

# Benjamin Mason Claggett

Pioneer of 1852

compiled by Stephenie Flora

oregonpioneers.com

Benjamin Mason Claggett

b. 22 Oct 1811 Woodford Co, Kentucky

d. 26 Jan 1859 Clackamas County, Oregon

s/o Thomas Claggett and Mary Mason

m. 17 Apr 1834 Clay County, Missouri

Elizabeth Hadley Irvine

b. 26 Feb 1816 Todd County, Kentucky

d. 04 Oct 1888 Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon

buried Lone Fir Pioneer Cemetery, Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon

d/o Jesse Irvine and Margaret A. Hadley

1850: Athens, Gentry County, Missouri, October 4, 1850; Benjamin (sic) Claggett, 35, farmer, KY; Elizabeth, 34, VA; Charles S., 15, farmer, MO; Mary E., 13, MO; Margaret A., 12, MO; Jesse J., 8, MO; Robert, 6, MO; Elizabeth, 3, MO; James M., 2/12, MO

1860: Powell Valley, Multnomah County, Oregon, August 1, 1860; Elizabeth Claggett, 43, farmer, \$1700 \$500, KY; Chas, 24, MO; Irvin, 19, MO; Elizabeth, 13, MO; James, 10, MO; Nancy, 31, MO

1880: Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon, June 2, 1880; E. H. Claggett, 64, wid, carpet weaving, KY Unk Eng; James M., 30, son, molder in foundry, MO KY KY

1930: July 20

**IRVINE-CLAGGETT families, Salem, July 20, 1930. Four members of the original immigrant train of 1852 were present: Elizabeth Claggett Kerns, 83, Jackson P. Irvine, 85, Samuel B. Irvine, 83, and Nancy Brown Claggett, 94. United States Senator Charles L. McNary, grandson of Mary Irvine and Charles Claggett, Milton A. Miller, son of Margaret Jane Irvine and Robert C. Miller, and B. F. Irvine, editor of the *Oregon Journal*, son of Jesse B. Irvine, are descendants.**

# *Genealogical Narrative*

*A History of the Claggett - Irvine Clans*

by  
Lois  
Mrs. Edith (Kerns) Chambers



*Limited Edition: Eugene, Oregon: 1940*

The Woodford County Claggetts went to Missouri in two groups. Two brothers, Thomas and William, and one sister, Sarah, went directly into Missouri. Two brothers, Benjamin Mason and Charles, with the other sister Margaret, started from Todd County three years later in company with the Irvine family. Charles, now married to Mary Irvine, and Benjamin, after visiting Robert Irvine, went north to see their brothers and sister. They found the country settling up fast and that the slave question was disturbing. They decided to go to Clay County in the extreme west, where they had friends and relatives. Here Benjamin married Elizabeth Irvine, April 17, 1834.

Soon after they reached Clay County they heard of new lands to the north. They followed the trapper and hunter into Gentry County, where Mary Margaret, daughter of Charles and Mary Claggett, and the son of Benjamin and Elizabeth, had the distinction of being the first white children born in the county in the year of 1835.

From 1835 to the present year 1940 the narrative of the Claggett family is closely interwoven with that of the Irvines.

# Reminiscences of Irvine Woodford Claggett

Missouri to Oregon

*As told to Edith Kerns Chambers in 1927.*

MY father, Benjamin Mason Claggett, enlisted twice for service in the Mexican War. He enlisted first on January 12, 1847, in Liberty, Missouri, as a private in Company H, Third Missouri Mounted Volunteers; and the second time at Athens (now Albany), county seat of Gentry County, September 22, 1847, under Captain Summers, Colonel Bonipham's regiment, commissary department. He was discharged at Fort Leavenworth.

On his return from first enlistment father sold his home in Gentry County and bought Mr. Plymate's improved farm in Harrison County. To this farm he added 80 acres bought with his soldier's rights. We were just nicely settled in this new home when we heard the folks in Gentry County were talking of going to Oregon. Father made a trip to his old home and after hearing of the wonders of that far off land returned and hastily sold our belongings and joined the rest of the family in the spring of 1852.

We stopped at Liberty, to visit an uncle, Samuel Hadley, who was a prominent man living in what seemed luxury to us. He was sheriff of his county. After this short visit we left for Saint Joseph to complete our equipment.

Our train was small. The unit was made up of the Irvine-Claggett-Berry families, all related. The most serious difficulty we encountered was crossing the Platte River. It was not only too expensive but caused delay to use the poor ferry. In fording the river we would often have to camp an extra night, for toward nightfall the river would rise and the quick-sand would make the crossing dangerous.

The Indians were friendly for the most part. Our troubles came as we neared the Blue Mountains. Frank Berry, standing guard one night,

shot an Indian who was prowling around the camp. In retaliation the Indians drove off several of our horses and cattle.

Near the Snake River, five head were bought back at \$5.00 apiece, after we had spent three days hunting for them. One time an old Indian made a dash at the children saying, "Charge George Washington".

We did not have much serious sickness. A young man, one of Uncle Robert's drivers, died soon after crossing the Platte river. Uncle Robert Irvine lost a child mid-way across the plains and his wife died after they left The Dalles.

## Recollections of Elizabeth Claggett Kerns

Crossing the Plains in 1852

*As Told to Edith Kerns Chambers in 1929.*

WHEN the stories of the new west penetrated the little settlement in Gentry County, Missouri, Grandmother was as interested as her sons and daughters. We were living in our new home in Harrison County when we heard that the folks in Gentry County were planning to go to Oregon. We hastily disposed of our farm and surplus stock and joined them in March, 1852. Grandmother was still enthusiastic about making the trip with us.

On April first we started on that six months' journey. Robert Irvine, my uncle, served as captain of our train and was relieved by his brother Samuel and his brother-in-law, Charles Claggett. Robert Irvine and Charles Claggett had the best equipment. We had two yoke of oxen, and some loose cattle. I have often heard my mother say she walked two-thirds of the way to Oregon, often helping with the cattle. She carried through life a deep scar on her forehead from stampeding cattle.

We stopped near Liberty, Missouri, where we saw others making preparations for the westward journey. Our grandmother had a brother, Samuel Hadley, living in Clay County. He was a prominent man in his

community and lived in luxury with many slaves. We enjoyed our stay there and considered it a "lark" to sleep in high poster beds.

The first exciting event of the trip was one of the crossings of the Platte River. After two or three trips were made across with trusty oxen we would have to find another crossing because of quicksand. Toward evening the river came up, and as we were the last ones to cross we nearly lost our goods. I shall never forget how my mother worked that evening drying our bedding and clothes. She seemed much distressed that the Bible was so soaked that the leaves were in danger of being lost.

Somewhere, perhaps half way across the plains, Uncle Charles Claggett's team ran into ours and broke the rear wheels. We traveled a great distance in the two-wheeled cart constructed from our four-wheeled wagon. Our wagons carried, besides the children, our food, beds, clothing, and camp equipment. In our wagon the food boxes, covered with quilts, were used as seats. Two Dutch ovens swung under the wagon, and two split bottom chairs were fastened to the back.

In the beginning of our trip we could buy dried apples, salmon, and flour at the trading posts and from the Indians. The Indians would say "Swap salmon for powder". As we neared the end of the journey we were two days without bread. My mother often told how she stayed away from us children so as not to hear us ask for bread.

Our train was small when we started out, but from time to time a wagon would join us. The wagons formed a circle at night and each family built its own fire and prepared its own food. Beds were made on the ground with the aid of ticks filled with feathers, but after the loss of the two wheels and one yoke of oxen it was necessary to discard feather beds; and when we lost our third ox, more articles were abandoned.

The only time there might have been serious trouble with the Indians occurred near the end of the journey. The train descended from the plateau into the valley of the Snake River. The wagons were taking their places in the circle and ours was the last to draw up. Father had gone to confer with the men as to who should stand guard. Mother was starting a fire when two Indian chiefs in all their paint came galloping

up to our wagon. I was so fascinated with their colorful approach that they were at the end of the wagon before I realized my danger. With one loud whoop the rider nearest the wagon made a grab for me. I darted to the front only to find that the rider had whirled and was there to make his second attempt. Just at this time Father observed what was taking place and ran with his black-snake in his hand. I am sure that the Indian and I never forgot the sound of that whip as it struck the flank of the horse. Fortunately for us a long train appeared over the hill and the Indians did not dare to attack us. It was later estimated that several hundred Indians were on the war path. As it was, the two trains lost several head of cattle and horses that night.

At The Dalles came the first break in our train. The men who were not needed to take the stock and wagons overland remained at the post a few days. They constructed rafts and floated down the Columbia to the Cascade Falls. Here were stationed men who were hired to take them around the Falls. They took passage on a large scow. After four days of travel they were joined by the rest of the train at the mouth of the Sandy.

