

Caleb Woods

Pioneer of 1847

compiled by Stephenie Flora
oregonpioneers.com

Caleb Woods

b. 12 Jan 1806 Madison County, Kentucky

d. 04 Feb 1896 Forest Grove, Washington County, Oregon

buried Buena Vista Cemetery, Buena Vista, Polk County, Oregon
s/o Adams Woods and Nancy Hancock

m. 11 Jan 1829 Howard County, Missouri

Margaret McBride

b. 29 May 1809 Tennessee

d. 28 Jan 1871

buried Buena Vista Cemetery, Buena Vista, Polk County, Oregon
d/o Thomas Crawford McBride and Eliza Womack

1840: Jefferson, Johnson County, Missouri, Caleb Woods, 1 male (-5), 2 males (5-9), 1 male (15-19), 1 male (30-39); 1 female (20-29)

1849: Oregon Census, Yamhill County, Caleb Woods

1850: Yamhill County, Oregon, November 20, 1850; Caleb Wood, 44, farmer, KY; Margt, 41, TN; Thos., 20, MO; Geo, 18, MO; Samuel (James?), 12, MO; John Green, 8, OT; J. J. Butler, 30, carpenter, NC; D. D. Butler, 27, carpenter, NC

1860: North Fork, Yamhill County, Oregon, June 29, 1860; Caleb Woods, 54, farmer, \$3200 \$3000, KY; Margaret, 51, TN; Thomas, 29, MO; Henry, 26, MO; James, 22, MO; Charlotte, 17, OH; Mary E. Kimes, 10, MO; John Buckley, 24, day laborer, \$0 \$100, IN; Jacob Smith, 25, day laborer, \$0 \$300, OH; Milum Backer, 28, day laborer, \$0 \$268, MO; A. A. Hardin, 28, teacher common school, \$0 \$200, IN

Children of Caleb Woods and Margaret McBride:

1. Thomas A. Woods

b. 16 Nov 1830 Missouri

d. 23 Aug 1866 Buena Vista, Polk County, Oregon

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

1850: Yamhill County, Oregon, November 20, 1850; Caleb Wood, 44, farmer, KY; Margt, 41, TN; Thos., 20, MO; Geo, 18, MO; Samuel (James?), 12, MO; John Green, 8, OT; J. J. Butler, 30, carpenter, NC; D. D. Butler, 27, carpenter, NC

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2. George Lemuel Woods

b. 30 Jul 1832 Boone County, Missouri

d. 07 Jan 1890 Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon

m.

Louisa Adams McBride

b. 18 Mar 1835 Boone County, Missouri

d. 02 Oct 1924 San Jose, Santa Clara County, California

d/o James McBride

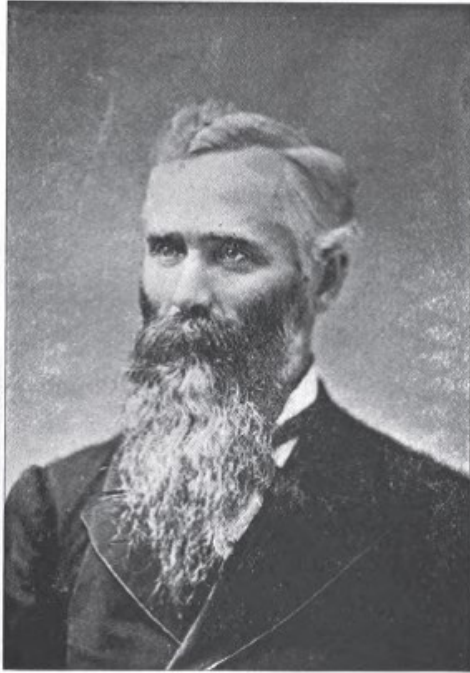
1850: Yamhill County, Oregon, November 20, 1850; Caleb Wood, 44, farmer, KY; Margt, 41, TN; Thos., 20, MO; Geo, 18, MO; Samuel, 12, MO; John Green, 8, OT; J. J. Butler, 30, carpenter, NC; D. D. Butler, 27, carpenter, NC

1870: Salem, Marion County, Oregon, June 4, 1870; Geo L. Woods, 37, Gov of Oregon, \$7500 \$2000, MO; Louisa A., 34, keeping house, MO; Chas. F., 12, at school, OR; G.W. Thurman, 16, Tel operator, Oregon

1880: San Jose, Santa Clara County, California, June 4, 1880; George L. Woods, 47, lawyer, MO MO MO; Louisa A., 45, wife, keeping house, MO TN MO; Charles F., 22, son, clerk in state cont office; OR MO MO; John B., 9, son, attending school, OR MO MO; Helene M. Holman, niece in law, 20, music teacher, OR MO MO

