

Franklin Yocom

Pioneer of 1851

compiled by Vic Bennett
for oregonpioneers.com

Franklin Yocom

My 2nd great grandfather

Birth 30 Jul 1820 in Montgomery, County, Kentucky

Death 25 Apr 1908 in Yamhill, Oregon

m'd 05 Jan 1842 Sangamon County, Illinois

Nancy Jane Darnelle

My 2nd great grandmother

Birth Abt 1821 in Bourbon, Kentucky, USA

Death 29 Jun 1898 in Oregon

Picture of Franklin Yocom



Nancy Darnalle Yocom and Franklin Yocom were first cousins and were husband and wife.

History of Franklin Yocom

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Taken from Portrait and Biographical Record:p.831

FRANKLIN YOCOM. After many years of agricultural activity in Yamhill county, Franklin Yocom is now enjoying the fruits of his labor in retirement in Sheridan, where he is honored for his many fine traits of character, and for his generally substantial accomplishment in the west.

Born in Montgomery county, Kentucky, July 30, 1820, when seven years of age, he was taken by his parents to Illinois, where they entered 640 acres of land in Sangamon county. Here Franklin grew to manhood among the crude and pioneer conditions then existing in Illinois, and his education was received in the little log subscription school

house in the vicinity of the paternal farm. The property was located near Springfield, and at the time that the elder Yocom allied his fortunes with that section, there was just one little store to prophesy the capital and flourishing city of today.

In 1842 Franklin Yocom was united in marriage with Nancy J. Darnell, and of the ten children born of this union Allen is a farmer near Sheridan; Evelyn is the wife of James H. Brown of Yamhill county; Marilla J. is the wife of David Carter of Washington county; Eliza is the wife of Allen Bradford of California; Rebecca is deceased; the others are: Tillie, Loretta, Harvey, Lonah, and an infant, deceased.

Mrs. Yocom died June 29, 1897.

With his family Mr. Yocom prepared to emigrate to Oregon in 1851, and equipped with three yoke of oxen, cross the plains in six months. The party was exceedingly fortunate during their entire journey, and with the exception of having one ox stolen, suffered no inconvenience at the hands of the Indians.

The farm upon which Mr. Yocom located, and which is still in his possession, is in Polk county, just across the line from Yamhill county, and four miles west of Sheridan. 320 acres comprise this donation claim, and about half of it is bottom land, lying along the Yamhill river. At first the owner erected a little log cabin, 16x20 feet, ground dimensions, and there lived with his family and improved his property until 1876.

Somewhat weary of strenuous farming life, he then moved into Salem, where for 14 years he engaged in the slab-wood business, made possible by the large number of mills in the neighborhood. He was very successful in this effort, following which he returned to his farm and lived there four years.

From the farm, Mr. Yocom came to Sheridan and has since lived a retired life. Mr. Yocom is a very large land owner, and besides his home ranch, increased to 700 acres, owns almost 2000 in another body.

While carrying on general farming and stock-raising, Mr. Yocom has variously interested himself in the affairs of his community, and has been especially active in promoting the interests of the Republican party. However, locally, he votes for the man best qualified to serve the interests of the people, regardless of party, and this breadth of thought has characterized his entire career in the west.

For nearly 60 years he was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, but is now identified with the Christian Scientists.

He is one of the highly-esteemed pioneer residents of Yamhill county, and his moral, agricultural and general influence has been of the best.