It was a sad parting at The Dalles. Father and Mother were compelled to remain for sometime at the post to earn enough money to go on. I shall never forget the tears shed by my mother as she said goodbye to her mother. This was the last time we ever saw Grandmother Hadley. Margaret Hadley Irvine died the night the family arrived at their destination, Salem, Oregon. At last, after that long journey of six months, she rested in the Mission Cemetery, the first one buried there.

## Reminiscences of Elizabeth Claggett Kerns

(Continued)

### *Early Days in Multnomah County, Oregon*

OUR family remained in The Dalles for three weeks in order to secure enough money to finish the journey by boat. Father took up his trade of blacksmith and mother made and sold apple pies at one dollar a pie. In three weeks they had enough money to continue our journey.

The ride was interesting and pleasant after six months in an ox-pulled vehicle. The most impressive incident was the free dinner served on the boat, under the direction of J. C. Ainsworth. My mother forbade us to push or crowd as we saw others doing. These people ate as if they were starved.

It was late in the afternoon when we reached Portland. We remained on the wharf while father went in search of a house and a conveyance. It seemed a long wait, sitting on our rolls and bags. Finally father came with a drayman. The dray was a one-horse affair with two wheels. Our things were loaded on and mother, brother James, and I were put on top. We drove along Front street with its ungraded road, its one and two-story frame buildings, and here and there a piece of sidewalk, for about half a mile to a one-room cabin owned by Finis Carruthers.

This cabin was in a forest and about 600 feet from a larger cabin where Finis and his mother lived. The cabin was built of logs and covered with shakes. A fireplace was in one end, a small window on either side, and a door facing the east. The next morning father went in search of furniture, and provisions. Soon we had two bedsteads made of lumber and a trundle bed under each, a cupboard between, placed in one end of the room. The stove was placed near the fireplace, and a table under one of the windows.

Mrs. Carruthers was a typical pioneer woman, large of bone, spare, reticent, and careworn. She had great understanding for the needs of a pioneer family. From her we got milk, butter, cream, chickens, and

eggs. She not only helped with provisions but gave the older members of the family work. The older boys soon secured work hauling wood at \$2.00 a day. The older girls found employment where they might work and attend school. Father rented a room on Front street and set up a blacksmith shop in partnership with Mr. Middleton.

We arrived in Oregon just when the country was feeling the effects of the gold discoveries in California. So many men had gone to California that jobs were plentiful for the younger folks. At this time food was scarce and very high. I well remember father bringing home, in a paper bag, four apples for which he had paid more than a dollar apiece. How we children eyed those red apples hardly able to wait until they were carefully cut in two and distributed. I carried my half core in my pocket two or three days.

When summer came we found a four-room frame house nearer to father's work, about where the Auditorium now stands, and where we could go to school and church. Here we had a view of the river which always seemed full of boats: sail boats, steamboats, and rafts. Our neighbors were the Coffins, Reddicks, Carsons, and Casons. It was at the Cason home that I first saw a demonstration of spiritualism. My brother and I became curious about the rumors of what was being done at the home, so one evening we stole away and slipped into the house and took our place at the table. Here were about a dozen grown persons sitting around the dining-room table with their hands on top touching one another. Soon someone asked a question and the response came with one tap for yes, two for no, etc. In the dim candlelight the table began to dance around on one leg. This was too much for two frightened youngsters and we slipped out as quietly as we had entered.

We remained in this location until the next fall. In 1854 father took a contract for some work in Milwaukie and we spent the remainder of that year there, and until February of 1855. Then we went out to the donation land claim that father and mother had taken up in Clackamas and Multnomah Counties and commenced to build a new cabin just below the woodchoppers. There we had previously spent two summers. This new home was one of the best in that locality. A cabin of four rooms, two below and two above, with a lean-to for the kitchen, the

only house with real lumber floors. The fireplace was large, built of plaster and sticks on the outside of the building. A dutch oven always stood beside the fireplace.

It was beside that fireplace, with a pine knot for illumination, that books were read by Daniel Talbot, the teacher, and by our parents; books borrowed from some kind neighbor. In the community someone each week would make the trip of two or three days to Portland. This was the opportunity to secure a few necessary articles, such as coffee, sugar, yarn, thread, and cloth. Oh, how eagerly we waited for the news they would bring of the outside world, often months old.

One day in 1855 a neighbor, George W. Brown, came hurriedly up the road to tell us the Indians were on the war path and he would be back in one-half hour to take the family into Portland. In a short time he was back with his ox-team. Mother, with us smaller children, bedding, and provisions were placed in the wagon. The older children followed on foot. Father at this time was in Portland doing some work. We picked up Mrs. Brown and her two children. We stopped for the Rooks and a little farther on for Jim Brown's family. Mr. and Mrs. Brown marched ahead of the wagon, each with a rifle on their shoulder. Just out of Portland we met father coming for us. We drove to Father Kelley's where we found many others had preceded us.

The Kelly home was a large imposing house to me. It was a two-story log house about two miles from the river. A long hall ran thru the house with two rooms on either side. The front rooms each had a fireplace. When we arrived, the men were assembled outside of the house planning what to do if the Indians should come that way. It was the opinion of the men that the women and children in case of attack should be put on Ross Island. In the house the women were busy arranging places for all to sleep. Here were the Kerns, Newell, and Abraham families, whom I was to know so well in the future.

The next morning the crowd began to scatter; we, later going to Portland where we remained until the summer when we moved to the farm for our home. Father set up his blacksmith shop near Boring. From that time on father hardly saw a well day until his death, February, 1859.

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I attended school ('56-'63) at Powell Valley. Mrs. J. D. Lee (Eliza Whitten), Mrs. Austin (Effie Morgan), and Mr. Summer were some of the teachers. In 1863 and 1864 I attended the Portland Academy, boarding with Jennie Kerns Williamson. In 1865 and 1866, I boarded with Father Kelly and attended school with the Kelly girls and their cousin, Jane. I taught at Boring three months and at Gresham six months. Then we moved to Portland where I had a private school until I was married in 1868. We were married at the home of Samuel's father, William Kerns, by the Reverend George Atkinson. Then we went to our own home near Lone Fir Cemetery, Portland.

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Children of Benjamin Claggett and Elizabeth Irvine:

1. Charles S. Claggett

b. 05 Feb 1835 Missouri

d. 26 Aug 1899 Pleasant Home, Multnomah County, Oregon

buried Gresham Pioneer Cemetery, Gresham, Multnomah County, Oregon

m. 1879

Phebe A. Stephens

b. 30 Nov 1841 Paris, Champaign County, Ohio

d. 31 Jan 1924 Pleasant Home, Multnomah County, Oregon

buried Gresham Pioneer Cemetery, Gresham, Multnomah County, Oregon

d/o Joseph and Catherine Stephens

1850: Athens, Gentry County, Missouri, October 4, 1850; Benjamin (sic) Claggett, 35, farmer, KY; Elizabeth, 34, VA; Charles S., 15, farmer, MO; Mary E., 13, MO; Margaret A., 12, MO; Jesse J., 8, MO; Robert, 6, MO; Elizabeth, 3, MO; James M., 2/12, MO

1860: Powell Valley, Multnomah County, Oregon, August 1, 1860; Elizabeth Claggett, 43, farmer, \$1700 \$500, KY; Chas, 24, MO; Irvin, 19, MO; Elizabeth, 13, MO; James, 10, MO; Nancy, 31, MO

1870: Powell Valley, Multnomah County, Oregon, no date, Charles Cleggit, 40, farmer, \$400 \$0, Eng (sic)

1880: Powell Valley, Multnomah County, Oregon, June 2 & 3, 1880; Chas Claggett, 44, head, farmer, MO KY KY; Phebe, 36, wife, keeping house, OH DE KY; Elizabeth, 5/12 (Jan), dau, OR MO OH

1900: Powell Valley, Multnomah County, Oregon, June 25, 1900; Phoebe Claggett, head, Nov 1841, 58, wid, 1-1, OH OH KY, farmer; Lizzie, dau, Jan 1880, 20, s, OR OH OH

"CHARLES S. CLAGGETT. During his active agricultural life Charles S. Claggett was known as a good business man and shrewd manager, and he favorably impressed all who knew him during his residence in Multnomah county.

A native of the state of Missouri, he was born February 5, 1835, and was reared on the paternal farm, at the same time attending the nearby school. The family fortunes were shifted to the west in 1852, in which year Benjamin Claggett, the father of Charles S., and his wife Elizabeth, determined to seek the larger possibilities of the west, and after a year spent in California they came to Oregon. Here they took up a donation claim of three hundred and twenty acres, upon which Charles S. lived with the rest of the family, contributing his share toward the general support. Mrs. Claggett now resides on a portion of the original claim.

From his new home in Oregon, Mr. Claggett returned east in 1879 to marry Phebe A. Stephens, a native of the vicinity of Paris, Champaign county, Ohio, and daughter of Joseph and Catherine Stephens, the latter of whom were engaged in general farming, stock-raising and a mercantile enterprise. Mr. Stephens spent his entire life in Ohio, where he died in 1897. Mrs. Stephens passed away in 1886. Together Mr. Claggett and his wife traveled back to Oregon, and continued to reside on the sixty-five acres left from the original claim of three hundred and twenty acres up to the time of his death in 1899. Of this tract, about thirty-five acres are cleared, and general farming and stock-raising are engaged in.

