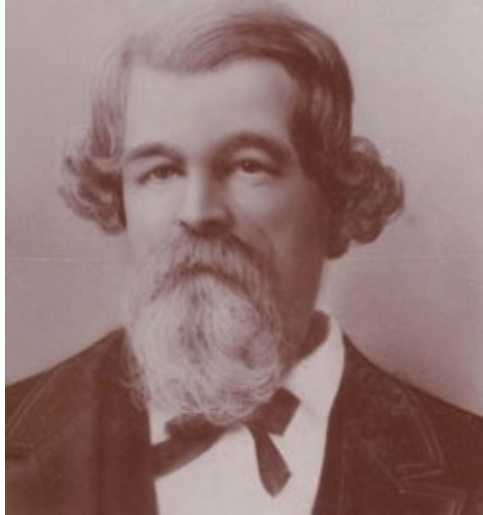


Edouard Crete aka Edward Crate

Pioneer of 1838

Compiled by Stephenie Flora
oregonpioneers.com



Edward Crate

b. 30 Jan 1820 Quebec, Canada

d. 11 Oct 1894 Crates Point, Wasco County, Oregon

buried [St. Peters Parish Center Cemetery](#), The Dalles, Wasco County, Oregon.

s/o Baptiste Crete and Mary Anne Lamer

m. 24 Jun 1844 Vancouver, Oregon Territory

Sophie Boucher

b. 15 May 1818 British Columbia, Canada

d. 29 May 1911 Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon

“Edouard Crete, son of Baptiste Crete and Marie Anne Laur of Canada, was a French Canadian voyageur, according to his son. Crete came by canoe route across Canada to the west in 1838 and was employed as master of the canoe and bateau fleet for the HBC. He brought the Spalding and Whitman survivors down to Ft. Vancouver after the massacre. He worked in connection with Peter Skene Ogden for years. In 1849 he retired to Crate’s Point below the Dalles, raising stock and transporting emigrants downriver in partnership with Charles Lefevre of Pendleton. He married Sophie Boucher and was the father of fourteen children.” [Catholic Church Records of the Pacific Northwest Vol I A-17]

“24 Jun 1844 Edouard Crete, son of the late Baptiste Crete of the lake and Marie Anne Lanoir (?) married Sophie, minor daughter of Baptiste Boucher and Nancy McDougal.” [Catholic Church Records of the Pacific Northwest Vol II p.41 M-23]

1850: Clark County, Oregon Territory, November 4th, 1850; Edward Crait, 29, boatman, Canada; Sophia, 20, New Caladonia; Edward Jr., 7, OT; Nancy, 5, OT; Jane, 3, OT; John B., 2, OT

1860: The Dalles, Wasco County, Oregon, July 4, 1860; Edward Crates, 49, farmer, \$2000 \$1300, Canada; Sophia, 38, Red River; Edward, 17, OR; Nancy, 15, OR; Jane, 13, WT; John, 11, OR; Marion, 9, OR; Julia, 6, OR; Eliza, 4, OR; Emma, 3, OR

1870: West Dalles Pct, Wasco County, Oregon, June 5, 1870; Edward Crate, 42, farmer, \$1200 \$358, Canada; Sophia, 44, keeping house, BC; Edward, 25, works on farm, WT; John, 21, works on farm, OR; Julia, 15, at home, OR; Eliza, 14, at home, OR; Emily, 12, at home, OR; Joseph, 10, at home, OR; Sophia B., 6, at home, OR; Josephine, 3, at home, OR; George W., 1, at home, OR

1880: The Dalles, Wasco County, Oregon, June 23, 1880; Edward Crate, 63, head of general farm, farmer, Canada Canada Canada; Sophia, 50, wife, keeping house, Canada Canada Canada; John, 30, son farmer, OR Can Can; Joseph, 19, farmer, OR Can Can; George 11, son, farmer, OR Can Can; James 9, at home, OR Can Can; Sophia, 16, dau, OR Can Can; Josephine, 13, dau, at home, OR Can Can; James Eversoll, 24, hired hand, farmer, OR unk unk

The Pioneer of the Country Dead.

