

Benjamin Washington Redman

Pioneer of 1852

compiled by June Ross Broman

Parents:

Benjamin Washington Redman Sr age 35

Birth 10 NOV 1816 • Clark, Indiana, United States

Death 17 APR 1876 • Linn, Oregon, United States

Amanda Elizabeth Cravens age 30

Birth 3 JUN 1822 • Fleming, Kentucky, United States

Death 27 OCT 1899 • Linn, Oregon, United States

Children who came west

Rezin Cornelius Redman age 12

Birth 20 NOV 1839 • Van Buren, Iowa, USA

Death 15 JUN 1897 • Oregon, United States

Margaret Elizabeth REDMAN age 11

Birth 7 DEC 1840 • Van Buren, Van Buren, Iowa, United States

Death 2 APR 1933 • Scio, Linn, Oregon, United States

Martha Melissa REDMAN age 9

Birth 2 JAN 1843 • Van Buren, Van Buren, Iowa, United States

Death 20 JUL 1912 • Yakima, Yakima, Washington, United States

Amanda Evaline Redman age 8

Birth 16 APR 1844 • Van Buren, Van Buren, Iowa, United States

Death 5 MAR 1934 • Freeman, Spokane, Washington, USA

James McCain Redman age 6

Birth 3 JUL 1846 • Keokuk, Lee, Iowa, United States

Death Spokane, Spokane, Washington, United States

Mary Melvina REDMAN age 6

Birth 3 JUL 1846 • Keokuk, Lee, Iowa, United States

Death 5 DEC 1904 • Illinois, United States

Benjamin F REDMAN age 3

Birth 20 JUL 1849 • Keokuk, Lee County, Iowa, USA

Death APR 1876 • Spokane, Spokane, WA

Priscilla "Annie" REDMAN age 6 mos

Birth 22 OCT 1851 • Davis, Iowa, United States

Death 14 MAY 1921 • Orofino, Clearwater, Idaho, United States

Children Born in Oregon

John Turley REDMAN

1856–1907

Birth 3 JAN 1856 • Linn County, Oregon, USA

Death 31 JULY 1907 • Tacoma, Pierce County, Washington, USA

Arthur Clifton REDMAN

1858–

Birth 28 JAN 1858 • Linn, Oregon, United States

Death Unknown

Demora Bell Redman

1859–1922

Birth 4 JUL 1859 • Linn, Oregon, United States

Death 9 AUG 1922 • Josephine County, Oregon, USA

William F REDMAN

1863–1863

Birth 3 MAY 1863 • Linn, Oregon, United States

Death 3 MAY 1863 • Linn Co., OR

REDMAN, Benjamin Washington (1816-1876): m1 1838 CRAVEN, Amanda, school teacher, farmer, and raised cattle. Burial: Franklin Butte Cemetery, Scio Linn Co.,Or, s/o Colonel Rezin Redman & Elizabeth Downs.

REDMAN, Amanda Elizabeth CRAVENS (1822-1899): m 1838 REDMAN, Benjamin Washington, nurse midwife on the trail. She and Benjamin came with 8 children: Rezin, Margaret, Martha, Amanda, James, Mary, Benjamin F., and Priscilla. Burial: Franklin Butte Cemetery, Scio Linn Co.,Or, d/o John Cravens & Harriet Earle.

REDMAN, Amanda Evaline (1844-1934): m1 1863 MILLER, John P, m2 1878 WYCOFF, Peter, Burial: Evergreen Cemetery Freeman Spokane Co., WA. d/o Benjamin Redman & Amanda Cravens.

She Crossed Plains in Wagon in 1852

Mrs. Amanda Wycoff of Spokane Was Child When Family Left Iowa With Ox Teams for Oregon— Moved to Washington in 1882 to Spokane County.

ived in Oregon and the Redman family settled in the Waldo hills, eight miles out from Salem. Here they found a cabin, containing a home-made bedstead and several puncheon boards as a partial floor. It had holes for lower where the family had

Mrs. Amanda Wycoff of Spokane Was Child When Family Left Iowa With Ox Teams for Oregon—Moved to Washington in 1882 to Spokane County.