Mr. Claggett was a Republican in political preference, and while active at times, confined his political services to the office of school director for many years. Mrs. Claggett and her daughter, Elizabeth, are members of the Baptist Church, to the support of which Mr. Claggett had contributed liberally. He was honored and respected by all who knew him." [Portrait and Biographical Record of Portland p.554]

### **Death of Charles S. Claggett—Other Matters.**

Charles S. Claggett, the last of the pioneers of Powell's valley, who between 1850 and 1852 pushed their way into the interior from the Willamette to make a home, died at his house at Pleasant Home yesterday morning at 11 o'clock, after a long, lingering illness. A year ago Mr. Claggett began to fail in health, and, although not confined to his bed until recently, there was a steady decline in his vitality, and his wife and friends saw that the end was not far off. He leaves a wife and one child. It is nearly half a century since he came west with his parents and settled on the Claggett donation land claim near Pleasant Home, 20 miles from the Willamette valley. He is the last of his family and the last of the pioneers of his own neighborhood. His parents came with Archon Kelly, James Brown and a few others, who have passed away. At Gresham only Mrs. Catherine Elizabeth Linnermann and Stephen Roberts, who went to Powell's valley in 1852, are still among the living pioneers, who stopped seven miles closer to Portland than the Claggetts and the Kellys. The death of Mr. Claggett will be a loss to the community, where he had lived so long. The funeral will take place this afternoon from the Gresham church, where services will be held.

[Oregonian, Portland, Oregon August 27, 1899 p.6]

Children of Charles Claggett and Phebe Stephens:

i. Elizabeth Claggett

b. Jan 1880 Powell Valley, Multnomah County, Oregon

d. 02 Jun 1946 Multnomah County, Oregon

buried Gresham Pioneer Cemetery, Gresham, Multnomah County, Oregon

2. Mary E. Claggett

b. 1837

d. 10 Oct 1908 Watsonville, Santa Cruz County, California

m. 1856 Multnomah County, Oregon

Arthur Kelly

b. 1827 Ireland

d. bef 1880

1850: Athens, Gentry County, Missouri, October 4, 1850; Benjamin (sic) Claggett, 35, farmer, KY; Elizabeth, 34, VA; Charles S., 15, farmer, MO; Mary E., 13, MO; Margaret A., 12, MO; Jesse J., 8, MO; Robert, 6, MO; Elizabeth, 3, MO; James M., 2/12, MO

1860: Powell Valley, Multnomah County, Oregon, August 2, 1860; Arthur Kelly, 34, farmer, Ire; Mary, 23, MO; Wm. P., 3, OR; Danl Talbot, 20, farmer, \$1200 \$1200, KY

1870: Powell Valley, Multnomah County, Oregon, no date, Arthur Kelly, 46, farmer, \$500 \$370, Ire; Mary, 36, keeping house, MO; William, 13, at home, OR; Jane, 10, at home, OR; Araminta, 6, at home, OR; Mary Ellen, 3, at home, OR

1880: East Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon, June 3, 1880; Wm. A. Roberts, 29, carpenter, IL unk IL; Jane D., 18, wife, keeping house, OR Ire MO; Mary Kelly, 43, mother (mother-in-law), wid, boarding, MO KY KY; Minnie, 16, dau (sister-in-law), OR Ire MO; Maggie, 13, dau (sister in law), OR Ire MO

1900: Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon, Mary Kelly, head, Nov 1837, 62, wid, 6-4, MO KY KY; Minnie Patterson, dau, Feb 1864, 34, div, 0-0, OR Ire MO, nursing; Harold Donaghay, orphan-son, Dec 1897, 2, s, CA Can Can

Children of Arthur Kelly and Mary Claggett:

i. William P. Kelly

b. 1857 Multnomah County, Oregon

d.

1880: Tygh, Wasco County, Oregon, June 16, 1880; Martin Wing, 48, farmer, NY VT NH; A. Margaret, 42, wife, keeping house, MO KY KY; W. Charles, 24, son, at home, OR NY MO; I. Milton, 22, son, at home, OR NY MO; Leonidas, 20, son, at home, OR NY MO; Stephen, 18, son, at home, OR NY MO; Edwin, 16, at home, OR NY MO; Ella, 14, dau, OR NY MO; Emma, 12, dau, OR NY MO; Martha, 10, dau, OR NY MO; Mary, 8, dau, OR NY MO; Frank, 6, son, OR NY MO; Harriett, 4, dau, OR NY MO; Dollie, 2, dau, OR NY MO; T. Samuel, 4/12 (Feb), son, OR NY MO; **William H. Kelly, 22, nephew, OR Ire MO**

ii. Jane Kelly

b. 1860 Multnomah County, Oregon

d.

iii. Araminta "Minnie" Kelly

b. 1864 Multnomah County, Oregon

d.

iv. Mary Ellen Kelly

b. 1867 Multnomah County, Oregon

d.

v. Kelly

b.

d.

vi. Kelly

b.

d.

3. Margaret Ann Claggett

b. 10 Feb 1838 Gentry County, Missouri

d. 02 May 1908 Wamic, Wasco County, Oregon

buried Lone Pine Cemetery, Wamic, Wasco County, Oregon

m. 12 Sep 1854

Martin Wing

b. 29 Aug 1831 Franklinville, Cattaraugus County, New York

d. 20 Sep 1914 Wamic, Wasco County, Oregon

buried Lone Pine Cemetery, Wamic, Wasco County, Oregon

s/o Elnathan Wing and Myra Morgan

1850: Athens, Gentry County, Missouri, October 4, 1850; Benjaman (sic) Claggett, 35, farmer, KY; Elizabeth, 34, VA; Charles S., 15, farmer, MO; Mary E., 13, MO; Margaret A., 12, MO; Jesse I., 8, MO; Robert, 6, MO; Elizabeth, 3, MO; James M., 2/12, MO

1860: Powell Valley, Multnomah County, Oregon, August 2, 1860; Martin Wing, 25, farmer, \$900 \$300, NY; Margt, 21, MO; Chas, 4, OR; Milton, 3, OR; Leonidas, 6/12, OR

1870: Sandy Pct, Multnomah County, Oregon, no date; Martin Wing, 38, farmer, \$1500 675, NY; Margaret, 32, keeping house, MO; Chas Wm, 14, at home, OR; Milton, 12, at home, OR; Leonitus, 10, at home, OR; Stephen, 8, at home, OR; James, 6, at home, OR; Rosella, 4, at home, OR; Emma, 2, at home, OR; Martha, 1, at home, OR

1880: Tygh, Wasco County, Oregon, June 16, 1880; Martin Wing, 48, farmer, NY VT NH; A. Margaret, 42, wife, keeping house, MO KY KY; W. Charles, 24, son, at home, OR NY MO; I. Milton, 22, son, at home, OR NY MO; Leonidas, 20, son, at home, OR NY MO; Stephen, 18, son, at home, OR NY MO; Edwin, 16, at home, OR NY MO; Ella, 14, dau, OR NY MO; Emma, 12, dau, OR NY MO; Martha, 10, dau, OR NY MO; Mary, 8, dau, OR NY MO; Frank, 6, son, OR NY MO; Harriett, 4, dau, OR NY MO; Dollie, 2, dau, OR NY MO; T. Samuel, 4/12 (Feb), son, OR NY MO; William H. Kelly, 22, nephew, OR Ire MO

1900: The Dalles, Wasco County, Oregon, June 7, 1900; Martin Wing, head, Aug 1831, 68, m-45yrs, NY VT NY; Margaret A., wife, Feb 1837, 63, m-45yrs, 14-13, IL KY KY;

1910: Wamic, Wasco County, Oregon, April 19, 1910; Edward J. Wing, 46, m1-20yrs, OR NY KY, farmer-general farm; Cora E., wife, 39, m1-20yrs, 2-2, OR Eng US; Wilburn M., son, 19, s, OR OR OR, laborer-home farm; Clara M., dau, 17, s, OR OR OR; Martin, father, 78, wid, NY VT NY, retired farmer

Children of Martin Wing and Margaret Claggett:

i. Charles William Wing

b. 20 Apr 1856 Multnomah County, Oregon

d. 13 May 1945 The Dalles, Wasco County, Oregon

1860: Powell Valley, Multnomah County, Oregon, August 2, 1860; Martin Wing, 25, farmer, \$900 \$300, NY; Margt, 21, MO; Chas, 4, OR; Milton, 3, OR; Leonidas, 6/12, OR

1870: Sandy Pct, Multnomah County, Oregon, no date; Martin Wing, 38, farmer, \$1500 675, NY; Margaret, 32, keeping house, MO; Chas Wm, 14, at home, OR; Milton, 12, at home, OR; Leonitus, 10, at home, OR; Stephen, 8, at home, OR; James, 6, at home, OR; Rosella, 4, at home, OR; Emma, 2, at home, OR; Martha, 1, at home, OR

