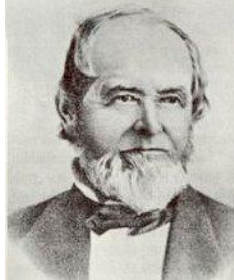


George Abernethy

Arrived via Ship 1840

compiled by Stephenie Flora
oregonpioneers.com



[History of the Pacific Northwest Vol 1]

George Abernethy

b. 07 Oct 1807 NY

d. 02 May 1877 Portland, Multnomah Co, OR

buried Riverview Cemetery, Portland, Multnomah Co, OR

m. 15 Jun 1830

Anna Pope

b. 10 Sep 1811 Plymouth, Devon, England

d. 30 Apr 1884 New York, New York County, NY

1839: 09 Oct left NY on ship Lausanne by way of Cape Horn and Sandwich Islands as part of "Great Reinforcements" for Methodist mission.

1840 May: arrived via ship as part of the reinforcements requested by Methodist missionary Jason Lee. Abernethy was a miller by trade. He assisted at the mission and opened a mercantile in Oregon City that served as a source of supplies for arriving emigrants. On June 3, 1845, in a contested race against Asa Lovejoy, Abernethy was elected the governor of Oregon. He served as Governor for three years, at which time, federally appointed Joseph Lane became the new Territorial Governor. [Ten Years in Oregon by Lee and Frost p.217]

HMO : p.29 was assigned as Mission treasurer, a post he never really fulfilled; arrived at Ft. Vancouver June 1, 1840 with wife and 2 children; member of Great Reinforcements assigned to "old mission" as steward

OHSQ: Vol 31 p.252; came to Oregon with the Methodist missionaries in 1840; elected governor of the provisional government 1845 and 1847; died 1877 age 70.

Champoeg, Place of Transition p.199 merchant of Oregon City, laid out town of LaButte [Butteville] the end of 1845 with help of Alanson Beers

ODLC: #219 Clackamas; George Abernethy; b. 1807 city of New York, NY; sc 10 May 1847; m'd Ann 23 Jan 1830 New York, NY; 10 Sep 1848 sent to CA; returned to OR Apr 1849; 26 Jun 1850 left for several mos visit in NY. Boundary line adjustment between Abernethy and Dr. John McLoughlin in 13 Jul 1851. Bound Aff: F.W. Pettygrove, Thurston Co had known both parties since 1843; A. Lawrence Lovejoy, acting Mayor of Oregon City 1846 & 47 & 51; Wm. Holman Collector of Taxes 1848; James R. Robb, arr OR 1842. He said "in 1843 Mr. Hedspith surveyed Dr. J. McLoughlins claim & Walter Pomeroy claimed land immediately n. & adj. Oregon City claim. In spring of 1843, Geo. Abernethy purchased land from Pomeroy claim; Alvin F. Waller, Marion county (arr OR 1849, resided in Oregon City 1840 to 1844). Geo. Abernethy paid Dr. John McLoughlin one dollar in settlement of the line. Aff: Peter H. Hatch, Hezekiah Johnson, James R. Robb, Wm. Cary Johnson.

1850: Oregon City, Clackamas Co, OR, October 4, 1850; George Abernethy, 41, merchant, \$100,000, NY; Ann, 36, NY; William, 19, NY; Ann, 15, NY

1860: Oregon City, Clackamas Co, OR, June 12, 1860; George Abernethy, 50, merchant; Anna, 45; William, 25, s, farmer [no place of birth listed for the family]

1870: Portland, Multnomah Co, OR, June 24, 1870; Geo. Abernethy, 62, retired merchant, \$10,000 \$1,500, NY; Ann, 58, keeping house, \$3300, England; John Hill, 20, works in sack factory, OR

GOVERNOR ABERNETHY.

To most of our readers the announcement of the death of George Abernethy will come as a shock, because it comes without warning. The public had not been advised of the attack that prostrated him, and his hale and venerable form, seen so often on our streets, had not been missed by any save the circle of his most intimate friends.

When such a man at such an age passes away death seems only to complete the fullness of life. He had reached his three score and ten. Born in New York city in 1807, he resided there till 1839, when he started for Oregon, arriving here in May, 1840. During his long residence in Oregon he followed mercantile pursuits almost steadily. For many years he resided on the Willamette just below Oregon City, and whoever in passing sees the old residence instantly remembers him who was so long its occupant. Among the first of our pioneers he was active and conspicuous in laying the foundations of a great commonwealth. On the organization of the provincial government, in 1845, he was chosen Governor. Until the territorial government was established by the act of Congress, passed in 1848, he held the position of Governor with honor to himself and with advantage to the country. At different times he was engaged in various extensive business enterprises, notably in the large mills at Willamette falls, opposite Oregon City. By the great flood of 1861 he was involved in heavy pecuniary losses. Shortly afterward he came to Portland, where he has since resided, and been engaged in business.

No one among us has been better known for an honorable and useful life. Faithful, gentle and obliging, devoted always to duty, and recognized as the impersonation of uprightness and honor, no man could be his enemy. Now that he is gone no one can withhold a tribute of respect for a life so useful, so blameless, so answerable in all ways to the ends of earthly existence. May memories of him ever be green among us.

“DEATH OF MRS. GOVERNOR ABERNETHY.

A dispatch from Colonel Hodges of New York city to Mr. Lloyd Brooke of Portland, states that Mrs. Ann Abernethy, widow of the late Governor Abernethy, the first Governor of Oregon territory, died at the former's residence on Friday. The deceased was married to Governor Abernethy in New York state some time before the year 1840, when they came to this country via Cape Horn. Her maiden name was Pope, and she wa a sister of Thomas Pope, an old time merchant of Oregon City. For a long time she and her husband lived at Green Point, on the Willamette river just below Oregon City, where he was engaged for years in the mercantile business. In 1865 they moved to this city where they lived at the time of the governor's death, a few years ago. Of their children, William Abernethy, now lives out on the mecadam road, near the city, and another, Anna, is the wife of Colonel Hodges, at whose residence the old lady died.” [The Oregonian, 04 May 1884, p. 5, c. 3]

Children of George Abernethy and Anna Pope:



WILLIAM ABERNETHY

[Centennial History of Oregon by Gaston p.72-8]

1. William Abernethy

b. 16 Sep 1831 New York, New York County, NY

d. 30 Dec 1916

buried Riverview Cemetery, Portland, Multnomah Co, OR

m. 25 Jun 1863 Clackamas Co, OR



MRS. SARAH F. ABERNETHY

[Centennial History of Oregon by Gaston p.72-8]

Sarah Fidelia Gray

b. 25 Nov 1843

d. 02 Mar 1931

buried Riverview Cemetery, Portland, Multnomah Co, OR

d/o W. H. Gray, pioneer Missionary

1850: Oregon City, Clackamas Co, OR, October 4, 1850; George Abernethy, 41, merchant, \$100,000, NY; Ann, 36, NY; William, 19, NY; Ann, 15, NY

1860: Oregon City, Clackamas Co, OR, June 12, 1860; George Abernethy, 50, merchant; Anna, 45; William, 25, s, farmer [no place of birth listed for the family]

1880: Western Pct, Multnomah Co, OR, June 11 & 12, 1880; Wm. Abernathy (sic), 49, farmer, NY NY England; S.F., 36, wife, keeping house, OR NY NY; Anna May, 10, dau, at school, OR; Caroline A., 8, dau, at school, OR; William, 6, son, at home, OR; Edwd P.S., 4, son, at home, OR; Ocia G., 2, dau, at home, OR; S. F. , 2, dau, at home, OR; Pearl D., 1, dau, at home, OR; O. Carroll, 36, laborer, NY Ire Eng

1900: Dora, Coos Co, OR, June 14, 1900; William Abernethy, head, Sep 1830, 69, m-37yrs, NY NY Eng, farmer; Sarah F., wife, Nov 1843, 56, m-37yrs, 13-10, OR NY NY; Edwin P.S., son, Sep 1875, 24, s, OR, farm laborer; Violet O.G., dau, Oct 1877, 22, s, OR; Frances M., dau, Feb 1881, 19, s, OR, at school; Camilla D., dau, Dec 1883, 16, s, OR, at school; Mizpah I., dau, Jun 1887, 12, s, OR, at school; Robbie Ray, son (adopted), Feb 1895, 5, s, OR Can (Fr) Denmark; Marion C. Miller, boarder, Oct 1869, 30, m-1 ½ yr, VA MD VA, farmer

“William Abernethy, aged 85 years, son of Oregon's first Governor and himself a pioneer of 1840, died at home in this city last Saturday. Born in New York City in 1831 and when nine years old, came to Oregon with his parents who were members of a Methodist Missionary company of 50 people. On June 14, 1863 he married Miss Sarah Fidelia Gray at The Dalles. The family came to this city from Southern Oregon in 1904.

