachelor's wagon'. In this wagon traveled a Thomas Humphrey (1822-1898). At about age 14 Elizabeth marries Thomas in about 1851. They had 10 children in the Hillsboro area. Simon married Louisa Ligginton (1844-1934) around 1860 and they had 5 children in the Hillsboro area. Nancy married Lindsay Littleton (1829-1913) and they had 2 children.

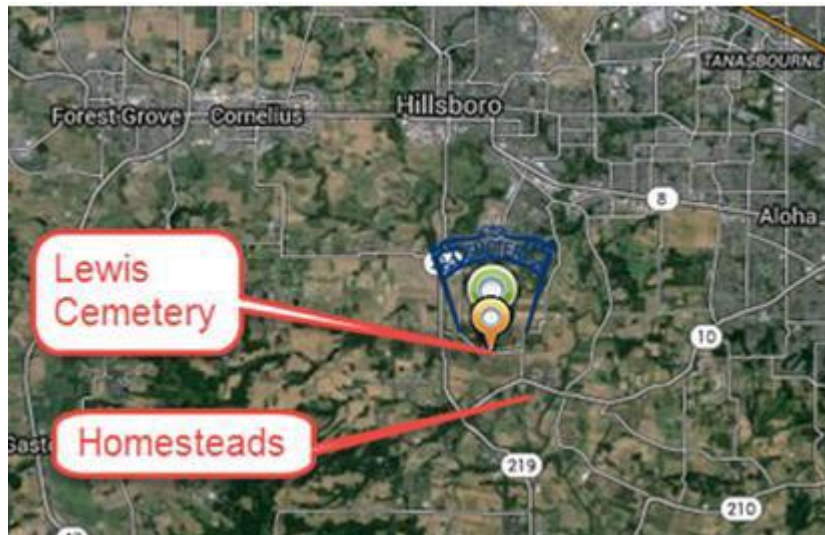
The Landess family brought these 3 children with them on the Oregon Trail. Usually the trip took about 6 months but their wagon train made it in 5 months. Grandpa Abraham was a wagon maker and most likely made the wagons. Remember they had a sick minister with TB in one of the wagons too. Abraham was watching over a lot people on the trip. Simon was 13 years old heading up his own wagon with his 2 little sisters. He was a young man at age 13. In Oregon the children lived with Abraham and Elizabeth, and then after Abraham's death, Simon and Nancy live with Abraham's son John Landess. Simon eventually took up his own land claim. He became a farmer in Hillsboro, Oregon, living close to the Landess families.



2. Landess Homesteads in Washington County, Oregon



3. Ancestral Families' Homesteads



4. Near Lewis Pioneer Cemetery

Abraham Landess

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Birth: 1788
North Carolina, USA

Death: Mar. 27, 1855
Washington County
Oregon, USA

Family links:
Spouse:
Elizabeth Conkright Landess (1793 - 1876)


Children:
John Landess (1823 - 1904)*
Abraham Landess (1825 - 1854)*
William Landess (1833 - 1895)*

*Calculated relationship


Inscription:
Aged 66 yrs 11 d's

Burial:
[Lewis Cemetery](#)
Hillsboro
Washington County
Oregon, USA

Created by: [Wendy BW](#)
Record added: Jul 05, 2006
Find A Grave Memorial# 14833202



Added by: Sherry Hess



Cemetery Photo
Added by: Tom Lohkano

5. Abraham Landess' Grave

Abraham and Elizabeth had 10 children:

1. Mary (1812-) was born in Casey County, Kentucky. She married a man named Taylor. They had 3 children.
2. Patsy (1814-) was born in 1814 in Casey County, Kentucky. She died about 1845 in Adams County, Illinois. She married Jesse Evans and they had 5 children: Thomas (1834-), Catharin (1836-), Joseph (1839-), Elizabeth (1840-), and John (1845-).
3. Henry (1816-1891) was born in 1816 and died in 1891 in Portland, Oregon. He married Mary Jane Richardson (1822-1882) in 1842. They had 3 children: Frances (1845-1932), William (1849-1933), and Richard (1854-1936). Henry came to Oregon on the Oregon Trail in 1852.