1880: Tygh, Wasco County, Oregon, June 16, 1880; Martin Wing, 48, farmer, NY VT NH; A. Margaret, 42, wife, keeping house, MO KY KY; W. Charles, 24, son, at home, OR NY MO; I. Milton, 22, son, at home, OR NY MO; Leonidas, 20, son, at home, OR NY MO; Stephen, 18, son, at home, OR NY MO; Edwin, 16, at home, OR NY MO; Ella, 14, dau, OR NY MO; Emma, 12, dau, OR NY MO; Martha, 10, dau, OR NY MO; Mary, 8, dau, OR NY MO; Frank, 6, son, OR NY MO; Harriett, 4, dau, OR NY MO; Dollie, 2, dau, OR NY MO; T. Samuel, 4/12 (Feb), son, OR NY MO; William H. Kelly, 22, nephew, OR Ire MO

ii. Milton Irving Wing

b. 17 Sep 1857 Multnomah County, Oregon

d. 20 Aug 1929 Wamic, Wasco County, Oregon

1860: Powell Valley, Multnomah County, Oregon, August 2, 1860; Martin Wing, 25, farmer, \$900 \$300, NY; Margt, 21, MO; Chas, 4, OR; Milton, 3, OR; Leonidas, 6/12, OR

1870: Sandy Pct, Multnomah County, Oregon, no date; Martin Wing, 38, farmer, \$1500 675, NY; Margaret, 32, keeping house, MO; Chas Wm, 14, at home, OR; Milton, 12, at home, OR; Leonitus, 10, at home, OR; Stephen, 8, at home, OR; James, 6, at home, OR; Rosella, 4, at home, OR; Emma, 2, at home, OR; Martha, 1, at home, OR

1880: Tygh, Wasco County, Oregon, June 16, 1880; Martin Wing, 48, farmer, NY VT NH; A. Margaret, 42, wife, keeping house, MO KY KY; W. Charles, 24, son, at home, OR NY MO; I. Milton, 22, son, at home, OR NY MO; Leonidas, 20, son, at home, OR NY MO; Stephen, 18, son, at home, OR NY MO; Edwin, 16, at home, OR NY MO; Ella, 14, dau, OR NY MO; Emma, 12, dau, OR NY MO; Martha, 10, dau, OR NY MO; Mary, 8, dau, OR NY MO; Frank, 6, son, OR NY MO; Harriett, 4, dau, OR NY MO; Dollie, 2, dau, OR NY MO; T. Samuel, 4/12 (Feb), son, OR NY MO; William H. Kelly, 22, nephew, OR Ire MO

iii. Leonidas Alonzo Wing

b. 29 Sep 1859 Multnomah County, Oregon

d. 13 Oct 1933 Wamic, Wasco County, Oregon

1860: Powell Valley, Multnomah County, Oregon, August 2, 1860; Martin Wing, 25, farmer, \$900 \$300, NY; Margt, 21, MO; Chas, 4, OR; Milton, 3, OR; Leonidas, 6/12, OR

1870: Sandy Pct, Multnomah County, Oregon, no date; Martin Wing, 38, farmer, \$1500 675, NY; Margaret, 32, keeping house, MO; Chas Wm, 14, at home, OR; Milton, 12, at home, OR; Leonitus, 10, at home, OR; Stephen, 8, at home, OR; James, 6, at home, OR; Rosella, 4, at home, OR; Emma, 2, at home, OR; Martha, 1, at home, OR

1880: Tygh, Wasco County, Oregon, June 16, 1880; Martin Wing, 48, farmer, NY VT NH; A. Margaret, 42, wife, keeping house, MO KY KY; W. Charles, 24, son, at home, OR NY MO; I.

Milton, 22, son, at home, OR NY MO; Leonidas, 20, son, at home, OR NY MO; Stephen, 18, son, at home, OR NY MO; Edwin, 16, at home, OR NY MO; Ella, 14, dau, OR NY MO; Emma, 12, dau, OR NY MO; Martha, 10, dau, OR NY MO; Mary, 8, dau, OR NY MO; Frank, 6, son, OR NY MO; Harriett, 4, dau, OR NY MO; Dollie, 2, dau, OR NY MO; T. Samuel, 4/12 (Feb), son, OR NY MO; William H. Kelly, 22, nephew, OR Ire MO

iv. Stephen Wing

b. 06 Aug 1861 Multnomah County, Oregon

d. 12 Jul 1949 The Dalles, Wasco County, Oregon

1870: Sandy Pct, Multnomah County, Oregon, no date; Martin Wing, 38, farmer, \$1500 675, NY; Margaret, 32, keeping house, MO; Chas Wm, 14, at home, OR; Milton, 12, at home, OR; Leonitus, 10, at home, OR; Stephen, 8, at home, OR; James, 6, at home, OR; Rosella, 4, at home, OR; Emma, 2, at home, OR; Martha, 1, at home, OR

1880: Tygh, Wasco County, Oregon, June 16, 1880; Martin Wing, 48, farmer, NY VT NH; A. Margaret, 42, wife, keeping house, MO KY KY; W. Charles, 24, son, at home, OR NY MO; I. Milton, 22, son, at home, OR NY MO; Leonidas, 20, son, at home, OR NY MO; Stephen, 18, son, at home, OR NY MO; Edwin, 16, at home, OR NY MO; Ella, 14, dau, OR NY MO; Emma, 12, dau, OR NY MO; Martha, 10, dau, OR NY MO; Mary, 8, dau, OR NY MO; Frank, 6, son, OR NY MO; Harriett, 4, dau, OR NY MO; Dollie, 2, dau, OR NY MO; T. Samuel, 4/12 (Feb), son, OR NY MO; William H. Kelly, 22, nephew, OR Ire MO

v. James Edwin/Edward Wing

b. 07 Sep 1863 Multnomah County, Oregon

d. 06 Sep 1937 Wasco County, Oregon

1870: Sandy Pct, Multnomah County, Oregon, no date; Martin Wing, 38, farmer, \$1500 675, NY; Margaret, 32, keeping house, MO; Chas Wm, 14, at home, OR; Milton, 12, at home, OR; Leonitus, 10, at home, OR; Stephen, 8, at home, OR; James, 6, at home, OR; Rosella, 4, at home, OR; Emma, 2, at home, OR; Martha, 1, at home, OR

1880: Tygh, Wasco County, Oregon, June 16, 1880; Martin Wing, 48, farmer, NY VT NH; A. Margaret, 42, wife, keeping house, MO KY KY; W. Charles, 24, son, at home, OR NY MO; I. Milton, 22, son, at home, OR NY MO; Leonidas, 20, son, at home, OR NY MO; Stephen, 18, son, at home, OR NY MO; Edwin, 16, at home, OR NY MO; Ella, 14, dau, OR NY MO; Emma, 12, dau, OR NY MO; Martha, 10, dau, OR NY MO; Mary, 8, dau, OR NY MO; Frank, 6, son, OR NY MO; Harriett, 4, dau, OR NY MO; Dollie, 2, dau, OR NY MO; T. Samuel, 4/12 (Feb), son, OR NY MO; William H. Kelly, 22, nephew, OR Ire MO

1910: Wamic, Wasco County, Oregon, April 19, 1910; Edward J. Wing, 46, m1-20yrs, OR NY KY, farmer-general farm; Cora E., wife, 39, m1-20yrs, 2-2, OR Eng US; Wilburn M., son, 19, s, OR OR OR, laborer-home farm; Clara M., dau, 17, s, OR OR OR; Martin, father, 78, wid, NY VT NY, retired farmer

vi. Rose Ella Wing

b. 28 Jul 1865 Multnomah County, Oregon

d. 09 Apr 1906 Wamic, Wasco County, Oregon

1870: Sandy Pct, Multnomah County, Oregon, no date; Martin Wing, 38, farmer, \$1500 675, NY; Margaret, 32, keeping house, MO; Chas Wm, 14, at home, OR; Milton, 12, at home, OR;

Leonitus, 10, at home, OR; Stephen, 8, at home, OR; James, 6, at home, OR; Rosella, 4, at home, OR; Emma, 2, at home, OR; Martha, 1, at home, OR