Survived by a widow and the following children: Mrs. Anna M Starr, Tacoma, Washington; Mrs. Caroline A Burgess, Seattle, Washington; William Abernethy, Tacoma; Edward P S, of McKinley, Oregon; Mrs. Violet Swanton, Marshfield, Oregon; Miss Daisey Hahn, Multnomah, Oregon; Miss Camilla D Abernethy, Forest Grove; Mrs. Mizpah I Waterman, Welches, Oregon.”
[Forest Grove Express, January 4, 1917]

FUNERAL NOTICES.

ABERNETHY—At Forest Grove, Or., March 2, Sarah F. Abernethy, aged 87 years, mother of Mrs. Anna M. Starr of Monroe, Wash.; Mrs. Caroline Burgess of Seattle, Wash.; William G. Abernethy of Tacoma, Wash.; Edwin P. S. Abernethy of Dora, Or.; Mrs. Violet A. Swanton of Eugene, Or.; Mrs. Sarah F. Hahn of Charlottesville, Va.; Mrs. Pearl D. Miller of Coquille, Or.; Mrs. Frances M. Hahn of Multnomah, Or.; Miss Camilla D. Abernethy of Forest Grove; Mrs. Mizpah I. Waterman of Portland; sister of Mrs. Caroline A. Kamm of Portland. Mrs. Abernethy is survived by 30 grandchildren and four great grandchildren. The funeral services will be held Wednesday, March 4, at 11:30 A. M. at Finley's Chapel, Montgomery at 5th. Friends invited. Commitment Riverview cemetery.

[Morning Oregonian, March 3, 1931 p13]

Children of William Abernethy and Sarah Gray:

- i. Anna May Abernethy (Starr)
- b. 1870 OR
- d.

1880: Western Pct, Multnomah Co, OR, June 11 & 12, 1880; Wm. Abernathy (sic), 49, farmer, NY NY England; S.F., 36, wife, keeping house, OR NY NY; Anna May, 10, dau, at school, OR; Caroline A., 8, dau, at school, OR; William, 6, son, at home, OR; Edwd P.S., 4, son, at home, OR; Ocia G., 2, dau, at home, OR; S. F. , 2, dau, at home, OR; Pearl D., 1, dau, at home, OR; O. Carroll, 36, laborer, NY Ire Eng

ii. Caroline A. Abernethy (Burgess)

b. 1872 OR

d.

1880: Western Pct, Multnomah Co, OR, June 11 & 12, 1880; Wm. Abernathy (sic), 49, farmer, NY NY England; S.F., 36, wife, keeping house, OR NY NY; Anna May, 10, dau, at school, OR; Caroline A., 8, dau, at school, OR; William, 6, son, at home, OR; Edwd P.S., 4, son, at home, OR; Ocia G., 2, dau, at home, OR; S. F. , 2, dau, at home, OR; Pearl D., 1, dau, at home, OR; O. Carroll, 36, laborer, NY Ire Eng

iii. William G. Abernethy

b. 1874

d.

1880: Western Pct, Multnomah Co, OR, June 11 & 12, 1880; Wm. Abernathy (sic), 49, farmer, NY NY England; S.F., 36, wife, keeping house, OR NY NY; Anna May, 10, dau, at school, OR; Caroline A., 8, dau, at school, OR; William, 6, son, at home, OR; Edwd P.S., 4, son, at home, OR; Ocia G., 2, dau, at home, OR; S. F. , 2, dau, at home, OR; Pearl D., 1, dau, at home, OR; O. Carroll, 36, laborer, NY Ire Eng

iv. Edwin P.S. Abernethy

b. Sep 1875 OR

d.

1880: Western Pct, Multnomah Co, OR, June 11 & 12, 1880; Wm. Abernathy (sic), 49, farmer, NY NY England; S.F., 36, wife, keeping house, OR NY NY; Anna May, 10, dau, at school, OR; Caroline A., 8, dau, at school, OR; William, 6, son, at home, OR; Edwd P.S., 4, son, at home, OR; Ocia G., 2, dau, at home, OR; S. F. , 2, dau, at home, OR; Pearl D., 1, dau, at home, OR; O. Carroll, 36, laborer, NY Ire Eng

1900: Dora, Coos Co, OR, June 14, 1900; William Abernethy, head, Sep 1830, 69, m-37yrs, NY NY Eng, farmer; Sarah F., wife, Nov 1843, 56, m-37yrs, 13-10, OR NY NY; Edwin P.S., son, Sep 1875, 24, s, OR, farm laborer; Violet O.G., dau, Oct 1877, 22, s, OR; Frances M., dau, Feb 1881, 19, s, OR, at school; Camilla D., dau, Dec 1883, 16, s, OR, at school; Mizpah I., dau, Jun 1887, 12, s, OR, at school; Robbie Ray, son (adopted), Feb 1895, 5, s, OR Can (Fr) Denmark; Marion C. Miller, boarder, Oct 1869, 30, m-1 ½ yr, VA MD VA, farmer

v. Violet Ocia G.. Abernethy (Swanton)

b. Oct 1877 OR

d.

1900: Dora, Coos Co, OR, June 14, 1900; William Abernethy, head, Sep 1830, 69, m-37yrs, NY NY Eng, farmer; Sarah F., wife, Nov 1843, 56, m-37yrs, 13-10, OR NY NY; Edwin P.S., son, Sep 1875, 24, s, OR, farm laborer; Violet O.G., dau, Oct 1877, 22, s, OR; Frances M., dau, Feb 1881, 19, s, OR, at school; Camilla D., dau, Dec 1883, 16, s, OR, at school; Mizpah I., dau, Jun 1887, 12, s, OR, at school; Robbie Ray, son (adopted), Feb 1895, 5, s, OR Can (Fr) Denmark; Marion C. Miller, boarder, Oct 1869, 30, m-1 ½ yr, VA MD VA, farmer

vi. Sarah F. "Daisy" Abernethy (Hahn)

b. Oct 1877 OR

d.

1880: Western Pct, Multnomah Co, OR, June 11 & 12, 1880; Wm. Abernathy (sic), 49, farmer, NY NY England; S.F., 36, wife, keeping house, OR NY NY; Anna May, 10, dau, at school, OR; Caroline A., 8, dau, at school, OR; William, 6, son, at home, OR; Edwd P.S., 4, son, at home, OR; Ocia G., 2, dau, at home, OR; S. F. , 2, dau, at home, OR; Pearl D., 1, dau, at home, OR; O. Carroll, 36, laborer, NY Ire Eng

vii. Pearl D. Abernethy (Miller)

b. 1879

d.

1880: Western Pct, Multnomah Co, OR, June 11 & 12, 1880; Wm. Abernathy (sic), 49, farmer, NY NY England; S.F., 36, wife, keeping house, OR NY NY; Anna May, 10, dau, at school, OR; Caroline A., 8, dau, at school, OR; William, 6, son, at home, OR; Edwd P.S., 4, son, at home, OR; Ocia G., 2, dau, at home, OR; S. F. , 2, dau, at home, OR; Pearl D., 1, dau, at home, OR; O. Carroll, 36, laborer, NY Ire Eng

viii. Frances M. Abernethy (Hahn)

b. Feb 1881 OR

d.