Henry Landers

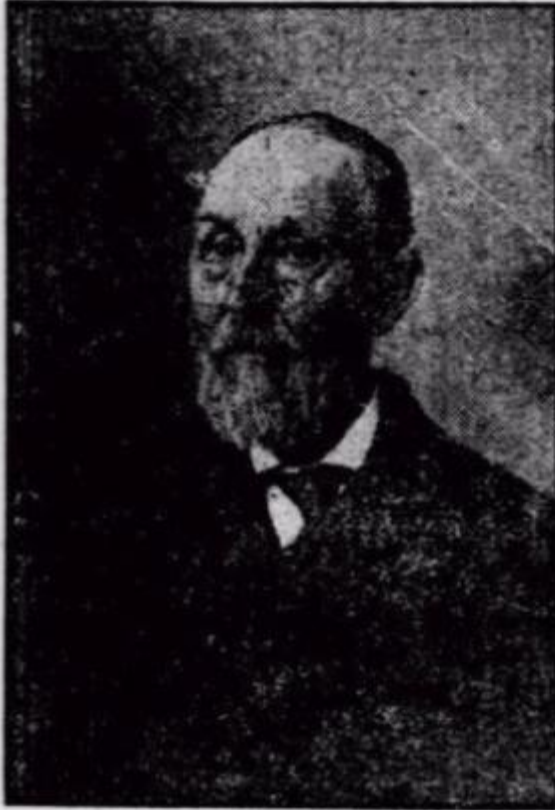


6. Henry Landess

4. Joseph (1818-) was born in Casey County, Kentucky.

5. Felix (1820-1903) was born in 1820 in Casey County, Kentucky. He died in 1903 in Washington County, Oregon. He married Elizabeth Jane White. They had 2 children: George (1847-1909), and Louise (1849-1927).

**PIONEER OF 1847 AND OREGONIAN SUBSCRIBER
FOR 50 YEARS.**



Felix Landers.

Inquiry was received a few days ago from Mrs. Elizabeth J. Doane, of Canyon City, Colo., in regard to the whereabouts of **Felix Landers** and his brothers, who settled somewhere in the vicinity of Portland in 1847. This was such a long time ago that The Oregonian, in publishing the inquiry, expressed a doubt as to any information of the parties inquired for being obtainable. It is, however, found that Felix Landers, now 82 years of age, is a resident of Portland, though now on a visit to his grandson, Fred Fox, in San Francisco. His wife resides at Eighth and Harrison streets.

Mr. **Landers** and several grown-up brothers came here with their parents in 1847. **Felix Landers** and another brother took donation claims in Washington County, and another brother took a claim in Polk County, and there is still another residing at Hillsboro.

Felix Landers has been a subscriber to The Oregonian from the time the first number was printed. He is still hale and hearty, and one of the best-known and most highly respected pioneers of Washington County. Mrs. Doane has been fully informed as to his whereabouts.

7. Felix Landess, Pioneer

6. John (1823-1904). After Abraham Sr. died Elizabeth stayed with John and they raised Abraham Jr.'s daughter Nancy. When John married Disa, Elizabeth moved in with William. None of the daughters came west and it may be that Elizabeth felt close to her youngest son William. This is a very caring family. They took care of one another. This is seen again when John and Disa took in granddaughter Wilda. The Landess family had a view that their family included all their brothers and sisters and their children. They were an inclusive family.

7. Abraham (1825-1854) was born in 1825 in Casey County, Kentucky and died in 1854 in Washington County, Oregon. He married Diann Decker (1824-1882). They had 5 children: Mary Jane (1845-1920), Nancy Ellen (Elinor) (1847-1928), Adeline (1849-1922), Martha Ann (1851-1943), George (1854-1918).

8. Elizabeth (1827-) was born in 1827 in Casey County, Kentucky. She married Jesse Evans and they had 5 children: Alvin (1848-), Mary (1849-), Adeline (1854-), George (1856-), and James

(1858-). In Liberty, Casey County, Kentucky, Patsy Landers, born in 1814, married Jesse Evans. They had two children there in Kentucky and moved with her parents family to Adams County, Illinois in 1838. They farmed there and had 3 more children together. Patsy Landers died around 1845, leaving her husband Jesse Evans with 5 young children. Jesse needed help and the Abraham family stepped up. Jesse's family needed a full time mother. Patsy's little sister Elizabeth, born in 1827, married the widower Jesse Evans. Elizabeth and Jesse had 5 children. When the Abraham Landers family migrated to Oregon Jesse Evans and Elizabeth stayed behind in Illinois.