1880: Tygh, Wasco County, Oregon, June 16, 1880; Martin Wing, 48, farmer, NY VT NH; A. Margaret, 42, wife, keeping house, MO KY KY; W. Charles, 24, son, at home, OR NY MO; I. Milton, 22, son, at home, OR NY MO; Leonidas, 20, son, at home, OR NY MO; Stephen, 18, son, at home, OR NY MO; Edwin, 16, at home, OR NY MO; Ella, 14, dau, OR NY MO; Emma, 12, dau, OR NY MO; Martha, 10, dau, OR NY MO; Mary, 8, dau, OR NY MO; Frank, 6, son, OR NY MO; Harriett, 4, dau, OR NY MO; Dollie, 2, dau, OR NY MO; T. Samuel, 4/12 (Feb), son, OR NY MO; William H. Kelly, 22, nephew, OR Ire MO

vii. Emma Alice Wing

b. 18 Sep 1867 Multnomah County, Oregon

d. 03 Nov 1947 Hood River County, Oregon

1870: Sandy Pct, Multnomah County, Oregon, no date; Martin Wing, 38, farmer, \$1500 675, NY; Margaret, 32, keeping house, MO; Chas Wm, 14, at home, OR; Milton, 12, at home, OR; Leonitus, 10, at home, OR; Stephen, 8, at home, OR; James, 6, at home, OR; Rosella, 4, at home, OR; Emma, 2, at home, OR; Martha, 1, at home, OR

1880: Tygh, Wasco County, Oregon, June 16, 1880; Martin Wing, 48, farmer, NY VT NH; A. Margaret, 42, wife, keeping house, MO KY KY; W. Charles, 24, son, at home, OR NY MO; I. Milton, 22, son, at home, OR NY MO; Leonidas, 20, son, at home, OR NY MO; Stephen, 18, son, at home, OR NY MO; Edwin, 16, at home, OR NY MO; Ella, 14, dau, OR NY MO; Emma, 12, dau, OR NY MO; Martha, 10, dau, OR NY MO; Mary, 8, dau, OR NY MO; Frank, 6, son, OR NY MO; Harriett, 4, dau, OR NY MO; Dollie, 2, dau, OR NY MO; T. Samuel, 4/12 (Feb), son, OR NY MO; William H. Kelly, 22, nephew, OR Ire MO

viii. Martha Wing

b. 12 Dec 1869 Multnomah County, Oregon

d. 12 Nov 1893 Sherman County, Oregon

1870: Sandy Pct, Multnomah County, Oregon, no date; Martin Wing, 38, farmer, \$1500 675, NY; Margaret, 32, keeping house, MO; Chas Wm, 14, at home, OR; Milton, 12, at home, OR; Leonitus, 10, at home, OR; Stephen, 8, at home, OR; James, 6, at home, OR; Rosella, 4, at home, OR; Emma, 2, at home, OR; Martha, 1, at home, OR

1880: Tygh, Wasco County, Oregon, June 16, 1880; Martin Wing, 48, farmer, NY VT NH; A. Margaret, 42, wife, keeping house, MO KY KY; W. Charles, 24, son, at home, OR NY MO; I. Milton, 22, son, at home, OR NY MO; Leonidas, 20, son, at home, OR NY MO; Stephen, 18, son, at home, OR NY MO; Edwin, 16, at home, OR NY MO; Ella, 14, dau, OR NY MO; Emma, 12, dau, OR NY MO; Martha, 10, dau, OR NY MO; Mary, 8, dau, OR NY MO; Frank, 6, son, OR NY MO; Harriett, 4, dau, OR NY MO; Dollie, 2, dau, OR NY MO; T. Samuel, 4/12 (Feb), son, OR NY MO; William H. Kelly, 22, nephew, OR Ire MO

ix. Mary Elizabeth Wing

b. 21 Dec 1871 Multnomah County, Oregon

d. 18 Jun 1929 Wamic, Wasco County, Oregon

1880: Tygh, Wasco County, Oregon, June 16, 1880; Martin Wing, 48, farmer, NY VT NH; A. Margaret, 42, wife, keeping house, MO KY KY; W. Charles, 24, son, at home, OR NY MO; I. Milton, 22, son, at home, OR NY MO; Leonidas, 20, son, at home, OR NY MO; Stephen, 18,

son, at home, OR NY MO; Edwin, 16, at home, OR NY MO; Ella, 14, dau, OR NY MO; Emma, 12, dau, OR NY MO; Martha, 10, dau, OR NY MO; Mary, 8, dau, OR NY MO; Frank, 6, son, OR NY MO; Harriett, 4, dau, OR NY MO; Dollie, 2, dau, OR NY MO; T. Samuel, 4/12 (Feb), son, OR NY MO; William H. Kelly, 22, nephew, OR Ire MO

x. Frank L. Wing

b. 21 Jan 1874 Wamic, Wasco County, Oregon

d. 13 Mar 1950 Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon

1880: Tygh, Wasco County, Oregon, June 16, 1880; Martin Wing, 48, farmer, NY VT NH; A. Margaret, 42, wife, keeping house, MO KY KY; W. Charles, 24, son, at home, OR NY MO; I. Milton, 22, son, at home, OR NY MO; Leonidas, 20, son, at home, OR NY MO; Stephen, 18, son, at home, OR NY MO; Edwin, 16, at home, OR NY MO; Ella, 14, dau, OR NY MO; Emma, 12, dau, OR NY MO; Martha, 10, dau, OR NY MO; Mary, 8, dau, OR NY MO; Frank, 6, son, OR NY MO; Harriett, 4, dau, OR NY MO; Dollie, 2, dau, OR NY MO; T. Samuel, 4/12 (Feb), son, OR NY MO; William H. Kelly, 22, nephew, OR Ire MO

xi. Harriet Ann Wing

b. 18 Jul 1876 Wamic, Wasco County, Oregon

d. 19 Jan 1968 Yakima, Yakima County, Washington

1880: Tygh, Wasco County, Oregon, June 16, 1880; Martin Wing, 48, farmer, NY VT NH; A. Margaret, 42, wife, keeping house, MO KY KY; W. Charles, 24, son, at home, OR NY MO; I. Milton, 22, son, at home, OR NY MO; Leonidas, 20, son, at home, OR NY MO; Stephen, 18, son, at home, OR NY MO; Edwin, 16, at home, OR NY MO; Ella, 14, dau, OR NY MO; Emma, 12, dau, OR NY MO; Martha, 10, dau, OR NY MO; Mary, 8, dau, OR NY MO; Frank, 6, son, OR NY MO; Harriett, 4, dau, OR NY MO; Dollie, 2, dau, OR NY MO; T. Samuel, 4/12 (Feb), son, OR NY MO; William H. Kelly, 22, nephew, OR Ire MO

xii. Dollie May Wing

b. 01 Feb 1878 Wamic, Wasco County, Oregon

d. 30 Oct 1963 Bend, Deschutes County, Oregon

1880: Tygh, Wasco County, Oregon, June 16, 1880; Martin Wing, 48, farmer, NY VT NH; A. Margaret, 42, wife, keeping house, MO KY KY; W. Charles, 24, son, at home, OR NY MO; I. Milton, 22, son, at home, OR NY MO; Leonidas, 20, son, at home, OR NY MO; Stephen, 18, son, at home, OR NY MO; Edwin, 16, at home, OR NY MO; Ella, 14, dau, OR NY MO; Emma, 12, dau, OR NY MO; Martha, 10, dau, OR NY MO; Mary, 8, dau, OR NY MO; Frank, 6, son, OR NY MO; Harriett, 4, dau, OR NY MO; Dollie, 2, dau, OR NY MO; T. Samuel, 4/12 (Feb), son, OR NY MO; William H. Kelly, 22, nephew, OR Ire MO

xiii. Samuel Patrick Henry Wing

b. 10 Feb 1880 Wasco County, Oregon

d. 03 Mar 1972 Wasco County, Oregon

1880: Tygh, Wasco County, Oregon, June 16, 1880; Martin Wing, 48, farmer, NY VT NH; A. Margaret, 42, wife, keeping house, MO KY KY; W. Charles, 24, son, at home, OR NY MO; I. Milton, 22, son, at home, OR NY MO; Leonidas, 20, son, at home, OR NY MO; Stephen, 18, son, at home, OR NY MO; Edwin, 16, at home, OR NY MO; Ella, 14, dau, OR NY MO; Emma, 12, dau, OR NY MO; Martha, 10, dau, OR NY MO; Mary, 8, dau, OR NY MO; Frank, 6, son, OR NY MO; Harriett, 4, dau, OR NY MO; Dollie, 2, dau, OR NY MO; T. Samuel, 4/12 (Feb), son, OR NY MO; William H. Kelly, 22, nephew, OR Ire MO

xiv. Joseph Wing  
b. 21 Mar 1882 Wasco County, Oregon  
d. 09 Mar 1969 The Dalles, Wasco County, Oregon

4. Jesse Irvine Claggett  
b. 23 Aug 1841 Missouri  
d. 17 Apr 1929 Independence, Polk County, Oregon  
buried Hilltop Cemetery, Independence, Polk County, Oregon

m. 25 Dec 1859 Clackamas County, Oregon  
Nancy E. Brown  
b. 01 Jan 1839  
d. 27 Apr 1938 Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon  
buried Hilltop Cemetery, Independence, Polk County, Oregon

1850: Athens, Gentry County, Missouri, October 4, 1850; Benjamin (sic) Claggett, 35, farmer, KY; Elizabeth, 34, VA; Charles S., 15, farmer, MO; Mary E., 13, MO; Margaret A., 12, MO; Jesse I., 8, MO; Robert, 6, MO; Elizabeth, 3, MO; James M., 2/12, MO

1860: Powell Valley, Multnomah County, Oregon, August 1, 1860; Elizabeth Claggett, 43, farmer, \$1700 \$500, KY; Chas, 24, MO; Irvin, 19, MO; Elizabeth, 13, MO; James, 10, MO; Nancy, 31, MO

# PORTLAND'S EARLY HISTORY RECALLED BY OREGON PIONEER

Irvine Claggett, of Independence, Trades Ox Team for Land Lying Between East Stark Street and Holladay Avenue.