Died—this morning, Edward Crate, aged 86.

Mr. Crate had been, for a man of his great age, in ordinary health, but after riding to town, complained a little and lay down. Dr. Hollister was sent for, but before his arrival the great reeiver came and for this aged man all earthly troubles were over.

When the first eyes that ever looked upon this part of our fair land—with the hope of making here a home—are closed by death, it is fitting that we who have entered into the labors of those who came so long before us, should give more than a passing thought to him who has gone. Mr. Crate was born in Sorelle, Canada, but brought up in Montreal. In 1830 he took service with the Hudson Bay Co. This was to all Canadian youths who loved adventure the only outlet that gave promise of what could gratify their craving for romance and hair breadth escapes by flood and field. His first trip from Fort Nelson to Vancouver as a voyager was made in 1830. He traversed this long path many times, taking as many months for the trip as the Canadian Pacific which goes over much of the same route, now requires days. Mr. Crate married in Canada and brought his family here, settling on what will always be known as Crate's point. He hesitated between that and the site now occupied by our town; but looking at both with an eye of a bateaux man, thought he saw in the lower site a better chance to have his boats in good winter harbor. His boats were employed in bringing the early immigrations down the Columbia. He went, as a volunteer, for the defense of the settlers, and he it was who brought down in his boats from old Fort Walla Walla, now Wallula, those who were rescued from the savage cruelty of the Whitman massacre—the Spaldings and others. Mr. Crate was the father of fourteen children, the most of whom are residing in this vicinity.



Mrs. Edward Crate, daughter, granddaughter and great grand child.

When Dr. D. H. Rand was called to operate on Mrs. Edward Crate, 92 years old, at St. Vincent's hospital, recently, he was confronted with the spectacle of dead flesh on a living body. With vital organs unimpaired death was yet coming to the near-centenarian by degrees, commencing with the extremities of the body where the circulation of the blood was weakest.

Proof was had of Mrs. Crate's great vitality when it was found possible to put her under the influence of chloroform while the operation was being performed.

"I discovered," said Dr. Rand, "that where the circulation had failed, what is called senile gangrene had set in. One of the great toes was entirely dead. After it had been removed Mrs. Crate came out from under the influence of the anæsthetic much better than many people less than half her age."

Mrs. Crate is the mother of E. L. Crate, sergeant of police and humane officer. She is an Oregon pioneer. Nearly all her life has been spent on the frontier. She is the mother of 16 children and was born near Québec. In 1845 she went with her father to Stuart Lake, where she met and married Edward Crate the same year. Both came to Fort Wallowa in 1846 for the Hudson Bay company. Peter Ogden was superintendent at the time. Modern means of transportation then unknown, they came toilsomely by the Hudson Bay water route, including the Red river and the lakes. During the Whitman massacre of 1847, Mrs. Crate displayed her rare courage by bringing Spaulding, the only man who escaped the slaughter, to Vancouver. Mr. and Mrs. Crate later located at what is known as Crate's point, just below The Dalles. All her life Mrs. Crate has had the best of health and even now her sight and hearing are excellent.

The picture shows four generations of the Crate descent, namely Great Grand-

mother Crate, her daughter, Mrs. Houtt
Mrs. Houtt's daughter, Mrs. Thomas
Fargo, and Mrs. Fargo's son, Master
Thomas Fargo.

[The Oregon Sunday Journal, Portland, Oregon, Sunday, April 23, 1911, p.8 Mrs. Houtt, Mrs. Thomas Fargo, Sophia Crate, Thomas Fargo]

Mrs. Edward Crate, aged 92, who came to Oregon in 1846, died at Portland yesterday.