9. Isaac (1830-) was born in 1830 in Casey County, Kentucky.

10. William (1833-1895) was born in 1833 in Casey County, Kentucky, and died in 1895 in Washington County, Oregon. He married Elizabeth Caroline Graham (1837- 1884), the daughter of Sarah Sally Winn Graham Ingram. They had 8 children: Mary (1856- 1935), Abraham Lincoln (1857-1863), Sarah E 1860-1862), George Lincoln(1863-1922), Cora M (1866-1873), the death of an infant son in 1867, the death of an infant son in 1868, and the death of an infant son in 1870.

John Landess

John Landess (1823-1904) married Leodicia Ingram (1847 – 1909)



The Late John Landess.

8. John Landess

John was born in Casey County, Kentucky, in 1823. When his father and 3 of his brothers went west in 1847 he went with them. John was a farmer and he took about 300 acres near Scholls in a Donation Land Claim. In 1849, at age 26, John got gold fever and headed for the California gold rush. He was a 49er. He spent 11 months there, but any gold he brought back has not yet been

discovered. The California gold fields of '49 was no place for cowards or weaklings. It was a rough place with a lot of rough men. The women?

When John's brother Abraham died in 1854 and his father in 1855, John and Leodicia took in his brother's daughter Nancy and John's mother Elizabeth. They were good folks and took care of family.



9. John and Leodicia

It was no surprise when John married a neighboring farmer's daughter, Leodicia Ingram, in 1862. John was 39, Leodicia 15 in the year 1862. John finally found his gold mine in a slip of a girl. Leodicia had come on the Oregon Trail as a little girl of age 5 in 1852. Women were scarce and John was lucky to find her. Also, a wife allowed for a double Donation Land Claim, man and wife together getting 640 acres. Nonetheless, John already had his farm and did not need Disa for land. It is believed that he married her for love. Disa had come on the trail, had farming in her blood and was a loving, giving person. John was of like nature. John's brother William had married Leodicia's half-sister Elizabeth Graham, daughter of Sarah Sally Winn-Graham-Ingram.



10. John Landess on left with two youngest daughters; the boy is a cousin

NAME	Landess, John.		
BORN IN	Kentucky. Casey Co.	25 Jan 1823	18 22
ANCESTRY	German.		
SETTLED IN TURN IN THE STATES	Illinois		
MARRIED TO	Lodicy Ingram		18
STARTED TO OREGON	April 7	18 47, FROM	Illinois
ROUTE	Plains	ARRIVED	Sept. 10 18 47
FIRST LOCATION	Washington Co.		
OCCUPATION	Farming.		
REMARKS	DIED Hillsboro 29 Sept. 1904 Bur Lewis Cem. South of Hillsboro		
Son of Abraham & Elizabeth (Conkright) Landess			

11. John Landess Card File

PIONEER LANDESS DEAD.

John Landess, the last descendant of a famous Kentucky pioneer family, died Thursday evening, September 29, 1904, at his home in this city, aged 81 years. Deceased was born in Kentucky, January 25, 1823, and with his parents, came to Oregon in 1847, the train having several fights with Indians. The party reached this county, in the Fall, and young Landess took up a donation land claim near Scholle, embracing several hundred acres. He was one of family of ten children, and he was the last to pass away. He was married to Miss Daa Ingram, in this county, in 1862. He has resided in this county continuously since 1847, with the exception of the year 1849, when he went to California gold fields, for eleven months. He was a member of the Christian Church, and had been an affiliate since he was 25 years of age, a period of 54 years. The following children, with the wife, survive him: Grant, of Hillsboro; Ruban Prosser, Farmington; Rena Stahl, Hequiam, Wash; Etta Williams, Scappoose; Girtha Larsen, Hillsboro, and Mamie Landess, at home. The funeral took place Saturday, interment being at Farmington.