The following is Miss West's final pioneer interview for The Spokesman - Review. She brought it to the office a few hours before her first collapse that resulted in her death 24 hours later on Friday, December 22. Miss West had written more than 100 articles along historical and pioneer lines for The Spokesman-Review after her 75th birthday.

By LEOTI L. WEST.

"She is like the merchant's ships; she bringeth her food from afar."—Proverbs, xxxi, 14. When I was young I was taught that the 31 verses of the last chapter of Proverbs foretold in their order the life characteristics of all female children born on the corresponding day of the month.

Now I am not prepared to say that this is true, but I do know that Mrs. Amanda E. Wycoff, 2324 Sharp, Spokane, came from afar and that her numerous family have done much toward adding to the population of the Inland Empire. Think of a woman 90 years old on April 14, next, who has living, most of them in the Inland Empire, six children, 36 grand, 51 great-grand and four great-great-grandchildren! Whatever goods she might bring from afar, her numerous progeny has certainly added to our population.

It was on April 14, 1844, that there was born to Benjamin and Amanda Redman a little miss who was named for her mother. Her parents were residents of southeastern Iowa, not far from Keokuk. They were farmers. Mr. Redman devoted most of his time to the raising of cattle.

IN IOWA UNTIL 1852.

Here Amanda played on the Iowa soil until 1852 when her parents decided to dispose of most of their earthly possessions. Taking their cattle with them, they decided to move to the Pacific coast. Accordingly, three wagons were fitted out in which to carry their household possessions. One of these wagons contained a stove and other appliances needful for the care of the family. Thus equipped and securing men to drive the extra cattle, they started out to cross Iowa and join a long train of wagons on the west side of the Missouri river at Kerseyville.

It is proper to say that at this period an epidemic of cholera was prevalent all through the country. Mr. Redman consulted a skillful doctor and secured medicine with which to treat his family in case it should be needed en route to their new home.

When they arrived at the point where they expected to join the train they found a great number of wagons, all drawn by oxen, several miles in length. As the child remembers, there was not a single horse in the cavalcade, while her father's wagons were each drawn by three yoke of oxen.

SLOW TRIP OVERLAND.

The progress across the country was of necessity slow. Fortunately, the Indians were peaceable but because there had been so much illness, one of the gruesome conditions as they traveled was the graves of many people who had died on the trail and were in some instances only partially buried.

Some time after they started, Mrs. Redman was taken violently ill with cholera. The train doctor was first called but he gave her up to die. Mr. Redman drove aside from the train and treated her with the medicine he had received from the medical man. Two hours later, she had grown so much better that he again rejoined the train and moved on.

One incident stands out prominently in Mrs. Wycoff's memory. The train had stopped for the night near an Indian camp and the next morning after breakfast little Amanda discovered that a fork was missing. The child had always been expert in finding things and her mother told her to stop behind and look for the lost article and then hurry on to catch the wagons again as they were stopping a short distance ahead for water.

SHE OUTRAN INDIAN.

As Amanda searched for the fork, she discovered a shirt belonging to one of her father's men. She picked it up, threw it over her shoulder and started on. An Indian in the camp, seeing her go and probably deciding that he wanted the shirt, followed her.

She started to run and he quickened his pace, but finally he seemed to slow down and she reached the family in safety. As a child, she was certain that she outran him.

Six months later, the company ar-

rived in Oregon and the Redman family settled in the Waldo hills, eight miles out from Salem. Here they found a cabin, containing a home-made bedstead and several puncheon boards as a partial floor. It had been so long since the family had been able to sit down to a table for a meal that Amanda begged her mother to have the boards placed upon the bedstead and thus form a table for the next meal.

TO WASHINGTON IN 1882.

Many interesting events occurred during their life in Oregon. Mr. Redman was a man of considerable education and was, therefore able to give his children a good deal of training. I shall not, however, enter into further details of her life at this period but will simply say that in 1861 and 1862 a severe flood, one of the worst in the history of the state, carried away many of their earthly possessions.

In 1863, Amanda married John Miller a saddle and harness maker. They had six children during the 13 years of their married life.