[The Capital Journal, Salem, Oregon, Wednesday, May 31, 1911 p.5]

Children of Edward Crate and Sophie Boucher:

1. Edward Crate Jr

b. 1836 Oregon Territory

d. 24 Sep 1928 Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon

buried [Saint Peters Parish Center Cemetery](#), The Dalles, Wasco County, Oregon

m. Ellen Nelson



"My father came to Oregon in 1838. He was a Hudson's Bay man. He had charge of the bateaux for the chief factor, Dr. McLoughlin, at Vancouver. My father worked for many years under Peter Skeen Ogden. He worked for the Hudson's Bay company for about ten years. In 1849 he took up a ranch three miles below The Dalles at what is known as Crate's Point. He bought three bateaux from the Hudson's Bay company—good sized ones that you can haul about three tons in.

"From 1850 for several years he was kept busy each fall bringing immigrants down the river to Vancouver, Portland or Oregon City. A good many of them would have no money, so they would give him a lame ox or a thin cow or sometimes a horse, for bringing them down. Sometimes they were very poor, so he would bring them down with the understanding they would pay him later if they got the money.

"At the time of the Whitman massacre, my father, with another Frenchman, brought H. H. Spalding, the missionary, down to The Dalles. All of us boys were practically born in the saddle and raised in the saddle. When I was 15 I carried mail from The Dalles to Walla Walla. For eight years I was a cowboy. Later I worked for Joe Teal's father, who was in the cattle business. After that I drove cattle for Connell. I spent some years in the Cariboo country, mining. From the Cariboo I went up to the Peace River country, but I didn't like three feet of snow in the middle of July, so I bought a canoe and came down the Frazer river, alone, as far as the Big Rapids, where I had to abandon my canoe and go the rest of the way on foot. For the next few years I drove stage out of Cariboo. After running a butcher shop in The Dalles for some time, I came to Portland in the same business, doing slaughtering for the American Dressed Meat company.

"In 1892 I was appointed patrolman on the police force. My beat was in the north end. Sometimes they were pretty ugly down there. I remember one time while I was under Chief of Police Parrish, I had to arrest a bar-keeper. He wouldn't come out from behind the bar and when I reached for him he stuck his revolver against my stomach, but before he could pull the trigger I caught him by the hand and turned the revolver to one side.

"When they started the mounted police, Chief Hunt was looking for men who could ride. Quinton and Shane, two of the policemen, told him about me, so I was appointed mounted policeman. Six years ago I was made sergeant. Some years ago I was appointed officer for the Oregon Humane society. My duties are to see that animals are not abused. Frequently horses with very sore shoulders are worked or horses are overloaded. I visit the various grading camps and examine the horses, also the commission houses and stockyards, to see that conditions are sanitary and that the turkeys, geese and chickens are not overcrowded or abused. All reports of cruelty to animals, such as working horses hard and keeping them out through bad weather, starving them, as well as abusing them, are referred to me for investigation. There is much less cruelty to animals than there was some years ago, when less attention was paid to the matter."

[The Oregon Daily Journal, Portland, Oregon, Friday, January 9, 1914 p.8]

2. Nancy Crate

b. 1845 Oregon Territory

d.

3. Jane Crate

b. 16 May 1848 Walla Walla, Walla Walla County, Washington

d. 14 Dec 1921 Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon

buried [River View Cemetery](#), Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon

m. Frank Edward Huott 1867 Wasco County, Oregon

Three daughters of Mrs. Frank Huott, who is ill at Good Samaritan hospital, have arrived in the city to be with their mother. Mrs. Huott has been in the hospital for three week. The daughters are Mrs. W. J. Wright who, with Mr. Wright, came from Ketchikan, Alaska; Mrs. Thomas C. Fargaer of Dufur, and Mrs. Frank Loveland of Chicago. Mrs. Huott makes her home at 169 North Twenty-second street.