12. John Landess' Obit

John and Leodicia had 7 children:

1. Ulysis S. G. (1864-1943)



13. U. S. Grant and Ruhama Landess, 1883



14. Grant and wife, Mary Hinton, 1890

2. Ruhama Hattie (1865-1920) married Walter Posser (1862-1941) in 1885 at age 20. They had 4 children, one of which was Fred Posser (1888-1918). Fred died in World War I in France at age 20. Hattie died two years later in 1920, some say of grief for the life her son never lived.

3. Elmer Elsworth (1869 – 1872)

4. Corena Maylona (1873-1931)

5. Marietta (1876-1943)

6. Girtha Ellen (1885-1964)

7. Mamie (1887-1968)

***Corena Maylona Landess (1873-1931) married Wilbur D. Wiley (1856 – 1909)**



Corena Maylona Landess

Your great grandmother

Birth: 5 June 1873 in Hillsboro, Oregon

Death: 1931 in (died as Rena Stahl)

Corena Landess is the last in the family to carry the Landess name. The Landess girls were noted for being a strong lot. Corena married a frontiersman and after three children had had enough of her husband. Not one for choosing sides but the Landess family must have been very unhappy when her marriage broke up. They were Christians and didn't believe in divorce but her situation may have warranted Corena to take a stand. Her father was quite old and her mother stepped in to help. With three young children Corena's mother took them under her wings. When Corena remarried her mother had grown to love her granddaughter along with Corena's younger sisters still at home. Her dad had taken in his niece when his brother died and had helped to raise. Now Corena's father and mother took in their granddaughter Wilda to raise as their own. As Corena moved on in her life and felt she could care for Wilda she insisted the young teenage daughter return home. Hard feelings developed between Corena and her mother and sisters. Corena's divorced husband's family stepped to encourage Wilda to have her father take custody. Wilda was sent to a Catholic girls school where she finished out high school. Corena had done her best raising her children but with a broken home her children didn't fare well.

15. Presented by Don Guenther

Corena wrote this poem in 1924, reflecting back on the death of her father, John Landess, in 1904:

Some 20 years ago today
They took our papa away
Never more his smile to see
Yet he's ever dear to me

Gone to that far distant shore
Where we'll see him never more

How we need to sit and watch him
As he sat beside the fire

He would sleep and dream of childhood
Then he'd wake with a smile

Corena married Wilbur Wiley when she was 16 years old, in 1889. In 1990 she had her first child George, followed by Wilda in 1991, then Dora in 1992. She may not have been cut out for so many so quick. She might have laid by Wilbur's side in death but instead there is an empty grave. Sadly they divorced in 1898 and she remarried.



16. Pioneer Cemetery in Hillsboro

Picture Credits:

1. Illinois, 1847: <http://www.epa.illinois.gov/about-us/locations/regional-offices/index>
2. Landess homesteads in Washington County: Oregon Donation Land Claims
3. Ancestral Families' Homesteads: Google Earth edited by Donasd S. Guenther
4. Lewis Pioneer Cemetery: Google Earth edited by Donald S. Guenther
5. Abraham Landess' Grave: find a grave
6. Henry Landess: Washington County Museum, Portland, Oregon
7. Felix Landess, Pioneer: Morning Oregonian, February 20, 1902
8. John Landess: Guenther family photo collection
9. John Landess and Leodicia Ingram: Washington County Museum, Portland, Oregon
10. John Landess on homestead in Washington county: Guenther family photo collection
11. John Landess card file: Oregon Genealogical Society, Portland, Oregon: Card File
12. John Landess' Obit: Oregonian Newspaper, Oct 6, 1904
13. U. S. Grant and Ruhama Landess, 1883: Washington County Museum, Portland, Oregon
14. Grant and wife, Mary Hinton, 1890: Washington County Museum, Portland, Oregon
15. Corena Landess bio: written by Donald S. Guenther
16. Pioneer Cemetery: photo by Donald S. Guenther

Footnotes

1. Black Hawk War wiki: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_Hawk_War
2. <http://www.anabaptists.org/history/german-migration-to-north-america.html>
3. John and Leodicia Landess: Not to be duplicated without permission from Washington County Museum, Portland, Oregon.
4. Grant and Ruhama: May not be duplicated without permission of Washington County Museum, Portland, Oregon.
5. Grant and wife: May not be duplicated without permission of Washington County Museum, Portland, Oregon.