"WOODS, GEORGE L.--Caleb Woods, the father of Governor Woods, is a native of Madison County, Kentucky, and was born in 1806. He came to Oregon in 1847, bringing his family. Resides mainly in Yamhill County. His wife was a Miss McBride, a native of Tennessee. Mrs. Woods died in 1871, and two of their four sons are also dead. Of the survivors, George L. Woods has attained distinction, becoming Governor of Oregon and earning celebrity in law and politics. He was born in Boone County, Missouri, in 1831 or 1832, and after accompanying his parents to this State lived on his father's donation claim at North Yamhill. He was educated in the schools of Doctor Hudson and L. L. Rowland, both excellent teachers, and studied law by himself. He was quickly admitted to the bar, and showing great aptitude for his profession, he speedily attained a leading place among the professional men of the State. Being a ready and fluent talker and cogent debater, he was enabled to exert much influence upon political affairs, and took an important part in the discussion of public questions. For a time he practiced at Walla

Walla and The Dalles, and was elected Governor of Oregon, and served four years. Upon the conclusion of his term of office he was appointed by President Grant Governor of Utah Territory, and held this position also for four years he is now (1885) practicing law in San Francisco. Governor Woods is a forcible speaker, whose qualities as an ex tempore debater have been his principal distinction." [History of the Willamette Valley by Herbert Lang p.691-2]



HON. GEORGE L. WOODS.

"Woods, Hon. George L., deceased, ex-Governor of Oregon and of Utah, was born in Boone County, Missouri, July 30, 1832 and came to Oregon in 1844 (sic-1847). He mined in California a short time, then returned to Oregon, studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1858. He was one of the founders of the party in Yamhill County in 1856, and one of the foremost defenders of the Union in those trying times, and one of the most forceful and eloquent orators on the Pacific coast, his voice being heard in every campaign for thirty years. In 1858 he was the Republican candidate for Prosecuting Attorney in the Portland district, and in 1863 was appointed Judge of Wasco County. In 1864 he was elected Presidential Elector, and in 1865 was appointed to the Supreme County bench of Idaho. In 1866 he was elected Governor of Oregon, and in 1871 was appointed Governor of Utah. From 1875 to 1885 he practiced law in California and Nevada, and from 1885 to January

14, 1896 (sic-died 07 Jan 1890), the time of his death, in Portland." [Republican League Register of Oregon and Washington, p. 283]



HON. GEO. L. WOODS.
PORTLAND, OR.

[History of the Pacific Northwest, Oregon and Washington Vol 1 p. 292a]

GEORGE LEMUEL WOODS.

Gov. George L. Woods, was born in Boone county, Missouri, July 30, 1832. At the age of fifteen he crossed the plains with his parents, Caleb and Margaret McBride Woods, pioneers of 1847, who settled upon a claim in Yamhill county soon after arriving. He attended the first school taught in the "classic shades of Yamhill," the building being a log cabin. Among the scholars attending were Hon. John R. McBride, Dr. James C. Shelton and Dr. L. L. Rowland. All these students wore buck-skin suits and moccasins for footwear. The teacher was Dr. W. L. Adams. He subsequently attended school at McMinnville College. In 1853 he was married to his cousin, Miss Louisa A. McBride, daughter of Dr. James McBride. Mr. Woods worked at carpentering and farming until he could secure an education, occupying his spare moments in study. He read law, and was admitted to the bar in 1858. He came prominently before the public in 1857, by organizing republican clubs throughout the Willamette valley, before whom he spoke on the political issues of the day. In 1863 he was

appointed county judge of Wasco county, and in 1864 was elected presidential elector. In 1866 he was elected governor of Oregon, serving four years. In 1871 he was appointed governor of the territory of Utah by President Grant, which office he held four years. He then removed to California and resumed the practice of law, principally in San Francisco. While a resident of California, he ran for the office of congressman, but was defeated.

He returned to Oregon in 1885, locating in Portland, where he practiced law until his death.

Governor Woods, as an attorney of the higher rank, and as a speaker, was one of the most eloquent known to the Union, and his services as a campaign orator were eagerly sought for, far and wide. He died in Portland, January 14, 1890, lamented by a host of friends and sorrowing relatives.

DEATH OF A PROMINENT MAN

Ex-Governor George L. Woods, After
a Long Illness, Passes Away.

He Bore His Last Sickness With Patient Forti-
tude—Brief Biographical Sketch of De-
ceased—Funeral Arrangements.