[The Oregon Daily Journal, Portland, Oregon, Tuesday, December 13, 1921 p.14]

FUNERAL NOTICES 104

HUOTT—In this city, December 14, Jane Huott, aged 73 years, late of 169 North Twenty-second street, mother of Mrs. Frank Loveland of Chicago; Mrs. W. J. Wright of Ketchikan, Alaska; Mrs. T. C. Fargher of Dufur, Or., and Frank E. Huott of Portland and sister of Sergeant E. L., and James Crate and Mrs. W. H. Anderson of this city; John and Joe Crate of The Dalles, Or.; Mrs. John Perry of White Salmon, Wash., and Mrs. Joseph Silva of Lyle, Wash. Friends may view the remains at Finley's mortuary, Montgomery, at Fifth, until 10 a. m., Friday, December 16, when the funeral cortege will leave for St. Mary's cathedral, Fifteenth and Davis streets, where mass will be celebrated at 10:30 a. m. Concluding services, Riverview cemetery.

[The Oregon Daily Journal, Portland, Oregon, Thursday, December 15, 1921 p.20]

4. Emma Crate
 - b. 14 Nov 1848 Crate's Point, Wasco County, Oregon
 - d. 13 Nov 1936 The Dalles, Wasco County, Oregon
 - m. Anderson

5. Jean Baptiste Crate
 - b. 26 Apr 1850 Oregon City, Clackamas County, Oregon
 - d. 20 May 1829 Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon
 - buried [Odd Fellows Cemetery](#), The Dalles, Wasco County, Oregon
 - m. Elizabeth Bills 01 Jun 1882

JOHN B. CRATE

Among the most interesting features of the Oregon Daily Journal are the articles of Fred Lockley, who wrote the following account of the life of John B. Crate, the oldest pioneer resident of The Dalles:

"When did you come to The Dalles? I asked of Mr. Crate. 'I came here in May, 1850, just seventy-five years ago this month,' he replied. 'My father worked for the Hudson's Bay Company. In 1838 Dr. McLoughlin sent him up to Stuart lake in British Columbia, to bring down the furs from their post there. He was given command of ten three-ton boats. He piloted the leading boat himself and the others followed the lead of his boat. These boats made the round trip each summer from Stuart lake to Fort Vancouver. Coming down the Columbia, they shot the rapids at the cascades, but on the return trip they had to make a portage there. They carried their loads around the cascades at what is now Cascade locks and towed their boats or carried them around the swift water. At the big eddy, sometimes called The Dalles rapids, they made another portage, carrying their loads clear beyond Celilo falls. They put their boats into the river above Celilo and paddled them to the mouth of the Okanogan, where they put their trade goods on pack horses and took them over the divide to the waters of the Frazier river, where they had boats in which they took the goods to Stuart lake. Father stayed with this work for some years—in fact, until 1846, when they transferred him to Fort Walla Walla, now called Wallula.

"In 1847 Peter Skene Ogden detailed my father and another employe named Champagne to take H. H. Spaulding down the river to Fort Vancouver. This was immediately after the killing of Dr. Marcus Whitman, Mrs. Whitman and the other white people at Wai-lat-pu mission. The Indians fired at my father and the other two men from the bank but did not hit them. They brought the news of the massacre to the Willamette valley, and soon the whole valley was humming with excitement like a hive of angry bees. My father and Champagne joined their own people from French prairie to go up to Wai-lat-pu to punish the Indians. They fought with the volunteers from French prairie until the Cayuse war was over. Then they returned to the employ of the Hudson's Bay Company at Fort Walla Walla.

"In 1847 my father took up a place called Crates Point, which my mother left during the trouble with the Indians in 1849 and went to Oregon City. She was at Dr. McLoughlin's mill on the island at what they sometimes called Willamette falls when I was born on April 27, 1850, and when I was a few weeks old she returned to our place here. My mother's name was Sophia Berchier. She pronounced it "Bushey." She was from the Red river of the north. She lived to be ninety-four years old. When she was coming here by the old Hudson's Bay trail my brother Ed, who retired from the Portland police force recently after forty years of service, was born. The

Indians attacked the party when Ed was one day old, so mother had to grab him up, catch her horse and get away from there as fast as the animal could travel.