1900: Dora, Coos Co, OR, June 14, 1900; William Abernethy, head, Sep 1830, 69, m-37yrs, NY NY Eng, farmer; Sarah F., wife, Nov 1843, 56, m-37yrs, 13-10, OR NY NY; Edwin P.S., son, Sep 1875, 24, s, OR, farm laborer; Violet O.G., dau, Oct 1877, 22, s, OR; Frances M., dau, Feb 1881, 19, s, OR, at school; Camilla D., dau, Dec 1883, 16, s, OR, at school; Mizpah I., dau, Jun 1887, 12, s, OR, at school; Robbie Ray, son (adopted), Feb 1895, 5, s, OR Can (Fr) Denmark; Marion C. Miller, boarder, Oct 1869, 30, m-1 ½ yr, VA MD VA, farmer

ix. Camilla D. Abernethy
b. Dec 1883 OR
d.

1900: Dora, Coos Co, OR, June 14, 1900; William Abernethy, head, Sep 1830, 69, m-37yrs, NY NY Eng, farmer; Sarah F., wife, Nov 1843, 56, m-37yrs, 13-10, OR NY NY; Edwin P.S., son, Sep 1875, 24, s, OR, farm laborer; Violet O.G., dau, Oct 1877, 22, s, OR; Frances M., dau, Feb 1881, 19, s, OR, at school; Camilla D., dau, Dec 1883, 16, s, OR, at school; Mizpah I., dau, Jun 1887, 12, s, OR, at school; Robbie Ray, son (adopted), Feb 1895, 5, s, OR Can (Fr) Denmark; Marion C. Miller, boarder, Oct 1869, 30, m-1 ½ yr, VA MD VA, farmer

x. Mizpah I. Abernethy (Waterman)
b. Jun 1887 OR
d.

1900: Dora, Coos Co, OR, June 14, 1900; William Abernethy, head, Sep 1830, 69, m-37yrs, NY NY Eng, farmer; Sarah F., wife, Nov 1843, 56, m-37yrs, 13-10, OR NY NY; Edwin P.S., son, Sep 1875, 24, s, OR, farm laborer; Violet O.G., dau, Oct 1877, 22, s, OR; Frances M., dau, Feb 1881, 19, s, OR, at school; Camilla D., dau, Dec 1883, 16, s, OR, at school; Mizpah I., dau, Jun 1887, 12, s, OR, at school; Robbie Ray, son (adopted), Feb 1895, 5, s, OR Can (Fr) Denmark; Marion C. Miller, boarder, Oct 1869, 30, m-1 ½ yr, VA MD VA, farmer

xi. George Henry Abernethy
b.
d. age 10 years

xii. Mary Abernethy
b.
d. aged 1 year

xiii. Priscilla Abernethy
b.
d. aged 3 years

“WILLIAM ABERNETHY is one of the venerable citizens of Forest Grove, having attained the age of eighty years. Much of this period has been spent in Oregon and in the improvement of his business opportunities here he has won success that now enables him to live retired. His birth occurred in New York city. September 16, 1831. His father, George Abernethy, was also a native of the American metropolis, born October 7, 1807, and there he acquired his education. In early manhood he wedded Anne Pope, who was born in Plymouth, England, September 10, 1811. Their wedding was celebrated in New York. January 21, 1830, and the remains of both now rest in Riverview cemetery of Portland. Oregon, the father having died in that city May 2, 1877. The mother, however, passed away in New York city, April 30. 1884. but her remains were brought back to this state for interment. In the family were two children, the younger being Annie

Abernethy, who became the wife of General H. C. Hodges, of the United States army who is now retired and lives in Buffalo, New York. His wife passed away in Washington, D. C, April 31, 1911. General Hodges is a graduate of the West Point Military Academy and was stationed first in the Indian Territory and later in Vancouver, Washington, where he served as adjutant of the Fourth Infantry. Subsequently he was transferred to California and afterward to Philadelphia.

Few residents of Oregon have resided within the borders of this state for a longer period than William Abernethy, who came to the northwest in 1840 when but nine years of age, landing at Vancouver, Washington, on the 1st of June, 1840, after having made the long voyage around Cape Horn on the ship Lausanne. His father came to the Pacific coast as secular agent of Methodist missions and was stationed first at Salem and afterward at Oregon City, assisting in building the Methodist church at the latter place. He also erected the first brick store in Oregon City, it being the second brick building in the entire state. He was very prominent as a factor in the early progress and upbuilding of this section of the country and was chosen the first provisional governor of Oregon Territory for two terms of four years. That he filled the office most capably is indicated by the fact that he was reelected while on a trip to the Sandwich islands. Following the expiration of his second term and his retirement from office, he owned and operated the Linn City (Oregon) Works, a flour mill and saw mill, and when that business was burned out he turned his attention to the commission business in Portland, where he resided up to the time of his death, which occurred when he was sixty-six years of age.

Brought to the northwest in his early boyhood. William Abernethy largely acquired his education in Willamette University. Later he went to California, in 1849, attracted by the discovery of gold in that state. He next made his way to New York city, where he spent three years as a student in the James McEllicott School. He next became a student in the Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts, in which he spent three years, and later matriculated for a three years' course in the scientific department of Yale University, completing his studies within the classical walls of that old institution in 1853. In the same year he returned to the Pacific coast, making his way to Oregon City, after which he began farming at Green Point. He next went to Portland, where he engaged in assaying for George Collier Robbins, of that city. He subsequently spent a year at The Dalles and another year at Boise, after which he returned to Portland, where he established a packing business and bag factory. Here he suffered losses through fire, the factory being totally destroyed, after which he removed to Abernethy Heights, near Oswego, Oregon where he lived for about a quarter of a century, and then sold his property there, comprising one hundred and sixty and a third acres, to a syndicate. This is now one of the most beautiful residence districts in the vicinity of Portland. For a year thereafter he resided in the Rose city, and in August, 1891, removed to Coos county, where he continued until 1904. In that year he came to Forest Grove, where he still resides, resting now in the enjoyment of the fruits of his former toil and the handsome competence which he has gained through his investments.

On the 25th of June, 1863. Mr. Abernethy was married to Miss Sarah F. Gray, who was born November 25, 1843 at the mission near Salem, Oregon. Her father, William H. Gray, was born in New York state in December, 1810, and came to Oregon in 1836 with Dr. Marcus Whitman, engaging in missionary work. In early life he had been apprenticed to the cabinet makers trade and later had studied medicine for three years, but ill health forced him to abandon his studies and go to the mountains. It was at this time that he associated himself with the American Board of Missions and this led to his removal to the Pacific coast. When he severed his connection with the missions he went to Clatsop Plains where he rendered medical aid to those in need of such service. At length he went east to buy sheep for himself and farmers in that locality. He brought the sheep across the plains to Portland, where he put them on flat boats to be taken to their destination, but a storm came up and wrecked the boats, so that all of the sheep were drowned. Mr. Gray thus losing everything that he had for he invested his entire fortune in the sheep. He at once sought employment in other ways, accepting anything that he could find to do in order that he might properly care for his family and retrieve his fortune. Going to Astoria he built a house

and kept boarders. Later he removed to Fort Hope, on the Frazier river in British Columbia and built a sloop, after which he engaged in freighting between Fort Hope and Fort Yale, remaining at that point for two years, or in 1859 and 1860. He afterward built a sloop called the Sarah F. Gray, which he brought down the Columbia river. In July 1861, he went to Portland and afterward to The Dalles and engaged in freighting on the Columbia and Snake rivers. Again he turned to Astoria and took up his abode upon a farm where his wife died, while he passed away at the home of his daughter, Mrs. J. Kamm. in Portland.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Abernethy were born thirteen children of whom three died in early life: George Henry, who passed away at the age of ten years; .Mary, who died at the age of one year; and Priscilla. at the age of three years. The others are: Anna May, the wife of P.. W. Starr, of Tacoma, Washington, in the office of the Shasta Limited; Caroline A., the wife of the Rev. H. F. Burgess, of Sunnyside, Washington; William Gray, who was in Alaska for eleven years and is now a mining engineer living in Tacoma, Washington; Edwin P. S. A., who is running a mill in Coos county: Violet O. G., the wife of Bennett Swanton, a lawyer of Marshfield, Oregon; Daisy S. F., who is the twin sister of Violet and the wife of Archie Hahn. of Whitman College, of Walla Walla, Washington; Pearl Dunning, the wife of M.C. Miller, of Dora, Oregon; Frances Mary, the wife of A. T. Hahn. a mining engineer with the Colorado Fuel & Iron Company of Portland; Camilla D.. at home and Mizpah I., the wife of Virgil E. Waterman, of Welches, Oregon.