**T**RADING an ox-team for the land that lies between East Stark street and Holladay avenue, and extending from Grand avenue to the Willamette River was one of the boyhood experiences of Irvine Claggett, who is in Portland in connection with settlement of the Caruthers estate.

Locations were desired to determine certain points in the contested Caruthers property rights under legal proceedings. Mr. Claggett designated the spot where his father made his first home on coming to Portland in 1852. It was in the Caruthers donation land claim. The father, Benjamin Claggett, rented the entire 640 acres, extending from the site of the old state penitentiary (now the Smith & Watson Iron Works) one mile south along the Willamette, and from the river back to what is now Terwilliger boulevard. Caruthers was not the original owner, but paid about \$1.25 per acre for the land, according to the recollection of Irvine Claggett.

The family of Benjamin Claggett entered on the premises in the Spring of 1853, and the father did much of the iron work and blacksmithing at the penitentiary.

#### Road Improvements Recalled.

Later a man named Ross who had a livery stable on Morrison, near Third, and a Mr. Jacobs, who owned a wagon shop, induced Benjamin Claggett to open a blacksmith shop in their locality. This was at the edge of the settlement as it then existed, and about where Ben Seiling's store is situated. The road from the river ran west to the hills, and it was along this road that much of their patronage came.

In 1854 the elder Claggett took up a donation land claim, half a section, above the present town of Gresham, and where Pleasant Home station now stands.

Irvine Claggett became the owner of an ox-team and wagon, and was engaged in various enterprises when a mere stripling. He hauled gravel for the improvement of Front and First streets, bringing it by ferry from the pits on the East Side. He relates how one man objected to having the "expensive improvement" made, with the result that Claggett secured some log of considerable size and placed a corduroy road in front of the objector's premises.

#### Ox-Team Traded for Land.

At this time a man named Caruthers, but of a different family, not related to the South Portland Caruthers, offered to trade the land from Holladay's Addition south to the Stark-street road for the ox-team. Young Claggett could not take title, being under age. He tried to get someone to act for him until he came of age, but was not successful and the deal fell through. He later planned to take up a claim now known as Marquam Hill, but was too young to file. The property involved in the ox-team trade is now known as Wheeler's Addition.

The family lived for 12 years on the Pleasant Home farm. Irvine married and later moved to Jacksonville for his



Irvine Claggett, Who Is in Portland in Connection With Settlement of Caruthers Estate.

wife's health, and then to Douglas County. In 1867 he settled at Independence, Polk County, and has lived there nearly 51 years. Independence was then a grain-growing center and all was shipped to Portland by boat.

He operated the ferry, opened a warehouse, bought and sold grain and merchandise. Schools were needed, as there were only three months of school in the year for such as were established. Districts were consolidated and teachers employed, among them Judge Martin L. Pipes, now of Portland.

#### Independence Put on Map.

A charter was framed for the town of Independence and city government established. In the school work W. P. Conway, now of Woodburn, aided in the plans. Getting the town started, in its legal aspects, Mr. Claggett had the aid of a man named McCord, who later went to Eastern Oregon. He took a hand in securing churches. The Southern Methodist Church was the first established.

Mr. Claggett is a live citizen right now. He is 77 years old and going strong. His reminiscences are most interesting. Coming across the plains, in 1852, his party came direct to Portland over the old Oregon trail from Missouri, where he was born in 1841. His parents were from Kentucky, their home having been situated three miles from Lexington.

Virility speaks in his manner and he is keenly alert and interested in the things of today. Mrs. Claggett, who was threatened with pulmonary trouble in early life, is still in good health and bears witness to the longevity of Oregon pioneers, the men and women who made the beginnings of Portland and the state.

Of old-timers in and about Independence Mr. Lockley here writes, the sketch including episodes and incidents contributed by "Dad" Claggett and Samuel B. Irvine.

Independence, Oregon, is named for Independence, Missouri. The town was founded by E. A. Tharp. A few days ago while at Independence I interviewed some of the pioneer residents of that historic old town. Irvine Claggett and I sat on apple boxes on the sidewalk in front of Mr. Wright's jewelry store, and he told me of the old-time residents of Independence, most of whom had taken the long trail.

"They call me 'Dad' Claggett," he said. "I was born in Gentry county, Missouri, August 23, 1844. I had my 11th birthday on the plains. We crossed the plains to Oregon in 1852. My father, B. M. Claggett, and my mother, Elizabeth Irvine, were born in Kentucky. They had seven children. I am the middle one. I was married in 1859 to Nancy Brown. If you come up to the house my wife, whose memory is good, can tell you all about our marriage and our four children. We have lived in Independence since 1867, nearly 60 years. Do you see this cane I am carrying? The handle is a hand clasping a hammer. The wood from which the hand is made came from the Merrimac, and the hammer was carved from wood from the Monitor. Sam Irvine, here, is also an old-timer. Ask him about the old days. His father was my mother's brother."

"Yes, I crossed the plains the same year that my cousin, 'Dad' Claggett, came to Oregon," said Samuel B. Irvine. "My father and the father of B. F. Irvine, editor of The Journal, were brothers. Their sister was the mother of Milton A. Miller. United States Senator Charles L. McNary is a grandson of another sister. I was born in Gentry county, Missouri, November 27, 1847. We left Missouri in the spring of 1852. We had two wagons, each drawn by four yoke of cattle. We also had 75 head of loose cattle, a riding horse and a mule. There were 50 wagons in our train. That year was a bad one for sickness. We had right smart of cholera in our train. We reached Salem October 14 and took up a donation land claim seven miles south of Salem. Father built a log house and split logs for a floor. We had one window, which was left open when it wasn't raining, and when it was raining mother fastened up an oiled paper. Father traded his mule for a 50-dollar gold slug, for he was pretty well out of money when we got here. We picked moss from the oak trees to use instead of straw in the ticks for our beds. That winter there was a heavy snow. We had no feed for the cattle, so father cut willows and small trees so they could browse on them. Father bought some shorts at \$5 a hundred, which mother used for making bread.

"Nowadays they hire a bus to go around and gather up the children to take them to school. When I was a boy I walked three miles to Liberty and back each day during the three months' winter term. My father died in 1860. There were eight children of us. After his death the family scattered. My mother married John Emmett, who had a farm near Zena in Spring valley, Polk county. I was about 14, so I struck out for myself and landed a job slashing and burning brush for a farmer in the Pringle neighborhood. He agreed to pay me my board and \$25 a month. I worked for him six months and then tackled

him for my pay. He gave me \$5 and said, 'Here's \$5 on account. If I ever get hold of \$145 more I'll let you have it.' I guess he never got hold of any more, for that's all I ever got. I left the Pringle neighborhood and went to work for Israel Woods near Buena Vista, helping to clear his land. He was a fine old man and treated me as if I had been his own boy. I worked for him a year and a half.

"When I was 21 years old—in the summer of 1868—I went up to Seattle. Van Duyn Smith ran the store there then. I think there must have been between 200 and 300 people in or about Seattle. I worked for a while in a butcher shop. Then I got a job as clerk in the shoe store and also worked for the city. In the fall of 1869 I came to Independence and have lived here ever since. In 1871 I was married to Elizabeth Johnson. We have five children—four girls and a boy.

"'Dad' Claggett is the only one now living in Independence who was here when I came, 55 years ago. I ran a butcher shop here 15 years, after which I ran a farm many years. One of my best friends in the early days was Rob Roy McGregor Parrish. They called him 'Little Bob.' He ran a harness shop. He is the author of a book called 'Echoes of the Valley,' and of a large number of patriotic songs. Of the eight children in our family only three are now living. My brother J. P. Irvine is in the grocery business in East Portland. My sister Mattie, who married John Ford, lives at Dallas.

"My father, Samuel Hadley Irvine, was born in Kentucky, and my mother, whose maiden name was Spicey Duncan, was born in Tennessee. If you will go and see F. A. Patterson he can tell you a lot about the early days here. He is 90 years old. His son, Ike Patterson, is running for governor. Another man who can tell you a lot about early days here is D. L. Hedges. Thomas Jefferson Fryer is also an old-timer here."

I found D. L. Hedges in his flower garden. As we sat on the steps of the side porch Mr. Hedges said, "I have lived in Oregon 75 years. I was 13 when we crossed the plains, in 1851. I was born in Ohio, February 25, 88 years ago. My father, Israel Hedges, was a blacksmith. He ran the first blacksmith shop in Independence. He took up a donation land claim a mile and a half from here. In 1859, when I was 21, I was married to Amanda Jane Fudge. All four of our children are still living. Some time if you will drop in and spend the evening with me, I will tell you about having to eat horse meat for seven days or go hungry. That was in the Indian war of 1855-56. I was serving under Captain B. F. Burch, up in the Yakima country."