After two years of widowhood, she met and married Peter J. Wycoff, Mr. Wycoff who had been a soldier for four years prior to their marriage and was located for a time at Fort Lapwal.

The family moved to Washington in 1882, locating on a ranch some miles out of Sprague. There they lived for 11 years, their first home being a hole dug in the side hill with a board front containing a door and a small hole for a window. This was first covered with glazed paper and finally with glass.

CABIN WAS THEIR HOME.

Several years later, the family erected a cabin on top of the excavation; while here they engaged in the raising of rice and dairying. Mrs. Wycoff made and sold many hundred pounds of butter during her stay in this place.

After 11 years of residence there, they sold out and moved to Freeman where many members of the family have lived ever since. Here Mr. Wycoff died at Nez Perce, Idaho, in 1905. It is there that Mrs. Wycoff makes her home in the summer. She spends her winters with her daughter in Spokane.

Concerning her six living children: Perry, Norton and Curtis Miller reside with their families at Nez Perce, Idaho. Archie M. Wycoff with his wife and 10 children and Mrs. Daisy Shore with her husband and four children are residents of Freeman. Mrs. Elsie Huffman and three children live in Spokane.

HAPPY AND CONTENTED.

Going back to the oxteam trip across the continent, I neglected to state that much of the time the family was obliged to use buffalo chips for fuel. It is of interest to note that the Redman cookstove was the only piece of furniture of that kind in that long train of wagons. Mrs. Redman was, therefore, the envy of many of the housewives who were obliged to bake their bread before an open fire.

Because of bodily infirmities, Mrs. Wycoff is confined most of the time to her chair or bed. But she is happy and contented, glad that she had a part in building the northwest and ready to go when the call comes to meet those of her family and loved ones who have gone before. Quoting again from Proverbs: "She perceiveth that her merchandise is good; her candle goeth out not by night."

I could not but be impressed with the happy, optimistic demeanor she displayed during our rather long interview, and also with the kindly, considerate bearing of the daughter with whom she makes her home. Fortunately for Mrs. Wycoff, she is a soldier's widow and, therefore, has a pension, thus making her more or less independent in her old age.

The following is a typed copy of the above article. Parentheses are used for additional information to better share her story. Her family consisted of 8 children when they left Iowa in 1852. In Oregon, 6 more children were born to the family making that 14 children in all.

Copied from the original newspaper article by June Ross Broman, 1 Jan 2013.

**Amanda Evaline Redman Miller Wycoff
1844-1934**

**Story in the Spokesman Review
(Dec 1933 or Jan 1934)**

**She Crossed the Plains in
Wagon Train in 1852**

Mrs. Amanda Wycoff of Spokane Was A Child When Family Left Iowa With Ox Teams for Oregon-Moved to Washington in 1882 to Spokane County.

The following is Miss West's final pioneer interview for The Spokesman-Review. She brought it to the office a few hours before her first collapse that resulted in her death 24 hours later on Friday, December 22. Miss West had written more than 100 articles along historical and pioneer lines for The Spokesman-Review after her 75th birthday.

By LEOTI L. WEST.

She Crossed Plains by Wagon in 1852

“She is like the merchant’s ships; she bringeth her food from afar.”—Proverbs 31:14. When I was young I was taught that the 31 verses of the last chapter of Proverbs foretold in their order the life characteristics of all female children born on the corresponding day of the month.

Now I am not prepared to say that this is true, but I do know that Mrs. Amanda E. Wycoff, 2334 Sharp, Spokane, came from afar and that her numerous family have done much toward adding to the population of the Inland Empire. Think of a woman 90 years old on April 14, next, who has living, most of them in the Inland Empire, six children, 36 grand, 51 great-grand, and four great-great-grandchildren! Whatever goods she might bring from afar, her numerous progeny has certainly added to our population. (*She died shortly after this was written on March 5, 1934 at the home of her daughter, Elsie Wycoff Huffman.*)

It was on April 14, 1844, that there was born to Benjamin and Amanda Redman a little miss who was named for her mother. Her parents were residents of southeastern Iowa, not far from Keokuk. They were farming. Mr. Redman devoted most of his time to the raising of cattle.