Such in brief is the history of W illiam Abernethy, yet it tells little of his real experiences for he lived in this state long before its admission to the Union. At the time of his arrival here the major part of the great forests was uncut, the natural resources of the stale were unimproved and the Indians far outnumbered the white settlers. Here and there a little settlement was to be seen and the seeds of civilization planted by the early residents have born rich fruit. Mr. Abernethy has not only been an interested witness of all the changes which have occurred as the years have gone by, but has ever borne his part in the work of public improvement and up building.

[Centennial History of Oregon by Gaston Vol iv p.72-8]

2. Annie Abernethy

b. Apr 1836 NY

d. 29 Apr 1911 Washington, DC

buried Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA

m.

Henry Clay Hodges

b. 14 Jan 1831 VT

d. 03 Nov 1917 Buffalo, Erie County, NY

buried Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA

Brigadier General US Army

1850: Oregon City, Clackamas Co, OR, October 4, 1850; George Abernethy, 41, merchant, \$100,000, NY; Ann, 36, NY; William, 19, NY; Ann, 15, NY

1860: Fisher Landing PO, Clark Co, WA, "Garrison", June 22, 1860; Henry C. Hodges, 29, Lt US Army, \$0 \$2000, VT; Anna A., 24, NY; Henry C., 2/12, D.C.; Margaret Thompson, 25, servant, Scotland

1870: Philadelphia, Philadelphia Co, PA, June 9, 1870; H.C. Hodges, 39, officer USA, \$0 \$300, VT; Anna A., 30, keeping house, NY; H.C., 11, attending school, Ft. Vancouver, WA; John Burns, 23, domestic servant, Ire; Mary Brown, 28, domestic servant, Ire; Mary Walsh, 23, domestic servant, Ire

1900: Buffaco, Erie Co, NY, June 2, 1900; Henry C. Hodges, head, Jan 1831, 69, m-41yrs, VT VT VT, US Army; Annie A., wife, Apr 1836, 54, m-41yrs, 4-1, NY NY Eng; Margaret Cleen, servant, Apr 1859, 41, s, Eng Ire Ire

ABERNETHY—At Washington. D. C., April 29. Annie Abernethy, wife of Brigadier-General Henry C. Hodges, U. S. Army, retired, and only daughter of Governor George and Mrs. Abernethy. Interment in the Arlington National Cemetery, May 2.

[Oregonian, Portland, OR, May 9, 1911 p12]

Children of Henry Hodges and Anna Abernethy:

- i. Henry Clay Hodges Jr. (General)
 - b. 20 Apr 1860 Ft. Vancouver, Clark Co, WA
 - d. 15 Jul 1963 Stamford, Fairfield Co, CTburied Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Arlington Co, VA
- ii. Annie Hodges
 - b. 28 May 1871
 - d. 08 Nov 1871buried Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Arlington Co, VA

“ABERNETHY, GEORGE.

Born in New York City, in 1807, and resided there until 1839. Set out for Oregon and arrived in May, 1840. For many years he lived on the banks of the Willamette below Oregon City. He was instrumental in bringing about the Provisional Government of Oregon, and was chosen the first Governor, holding the position until in 1849, when the Territorial Government was organized. Subsequently he became interested in large mercantile enterprises, notably in the large mills at Linn City (falls of the Willamette). Resided in Portland for the last sixteen years of his life, dying in May, 1877.” [History of the Willamette Valley p.603]

“GOVERNOR GEORGE ABERNETHY. Governor of Oregon before the creation of Oregon as a territory — 1845 to 1849. George Abernethy, governor of Oregon under the provisional constitution, was born in Scotland in 1807. He came to the United States with his parents in 1809 and settled in New York state. In 1840 he came to Oregon as a lay member of the Methodist mission, then being established at Oregon City, and conducted a store for the mission at that place. In accordance with the provisions of the amended organic law and constitution, which had been adopted by the people of the Willamette valley, an

election was held on June 3, 1845, for governor and other officers. At this election the principal candidates for governor were Hon. George Abernethy and Hon. A. L. Lovejoy. Mr. Abernethy was elected by a majority of ninety-eight votes out of a total vote of five hundred and four. In 1847 Mr. Abernethy was reelected governor of Oregon, receiving five hundred and thirty-six out of a total vote of one thousand eight hundred and forty-seven, his plurality being sixteen votes over Mr. A. L. Lovejoy, who was again his leading opponent. After the organization of Oregon as a territory, Mr. Abernethy retired to private life and died at Portland, Oregon, in 1877. He was considered rather a business man than a politician, and in business, owing to misfortune and the great flood of 1861, he was unsuccessful, and at the time of his death had lost much that he had accumulated in earlier years." [Political and official history and register of Oregon p.164-165]

GOV. GEORGE ABERNETHY.

BORN, 1807. DIED, 1877.

George Abernethy was born in New York city in 1807; he resided there until 1839, when he started for Oregon, arriving in May, 1840. During his long residence in Oregon he followed mercantile pursuits almost steadily. For many years he resided on the Willamette just below Oregon City, and whoever in passing sees the old residence instantly remembers him who was so long its occupant. Among the first of our Pioneers he was active and conspicuous in laying the foundations of a great commonwealth. On the organization of the provincial government, in 1845, he was chosen Governor. Until the Territorial government was established by the Act of Congress, passed in 1848, he held the position of Governor with honor to himself and with advantage to the country. At different times he was engaged in various extensive business enterprises, notably in the large mills at the Willamette falls opposite Oregon City. By the great flood of 1861 he was involved in heavy pecuniary losses. Shortly afterward he moved to Portland, where he has since resided, and been engaged in business.

Mr. Abernethy's death was sudden and entirely unexpected, caused by heart disease; although nearly seventy years of age, he was quite active, and took a deep interest in the progress of the country—especially in moral and religious matters—as he was a member of the Methodist church a great many years.

[Transactions of the Oregon Pioneer Association 1876]