When I visited T. J. Fryer I found him digging in his garden. "No, of course I'm not too old to do hard work," he answered. "A man ought to get up, a sweat every day. People need to exercise just as much as they need to eat or sleep. I came to Oregon more than 80 years ago. I was born in Cooper county, Missouri, December 15, 1844. We landed in Oregon City after an eight months' trip across the plains, in December, 1845. My father ran a hotel, the Oregon house, at Oregon City seven years. We moved to Polk county in 1852, and I have lived here ever since. I served under Captain Charles LaFollette in the First Oregon Volunteers."

them for I don't suppose there are

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# COUPLE HONOR WEDDING

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GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATED AT INDEPENDENCE.

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Mr. and Mrs. J. I. Claggett, Parents of Portland Man, Enjoy Christmas in Unusual Manner.

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INDEPENDENCE, Or., Dec. 27.—(Special.)—Mr. and Mrs. J. I. Claggett, of this place, have just celebrated the golden anniversary of their marriage on Christmas day. They were married in Portland on December 25, 1859, going shortly afterward to where Gresham now stands, and in 1866 came to Independence, where they have resided since.

Mr. Claggett was born in Missouri in 1841, and in 1852 crossed the plains to Oregon. Mrs. Claggett, also born in Missouri, followed in 1859.

In 1854 Mr. Claggett worked for a time on The Oregonian, then owned and managed by T. J. Dryor.

They have three children living, one boy having died in infancy. Their son, George Claggett, lives in Portland, and Mrs. Young, a daughter, in Southern Oregon. The other daughter, Mrs. Wells, lives in San Francisco and is an artist of prominence. All the children, as also a granddaughter, Miss Claggett, of Portland, were at the anniversary celebration.

A large gathering of friends and relatives were present at the celebration.

## FRIENDS ATTEND RECEPTION FOR INDEPENDENCE COUPLE

Mr. and Mrs. Irvine Claggett, Pioneers, Make First Trip to Portland in 23 Years; Early Days in District Recalled.



Mrs. Irvine Claggett, 88, and Irvine Claggett, 87, who received old friends yesterday during their first visit to Portland in 23 years.

A GROUP of old friends and pioneers gathered yesterday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. O. W. Hosford at a reception for Mr. and Mrs. Irvine Claggett of Independence, both pioneers, who came to Oregon via the covered wagon route. Mrs. Claggett is nearly 89 years old, and Mr. Claggett is 87. Mrs. Hosford is their only granddaughter.

Assisting at the reception was Mrs. Sarah Young, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Claggett. Mrs. J. C. Klucker, who also assisted, is the wife of their son and the mother of Mrs. Hosford.

The trading of a team of oxen for a half section of land on the east side is the fond recollection of Mr. Claggett. That was at a time when he was 10 years old, and it was, incidentally, his first deal in real estate.

The trade was perfectly good, but a man happened to be standing by at the time and taking advantage of the fact that Mr. Claggett was too young to consummate the trade, jumped the property. At another time Mr. Claggett engineered an ingenious real estate transaction. A certain person wanted a large order of firewood. Mr. Claggett said he would fill the order and asked a man if he could have the wood on his place. The reply said he could if he would buy the land. So Mr. Claggett allowed a group of men to live on the land for their service of cutting the wood on it.

This wood he sold to the one who

desired it, and from the proceeds purchased the land. His father, however, decided he was still a bit young for speculation and sold the lots for him at \$25 apiece.

When Mr. Claggett arrived in Portland in 1853, the east side of Portland was an almost unexplored part of the forest. Indeed, when Mrs. Claggett came to this city in 1859, the only building on the east side of the river was a saloon near the landing place for the ferry.

### Ours Operate Ferry.

Speaking of the ferry, it was operated by oars when Mr. Claggett first arrived. Later, however, someone conceived the employment of mule power. Side wheels were constructed on the ferry and a mule tread on each, making possible a much more satisfactory locomotion than had the oars. The only difficulty was that one of the mules was quite stubborn, and when in mid-channel refused to work at times. Proddings only served to make him kick, with frequent damage to the side wheels.

Mr. and Mrs. Claggett were married at the home his father had established in Powell valley. That was in 1859. After their marriage they moved to a place near Gresham. In 1866 they went to southern Oregon, as far south as Jacksonville. They came to Independence in 1867 and have resided there since. Mr. Claggett for a long time maintained a warehouse in that city.

## Hundredth Birthday Date to be Observed

Independence—On New Year's day, Mrs. Nancy Claggett, wife of the late Jesse Irvine Claggett, a pioneer of 1859, will celebrate her 100th birthday anniversary at her home.

Since coming to Independence in 1867 with her husband she has resided on B street in the same home her husband built, and since her husband's death has lived with her daughter, Mrs. Sarah Young, who has been her constant companion and attendant. During the past two years she has been confined to her bed most of the time and through all her affliction has been cheerful and uncomplaining.

Mrs. Claggett was born in Ray county, Mo., January 1, 1838, and her mother passed away when she was five years of age. She was taken

when a small child, by her father and with another small brother, to Texas, where they lived for about 15 months, and at the age of 11 her father died leaving the two orphans in Texas, until an older brother came west and took them back to Missouri. In 1859 she came across the plains driving a team part of the time, oftentimes at night when there was no place to make camp. She cooked for five people during that famous trip in addition to her other duties.

Her husband came ahead to Oregon in 1852, and lived with his par-

ents in Powell valley, where they were later married at the Claggett home in 1859, soon after her arrival. They lived on a farm near where Gresham now stands, and later in 1866 drove by wagon and team south through Oregon to Jacksonville, looking for a homestead. In 1867 they came to Independence where Claggett was engaged in business, hardware merchant, grain merchant and warehouseman.

The Independence ferry has been named "Claggett" after these early pioneers, as they related instances in the early history of the ferry service at Independence, Claggett operating it with oars and later with a mule and horses.

Mrs. Claggett has occupied the present home for about 66 years, and it is in splendid state of preservation today typifying the excellent workmanship of the builder and the materials used in its construction.

A son, George Claggett, lives in Portland and makes frequent visits to his mother's side, also a daughter, Mrs. R. F. Wells, in San Francisco, who expected to be here for her mother's birthday, but was detained on account of her husband's illness.

Mrs. Claggett recalls vividly the flood of 1861 and these stormy days are not unlike those of that period. They went through many floods since that time, often suffering many losses to warehouse property on the river front.

She has been a member of the Cloverleaf Rebekah lodge which was instituted in 1893 in Independence and of which she was a charter member. She is also a member of the Presbyterian church, and attended regularly as long as her strength would permit.

# Polk Pioneer Woman Taken After Century

Independence—Mrs. J. I. (Nancy) Claggett, who passed the century mark last January 1, died in Portland Wednesday, and the remains were brought to Independence where funeral services will be Saturday.

Her life was begun near Knoxville, Mo., January 1, 1838, her maiden name being Nancy Brown. She became the wife of James Irvine Claggett in December of 1859 after coming to Oregon that same year. The Claggett family came to Oregon the year before. They were married near Powell valley about one and one-half miles east of what is now Gresham.

They came to Independence in 1867 where Claggett went into the grain warehouse business, founding this city as a shipping center. That was the age of riverboats and warehouses on the waterfront along the Willamette river. Claggett acted as agent for the riverboats and later he entered the mercantile business.

He died April 17, 1929, at the age of 88. The Ferry at Independence was named in his honor.

Mrs. Claggett celebrated her 100th anniversary last New Year's at her home here, surrounded by her family and a host of friends. Her health has been quiet poor for the past few years and she has had to have constant care and attention. She was taken to Portland this spring to be near other members of her family. Her daughter, Mrs. Sarah Young, with whom she has made her home in Independence for many years, accompanied her to Portland. A son, George Claggett, and a niece, Mrs. Olin Hosford, live in Portland, and another daughter, Mrs. R. F. Wells, lives in San Francisco, Calif.

She was a member of the Presbyterian church and attended faithfully as long as her health permitted. She was a charter member of Cloverleaf Rebekah lodge.

For over 70 years she lived in this community. She aided in an early day in bringing many a young life into the world, going about ministering to the sick, faithful to her friends and family to the end. Her beautiful life complete she rests with her forefathers.