“My father, Edward Crate, was a French Canadian. In the fall of 1849 he purchased from the Hudson's Bay Company a boat which he operated on the river between The Dalles and Fort Vancouver. He took emigrants from The Dalles to Oregon City while the men of the party drove their cattle overland to the Willamette valley. Father had the contract to transport the soldiers from Vancouver to The Dalles in 1852, when the United States government built the fort here. After this for three years he stayed on his land at Crates Point and farmed the place. In the summer of 1856 he operated his boat between Celilo and Wallula. Father acted as pilot on the first boat than ran from Celilo to Wallula and thence to the mouth of the Snake river. I believe Captain Gray was skipper of the boat. After serving as pilot on this river for a while father returned to his ranch, later going to the newly discovered gold mines in Idaho, near where Lewiston now is. Father and mother had fourteen children, seven of whom are now living.

“When I was eighteen—that would be in 1868—I started riding the range. In 1872 I was riding for Ben Snipe, whose horses ranged all over the Yakima country and along the Columbia. He had about twenty thousand head of cattle. In 1875 my horse fell with me and broke in a lot of my ribs, so I came to The Dalles and went to work for John Michaelbach, who ran a butcher shop here in those days. In 1880 my brother Ed and I purchased the shop. After a few days I bought Ed's interest and he went to Portland to work for O'Shea Brothers, the meat packers. Ed soon went on the Portland police force. I ran the butcher shop for some years and sold out when I was appointed a member of the police force here. Ed Word, later with the Oregon Railroad & Navigation Company, and I were put on the police force the same day. He was day man and I had the night shift. There were thirty-two saloons here then. Yes, I have had to take guns away from hundreds of men. You see, when they get drunk they hardly know what they are doing and they frequently get ugly and pull their guns. If I didn't take the gun away they might kill someone, or someone might shoot them in self-defense. I served on the force over twenty years. Yes, I have lots of friends. The lawbreakers and bootleggers don't like me, but the wolves and coyotes don't like a watchdog, and for the same reason.

“Was I ever city marshal? Yes, when Gibbons, the city marshal was shot and killed I was appointed in his place. Did I ever have any fights? Look at the knuckles of my right hand. I couldn't tell you how many times I have broken my knuckles fighting with drunken men or gangs of men who resisted arrest. No, I never used a gun or a billy. One morning at about five o'clock I was called to a saloon to stop a fight between Frank Summers, a gambler, and a small man. Summers, who weighed about three hundred pounds, was holding the small man with one arm around his neck and beating him with the other arm. I managed to separate the two men and dragged Summers outside the saloon. While I was taking Summers to the jail he promised to behave if I would take him to his room instead, which I did, and left him there. In the melee Summers lost his hat and a man named Gentry took it up to his room. The gambler told Gentry he was going to get his gun and kill me. Meanwhile I had gone downtown and was told later on that Summers was back in the saloon and boasting of what he intended to do. I returned to the saloon and when I reached the swinging door Summers opened fire. The first bullet hit me in the left breast, an inch above the heart, and penetrated my body. I grabbed a heavy chair of oak, using it as a shield, and closed with Summers, who fired two more shots before I was able to knock him down with the chair. I took away Summers' gun, handing it to my deputy, who had arrived on the scene by that time, and then fainted from loss of blood. They took me to a hospital and probed for the bullet, but the probe ran clear through me and when they took off my shirt the bullet fell to the floor. I had to stay in the hospital for over a month. The fight took place at The Dalles in 1902 and Summers was sent to the penitentiary for a term of five years.’”