- A EMORY (Schooner)
arrs Astoria Dec 31 1850 from
S F; Gallagher, master, 9 Ja
51, 3:2; arrs Astoria Jul 6
from S Isl, 12 Ag 51, 2:6
- ABBOT, John
lr at Ore Cy po, 7 Ja 54 (adv)
- ABBOTT, George H
lr at Ore Cy po, 2 Ja to 16 Ja
51 (adv)
- ABBY Baker (Bark)
arrs Astoria Mar 14 from Mon-
terey, Cal; Powless, master,
3 Ap 51, 3:1; leaves Col r
Apr 29 for S F, 8 My 51, 3:3
- ABELL, Alexander G
Oahu repr, J B McClurg & Co, 12
N 46 (adv); 8 Jly 47 (adv)
S F; Whig nominee for state
comptroller, Cal, 12 Je 51,
3:2; defeated, 2 D 51, 2:6
- ABERDEEN, George Hamilton Gordon,
Earl of
submits British proposals for
settlement of Ore question to
Mr McLane, 15 Ap 47, 4:2; to
be advised re U S acceptance,
23 D 47, 1:4
- ABERNETHY, Alex S
arrs Dec 28 1850 from S F on
Gold Hunter, 9 Ja 51, 2:2, 3:2
of Oak Point, Col r; has saw-
mill irons for sale, 13 Mr to
9 S 51 (adv); 15 saw-logs cut
from fir tree on his place, 10
Jly 51, 2:4; owner of sawmill
at Oak Point, 16 S 53, 1:3
- ABERNETHY, Anne
mem of Ore Bible soc, 13 Je 50,
1:3; 12 Je 51, 3:1
- ABERNETHY, Anne Pope (Mrs George)
mem of Ore Bible soc, 13 Je 50,
1:3; 12 Je 51, 3:1
- ABERNETHY, George
see also Abernethy, George
& Co; Abernethy, George,
- ABERNETHY, George (cont)
vs Gray, G C; Abernethy &
Clark; Husted, Alanson,
vs Abernethy, George;
Moore vs Abernethy and
Sutton
managed Ore Cy store for Meth
mission in 1843; store trans-
ferred to him later, 4[9] Jly
46, 2:4
mdse orders on him lost, 30 Ap
46 (adv)
consignee of mdse, 4[9] Jly
46, 3:3; 7 Mr 50, 3:2; 2 My
50, 3:2
and J H Couch have shipping agt
at Honolulu, 23 Jly 46, 2:4
on com to visit Mrs N M Thorn-
ton's school, 12 Ap 47 to 22
F 49 (adv); trustee, Clackamas
Co Female seminary, 1 N 49,
2:5; authorized by bd to pur-
chase school supplies while in
U S, 27 D 49, 2:2
proposals for "flouring wheat"
accepted at Tual farmers' co-
operative mtg, 29 Ap 47, 2:3
at Ore Cy claim jumping mtg, 27
My 47, 2:4
lr about Ore pub in E papers, 22
Jly 47, 2:4
receives express from Rev Waller,
The Dalles, 2 S 47, 2:2
cautioned not to trade or rent
lots owned by S H L Keek, 2 S
to 30 S 47 (adv); rental agt,
9 Mr 48 to 22 F 49 (adv)
charge of California Star that
he sent circular influencing
immigrants against Cal re-
futed by Ore Spec, 14 O 47, 2:1;
reptd to have sent circular to
immigrants of 1847 urging travel
by N rte, 11 N 47, 3:1; urges
immigrants to be friendly to
Inds; warns against S rte, 20
Ja 48, 3:4
receives specimens of Ore coal,
10 Ag 48, 2:1; 7 S 48, 1:3;
requests specimens, 9 N 48 to
22 F 49 (adv)
receives lr from J A Hardie, 7
S 48, 2:6
peach orchard praised, 9 N 48,
2:3; 22 F 49, 1:2

(Abe)

ABERNETHY, George (cont)

res below Ore Cy faces Will r,
 28 D 48, 2:3
 land claim next to S M Holder-
 ness', 22 F 49 (adv)
 note to C L Gray refused by
 Crosby & Smith, 4 Ap to 2 My
 50 (adv)
 ho and others buy from F Hatha-
 way isl afterward called
 Abernothy; sold to J Lane and
 W P Bryant, 12 S 50, 2:1,3
 arns N Y Aug 23 on Crescent City,
 12 D 50, 2:1; purchases church
 bells in N Y, 10 Jly 51, 2:1;
 orders dredging machine for
 Will r improvement, 4 N 51,
 2:2; returns to Ore Cy after yr
 in U S, 5 Je 51, 2:1
 gives free passage on river str
 to circuit rider, 16 S 53, 1:3

McLoughlin Land Claim
 made agreement re settlement of
 boundary, 6 Ja 48, 3:2
 mentioned re claim, 9 Ja 51, 1:4;
 3 Ap 51, 2:6; 1 My 51, 1:6

Oregon Bible Soc
 treas; life mem, 13 Je 50, 1:3;
 sec, 12 Je 51, 3:1

Oregon Milling Co
 co-purchaser with A Beers, 5 F
 to 19 Jr 46 (adv)
 purchases entire stock Oct 27,
 12 N to 10 D 46 (adv)

Oregon Printing Assn
 treas, 5 F 46, 2:3
 advanced funds for purchase of
Ore Spec press, 16 Ap 46, 2:3
 pres, 10 D 46, 2:1; 23 D 47, 2:2
 mem bd of directors which dis-
 misses Ore Spec ed, G L Curry,
 23 D 47, 2:1; Curry calls him
 mem of "quadruple alliance"
 seeking to muzzle press, 20 Ja
 48, 3:2; apptd as temporary
 co-ed, 20 Ja 48, 3:1
 1 of directors opposing pub of
 Thornton resolutions, 6 Ja
 48, 2:2

Provisional Governor
 elected 1845, 24 Je 47, 2:2

ABERNETHY, George - Prov Gov (cont)

calls for proposals to locate
 seat of govt, 15 O to 26 N 46
 (adv)
 message to legis pub; praised by
 ed, 10 D 46, 1:1, 2:1; praised
 by reprs, 24 D 46, 2:1
 liquor bill passed over veto, 24
 D 46, 3:1, 2:4
 lr re presentation of colors of
Shark to prov govt, 24 D 46, 2:4;
 4 Jr 47, 2:4
 cand for re-election, 13 My to 27
 My 47 (adv); receives 31 votes,
 opponent A L Lovejoy 33, in Cham-
 poog co nominating mtg, 13 My
 47, 3:2; nominated in Champoog
 and Tual cos, 27 My 47, 3:1;
 trails Lovejoy, 10 Je 47, 2:1;
 24 Je 47, 2:1; re-election in-
 dicated, 8 Jly 47, 2:1; elected
 536 to 520, 22 Jly 47, 2:2
 young men opposed him in election,
 fearing he would curtail liquor
 sales, says "H H S", 23 Mr 48,
 1:1
 message to legis pub, 23 D 47, 2:3
 lr from Capt J S Folsom, U S A,
 Cal, re U S to Col r mail service,
 24 F 48, 2:3
 lr from J L Folsom re tariff for
 Cal ports, 7 S 48, 2:1; 12 O
 48, 2:4; 26 O 48, 4:1; 9 N 48,
 4:1; 30 N 48, 4:1
 lr from L Scott declining apptmt
 as comr, 23 Mr 48, 2:6
 message to legis not delivered
 for lack of quorum, 14 D 48, 2:3;
 proclaims date for convening,
 28 D 48, 3:5; 11 Ja 48[49], 3:5;
 25 Ja 49, 3:5; message pub;
 ed commends, 8 F 49, 2:1,6
 signs laws, 4 F 47, 1:1; 18 F 47,
 1:1; 6 Ja 48, 1:1, 4:1; 10 F
 48, 1:1; 24 F 48, 1:1; 22 F 49,
 2:6, 3:1, 4:2

Temperance Soc
 at Washingtonian Temperance soc
 mtg, Ore Cy, Sept 18, 30 S 47,
 1:4; on com, 30 S 47 (adv);
 signs mtg notice, 30 S 47,
 3:3; on com, 11 Ja 48[49], 2:4

(Abe)

ABERNETHY, George (cont)

Whitman Massacre and Cayuse War (actions as governor) see also Cayuse War; Whitman Massacre

repts massacre to legis, 9 D 47, 2:3

leaves for Vancouver with comrs to negotiate war loan, 9 D 47, 2:1

urges prompt action, 9 D 47, 2:3

calls for 100 vols, 23 D 47, 2:1

receives rept of massacre and council with Ind chiefs, 20 Ja 48, 2:3

urged by H H Spalding not to send troops to avenge massacre, 20 Ja 48, 1:3,4

praises P S Ogden for rescue of survivors, 20 Ja 48, 3:3

reptd left \$65 by J Stanfield, accused of abetting massacre, 10 F 48, 2:5

receives lr from J Douglas re rumor C Gilliam will tax H B co property to help finance war; lr to Douglas discredits rumor and asks whether P S Ogden sold ammunition to Inds; lr from Douglas upholds Ogden, 10 F 48, 2:6

appts comrs to prevent other tribes from joining Cayuses, 6 Ap 48, 2:5; lr to Nez Perces and other tribes, 20 Ap 48, 1:1

consents to open Cayuse terr to settlers, 13 Jly 48, 1:4

request to gov of Cal brings guns and ammunition, 7 S 48, 3:2

ABERNETHY, George, & Co

Ore Cy; mercantile, grocery and commission business, 7 F 50 to 7 Ja 54 (adv); J R Robb, mem of firm, 7 F 50 to 7 Ja 54 (adv-passim)