IN IOWA UNTIL 1852

Here Amanda played on the Iowa soil until 1852 when her parents decided to dispose of most of their earthly possessions. Taking their cattle with them, they decided to move to the Pacific coast. Accordingly, three wagons were fitted out in which to carry their household possessions. One of these wagons contained a stove and other appliances needful for the care of the family. Thus equipped and securing men to drive the extra cattle, they started out to cross Iowa and join a long train of wagons on the west side of the Missouri river at Kersyville.

It is proper to say that at this period an epidemic of cholera was prevalent all through the country. Mr. Redman consulted a skillful doctor and secured medicine with which to treat his family in case it should be needed en route to their new home.

When they arrived at the point where they expected to join the train they found a great number of wagons, all drawn by oxen, several miles in length. As the child remembers, there was not a single horse in the cavalcade, while her father’s wagons were each drawn by three yoke oxen.

SLOW TRIP OVERLAND

The progress across the country was of necessity slow. Fortunately, the Indians were peaceable but because there had been so much illness, one of the gruesome conditions as they traveled was the graves of many people who had died on the trail and were in some instances only partially buried.

Sometime after they started, Mrs. Redman was taken violently ill with cholera. The train doctor was first called but he gave her up to die. Mr. Redman drove aside from the train and treated her with the medicine he had received from the medical man. Two hours later, she had grown so much better that he again rejoined the train and moved on.

One incident stands out prominently in Mrs. Wycoff’s memory. The train had stopped for the night near an Indian camp and the next morning after breakfast little Amanda discovered that a fork was missing. The child had always been expert in finding things and her mother told her to stop behind and look for the lost article and then hurry on to catch the wagons again as they were stopping a short distance ahead for water.

SHE OUTRAN INDIAN.

As Amanda searched for the fork, she discovered a shirt belonging to one of her father’s men. She picked it up, threw it over her shoulder and started on. An Indian in the camp, seeing her go and probably deciding that he wanted the shirt, followed her.

She started to run and he quickened his pace, but finally he seemed to slow down and she reached the family in safety. As a child, she was certain that she outran him.

Six months later the company arrived in Oregon and the Redman family settled in the Waldo hills, eight miles out from Salem. Here they found a cabin, containing a home-made bedstead and several puncheon boards as a partial floor. It had been so long since the family had been able to sit down to a table for a meal that Amanda begged her mother to have the boards placed upon the bedstead and thus form a table for the next meal.

TO WASHINGTON IN 1882

Many interesting events occurred during their life in Oregon. Mr. Redman was a man of considerable education and was, therefore able to give his children a good deal of training. I shall not, however, enter into further details of her life at this period but will simply say that in 1861 and 1862 a severe flood, one of the worst in the history of the state, carried away many of their earthly possessions.

MARRIAGES AND CHILDREN

In 1863, AMANDA MARRIED John Miller a saddle and harness maker. They had six children during the 13 years of their married life. (He died in 1876.)

After two years of widowhood, she met and married Peter J. Wycoff. Mr. Wycoff, who had been a soldier for four years prior to their marriage and was located for a time at Fort Lapwai.

The family moved to Washington in 1882, locating on a ranch some miles out of Sprague. There they lived for 11 years, their first home being a hole dug in the side hill with a board front containing a door and a small hole for a window. This was first covered with glazed paper and finally with glass.

CABIN WAS THEIR HOME.

Several years later, the family erected a cabin on top of the excavation; while her they engaged in the raising of rye and dairying. Mrs. Wycoff made and sold many hundred pounds of butter during her stay in this place.

After 11 years of residence there, they sold out and moved to Freeman where many members of the family have lived ever since. Here Mr. Wycoff died at Nez Perce, Idaho, in 1905.

It is there that Mrs. Wycoff makes her home in the summer. She spends her winters with her daughter in Spokane.

Concerning her six living children: Perry, Norton and Curtis Miller reside with their families at Nez Perce, Idaho. Archie M. Wycoff with his wife and 10 children and Mrs. Daisy Shore with her husband and four children are residents of Freeman. Mrs. Elsie Huffman and three children live in Spokane. (*Rebecca "Lettie" Miller Bartelt had died in 1933.*)