After a painful illness of several months, ex-Governor George L. Woods departed this life at St. Vincent's hospital, in Portland, Tuesday evening.

Governor Woods had been gradually failing in health for the past six or eight years; but it was not until last August that his illness assumed a character to give rise to serious apprehensions in the minds of his friends.

Last summer he took a trip to the coast, hoping that the fresh sea breezes would have a beneficial effect on his declining health. He remained a little over two weeks, when he found that instead of improving he was growing worse. In fact, he was feeling so bad that he returned to the city for medical treatment. Since that time he has been growing steadily weaker. The decline has been gradual, but none the less sure. There was a perceptible improvement in his condition about the middle of November, and on Thanksgiving day he felt so well that he changed his boarding place, and for the first time in many weeks ventured to partake of solid food. This proved to be a most serious mistake. His new hostess, not having been instructed regarding the dietary precautions necessary to the governor's health, allowed him to eat a hearty meal. He had not been accustomed to such living for some time, and a relapse, that almost proved fatal then, was the result.

From that day the decline in his health was more rapid, and, at times, his condition reached a critical stage. As soon as his condition allowed, he left Portland for Forest Grove, where he remained as a guest at the house of his friend, Mr. Caples, until last Friday, when he came to Portland, and engaged a room at St. Vincent hospital. He evidently realized his very critical condition, for, soon after arriving at Forest Grove he made out his will, and attended to various other matters of business that he had no intention of touching for some time.

During his stay at Forest Grove, Dr. A. I. Nicklin, who for a number of years has been his family physician, visited him a number of times. The doctor could observe no change for the better in Governor Woods's condition, and it was even then known that the end was not far distant.

Last Friday, contrary to the advice of his friends, Governor Woods returned to Portland, and went directly to the hospital. His condition was extremely critical, and he should not have undertaken the trip, as the exposure and excitement of travel, no doubt, very rapidly hastened his death.

CONSCIOUS TO THE END.

Dr. A. J. Giesy, who attended the governor during the last days of his illness, stated that he was very weak when he was taken to the hospital. "He gradually sunk," said the doctor, "and his condition grew from bad to worse until Tuesday morning, when a paralysis of the tongue and throat was noticed. He could neither speak nor swallow food, although he was perfectly conscious, and seemed to recognize all who came to see him. He suffered much distress during the last twenty-four hours, and all that we could do was to give him medicines to quiet him. Death relieved his sufferings about half-past 6 o'clock in the evening. The cause of death was catarrhal inflammation of the stomach, and Bright's disease."

One of the attendants in the hospital, speaking of Governor Woods's death, said: "I was with him up to the time he lost the power of speech. This was Tuesday morning. He took me by the hand and bade me good-bye, evidently knowing that the end was near."

The governor's brother and several lady friends watched by the bedside until he passed peacefully away.

PROMINENT IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS.

George L. Woods was born in Boone county, Missouri, July 30, 1832. He was of Scotch-Irish parentage. He came with his father, Mr. Caleb Woods (who still survives him), to Oregon when it was nothing but a mere wilderness—away back in the year 1844. The family settled in Yamhill county. Governor Woods was educated in the schools of Dr. Hudson and L. L. Rowland, and studied law by himself. In 1852 he went to California, where he worked several years in the mines. He returned to his home in Yamhill, worked on his father's farm and read law during his leisure hours. In 1853 he was admitted to the bar. He showed great aptitude for his chosen profession, and speedily attained a prominent and leading position among the professional men of the state. Being a very ready and fluent talker and forcible debater, he was enabled to exert much influence upon political affairs, and took an important part in the discussion of public questions.

In 1858 he was the candidate on the republican ticket for prosecuting attorney in his district and soon entered upon a large and lucrative practice. In 1863 he was appointed county judge of Wasco, and served out the unexpired term. In 1864 he was nominated presidential elector for Lincoln. He made a most vigorous canvass of the state, and during the very warm campaign, won new laurels as a stumpspeaker and ready, logical debater. In 1865 he was nominated associate justice of the supreme court of Idaho. In 1866 he was the republican nominee of the Oregon republican state convention for governor. He made a vigorous canvass of the state, and was elected. He served his term, and soon after its expiration, in 1871 was appointed governor of Utah by President Grant. For four years he filled that office, and at the end of his term, in 1875, removed to the Pacific coast, settling in San Francisco. For the following ten years Governor Woods resided at San Jose, and also for a time in Nevada. During that period he practiced law, and was also identified with several large mining and railroad enterprises. He returned to Portland in 1885, and located here and resumed the practice of law.

THE FUNERAL SUNDAY.