Note: Kinds of mdse sold indexed under own headings; as, Dry Goods, Groceries, etc

props, Brick store, 7 Mr to 7 N 50 (adv)

ref for W Holmes, 16 Fy to 22 Ag 50; ref for W Atkinson, 28 O 51 to 16 Mr 52 (adv)

ABERNETHY, George, & Co (cont)

60,000 bbls flour for sale, 8 Ag to 7 N 50 (adv)

agts for Ore Spec, 12 S 50 to 16 Mr 52 (adv)

agts for Anna E Maine, 6 F to 13 F 51 (adv); agts for Culloma, 3 Jly to 22 Jly 51 (adv)

wanted, 50,000 bu wheat in exchange for mdse, 23 S to 25 N 51 (adv)

wanted, tailoresses, 20 O 53 to 7 Ja 54 (adv-passim)

ABERNETHY, George, vs Gray, G C

trespass on case; judgment by default, 9 S 51, 2:5

ABERNETHY, William

mem Ore Bible soc, 13 Je 50, 1:3; 12 Jo 51, 3:1

ABERNETHY & Clark

(G Abernethy and H Clark), Ore Cy; mdse, 4 O 49 to 19 Ag 53 (adv-passim)

Note: Kinds of mdse sold are indexed under own headings; as, Agricultural Implements and Machinery; Schoolbooks, etc

mercantile partnership formed, 4 O 49 to 21 F 50 (adv)

agts for Ore Spec, 18 O 49 to 24 Ja 50 (adv)

mdse for sale at Brick store, 18 O 49 to 21 F 50 (adv)

J R Robb admitted as partner, 7 F to 7 Mr 50 (adv)

shipping from N Y C on own ships to Ore Cy, 14 N 50, 2:2

praised for saving consumer money, 28 N 50, 2:1

express agts for Todd & Co, 10 Ap to 21 O 51 (adv); for Newell & Co, 28 O 51 to 16 Mr 52 (adv)

\$160,000 cargo from N Y, 3 Jly 51, 2:2; supplies from U S and Cal, 19 Ag 53, 2:4

ABERNETHY Creek

see Bridges

ABERNETHY Island

see also Island Mills

legal status defined in Ore do-

- ABERNATHY, O
Apptd in election as judge of
E. Chehalem Precinct, 16 Apr
66, 3:1
- ABERNETHY, Alexander S
Commissioner for locating Clat-
sop Co seat, 17 Feb 52, 1:4
Postmaster of Oak Point,
23 Mar 52, 2:7
Oak Point, Lewis Co Postmaster,
16 Apr 53, 2:1
Passenger by steamer Fremont,
4 Jun 53, 3:3
Trustee of Portland Academy,
7 Feb 54, 2:6
Candidate for Cong. delegate of
Cowlitz Co, will run as Black
Republican in opposition to
Gov. Stevens, 2 Jun 57, 2:1
On Committee to examine assets of
Willamette Univ endowment, 23
Aug 59, 2:6
Activities Olympia (Repub) con-
vention, 1 Jun 63, 2:5
Marriages performed: Lawson-Koch,
W ORE 30 Dec 65, 3:2
D ORE 28 Dec 65, 2:4
- ABERNETHY, Alexander Smith
Wife Eliza Harris dies at Oak
Point in Washington Terr,
24 Sep 66, 2:5
- ABERNETHY, Anne Pope
Contributed to Oregon Bible Soc,
20 Jun 51, 3:1
- ABERNETHY, Annie
Dau of George, married to Lieut.
Hodges on 8 Jun 59; 14 Jun 59,
2:7
- ABERNETHY & Clark
Express agents in Oregon City for
Todd & Co, 4 Apr 51 to 28 Oct 51
(adv)
Express agents Oregon City, for
Newell & Co, 4 Nov 51 to 20 Apr
52 (adv)
Praised and thanked for fee pas-
sage on Lot Whitcomb by M E Par-
sons, 26 Jul 53, 1:7
Oregon City and San Francisco,
fails, deficit \$120,000;
11 Feb 61, 2:6
Failure defers erection of addi-
tional Roman Catholic churches
and schools, 11 Mar 61, 2:7
- ABERNETHY & Clark, San Francisco
Storage & forwarding, 5 Aug 56 to
27 Oct 57 (adv)
Operates Ore & Cal Packet Line of
steamers, S F to Portland,
18 Nov 56 to 27 Oct 57 (adv)
- ABERNETHY & Clarke
San Francisco rec lumber from Ore
Terr per Success, 11 Sep 52, 3:3
- ABERNETHY & Company
Purchase Black Hawk for towing svc,
23 May 51, 2:4
Overcharged \$454 in 1851 on tax
assessment for 1851, 6 Apr 52, 3:1
Oregon City, reference for C Sexton,
Wash DC lawyer, 18 May 52 to 23 Apr
53 (adv)
M Howes arr Columbia River with
shipment for Abernethy & Co.,
7 Aug 52, 2:3
Contribution of flour for needy
immigrants, 23 Oct 52, 2:4
Oregon City, bldg in rear of their
store carried away by high water,
8 Jan 53, 2:6
Ed states Abernethy & Co paid Sec
Hamilton \$9,000 on draft latter had
drawn upon U S Treas but which Treas
would not cash, 22 Nov 53, 2:3
Ref to in having information on
value of Ore to grape cultivation,
25 Apr 54, 2:3
Copartnership dissolved between
George Abernethy and H Clark; to
continue under same name,
4 to 18 Aug 55 (adv)
Agents for C Devans, and Nahumkeag,
22 Jan to 18 Mar 56 (adv)
Agent for Nahumkeag, 1 to 29 Jul 56
(adv)
Operates Ore and Cal Packet Line of
steamers between Portland and S F,
18 Nov 56 to 27 Oct 57 (adv)
Agent for Ocean Bird and Jane A Falk-
enberg, 10 to 24 Mar 57 (adv)
Agents for Samuel Merritt, 5 to 26
May 57 (adv)
- ABERNETHY, Mrs Eliza Harris
Dies 17 Sep 66 at Oak Point, Wash
Terr; age 50; 24 Sep 66, 2:5
- ABERNETHY, George
Arr Oregon City 28 May 51; 30 May
51, 2:3

ABERNETHY, George (cont.)

(Governor) Thanked for Calif supplies, papers to Oregon Statesman, 30 May 51, 2:4
Treasurer of Oregon Bible Soc at annual mtg in Oregon City, 20 Jun 51, 3:1
(Governor) Purchased in New York 4 bells for Oreg churches and Seminary arr at Oregon City, 4 Jul 51, 2:2
Ex-Governor of Oreg Terr, management passengers California en route to Panama, 9 Dec 51, 1:2
Overcharged \$346.63 in 1850 tax assessment, 6 Apr 52, 3:1
Bill for his relief presented to US Cong by J Lane, 18 May 52, 2:1
Treasurer of Oregon Bible Soc, 15 Jun 52, 2:1
Trustee of Willamette Univ, 5 Feb 53, 1:1
Trustee Willamette University, 12 Feb to 19 Feb 53 (adv)
Oregon City, agt for Lot Whitcomb, 24 Jul 52 to 26 Mar 53 passim (adv)
Ex-Governor offers to support an unmarried missionary in Oreg Terr says Missouri Democrat, 23 Aug 53, 3:1
Ex-Governor, candidate for Const Conv in opposition to the nominee of the Dem Conv of Clackamas Co, 19 May 57, 2:3
Incorporator of Astoria and Willamette Valley RR Co, 30 Mar 58, 1:6
Defeated for nomination for state treas at Repub State Conv, 6 Apr 58, 2:7
And others; bill providing for 5 flour inspectors, reported back to House of Repr from com, 11 Jan 59, 1:4
Annie, his daughter, married Lt. Hodges, 14 Jun 59, 2:7
Missionary steward of New York; wife and 2 children accompany Jason Lee to Oreg 1839, 8 Nov 59, 1:1
Visits editor Asahel Bush, 15 May 60, 2:4
Clackamas Co, buys 2 Merino bucks, 15 May 60, 2:5
Gets 2 votes in Clackamas Co for Bell presidential elector, 3 Dec 60, 2:4
State Agr Fair to be held near his residence, 15 Apr 61, 2:5

ABERNETHY, George (cont.)