On a front flyleaf: Irvine Claggett  
Independence  
Polk County  
Oregon 1872

THIS CERTIFIES THAT  
The RITE of  
HOLY MATRIMONY  
WAS CELEBRATED BETWEEN

Irvine Claggett of Multnomah County Oregon  
and Nancy Brown of Multnomah County Oregon  
on December 25th 1859 at the residence of Mrs. E. Claggett  
by G.W. Brown of Multnomah County Oregon  
Witness Mrs. Elizabeth Claggett      Witness Arthur Talbot

Marriages

Sarah C. Claggett married  
Eli Young      Oct 5th      1879  
George W. Claggett married  
Cornelia Phillips Feb 3rd 1885  
Lenora Richardson      1910  
Harriet E. Claggett married  
Richard F. Wells      Oct 17      1888

#### Births

Irvine Claggett Born August 23rd 1841  
Nancy Claggett Born January 1st 1839  
George W. Claggett Born April 20th 1861  
Sarah C. Claggett Born February 23rd 1863  
Benjamin F. Claggett Born August 31st 1864  
Harriet E. Claggett Born February 21st 1867  
Frances S. Claggett Born June - 18 -  
Helen Claggett Born 1886

#### Deaths

J. Irvine Claggett Died Apr 17- 1929  
Nancy Brown Claggett Died Apr 1939  
George W. Claggett Died Apr 22 1946  
Serah C. Young died Oct 12 1949  
Benjamin F. Claggett Died May 28th 1866  
Helen Claggett Died Sept-19-1888

Mrs. Elizabeth Claggett died Oct 4th 1888  
Aged 72 Yrs 7 Mos and 7 Days.  
Robert A. Claggett Died Nov 29th 1858 Aged  
14 Yrs and 9 Mos.  
James Claggett Died Feb. 1st 1895  
Aged 44 Yrs. 9 Mos. and 17 Days.

On a back flyleaf: Died..In Powell's Valley on January 26. 1859.  
Benjamin M. Claggett. age 47 years and  
3 months.

In the back of the Bible is a Family Portraits section. There are five photographs: a woman taken by F.A. Smith, Artist, Commercial Street, Salem, OR; a man, no identification; a woman taken by S.B. Graham, Photographer; a man, no identification; and one of two young ladies, no identification.

Inserted in the Bible is a black card with gold art trim and lettering which reads:

IN LOVING REMEMBRANCE  
OF  
HELEN L. CLAGGETT,  
Died Sept. 19, 1888 Aged 2 yrs. 1 mo. 18 dys.  
A precious one from us has gone,  
A voice we loved is stilled;  
A place is vacant in our home,  
Which never can be filled.  
God in His wisdom has recalled  
The boon His love had Given;  
And though the body moulders here,  
The soul is safe in Heaven.

[Published in Genealogical Forum of Oregon publication September 1990 p. 17-18]

Children of Jesse Claggett and Nancy Brown:

- i. George Woodford Claggett
- b. 20 Apr 1861 Polk County, Oregon
- d. 22 Apr 1946 Polk County, Oregon  
buried Hilltop Cemetery, Independence, Polk County, Oregon

m1. 03 Feb 1885

Cornelia Phillips

b.

d.

m2. 1910

Lenora Walling

b. 25 May 1872 Amity, Yamhill County, Oregon

d. 20 Oct 1933 Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon

buried Lone Fir Pioneer Cemetery, Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon

m1. John Morrow Richardson

m2. George Woodford Claggett

ii. Sarah C. Claggett

b. 23 Feb 1863 Polk County, Oregon

d. 12 Oct 1949 San Francisco, San Francisco County, California

m. 05 Oct 1879

Eli Young

b. 1848 Iowa

d. 16 Oct 1935 Placer County, California

s/o Joseph Young and Jane Phipps

iii. Benjamin F. Claggett

b. 31 Aug 1864 Polk County, Oregon

d. 28 May 1866 Multnomah County, Oregon

buried Gresham Pioneer Cemetery, Gresham, Multnomah County, Oregon

iv. Harriet E. Claggett

b. 21 Feb 1867

d. 01 Mar 1958 San Francisco County, California

m. 17 Oct 1888

Richard Franklin Wells

b. 19 Nov 1850 Pike County, Illinois

d. 17 Aug 1938

buried Buena Vista Cemetery, Buena Vista, Polk County, Oregon

m1. 19 Oct 1873 Emily Arathusa Collins

s/o George Andrew Wells and Henrietta Louisa Turner

v. Frances S. Claggett

b. 18 Jun 1869

d.

5. Robert A. Claggett

b. Feb 1844 Gentry County, Missouri

d. 29 Nov 1858  
age 14yrs 9 months

1850: Athens, Gentry County, Missouri, October 4, 1850; Benjamin (sic) Claggett, 35, farmer, KY; Elizabeth, 34, VA; Charles S., 15, farmer, MO; Mary E., 13, MO; Margaret A., 12, MO; Jesse I., 8, MO; Robert, 6, MO; Elizabeth, 3, MO; James M., 2/12, MO

6. Elizabeth Sophronia Claggett  
b. 20 Feb 1847 Gentry County, Missouri  
d. 19 Sep 1939 Eugene, Lane County, Oregon  
buried Masonic Cemetery, Eugene, Lane County, Oregon

m. 1868  
Samuel Flemming Kerns [Pioneer of 1852]  
b. 30 Jun 1833 Highland County, Ohio  
d. 08 Oct 1916 Eugene, Lane County, Oregon  
buried Masonic Cemetery, Eugene, Lane County, Oregon

1850: Athens, Gentry County, Missouri, October 4, 1850; Benjamin (sic) Claggett, 35, farmer, KY; Elizabeth, 34, VA; Charles S., 15, farmer, MO; Mary E., 13, MO; Margaret A., 12, MO; Jesse I., 8, MO; Robert, 6, MO; Elizabeth, 3, MO; James M., 2/12, MO

1860: Powell Valley, Multnomah County, Oregon, August 1, 1860; Elizabeth Claggett, 43, farmer, \$1700 \$500, KY; Chas, 24, MO; Irvin, 19, MO; Elizabeth, 13, MO; James, 10, MO; Nancy, 31, MO

## SAMUEL F. KERNS, AN EARLY RESIDENT, DEAD

Was One of First Nurserymen  
in Oregon. Came to Eugene  
in 1883. Funeral Tuesday.

Samuel Fleming Kerns, 83, pioneer of 1852, Indian war veteran and founder of one of the first nurseries in the city of Portland, died in his home here, 1125 Hilyard street, yesterday, after an illness of one month. The cause of his death was the breaking of his leg in a fall four weeks ago at the country home of his son-in-law, F. L. Chambers, of Eugene.

Mr. Kerns was born in Hillsboro, Ohio. He entered the Willamette valley by the old Barlow road, near Mount Hood, and took up a farm in what is now Montavilla. The same year his future wife, Miss Elizabeth Claggett, was brought west as a child by her parents, who chose the route through The Dalles.

Mr. Kerns worked for some years on various farms in the Mount Tabor district, and at the time of his marriage in 1863 took his bride to a 20-acre tract on the east side of Portland, which now constitutes the Hawthorne Addition. Here he developed one of the first nurseries in Oregon. He came to Eugene in 1883.

Two sons, Leroy and Harold Kerns, and two daughters, Mrs. F. L. Chambers wife of a Eugene banker, and Miss Maud Kerns, of Seattle, survive him. Mr. Kerns also leaves a sister, Mrs. I. J. Williamson, of Oakland, Cal., two half brothers, W. G. Kerns, a Portland real estate dealer, and Elmer Kerns, of The Dalles; two half sisters, Mrs. Lou Williams, of California, and Mrs. Mary Ward, of The Dalles.

He was a member of the G. A. R. and of the Methodist Episcopal church. The funeral services will be held at the Gordon and Veatch chapel at 3 o'clock Tuesday afternoon, and interment will be made at the Masonic cemetery. Rev. J. T. Abbett and Dr. George Parkinson will conduct the services. The body will lie in state at the chapel Tuesday afternoon.

[Eugene Daily Guard, Eugene, Oregon, October 9, 1916 p.6]

6. James Mason Claggett
- b. 14 Apr 1850 Missouri
- d. 01 Feb 1895 Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon
- buried Lone Fir Cemetery, Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon

1850: Athens, Gentry County, Missouri, October 4, 1850; Benjamin (sic) Claggett, 35, farmer, KY; Elizabeth, 34, VA; Charles S., 15, farmer, MO; Mary E., 13, MO; Margaret A., 12, MO; Jesse I., 8, MO; Robert, 6, MO; Elizabeth, 3, MO; James M., 2/12, MO

1860: Powell Valley, Multnomah County, Oregon, August 1, 1860; Elizabeth Claggett, 43, farmer, \$1700 \$500, KY; Chas, 24, MO; Irvin, 19, MO; Elizabeth, 13, MO; James, 10, MO; Nancy, 31, MO

1880: Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon, June 2, 1880; E. H. Claggett, 64, wid, carpet weaving, KY Unk Eng; James M., 30, son, moulderin foundry, MO KY KY

**CLAGGETT**—In this city, Feb. 1, at his residence, 446 East Ankeny st., James Claggett, aged 44 years, 0 months and 17 days. Funeral (private) at his residence Saturday, Feb. 2, at 2 P. M.

[Oregonian, Portland, Oregon, February 2, 1895 p.7]