The remains were removed to the undertaking rooms of DeLin & Holman yesterday morning, where they will be prepared for burial. The features are perfectly natural, and the expression in the repose of death is that of one who has just fallen into a peaceful sleep. The interment will take place in Riverview cemetery, and the funeral will probably be conducted under Masonic auspices, as the deceased was a member of that organization. The hour of the funeral will be announced later.

Governor Woods was married to a daughter of the late Dr. McBride, of St. Helens, many years ago. He leaves two sons, both grown into manhood, one of whom is in Los Angeles with his mother, and the other over on the Sound.

Being for so many years a prominent figure in public affairs, and identified with enterprises of moment and magnitude, the governor acquired a large circle of friends, who have always admired him for his many generous, manly qualities.

In the practice of his profession he met with much success, and his ability as a speaker and debater commanded the respect of all. On the political rostrum and in the lecture room he justly earned for himself the title of "silver-tongued orator."

Through his uniform urbanity, dignified courtesy and genial qualities, he made hosts of friends. His tall, handsome form, silvery hair and grayish beard and soldierly bearing, gave him a fine commanding appearance.

[Oregonian, Portland, Oregon, Thursday, January 9, 1890, p. 8]

Children of George Woods and Louisa McBride:

i. Charles F. Woods

b. 1858 Yamhill County, Oregon

d. 09 Jan 1905 San Jose, Santa Clara County, California

ii. John Blaine Woods

b. 12 Jul 1870 Salem, Marion County, Oregon

d. 21 Dec 1953 Pacific, Washington

3. Henry Woods

b. 1834 Missouri

d.

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4. James C. Woods

b. 11 Jan 1838 Missouri

d. 18 Apr 1912 Forest Grove, Washington County, Oregon

buried Forest View Cemetery, Forest Grove, Washington County, Oregon

m.

Charlotte L. Caples

b. 08 Jun 1843 Ohio

d. 17 Mar 1921 Forest Grove, Washington County, Oregon
buried Forest View Cemetery, Forest Grove, Washington County, Oregon
d/o Thomas Crawford McBride and Eliza Womack

1850: Yamhill County, Oregon, November 20, 1850; Caleb Wood, 44, farmer, KY;
Margt, 41, TN; Thos., 20, MO; Geo, 18, MO; Samuel (James?), 12, MO; John Green, 8,
OT; J. J. Butler, 30, carpenter, NC; D. D. Butler, 27, carpenter, NC

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Charlotte, 17, OH; Mary E. Kimes, 10, MO; John Buckley, 24, day laborer, \$0 \$100, IN;
Jacob Smith, 25, day laborer, \$0 \$300, OH; Milum Backer, 28, day laborer, \$0 \$268,
MO; A. A. Hardin, 28, teacher common school, \$0 \$200, IN

1880: Cowlitz County, Washington, June 1, 1880; James C. Woods, 42, merchant, MO
KY TN; Charlotte L., 37, wife, keeping house, OH Eng MD; Nellie, 16, dau, at school,
OR MO OH; Nara, 11, dau, at school, OR MO OH

1900: Forest Grove, Washington County, Oregon, June 7, 1900; James C. Woods, head,
Jan 1838, 62, m-39yrs, MO KY TN, merchant; Charlotte L., wife, Jun 1843, 56, m-39yrs,
3-1, OH OH Eng;

1910: Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon, April 22 & 23, 1910; James C. Woods,
head, 72, m1-50yrs, MO MO MO; Charlotte L., wife, 66, m1-50yrs, 3-1, OH OH Eng;
Nellie W. Adams, dau, 45, wid, 0-0, OR MO OH

JAMES C. WOODS IS DEAD

**Oregon Merchant, Pioneer of 1847,
Will Be Buried at Forest Grove.**

James C. Woods, brother of the late George L. Woods, at one time Governor of Oregon, passed away at his home, 415 Eugene street, early yesterday morning. He was an Oregon pioneer of 1847 and was well known throughout the Willamette Valley. Mr. Woods' last years were a battle against cancer, the malady that caused his death.

For many years after he came to Oregon Mr. Woods made his home in Yamhill County, where his father, Caleb Woods, took up a donation land claim. The family crossed the plains to Oregon from Missouri, where Mr. Woods was born on January 11, 1838. Mr. Woods moved to Forest Grove in 1881. He was engaged in the general merchandise business for 30 years. For the past six years he made his home in

Portland and Vancouver. He is survived by a widow and one daughter, Mrs. Nellie Adams.

Funeral services will be held this afternoon at 2 o'clock in the Christian Church at Forest Grove.