Damages of \$3,000 in flood losses in Oregon City, 23 Dec 61, 1:5
Clackamas Co Commissioner signs call for Union conv, 17 Feb to 24 Mar 62 (adv)
Bill providing for services rendered as Provisional Governor introduced in House of Repr, 6 Oct 62, 2:6
Initials on "Beaver Money", 18 Sep 65, 2:4
ABERNETHY, George & Company (Oregon City) conducts salt auction, 6 Jun to 13 Jun 51 (adv)
Agt for Culloma; Oregon City, 4 Jul to 8 Jul 51 (adv)
Oregon City: mercantile, grocery and commission business, 4 Jul 51 to 27 Dec 57 passim (adv) NOTE: kinds of mdse sold indexed under own headings: dry goods, groceries, etc
City ordinance for powder magazine to be in rear of their store in city, 27 Apr 52, 3:2
ABERNETHY, George vs. Gervais, Joseph Marion Co; trespass court case; assumpsit; nonsuit. 18 Oct 53, 2:3; 11 Apr 54, 2:5; 21 Nov 54, 2:4,5
ABERNETHY, George vs. Moss, S.W. Court case stricken from docket, 3 Apr 55, 1:2
ABERNETHY, George, vs Rondeau, Charles Marion Co Dist Court; case continued, 18 Oct 53, 2:3; 11 Apr 54, 2:5
ABERNETHY, George et al vs Tryon, S.H. Court case. 3 Apr 55, 1:2
ABERNETHY Island
see also McLoughlin, J.
Confirmed to legal assigns of Willamet Milling and Trading Company, by donation land claim law, 18 Apr 51, 2:2
In building their canal (Willamette Falls Canal) Milling & Transportation Co forbidden to interfere in any way with bldgs and improvements on, or connected with the Island. 26 Mar 53, 1:2
Oregon City: J. McLoughlin cautions persons not to purchase his land claim on. 5 Jul to 16 Aug 53 (adv)

[American Life Histories: Manuscripts from the Federal Writer's Project 1936-1940] [Early Portland Folkways]

“Project worker: Claire W. Churchill

Date: March, 1938

Name and address of informant: Anne Abernethy Starr. Monroe, Washington (visiting Portland)

Date and time of interview Noon hour - 11 AM to 1 PM

Place of interview Office Myler Bldg

Name and address of person, if any, who put you in touch with informant

Through informant's sister, Miss Camilla Abernethy.

Information obtained should supply the following facts:

1. Ancestry: American ancestry.
2. Place and date of birth: Born in Portland, Oregon, 1869.
3. Family: Sarah Fidelia Gray (daughter W. H. Gray, pioneer missionaries) and William Abernethy (son George Abernethy, 1st provisional governor Oregon country).
4. Places lived in, with dates: Portland, 1869-1890
5. Education, with dates: Portland public schools
6. Occupations and accomplishments with dates: One of the first telephone operators in Portland. Later worked as draughtsman for Park & Lacey Machinery Co., Portland.
7. Special skills and interests: Seamstress, where "stitches could not be seen." An expert knitter, where three pair of socks was no unusual output for a day's work. Draughtsman or draughtswoman
8. Community and religious activities: No religious affiliations mentioned, presumably Congregational.
9. Description of informant: None given.
10. Other points gained in interview: An exceptional personality

INTERVIEW with Anne Abernethy Starr

Mrs. Anne Abernethy Starr, who now lives in Monroe, Washington, is the daughter of Sarah Fidelia Gray and William Abernethy. She was born in Portland in 1869. Sarah Fidelia Gray, her mother, was born at Salem, Oregon, November 1843. She was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Gray, pioneer missionaries to the Oregon country. W. H. Gray was the author of Oregon History. This book, according to Mrs. Starr is now worth \$25.00. William Abernethy, her father, son of George Abernethy, was born in New York State, New York City, 1831. George Abernethy, who arrived with the Methodist mission contingent, became a merchant at the Falls of the Willamette (Oregon City) and was elected the Provisional governor of the Oregon country, an office to which he was re-elected.

After the flood of 1861 George Abernethy removed to Portland where he again engaged in merchandising. His establishment at the Falls was furnished merchandise by his own ships which

brought supplies from the east and from the Sandwich Islands. Abernethy money, a kind of scrip issued by the Abernethy store, was commonly used during the pioneer period when U. S. coins were scarce. Abernethy was prominently identified, according to Mrs. Starr, with the provision for and the coining of Beaver money, the gold five and ten dollar pieces minted by the Oregon Exchange Company at Oregon City.

Mrs. Starr spent her early life in Portland. Being the oldest of eleven children she found many things to occupy her hands. Children in those days learned to knit at an early age, so young, in fact, that Mrs. Starr cannot remember a time when she could not knit. When questioned as to whether an output of three socks a day was not very large, she replied that it was not, *{Begin page no. 2}* explaining that the hand spun yarn used in those days was soft and large, and knitted very fast. Mrs. Starr was taught to sew by her Grandmother Abernethy, a wonderful seamstress who required that any stitches that could be seen must be ripped out.

Material was bought by the bolt, rather than by the yard. As a girl, Anne made dozens of pairs of panties, dozens of petticoats, aprons, and dresses for her younger sisters. Her family did not have one of the hand-turned sewing machines, but they did have one of the earliest sewing machines used in this country. William Abernethy, son of George Abernethy, had the first sewing machine agency in the Northwest. His agents, as far north as Walla Walla, found a ready market for the old Wheeler-Wilson machines. Some of the correspondence relating to the sales of sewing machines is still in the possession of the family. Before they had a machine, all sewing was done by hand. Anne made a complete hand-sewn dress for herself when she was eight years old.

She attended school at the old Central school in Portland. Miss Fannie Holman was her teacher advancing with the grades. The recent visit of President Roosevelt to Portland recalled to her the visit of President Hayes in 1878. The children of old Central School, lined up on the sidewalk and street, greatly excited over the appearance of so distinguished a caller as President Hayes. He addressed them from the steps of the schoolhouse.

The Portland George Abernethy residence was at the corner of 7th and Salmon Streets. It was moved back from its original location, and then, several years ago, was dismantled entirely. About 1868 William Abernethy bought 163 acres of land at what is now known as Abernethy Heights, not far from Oswego on the River Road. The house built there is still standing, but it has been considerably remodeled, presenting today the appearance of a colonial structure. Originally it was of two-story construction with a balcony along the second floor and a porch on the first. The kitchen was at the back, either in an addition *{Begin page no. 3}* or under the extended roof. Elk Bluff and Elk Rock are both on the old Abernethy property. This farm was on the first macadam road out of Portland, a toll road, with the toll gate at the Red House, a tavern on the river road. Some distance farther up the river, and nearer the Abernethy place was another road house, the White House, near which there was a race track where horse races were held. A bachelor named Leonard owned the White House. Mrs. Starr says she can remember when this road was built, and recalls seeing the chain gang of prisoners breaking rock for construction purposes. Mr. Bader, 316 Railway Exchange Building, Portland, can tell something of the present owners of the Abernethy place or at least can give directions for reaching it. Harvey Starkweather can do the same. The Abernethy place was occupied by the Summervilles, then by Will Ladd and later by the McKay family. They may own it now.

Anne Abernethy was a niece of Caroline Gray Kamm and used to make trips on the river boats owned by Jacob Kamm, her uncle by marriage, and Captain Will Pope, a cousin of her father, Wm. Abernethy. She said that one of her happiest memories was taking a trip up the Columbia, accompanied by a girl chum, Anne Pope. They were the only passengers. That evening at dinner the crew amused their guests by telling tall tales. When the engineer, who was supposed to be the greatest liar of them all had finished his tale about the fish that flipped right out of the frying pan and into the sea, Anne Abernethy told her tale. It happened that she had considerable experience as a narrator, being trained from youth to entertain her younger brothers and sisters with folk tales. The story she told concerned a cat that couldn't be killed. After trying innumerable means of death, the irate owner took the cat into the woods and chopped its head off with an axe. Well satisfied that he had at last killed the animal, he returned home. Imagine his astonishment when he reached home to discover the cat sitting on the doorstep, holding its head in its mouth!