Mr. Crate was married June 1, 1882, to Miss Elizabeth Bill, a native of Steuben county, New York, and a daughter of Nicholas and Mary Bill, both of whom were born on the Rhine, in Germany. About 1850 they came to the United States, settling in Steuben county, New York, and there Mr. Bill engaged in farming until 1875. He then sold the place and migrated to Oregon, arriving at Hood River on November 15, 1875. There he spent the winter and in the spring of 1876 came to Wasco county, taking up a preemption claim and homestead of one hundred and sixty acres

near Mosier. He removed a portion of the timber, which he cut, and sold the wood. Mr. Bill cultivated the ranch until his demise in 1880 and his wife passed away a few days later. They had ten children, seven of whom survive: Mrs. Mary Britten, who makes her home at The Dalles; Mrs. Barbara Dunsmore, of Mosier; Mrs. Eva Hall, who lives in Portland, Oregon; Elizabeth; George C., of Callistoga, California; Mrs. Louise Shepard, a resident of Oakland, that state; and Henry A. Bill, also of Oakland. In the family of Mr. and Mrs. Crate were two children. Violet was born in 1884 and died in infancy. The other daughter, Anna Lucille, who was born at The Dalles and has become a well known concert singer, is the wife of James W. Purcell, who is manager for the Ellison-White Chautauqua Company and travels extensively in the interests of the firm. Mr. and Mrs. Purcell reside in Portland, Oregon, and are the parents of two sons: James W. Jr., a student at Reed College in Portland; and James Bardell Purcell, a junior in high school.

A lifelong resident of Oregon, Mr. Crate has an intimate knowledge of the history of the state, to which he is deeply attached, and his conversation is enriched with interesting reminiscences of the past. He has been loyal to every trust reposed in him and faithful to every duty and the years have strengthened his position in public esteem.

Portland, Ore., (LP)—John Crate, 79, oldest resident of The Dalles died late Monday at St. Vincents hospital.

The aged pioneer was suffering from complications which ensued after he fell and broke his hip.

[The Capital Journal, Salem, Oregon, Wednesday, May 22, 1929 p.7]

John B. Crate, 79, native of Oregon and oldest citizen in point of residence in Wasco county, died in a Portland hospital of injuries sustained some time ago, when he fell at the home of his daughter in Portland.

[The Lebanon Express, Lebanon, Oregon, Wednesday, May 22, 1929 p.3]

6. Marion Crate

b. Mar 1852 Oregon Territory

d. 19 Feb 1929 The Dalles, Wasco County, Oregon

buried [Saint Peters Parish Center Cemetery](#), The Dalles, Wasco County, Oregon

m. Joseph Silva

7. Elisa Hewitt Crate

b. 1855 Oregon Territory

d. 21 Apr 1877 Antelope, Wasco County, Oregon

buried [Saint Peters Parish Center Cemetery](#), The Dalles, Wasco County, Oregon

m. George William Raberson 29 Oct 1874 The Dalles, Wasco County, Oregon

8. Julia Frances Crate

b. 01 May 1856 Oregon

d. 12 Apr 1936 White Salmon, Klickitat County, Washington

buried [West Klickitat Cemetery District 1](#), White Salmon, Klickitat County, Washington

m. John Perry 1874 Wasco County, Oregon

9. Emily "Emma" Crate

b. 15 Dec 1859 Oregon City, Clackamas County, Oregon

d. 27 Feb 1938 Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon

buried [River View Cemetery](#), Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon

m. William Henry Anderson

10. Joseph Crate

b. Dec 1861 Oregon

d. 26 Jul 1934 Pendleton, Umatilla County, Oregon

buried [Olney Cemetery](#), Pendleton, Umatilla County, Oregon
never married

11. Sophia B. Crate
b. 1864 Oregon
d.

12. Josephine Crate
b. 1866 Oregon
d. 1884

buried [Saint Peters Parish Center Cemetery](#), The Dalles, Wasco County, Oregon

13. George W. Crate
b. 1869 Oregon
d. 1886

buried [Saint Peters Parish Center Cemetery](#), The Dalles, Wasco County, Oregon

14. James Wilmer Crate
b. 07 Aug 1873 Oregon
d. 29 Dec 1932 Seattle, King County, Washington
m. May E. Barnharte c1917 Multnomah County, Oregon