The Abernethy children were a healthy lot. Ten of them lived to maturity. For fifty years their circle was not broken. Then, in January, 1937, one of the ten died. The others, still living, are as follows:

Mrs. Ocia Swanton, Eugene; and her twin, Mrs. Sarah Hahn, University, Va.; Mrs. Pearl Miller, Dora, Oregon; Mrs. Frances Hahn, married to a man with the same name as her sister's husband; with even the same initials, but no relation to him; Miss Camilla Abernethy, Forest Grovo, Oregon; Mrs. Mizpah Waterman, 2222 S.E. 19th St., Portland, Oregon; William Abernethy, Route 4, Tacoma, Washington; and Edwin Abernethy, Dora, Oregon.

In pioneer times, even a merchant such as George Abernethy did not have white sugar for daily use. White sugar, packed in blue paper in cubes, was brought from the Sandwich (Hawaiian) Islands and was served only on feast days, special occasions, or for company tea. Brown sugar, coarse-grained, was used for daily fare. Both brown sugar and flour were always bought and sold by the barrel. "Bread and butter with sugar on", as the children said, was a favorite for lunch and for those in-between meals that youngsters love. "Grandma always does".

Anne Abernethy was one of the first telephone operators in Portland. The exchange, located down toward the present waterfront, was operated by four girls. They not only had to know the names of all the phone patrons, but had to memorize the exchange numbers as well. Directories were not used at first, and patrons rang central and asked for the party they wished by name. Pat Bacon, now prominent as a telephone company official, retired, worked for the company when Anne Abernethy did.

Later she worked as a draughtsman for Park and Lacey Machinery Co. It was her responsibility to go into the yards, measure the various patterns and then make drawings of them. She was so adept at this work that when she quit the firm to be married the foreman was greatly chagrined.

She was married to Benjamin Wallace Starr, in the old Congregational Church in Portland, September 17, 1890. Rev. Walker performed the ceremony. Mr. Starr was descended from the Massachusetts Starrs, who were the common {*Begin page no. 5*}ancestors of the other Oregon Starrs who lived in Benton County.

Dr. Comfort Starr owned (1632 *{Begin inserted text}*?*{End inserted text}* - date he arrived) a farm on the present site of Harvard University. What the students identify as the college "yard" was formerly the front yard of the Starr farm. Benjamin Starr was born 1860 in Missouri, although his people had formerly lived in New York State. He grew up in California, came to Oregon in 1887. Wm. Abernethy went from Oregon to California in 1849 during the gold rush. He reported that the mosquitos in the Sacramento Valley were so large and so vicious that they could drill holes in iron pots, and that their stingers were so long they could be clinched on the other side of the pot.

Play parties were frequent in the early days, and once a year at least "balls", which were real social occasions, were held. The Governor's Ball and the Pioneer Ball, were specially fine. Singing schools were held in an earlier day. Mrs. Starr says that her grandfather Gray led and taught singing by playing upon his flute, but that he never sang a note. Birthdays were festive occasions in the Abernethy family, and Christmas, Thanksgiving, and the Fourth of July were always observed.

When queried about pioneer foods, Mrs. Starr recalled the cracked wheat "gems", hot bread now generally called "muffins" and a kind of sour milk biscuit or hot cake made of stale bread. Stale bread was soaked overnight in sour milk. The next morning soda was added for leavening, and perhaps an egg for binding the mass together. It was then fried in cakes or baked in iron gem pens.

Governor Abernethy was originally buried in the Lone Fir Cemetery but his body was later removed to the Riverview Cemetery where it is guarded by a shaft on which the D.A.R. has placed an appropriate plaque. Other members of the family are also buried there. W. H. Gray and his wife are buried now at the site of the Waiilatpu Mission, near the Whitmans. They were buried originally *{Begin page no. 6}* on Clatsop Plains. A tall shaft on a small hill commemorates all the workers at the Mission.

Among documents which the family has preserved is an original James Douglas letter. It was once published in the Spectator many years ago. The family also has letters signed by Peter Skene Ogden and some by Douglas and Ogden. Douglas and Ogden, she says, were joint factors at Fort Vancouver, following Dr. McLoughlin's retirement.

The family also has a piece of printed material, a special newspaper or bulletin issued as a call for volunteers when the Whitman massacre occurred. They also have several printed papers, but there may be duplicates in the Oregon Historical Society.

There is also an old account book, kept by George Abernethy, but Mrs. Starr is not positive where it is now kept. It should show the transactions of a pioneer store, what was bought and sold, and the general trend of business and price levels and changes, and should be of considerable importance.

There are probably a good many letters written by Grandmother Gray in the archives of the Connecticut D.A.R. Mrs. Gray kept a diary, but it was burned when the house in which they

lived in Astoria, was burned. She wrote her letters in a diary form and sent long ones to relatives in the East. It took from one to three years to get an answer.

One of the incidents told about Grandmother Gray was that concerning the removal of the Gray family from the Whitman Mission to the Willamette Valley. When the family, Mr. and Mrs. Gray, and three small children, reached a place near The Dalles, the snow fell so fast they could not go on. Threatened with death by exposure, Mr. Gray sent an Indian to Vancouver for help. Dr. McLaughlin sent a boat. Ascending through the storm, the pilot was at loss to discover the people he was sent to rescue. Then across the wind-blown water, he heard a sweet voice singing hymns. Mrs. Gray was undaunted in her faith in the Lord. Guided by the song the boatman reached the family and took them to safety.

Name and address of informant Anne Abernethy Starr, (Mrs.): Monroe, Washington.

Comment: Descendant of one of Oregon's prominent early families, Mrs. Starr remains an outstanding personality. Alert, intelligent, very cooperative. Has some material on imprints, I believe. Informant read interview and verified details."

Subject: Willamette River Picture for Your Web Page
From: "admin@gegoux.com" <admin@gegoux.com>
Date: Wed, 1 Oct 2003 13:58:19 -0400
To: sflora@teleport.com

Dear Ms. Flora,
Would you like to add a picture of the Willamette River to your web page for color?
Please see Theodore Gegoux's "Abernethy Farm"

<http://www.gegoux.com/abernethy.htm>

You may use this image for your web page for no charge, but please use proper photo credits and copyright labels.

Sincerely,
Theodore Gegoux III
Los Angeles

"The Abernethy Farm"

By **Théodore Gégoux** (1850 - 1931)



Photo by Fran Bryant 1999

800 x 600

The Abernethy farm, or ranch, was located on the old Michel Framboise land claim, across the Willamette River from Champoeg. Oil on composition board, measuring 30 1/2 inches by 47 1/16 inches. Painted near the river boat landing, west of the Memorial House at Champoeg, Oregon. Signed by **Gégoux** and dated 1920. The original inscription on the painting read, "Nestling among the hills is the home of Guy V. Abernethy". The painting was originally acquired by Guy Victor Abernethy from the artist sometime after April 1921. After Guy's death in the early 1950's, Mrs. Guy Abernethy remarried to Mr. Fredrick "Jack" Sargeant. The painting was willed to Mr. Sargeant and became his after Mrs. Abernethy's death in 1962. The painting was purchased from a Portland antique shop several years ago by Carolyn Dinsmore. Mrs. Dinsmore later sold it to Théodore Gégoux III. Restoration of "The Abernethy Farm" was completed by Troy Lucas of the [Lucas Conservation Laboratory, Inc.](#) in Vancouver, Washington. Phone: 1-888-815-8227 Troy's father, Jack Lucas, was the conservator who restored "The Inception of the Birth of Oregon", finishing in about 1979. The beautiful Newcomb Macklin was hand carved in New York and finished by Nancy Thorn of Gold Leaf Restorations in Portland, Oregon. Phone: 503-236-2260. We extend our grateful appreciation to Elizabeth Walton Potter for her help in describing this painting and providing provenance information.

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